

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako



Kaupapataka Wātea | Open Agenda



Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako will be held on:

Ko te rā | Date: Tuesday 15 September 2026
Wā | Time: 10:00
Wāhi | Venue: Council Chambers
35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

Ngā Mema | Membership

NGĀ MEMA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana Chairperson:	Hinerangi Vaimoso	Mema Tūturu Principal Member:	Mema Tautoko Alternate Member:
Ngāti Hauā	Rangitonga Kaukau		Tumohe Clarke
Ngāti Hinerangi	Dianna Vaimoso		Hinerangi Vaimoso
Ngāti Maru	Craig Solomon		Waati Ngamane
Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu	Jill Taylor		Norm Hill
Ngāti Pāoa	Tahauariki Thompson		Glenice Puke
Ngāti Whanaunga	Michael Baker		Gavin Anderson
Raukawa	Leo Whaiapu		Andrea Julian
Ngāti Tamaterā	Arama Ngapo		<i>Vacant</i>
Te Kaunihera ā-rohe o Matamata-Piako District Council	Koromatua Mayor: Ash Tanner Koromatua Tautoko Deputy Mayor: James Sainsbury Kaunihera ā-Rohe District Councillor: Rewiti Vaimoso		

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1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

The Tiamana | Chairperson is to open the meeting.

2 Karakia | Prayer

The karakia is to be performed.

3 Ngā whakapāha/Tono whakawātea | Apologies/Leave of Absence

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

4 Pānui take ohorere | Notification of Urgent Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

5 Whākī pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

6 Whakaaetanga Mēneti | Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes, as circulated, of the ordinary meeting of Te Mana Whenua Forum mō Matamata-Piako, held on 9 June 2026

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.1 Heads of Agreement Amendment

CM No.: 3222450

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Te Manawhenua Forum (TMF) endorsement of the amendments made to the Heads of Agreement (HoA), following a review of the Agreement.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako is a Standing Committee of Council and was first established in 2004. The relationship between Council and iwi/hapū continues to evolve as we move towards a post-settlement era.

The Forum operated under a Heads of Agreement first signed in 2004, with the latest review completed in 2026. The amended Heads of Agreement is attached for members' information, amendments are highlighted in yellow.

The purpose of this report is to seek direction from the Forum about whether the amendments proposed at the workshop held on the 4th of August 2026 should be confirmed.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Forum confirms the Heads of Agreement with amendments.

Horopaki | Background

The Heads of Agreement has been developed with the TMF representatives and Council staff to articulate the shared principles, values and commitments that guide the relationship between TMF and Council. It is intended to provide a clear foundation for how TMF and Council will work together, including expectations around engagement, decision-making and ongoing collaboration.

The driver of the amendments was to reflect the resolution made by the forum at the hui on 9 June to prevent retrospective funding going forward. It was recognised through this process that membership details were not reflective of current members of the forum, and an amendment was made to rectify that.

An amended version of the Heads of Agreement taken to the last TMF workshop held on the 4th of August. Because of time constraints at the meeting, the item was taken as read.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Minor grammatical corrections, and an update of membership have been made; these changes have not altered the intent or meaning of the document that is presented.

An amendment was also made to the 'Resource Management Hearing Commissioner Training' section. To provide greater clarity regarding the application of this funding, it was proposed that the Heads of Agreement be amended to expressly state that retrospective funding will not be allocated for RMA training that has already been completed prior to approval or agreement by the Forum. This amendment was intended to ensure a clear and consistent approach to the administration of training funding.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). TMF Heads of Agreement 2026 amended

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tayla Bamber Kai-whakahaere ā-Tūhono Iwi Relationship Advisor	
Approved by	Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene Pou Tūhono Iwi Relationship Manager	



Kawenata

Heads of Agreement

**Ngā Mana Whenua o
Matamata-Piako**

**Te Mana Whenua Forum
Mo Matamata-Piako**

rāua ko

and

**Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o
Matamata-Piako**

**Matamata-Piako District
Council**



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Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

He whakatū tēnei Kawenata i tētehi rōpū e kiia nei ko Ngā Mana Whenua Mō Matamata-Piako e taea ai e Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Matamata-Piako te mahi ngātahi me ngā mana whenua, i tēnei wā ahu ake, ki ngā rohenga ā-ture o Matamata-Piako.

He hiahia nō Te Kaunihera rātou ko ngā māngai o ngā Mana Whenua ki te whakahaere i tēnei Kawenata hei whakaatu i ngā take pū o tā rātou mahi ngātahi i ngā kaupapa te here nei i a rātou.

Ko Ngā Mana Whenua he komiti tūturu o Te Kaunihera.

This Heads of Agreement provides for a forum called the Te Mana whenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako ("Forum") where the Matamata-Piako District Council ("Council") and Māori who have mana whenua in respect of the jurisdictional boundaries within Matamata-Piako district can forge an ongoing effective and meaningful partnership.

The Council and Mana Whenua representatives of the district wish to enter into this Heads of Agreement which is intended to reflect the basis upon which they will conduct their affairs of common interest.

The Forum is formalised as a standing committee of the Council.

Hītori | History

The following section sets out the history of the development of the Te Mana Whenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako.

Following the introduction of the Local Government Act 2002 Council was committed to establish and maintain appropriate links with mana whenua to foster effective relationships with them as representatives of the district's iwi authorities. Discussions with Iwi led to Council establishing Te Mana Whenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako ("Forum") in 2004 as a mechanism for Council to meet its obligations.

The Forum was originally formalised as a standing committee of Council at its meeting on 8 July 2004 where Forum members were invited to the official signing with the first formal meeting held on 24 September 2004.

The Heads of Agreement provides for a review of the protocols and performance of the parties based on the purpose and principles of the agreement. During 2011 and 2012 Forum members worked on a review of the original Heads of Agreement. Council approved a revised Heads of Agreement on 26 September 2012. The revised agreement was subsequently approved by the Forum at its meeting on 4 December 2012.



During 2017/18 Forum members again worked on a review of the Heads of Agreement. Council and the Forum agreed to a revised Heads of Agreement on 5 December 2017.

Ngā Tautuhinga, Whakamārama hoki | Definitions and Interpretation

To aid in the interpretation of this Heads of Agreement the following terms apply unless the context requires otherwise:

- “Council” means the Matamata-Piako District Council.
- “Forum” means the Te Mana whenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako which is a standing committee of Council.
- “Heads of Agreement” means this signed copy of the Heads of Agreement between Council and the Forum members.
- “Mana whenua” means the territorial rights, power, and authority from the land – associated with the current and historical possession/occupation of tribal lands within the Matamata-Piako district.
- “Taurahere” means binding strands into one as threads - individuals or groups who join to fulfil a common purpose or goal, which share kinship ties, similar aspirations and who either, live outside their tribal territories or are urban based. Taurahere is about acknowledging another Iwi.

Ngā Mema | Membership

Membership of the collective Forum shall comprise of:

- Matamata-Piako District Council (the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are appointed members)
- Ngāti Hauā
- Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu
- Raukawa
- Ngāti Maru
- Ngāti Tamaterā
- Ngāti Whānaunga
- Ngāti Pāoa.
- Ngāti Hinerangi and
- Any other members that the Forum may agree to in the future, upon formal application.

Te rehitā ā-hapu; ā-iwi | Iwi/hapu registration

There is a due process for any group to request participation in the Forum. Upon application the Forum shall consider the request and may consider issues such as what membership the Forum should hold, what constitutes an iwi/hapu, and what



membership size is suitable to ensure the Forum is effective and efficient. The Forum will provide a recommendation to Council who in turn will make a decision on Forum member Iwi/hapu representation.

Whaiwāhi ki ngā Mana Whenua | Appointment to the Forum

Under Clause 31 Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 Council may delegate to any Committee the appointment of any non-elected members to any committee. Council has delegated to Te Mana whenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako the appointment of non-elected members to Te Mana whenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako.

It is considered that Forum members should reflect Mana whenua within the Matamata-Piako District, with iwi representation determined by the respective iwi authority. Other forms of Mana whenua representation may also be acknowledged, ensuring inclusivity of diverse groups connected to the district. Each of the identified member groups of the Forum shall nominate two representatives, one of which is the principal spokesperson. Both representatives may attend the meetings. The second representative will act at meetings in the absence of the principal representative. The Mayor is the principal for the Council, the Deputy Mayor is the alternate.

Following each Council election, Council shall re-constitute the Forums' membership and delegations.

Ngā Mātapono o ngā Mana Whenua | Principles of the Forum

The Forum recognises the following principles for maintaining a strong and meaningful relationship between Council and mana whenua:

- Mutual respect and adherence to atua tanga (spirituality).
- Respect of taha Māori (wellbeing) and tikanga Māori (customs, protocols).
- Respect for the rangatiratanga (self-determination, autonomy) of iwi – the right to organise as iwi authority.
- Protection of mana whenua.
- Protection of wāhi tapu (sacred places), natural resources, cultural materials and taonga (treasures) Māori.
- Meaningful and mutually beneficial participation of Māori in the Council.
- Regard for the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) as contemplated by the empowering legislation.

Kaupapa o ngā Mana Whenua | Purpose of the Forum

The purpose of the Forum is to facilitate mana whenua contribution to Council's decision making under Section 81(a) of the Local Government Act 2002 and strengthen partnership and engagement between Council and iwi/hapū.



The purpose of the Forum does not substitute individual consultation and engagement of iwi by the Council.

Ngā kawenga a ngā Mana Whenua | General functions of the Forum

The Forum will consider any matter to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of the Māori communities for today and for the future, taking a sustainable development approach. This may include but is not limited to contributing to policy development, input into special projects, reserve management processes and receiving presentations from external organisations or individuals (e.g. regional council, government departments, and community groups). The Forum will agree on an annual work programme to prioritise efforts and resources.

Ngā kawenga motuhake a ngā Mana Whenua | Specific functions of the Forum

In order to give effect to the principals and purpose set out above Council delegates the following to the Forum:

- Appoint any non-elected members to the Forum in accordance with this agreement.
- Appoint up to two representatives to sit as members on any Council working party as requested by Council. Council establishes working parties on an issue-by-issue basis and will invite the nominated Forum representatives to join as a member of any relevant working parties. These working parties usually report back to Council or its committees with recommendations.
- Consider any request by the Council to accept a delegation of a function of Council. The Forum must act in accordance with a delegation it has accepted.
- Appoint a minimum of two representatives to form the Waitangi Day Celebration organising committee each year, to collaborate with staff on the district wide celebrations within a workshop setting.
- Develop an annual work programme each year.
- Develop and adopt goals, strategies and policies and programmes for consideration by Council, if outlined in the Annual work programme (see below).
- Council will pay for a maximum of one representative nominated by the Forum in each three yearly election period to undertake training as a Resource Management Act 1991 hearing commissioner to establish a suitable pool of qualified commissioners. **Funding must be approved by the Forum prior to the commencement or completion of the training and cannot be applied retrospectively.** Council may ask the Forum to nominate further representatives if the need arises.
- Monitor the Long-Term Plan/Annual Plan implementation for matters relating to mana whenua interests.
- Recommend to Council actions to enhance mana whenua capacity to contribute to decision-making including providing advice and recommendations.



- Assist in the collation and monitoring of performance data for the Māori specific community outcomes/indicators.
- Receive Iwi/hapu management plans on behalf of Council.
- In December each year, the Forum will recommend to Council a budget for the following financial year to be included within the Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan to undertake a suggested work programme. If Council agrees to the proposed work programme, the Forum shall oversee the implementation of that work programme
- Support a joint Council and Forum meeting each year (refer to review section below).
- Attend citizenship ceremonies held within the district on a quarterly basis, to represent Mana Whenua and support new citizens in their connection to the community
- Support the Mayor through the Tuia Rangitahi programme (note: this is funded separately from the Forum)
- Represent the District iwi in engagements with Waikato Regional Council and government agencies.
- Engage with external agencies (such as government departments) on work they wish to undertake within the district.

**Ngā kawenga me ngā whakaritenga a te Tiamana, a tōna tuarua rānei |
Functions and duties of the Chairperson or his/her delegate**

- Function as the Forum representative at events hosted by Council e.g. ANZAC Day.
- Provide regular updates to Council following each Forum meeting.

**Ngā kawenga a Te Kaunihera hāngai pū ki ngā Mana Whenua | Council's
duties to Forum**

The Council must provide the Forum with the information that relates to the Forums purpose. Council has an obligation to consult the Forum on matters affecting mana whenua and consider the Forum's advice.

It is to be acknowledged the limitations on resources Council can and are willing to provide may result in the purpose of the Forum not being fully realised within the Forum's timeframes.

Council is committed to fulfil its obligations to consult with individual iwi/hapu as required by legislation – for example under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation relating to individual Iwi.

Consultation with the Forum does not substitute for such engagement and shall be in addition to individual Iwi engagement.



Ngā hui | Meetings

Following each Council election, the Forum shall appoint a Chairperson.

The Forum shall meet regularly for either formal meetings or workshops as required, provided that meeting costs do not exceed the budget allocated to the performance of the Forum's functions each fiscal year. The Forum meeting schedule will be confirmed at the December meeting of the Forum each year.

Ngā Whakaritenga me Ngā Mēneti | Agendas and Minutes

Council is responsible for the production and distribution of agendas and minutes.

Council will advise respective members of the Forum of proposed agenda items by email, at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the meeting (five days prior to the meeting agenda closing). Forum members are invited to respond with any additional items to be included on the agenda within the set period (one day prior to the meeting agenda closing) to allow Council staff time to add the item to the meeting agenda.

It is recognised that there may be times when a meeting of the Forum is not required, if so, all members must agree that a meeting is not required. All parties are to convey and be advised of this in writing.

Forum meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Te Aroha unless otherwise agreed by all Forum members.

Te Ture me Ngā Ōta Pū | Legislation and Standing Orders

Formal meetings of the Forum will be called in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Following each Council election, the Forum shall adopt standing orders for the duration of the triennium.

Quorum - The quorum required for any meeting of the Forum shall be four mana whenua members who are entitled to vote plus a member of Council.

Voting Rights - Where the principal and alternate representatives attend meetings only the principal representative shall be entitled to vote. Where both the principal and alternate representative attend any meeting, both will have full speaking rights but only one single member vote.



Te Pūtea | Expenses

In fulfilling its statutory duties, Council may require assistance and advice from the Forum. In such cases, the Forum will be adequately resourced by Council both financially and non-financially. The Council will make provision for such resourcing through its budgetary processes. This would include meeting fees and expenses for the two representatives and resourcing to undertake the work programme (refer to specific functions of the Forum).

Te Utu | Remuneration

It is agreed that remuneration will be paid in the form of a meeting allowance and mileage reimbursement for attendance by appointed members at formal meetings of the Forum called in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. The meeting allowance and mileage shall be set by Council from time to time.

Remuneration for workshop attendance will be determined on a case-by-case basis for each workshop and will be dependent on funding available. If the Council invites Forum member/s to any working party, then the meeting allowance and mileage will be payable.

Te Aha Noa | General

The Forum is recognised as a standing committee of Council; however, this does not affect or undermine the Tino Rangātiratanga (self-determination) of the members of the Forum.

The Forum acknowledges that the interpretation, application, and operation of these protocols are subject to the relevant empowering legislation, accountability frameworks, and financial constraints.

The operation of the Forum does not restrict the ability of the Council to form specific relationships or agreements with individual Iwi or Iwi groups.

The operation of Forum will be supported by Council staff in the preparation of agendas, minutes as required by legislation and technical advice as resources allow.

Te Tirohanga Anō | Review

The protocols and performance of the parties shall be reviewed each year by way of a joint Forum and Council meeting to discuss issues relating to the Forum based on the purpose and principles of this Heads of agreement.



All parties acknowledge that the relationship and partnership between Iwi and Council is an evolving process. As such, Iwi may seek to progress discussions regarding the independence of the Forum and its functions as part of future reviews.

Ngā Whakarerekētanga Iti Noa | Minor Amendments

The Heads of Agreement can be amended at any time, without being re-signed by Forum members, to allow for changes in membership and re-appointments. Council staff are authorised to update this Heads of Agreement for minor and necessary amendments such as the ability to add alternates without further member agreement. Signed at Te Aroha this day of 2026.

Mayor A Tanner
Matamata-Piako District Council

Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury
Matamata-Piako District Council

Rangitonga Kaukau (Principal)
Ngāti Hauā

Tumohe Clarke (Alternate)
Ngāti Hauā

Jill Taylor (Principal)
Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu

Norm Hill (Alternate)
Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu

Leo Whaiapu (Principal)
Raukawa

Andrea Julian (Alternate)
Raukawa



Glenice Puke (Principal)
Ngāti Pāoa

Tahuariki Thompson (Alternate)
Ngāti Pāoa

Craig Soloman (Principal)
Ngāti Maru

Waati Ngamane (Alternate)
Ngāti Maru

Michael Baker (Principal)
Ngāti Whānaunga

(Alternate)
Ngāti Whānaunga

Dianna Vaimoso (Principal)
Ngāti Hinerangi

Hinerangi Vaimoso (Alternate)
Ngāti Hinerangi

Arama Ngapo (Principal)
Ngāti Tamaterā

Vacant (Alternate)
Ngāti Tamaterā



8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.1 District Plan and Iwi Management Plans Update

CM No.: 3130690

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako (TMF) with an update following the June TMF workshop on iwi management plans and on the rolling review of the Matamata-Piako District Plan (MPDP) including the exemption applications. This update includes information on the RMA reform, Private Plan Change 62 Calcutta, Private Plan Change 64 Banks Road, the Efficiency and Effectiveness (EE) Report, the MPDC Growth Strategy, MPDC website update work, Hauraki Gulf Forum activities, and the Ashbourne fast track application.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

An Iwi Management Plan and District Plan and Resource Management Reform summary is provided below. The update specifically refers to the Plan Change Exemption Applications, Private Plan Change 62 Calcutta, Private Plan Change 64 Banks Road, the MPDC Growth Strategy, the EE Report, Resource Management Act Reform, MPDC webpage updates, Hauraki Gulf Forum activities, and the Ashbourne fast track decision.

Carolyn McAlley, Kumesh Burr and Fiona Hill are available to deliver the update and answer any questions.

Tūtohunga/ Recommendation

1. The information be received.

Horopaki | Background

For background information on Iwi Management Plan Update please refer to the attached powerpoint presentation which was presented at the June workshop on this topic.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Iwi Management Plans (IMPs)

This is the first report on the measures identified at the June workshop on Iwi Management Plans. At the workshop it was identified the Forum would find it useful to have regular reports on the following matters:

- information on Council-Iwi referrals and current processes, and
- information on cultural values assessments
- information on the numbers of papakāinga applications
- a webpage dedicated to IMPs.

In addition to these matters, information requested by TMF members was circulated. This included access to wāhi tapu site information and mapping through Council's GIS Viewer, along with a table listing wāhi tapu sites and guidance on how to locate them. A link to the Council's Road Naming Policy was also provided for reference.

The following information relates to the identified measures at the workshop.

Information on Council-iwi referrals and current processes.

The planning team refer consents to iwi in two ways.

1. Council-iwi referrals

Using an email list, the planning team distribute all resource consents which been received over the past fortnight to iwi. Since July 2020 to 1 August 2026, staff have distributed approximately 1668 consents. Of those, 830 are subdivision consents and 838 are land use consents. There is currently no easy way to track the outcomes of this correspondence. Typically, the planner processing the resource consent application would note in the section 42A report that the application has been referred to iwi for comment, as well as the result of this referral. These results are not easily summarised, and the planning team is working towards improving this. For future reports it is intended to report on the actions and outcomes of this approach.

Iwi included in the email list are:

- Ngāti Hauā
- Ngāti Hinerangi
- Ngāti Maru
- Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu
- Ngāti Whanaunga
- Raukawa

If any other Iwi group wish to be added to the list, then please reach out to the planning team.

2. Individual Iwi Referrals

In addition, planners also send out information to iwi where the consent raises matters the planner thinks will be of particular interest but may not be considered an affected party. Examples of these circumstances where known:

- Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASM), including wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna, urupā, and other culturally significant locations as identified in the district plan.
- Wai (rivers, streams and wetlands) particularly where activities may impact water quality, mauri, or customary relationships with water.
- Kōiwi tangata (human remains), artefacts, or archaeological material.
- Indigenous biodiversity, mahinga kai, and culturally significant flora and fauna.
- Land with cultural significance to iwi and hapū.
- Areas of interest
- Where iwi management plans are identified in the application

In addition, there are some consents where iwi will be considered an affected party and written approval will be required if the application is to be processed on a non-notified basis.

Staff are currently working towards a detailed breakdown of the referrals to be included in the Forum's December agenda. It proposed to include the breakdown as part of the District Plan and Iwi Management Plan Update on an annual basis. Today, staff can provide a verbal update as to progress.

Cultural Values Assessments

Depending on the nature and scale of the resource consent application or plan change process, cultural values are assessed through the preparation of Cultural Values Assessments (CVAs) or Cultural Impact Assessments (CIAs). They are recognised as specialist technical advice that supports informed decision-making and meaningful participation in resource management processes. Council led plan changes are also required to be circulated to iwi authorities prior to notification. Comments that are received are required to be included within the Section 32 assessment including actions taken in response to the comments.

Information on the numbers of papakāinga applications

MPDC has received three consents for development on papakāinga zoned land. All three instances were for activities related to the form and function of buildings on the whenua, not housing developments. The consents are outlined below:

1. A land use consent for a multistage Hauora building. Application received on 26 Sept 2025.
2. Land use consent to extend an existing wharekai.
Application received 23 April 2026 and granted 11 June 2026.
3. Land use application to construct a replacement Paki o Matariki.
Application received 19 May 2025 and granted in Aug 2025.

Iwi Management Plan Website

Work is progressing on a dedicated Iwi Management Plan webpage to improve accessibility and awareness of lodged IMPs. The webpage will include information on what an Iwi Management Plan is, its role in identifying resource management matters of importance to tangata whenua and links to the four lodged plans. The webpage will also include a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

District Plan Update

In August 2025, the Government introduced new legislation as part of the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025. A key part of this legislation is called Plan Stop. The intention of this legislation is to ensure that local authorities do not expend resources unnecessarily, by stopping parts of the plan making process until the RMA replacement legislation comes into force. It included pausing updating plans to align with the National Planning Standards and full plan reviews. However, under the Plan Stop rules, councils can still ask the Minister responsible for Resource Management Reform for permission to start or keep working on a plan change if it meets the criteria in section 80W of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). As a consequence of these changes, on 8 October 2025, the Council decided not to notify PC61 - National Planning Standards and Other Matters and to proceed with lodging two exemption applications.

Plan Change Exemption Applications

Under the Plan Stop legislation, councils can apply for an exemption to commence or continue a plan change where it satisfies the criteria set out in section 80W of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). In response to the Plan Stop legislation, Council resolved to pursue exemption applications for two priority plan changes, those being Plan Change 65 (Minor Matters) and Plan Change 49 (Waharoa). The exemption application for Plan Change 65 was approved by the Minister for RMA Reform in March 2026.

By way of update:

- Plan Change 49 (Waharoa) has been sent to the Minister for RMA Reform, Chris Bishop. A decision was received from the Minister on 11 August 2026. The application was approved in part with the plan amendments relating to the Kaitiaki Conservation Zone and the Shop Frontage Area not being approved. The Minister's decision will be uploaded to the MPDC [Plan Stop](#) webpage. Next steps are to develop a work plan to progress this plan change.

Plan Changes

An update on the plan changes lodged with the Council or notified is provided below.

Private Plan Change 62 – Calcutta

On 3 July 2025, Council received a request for Private Plan Change 62 – Calcutta (PPC62). The proposal seeks to rezone approximately 20 ha of rural land on the southern side of Tauranga Road, Matamata, to General Industrial Zone. The proposal includes a development area plan showing roading layout, landscape buffers and the protection of pin oaks adjacent to Mangawhero Road.

As there are only a few key outstanding matters to work through (stormwater discharge /urban design and landscaping detail, Cultural Values Assessment, protection of the Pin Oaks and assessment of the National Policy Statement for Hazards) the requestor is looking to move the plan change request along. It is expected that these matters will be resolved as part of the notification and submissions process. The request was considered at Council meeting on 26 August. The request was accepted for notification by Council noting an updated cultural values assessment may be received prior to the plan change request being notified.

For more information about PPC62, please click [here](#).

Private Plan Change 64 - Banks Road-Residential Zoning

KA Matamata Limited Partnership (KA Matamata) lodged a private plan change request with MPDC on 27 February 2026. Known as Private Plan Change 64 – Banks Road (PPC64), the proposal seeks to rezone approximately 26.3ha of land on the south-eastern edge of Matamata, with updates to the associated Structure Plan. The site is located within the Banks Road to Mangawhero Road Structure Plan area and is identified as part of the Future Residential Policy Area. The plan change is anticipated to enable approximately 430 dwellings. KA Matamata owns approximately 8.6ha of the land within the PPC64 area, with the remaining land owned by seven other landowners.

The plan change application was accepted at the Council meeting on 29 July 2026 to proceed to notification. The plan change has been notified, and submissions close on 22 September 2026.

For more information about Private Plan Change 64, please click [here](#).

Plan Change 65 – Minor Matters (Exemption Approved)

On 27 May 2026, Council approved Plan Change 65 for public notification. The plan change was publicly notified for submissions on 23 June and closed on 21 July 2026. Three submissions were received on the plan change. All have since been withdrawn following engagement with the submitters. Staff have appointed an independent commissioner, David Hill to decide the plan change. Since the submissions were withdrawn, Mr Hill approved the plan change in August 2026

without a hearing. It is expected that a report will be presented to Council as part of its September meeting recommending the plan change be made operative.

Further information on PC65 is available [here](#).

MPDC Growth Strategy

Council has endorsed staff progressing work on a Growth Strategy. Updated population and growth projections have now been received from Te Ngira, and Council has adopted the high-growth scenario.

Staff are now undertaking preparatory work on the growth strategy. An employment land assessment is underway. The assessment is being undertaken by Formative and Martin Jenkins. MPDC is part of a joint study with Waikato and Waipa districts. Part of this work does involve making contact with key stakeholders in the district. Work will also begin soon on an updated housing assessment. Staff are currently assessing the implication of reform changes, alongside local government reform proposals and will report back to Council with recommendations on the timing, scope and future direction of the strategy.

Staff would like direction from TMF on how best to work with mana whenua on this project.

Resource Management Act Reform (RMA Reform)

In March 2024, the Government made an announcement regarding its proposed RMA Reform processes, which is occurring in three phases. The status of the phases is outlined below.

Phase	Status
Phase 1 - Repealed Existing RMA Reform	COMPLETE
Phase 2 Stage 1 - Freshwater and Other Matters Bill	COMPLETE
Phase 2 Stage 2 - Resource Management Consenting and Other Matters Act and national policy changes	PARTIALLY COMPLETE Act passed into law. We are still awaiting the release of the following two National Environmental Standards (NES): - NES for Telecommunication Facilities - NES for Electricity Transmission Activities To view the national direction instruments that have been released and are currently in force as part of Phase 2, click here .
Phase 3 - New Planning Act and Natural Environment Act	PENDING The Bills were introduced on 9 December

	2025. The Select Committee report on the Planning and Natural Environment Bill was released on 20 July 2026, recommending a number of key changes to the Bills following its review of public submissions and stakeholder feedback. The Select Committee report can be accessed here: Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill The Bills are anticipated to become law in mid-September 2026. Recently the Government has released an illustrative version of the National Policy Direction (NPD). The NPD is important as it sets the framework for how the Goals in the Bills will be implemented. Submissions are due by 16 October 2025.
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For more information about the RMA reform, please click [MPDC Resource Management Act Reform](#).

Some of the key takeaways from the Select Committee report:

- **Transitional consenting** - From October 2026, changes to section 104 RMA will prevent councils from considering some matters, including internal and external building layouts and views from private properties, when assessing consent applications.
- **Regulatory relief provisions retained**: Councils will need to consider whether planning controls significantly affect the reasonable use of private property and, in some circumstances, provide regulatory relief.
- **Greater national direction, less local discretion**: National policies and standards will play a much stronger role in shaping local planning decisions and plan content.
- **Private plan changes**: The available grounds for rejecting private plan changes are to be reduced in the short term. From 1 January 2028 and until the specified transition date, a local authority cannot notify a draft private plan change unless the Minister grants an exemption.
- **Implementation timing**: The transition period has been increased from 30 to 39 months, extending the timeframe for introducing the first tranche of key planning instruments, including national policy direction. This additional nine months is intended to support a more managed implementation process and provide councils with more time to prepare for and respond to the changes.

- **Registering permitted activities:** The report clarified that permitted activities only require registration with Council where national instruments specifically require it.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe

Further work on Mana Whakahono ā Rohe has been paused until there is clear direction from central government. Amendment papers to the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill have now been published. Amendment paper 709 amends the Bills by replacing the provisions for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe with Iwi Participation Agreements. Staff are working to understand these changes and can report verbally at the time of the meeting.

Hauraki Gulf Forum

Exciting progress has been made since the last Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting on 29 June 2026, with the release of the State of the Gulf Report. Discover the latest insights into the health of the Hauraki Gulf by reading the report here:

<https://gulffjournal.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/State-of-our-Gulf-2026.pdf>.

A verbal update will be provided following the Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting on 14 September in Auckland.

Efficiency and Effectiveness Report (EE Report)

Under section 35 of the Resource Management Act (RMA), Council is required to monitor the state of the environment and the effectiveness and efficiency of its district plan provisions. Until 2020, this was undertaken through the State of the Environment Report, which covered land, air, water, biodiversity, and waste.

In 2020, Council adopted a new Monitoring Strategy to guide data collection and evaluation for the 2020-2025 period. Information gathered through this process will assess how well the Matamata-Piako District Plan is achieving its intended outcomes.

The EE Report is currently being reviewed. Once complete, it will be presented to Council at a workshop before being published on the Council website. A link to the final report will be shared at a future meeting.

Resource management reforms are expected to change how councils monitor district plans, moving towards a nationally coordinated system for environmental monitoring and reporting. While details are still emerging, MPDC will continue to be responsible for local compliance, enforcement, and consent monitoring, aligned with future regional planning and monitoring frameworks. These changes are expected to be implemented progressively over the coming years.

Fast-track – Ashbourne Development

For more information about the Ashbourne development, please click [here](#). On 21 April 2026, the panel's final decision was to:

- **grant** the solar farm approvals,
- **grant, in part**, the residential development approvals sought, subject to the conditions, and
- **decline** the retirement village.

The decision to reject the retirement village component of this development has been appealed to the High Court. MPDC is a party to the appeal.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

A. TMF Iwi Management Plans Workshop Presentation 9 June 2026 (*Under Separate Cover*)

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Carolyn McAlley Kaitohu Tipu me te Kaupapahere Whakamahere Matua Senior Growth and Planning Policy Advisor	
	Kumeshni Burr Kaitohu Tipu me te Kaupapahere Whakamahere Growth and Planning Policy Advisor	
	Fiona Hill Kaiārahi Tipu me te Kaupapahere Whakamahere Growth and Planning Policy Team Leader	

Approved by	Nathan Sutherland Pou Whakamahere Planning Manager	
	Ally van Kuijk Hautū Kaitiaki, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Whakawhanake Group Manager Kaitiaki, Partnerships and Develo	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.2 Long Term Plan 2027-37 Progress Update: September 2026

CM No.: 3219832

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to

- provide the Forum with an update on progress in developing the Long Term Plan 2027-37, and
- seek the Forum's direction on any additional opportunities they would like to schedule to review and input into the Long Term Plan between September and November 2026.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Progress update

The development of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 (LTP) is well underway and is currently on track.

Further progress updates will be provided to Te Manawhenua Forum through the remainder of 2026, and the first half of 2027.

Key dates

The key milestones from now until adoption of the LTP are as follows, with opportunities for Te Manawhenua Forum involvement highlighted in blue:

Timeframe	Action
Sep 15	Te Manawhenua Forum - LTP progress update.
Sep - Nov 2026	Council to make key budget and planning decisions - capex, opex, renewals, levels of service etc, see more detail in the body of the report below. Staff to develop LTP documents. Opportunity for Te Manawhenua Forum input [for discussion].
Sep 2026 - Feb 2027	LTP Consultation Document developed
Nov 2026	Quality Assurance process (LTP documents)
1 Dec 2026	Te Manawhenua Forum - opportunity for Forum review and input into the Consultation Document and coms and engagement plan.
Dec 2026	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP documents for Audit
Dec 2026 - Jan 2027	Audit of LTP documents
2027 dates TBC	Te Manawhenua Forum meetings - LTP updates
Feb 2027	Quality Assurance process (LTP Consultation Document)
Feb 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document for Audit
Feb - Mar 2027	Audit of LTP Consultation Document
Mar 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document and LTP documents for public consultation
Apr - May 2027	Public consultation (including in person sessions) Opportunity for Te Manawhenua Forum to provide submission
May 2027	Council Deliberations
May 2027	Quality Assurance process (Final LTP)
Jun 2027	Final Audit
30 Jun 2027	Adoption of LTP 2027-37 Setting of the Rates for 2027/28
1 July 2027	LTP 2027-37 in force

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The report be received
2. The Forum provide direction on any additional opportunities they would like to schedule to provide review and input of the Long Term Plan between September and November 2026 *[feedback to be added]*.

Horopaki | Background

Progress update

The development of the LTP is well underway and is currently on track.

Further progress updates will be provided at Te Manawhenua Forum, Risk and Assurance Committee, Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee and Council meetings through the remainder of 2026, and the first half of 2027.

Key dates

The key milestones from now until adoption of the LTP are as follows, with opportunities for Te Manawhenua Forum involvement highlighted in blue.

As shown in the table significant work to develop the LTP takes place between now and November. Taking into account that there are no Forum meetings scheduled for this period, staff will seek the Forum's direction on whether they would like to arrange additional opportunities for review and input in the Long Term Plan between September and November 2026.

Timeframe	Action
Sep 15	Te Manawhenua Forum - LTP progress update.
Sep - Nov 2026	Council to make key budget and planning decisions - capex, opex, renewals, levels of service etc, see more detail in the body of the report below. Staff to develop LTP documents. Opportunity for Te Manawhenua Forum input [for discussion].
Sep 2026 - Feb 2027	LTP Consultation Document developed
Nov 2026	Quality Assurance process (LTP documents)
1 Dec 2026	Te Manawhenua Forum - opportunity for Forum review and input into the Consultation Document and coms and engagement plan.
Dec 2026	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP documents for Audit
Dec 2026 - Jan 2027	Audit of LTP documents
2027 dates TBC	Te Manawhenua Forum meetings - LTP update
Feb 2027	Quality Assurance process (LTP Consultation Document)
Feb 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document for Audit
Feb - Mar 2027	Audit of LTP Consultation Document
Mar 2027	Risk and Assurance Committee and Council approval of LTP Consultation Document and LTP documents for public consultation
Apr - May 2027	Public consultation (including in person sessions) Opportunity for Te Manawhenua Forum to provide submission
May 2027	Council Deliberations
May 2027	Quality Assurance process (Final LTP)
Jun 2027	Final Audit
30 Jun 2027	Adoption of LTP 2027-37 Setting of the Rates for 2027/28
1 July 2027	LTP 2027-37 in force

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Progress update

Below, LTP actions are grouped under the headings 'Completed', 'In progress', and 'Still to be progressed'.

Table 1: LTP items completed

Item	Summary of process	Status	How this item will inform the LTP
Trends and Analysis Report	Te Manawhenua Forum received the report including information specific to iwi Māori.	Complete	The report helps inform the assumptions that underlie the development

Item	Summary of process	Status	How this item will inform the LTP
	Council has reviewed and adopted the report.		of the LTP.
Population Projections	Elected members received a presentation on population projections from Te Ngira and subsequently adopted the high growth scenario.	Complete	The projections underpin the growth assumptions in the LTP.
Vision and Community Outcomes	Te Manawhenua Forum were invited to attend face to face sessions held during the period of developing the Vision and Community Outcomes, this was also discussed at Te Manawhenua Forum workshop in April 2026. Council's Vision and Community Outcomes were adopted in early 2026.	Complete	The Vision and Community Outcomes have been used to inform the activity planning developed by staff. And will be used throughout the LTP to frame the discussion around Council's priorities.
Efficiency and enablement	Council has articulated as part of its vision that its key focus is on operating in a way that is efficient and enabling.	Complete	The focus on efficiency and enablement has been used to inform the activity and support service planning developed by staff. This focus will be discussed throughout the LTP.
Key Drivers	The key drivers have been workshopped with Council, and identified as - Affordability - Growth and Demand - Resilience - Regulation and Reform	Complete	The drivers will be used throughout the LTP to discuss the challenges over the period of the LTP and how Council will respond.
Direction on approach to consultation	Council has given direction that they would like to take a different approach to consultation, with face-to-face sessions during the consultation period to hear from submitters rather than holding a formal Hearing after the submission period has closed.	Complete	Staff will develop a communication and engagement process for the LTP and seek review and direction from elected members.
Significance and Engagement Policy review	The policy has been workshopped with Council and Te Manawhenua Forum.	Complete	The Policy was adopted by Council on 26 August. It was decided not to undertake consultation on the policy.
Grants policies review	The Multi-Year, Single-Year and Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grants Policies have been reviewed and updated by Council.	Complete	The Policies were adopted by Council on 26 August.

Table 2: LTP items in progress

Item	Summary of progress to date and direction received	Next steps	Status
Rates structure review	Council have reviewed the rates structure and given direction that no substantial changes are needed.	Council will review the Uniform Annual General Charge at a workshop in Sep/Oct, after which the rates structure can be formally adopted.	On track
Groups of activities structure	Council have reviewed the groups of activities structure.	It is likely that Council's groups of activities structure will need to change to the structure signalled by the government at which point staff will bring the updated structure to Council for review.	On track
Revenue and Financing Policy review	Council have reviewed the funding of each of its activities.	Staff are currently updating the policy based on the direction received and will circulate the draft document and workshop it with Council in Sep/Oct. It is likely that the signalled changes to the groups of activities will mean some further review of the policy will be needed at a later date.	On track
Significant forecasting assumptions	Council have workshopped the assumptions and given direction.	Staff are currently updating the assumptions and will circulate the draft document and workshop with Council in Sep/Oct.	On track
Activity planning	Managers have presented their draft activity and support service planning to Council and received direction.	Council direction has informed development of the first cut budget. Staff are updating their Activity Plans to reflect direction received. Summaries of this information will be included in the LTP documents.	On track
First cut budget	The first cut budget is due to be workshopped with Council in late September.	After the workshop, staff will review based on direction received and bring the budget back to Council for further review.	On track
Levels of service and performance measure framework	Council reviewed performance measures as part of the activity plan workshops. Subsequently Council have workshopped the performance measure framework and given direction on a number of specific level of service definitions, performance measures and targets.	The direction received will be incorporated into planning documents and reflected into the LTP.	On track
Project	Council have agreed on	Staff will describe and reflect this	On track

Item	Summary of progress to date and direction received	Next steps	Status
prioritisation framework	a methodology for prioritising projects, the 'must dos, should dos, could dos'. This methodology has been used for infrastructure investment planning.	methodology in the Infrastructure Strategy.	
Capital and renewal programme	Council have reviewed and given direction on the capital and renewal programme for the LTP.	The Infrastructure strategy will detail the capital and renewal programme.	On track
Infrastructure and Financial Strategies	Staff have begun drafting these strategies which will be workshopped with Council in Sep/Oct.	Following direction received, staff will continue to develop the draft strategies, which will be brought back to Council for further review.	On track
Section on Māori engagement in consultation	Te Manawhenua Forum have reviewed the draft of this section for the LTP.	This content will be included in the LTP.	On track
LTP documents	Drafting of the sections of the LTP has begun.	Staff will bring these to Council for review as they are prepared.	On track

Table 5: LTP items still to be progressed

Item	Next steps	Status
Development Contributions Policy review	Workshop scheduled for September / October.	On track
Rates Remission and Postponement Policy (this Policy was discussed with Te Manawhenua Forum in June 2026)	Workshop scheduled for October.	On track
Treasury Policies review	Workshop scheduled for October.	On track
Consultation Document	A series of workshops will be run through September/ October.	On track
Allocation of grants	A workshop to decide on allocations is scheduled for 7 October 2026.	On track

Mōrearea | Risk

An LTP risk register has been developed. The key risks to the LTP project can be characterised as:

- 1) The risk of constrained staff and organisational capacity impacting LTP deliverables due to multiple and complex competing obligations.
- 2) The risk of legislative uncertainty delaying decision-making and budgets.

These risks are being actively managed by the LTP project group with oversight at the Executive level and quarterly review by the Risk and Assurance Committee.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

The LTP is a statutory requirement for Council under the Local Government Act 2002.

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Council's new vision and community outcomes are guiding development of the LTP.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The LTP is budgeted for within the Strategies and Plans budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Anne Gummer Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tima Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana Policy and Governance Manager	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.3 Long Term Plan - Grants Review

CM No.: 3220738

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

Council adopted the following reviewed grant policies at the Council meeting on 26 August 2026:

- Multi and Single-Year Community Grants Policy 2027;
- Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant Policy 2027;
- Mayoral Fund Policy 2026; and
- Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund Policy 2026.

These policies are attached to this report, for Te Manawhenua Forum's information.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Grants are an important tool for Council to deliver on its vision and community outcomes. Council currently offers multiple grant programmes to groups and individuals in the community.

Multi-Year Community Grants support the ongoing operation and management of essential community facilities, infrastructure and services that deliver continuing public benefit over multiple years.

Single-Year Community Grants support one-off projects, services, programmes, activities or events that have a defined start and finish date and are not part of an organisation's core operational costs.

Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grants support the protection, conservation and promotion of heritage values. They help fund plans, reports, projects and resource consent costs.

A review of Council's grant policies is undertaken every three-years in line with the Long Term Plan to ensure they remain current, fit for purpose, and aligned with Council expectations. The draft policies were developed by staff based on Council direction and workshopped with Council on 12 August 2026.

The Mayoral Fund Policy and the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund Policy provide guidance on the establishment, administration and management of their respective funds. These policies were reviewed separately from the above grants. The draft policies were developed by staff, workshopped with Council on 3 June 2026 and the Risk and Assurance Committee on 16 June 2026.

Horopaki | Background

Grants included in the review:

- Multi-Year Community Grants;
- Single-Year Community Grants;
- Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant;

- Mayoral Funds (Mayoral Fund and Mayoral Disaster Fund);
- Te Kōtuitui – Iwi-led Initiatives Grant (available to organisations or individuals endorsed by a member of Te Manawhenua Forum, Iwi Trust Chief Executive or similar who would like to deliver an initiative largely focused on or in honour of Matariki or Waitangi Day);
- Pride of Place – Community-led Initiatives Grant (provides funds for small community-led initiatives that contribute to our Pride of Place goals or overall community wellbeing); and
- Waste Minimisation Grants (gives effect to the requirements of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to allocate waste levy funding received from the Ministry for the Environment for waste minimisation projects).

Grants not included in the review:

- Creative Communities Scheme (Council administers funding provided by Creative New Zealand and follows their guidelines. Funding is administered across two funding rounds per year); and
- Dr Lawrence and Elsie Mackie Memorial Trust Grant (Council administers funding on behalf of the Trust. Guidelines are set by the Trust, and funding is administered once every two-years).

At the 3 June workshop, Council reviewed the Mayoral Fund and Mayoral Disaster Fund policies and agreed to include conflict-of-interest clauses in both policies. The Risk and Assurance Committee also reviewed the policies on 16 June 2026, and provided feedback that Council consider the process for amounts over the \$500 maximum amount for the Mayoral Fund; including implementing a two-step approval process.

Additional guidance was added to form a Relief Fund Assessment Panel to assist with decision-making relating to the Disaster Relief Fund when a significant disaster event is declared.

At the 12 August 2026 workshop, Council discussed revisions made to the Multi and Single-Year Community Grants Policy and Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Policy following direction from Council to narrow criteria. The minutes read:

Members supported tightening eligibility criteria, particularly to reduce reliance on single-year grants for ongoing operating costs. There was support for applicants with recurring community-good activities being encouraged to consider multi-year funding where appropriate, with the application material and correspondence clearly explaining the revised criteria.

Direction was to proceed with the general approach presented, including reducing the maximum single-year grant amount from \$5,000 to \$2,500 to set clearer expectations, and trialling the narrow criteria to assess how it works in practice.

No changes were made to the Te Kōtuitui – Iwi-led Initiatives Grant, Pride of Place – Community-led Initiatives Grant and Waste Minimisation Grants policies as they are all due for review at a later date, and the latter two are subject to Government funding decisions.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

At the 26 August 2026 meeting, Council adopted all amended grant policies.

Council staff are bringing this to Te Manawhenua Forum's attention, in case there grants that their respective iwi or hāpu would like to apply for.

Applications for the **Multi-Year Community Grants 2027/28-2029/30** funding round are **open from 28 August to 23 September 2026**. Council decides on funding every three years as part of

the Long Term Plan process. A further Council workshop on applicant presentations and funding will be held on 7 October 2026, followed by decisions at the Council meeting on 28 October 2026.

Applications for **Single-Year Community Grants are open from 7 September to 12 October 2026**. There are two funding rounds annually, in April and September. Council delegates funding decisions to the Single-Year Community Grants Committee and Council staff report to Council on successful recipients annually.

Applications for the Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant are open all year round and funding is allocated on a first-in basis. Council delegates funding decisions to staff, who report to Council on successful recipients annually. The staff delegated are Sandra Harris (Policy and Governance Manager) and Nathan Sunderland (Planning Manager).

Applications for the Mayoral Fund are open all year round. The Mayor receives regular requests for grants, donations and financial assistance to support ad-hoc projects and community initiatives. While many requests are dealt with through applications for other Council provided or administered grants, the Mayor has the discretion to allocate funding from the Mayoral Fund in accordance with the policy.

The Disaster Relief fund can be set up by Council following a significant disaster event to provide financial support to those individuals, families, small businesses, community groups and marae adversely affected.

The total financial assistance provided to the community through these grants (apart from the Disaster Relief fund) is set out in Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan budgets. Contributions to the Disaster Relief fund may be made by Council, the public, community groups and organisations. The Government may also provide a financial contribution per emergency event in a district.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Council's website has been updated to include the finalised, adopted policy documents. As well as instructions for how groups or individuals can apply for funding through the policies.

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. ‘The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki	He wāhi puawaitanga	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō	He wāhi whakapapa,

te manawa A place with people at its heart	A place to thrive	tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create
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All community outcomes are relevant to this report.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The review of these policies falls within the Strategies and Plans budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

- [A↓.](#) Final Multi and Single Year Community Grants Policy 2027 - Adopted 26 August 2026
- [B↓.](#) Final Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant Policy 2027 - Adopted 26 August 2026
- [C↓.](#) Final Mayoral Fund Policy 2026 - Adopted 26 August 2026
- [D↓.](#) Final Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund Policy 2026 - Adopted 26 August 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Manisha Tritscher Kaitohu Kaupapahere Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tima Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana Policy and Governance Manager	



Te Kaupapahere o ngā kārati hāpori ā-tau takitahi, ā-tau takitini | Multi and Single-Year Community Grants Policy 2027

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 26 AUGUST 2026

Department	Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
CM Reference	3206125
Resolution Date	26 August 2026
Policy Effective From	1 July 2027
Engagement Required	Not Applicable
Review Frequency	Three-yearly or as required by Council or legislative changes
Review Date	1 July 2030
Policy Supersedes	Multi and Single-Year Community Grants Policy 2024



1. Te Kaupapa | Purpose

- 1.1 This Policy sets out Matamata-Piako District Council's (Council) criteria and allocation process for grants to community organisations through Council's contestable community grants fund. The Policy does not apply to loans (or loan guarantees), rates remittance, community leases or rentals, or capital projects.
- 1.2 The provision of funding through community grants helps Council to realise its vision and community outcomes for the Matamata-Piako District (district).

2. Minenga | Audience

2.1 Funding is eligible for:

- Not-for-profit organisations that have the primary objective to provide programmes, services or activities that benefit communities in the district; and
- Organisations/individuals organising a not-for-profit event held in the district.

Multi-Year Community Grant	Single-Year Community Grant
Multi-Year Community Grants provide support for the ongoing operation and management of essential community facilities, infrastructure and services that deliver continuing public benefit over multiple years.	Single-Year Community Grants support one-off projects, services, programmes, activities or events that have a defined start and finish date, and are not part of an organisation's core operational costs.

3. Ngā Kaupapa ka tautokona ā-pūtea | What we fund

- 3.1 Multi-Year Community Grants will fund organisations for ongoing operational costs associated with delivering continuing community benefit including:
- The operation, management and maintenance of community facilities, infrastructure or gathering spaces that are available for community use (e.g. utilities, insurance, compliance and administration directly related to the ongoing operation of the facility or service).
 - Recurring programmes, services and activities that form part of the organisation's regular service delivery (e.g. core staffing required to operate the facility or service).
 - Established community events that occur on an ongoing basis.
 - Administrative, governance and operational costs directly related to maintaining community facilities, services or programmes.
- 3.2 Emphasis will be given to organisations that:
- Provide or manage community facilities or spaces used by the wider community.

- b. Deliver services, programmes or activities on an ongoing basis rather than for a fixed-term project.
- c. Demonstrate a sustained need for operational support to deliver community outcomes.

3.3 Multi-Year Community Grants are intended for activities that are continuous, recurring or permanent in nature and would reasonably be expected to continue beyond the grant period.

3.4 Single-Year Community Grants will fund organisations for one-off projects, initiatives or events with defined outcomes and completion dates, including:

- a. Programme development and implementation.
- b. Equipment and resources required for a specific project, programme or event.
- c. New community events.
- d. Activities that respond to an identified community need and can be delivered within a defined timeframe.

3.5 Consideration will be given to the number of volunteer hours contributed and any in kind donations towards the project.

3.6 Single-Year Community Grants are not intended to fund ongoing organisational operating costs, recurring annual costs or activities that form part of the applicant's normal business or service delivery.

4. Ngā kaupapa kāore e tautokona ā-pūtea | What we don't fund

4.1 Funding may not be used for any of the following:

- a. Projects or initiatives located outside of the district.
- b. Applications for purposes that do not directly relate to the grant.
- c. Subscriptions and memberships.
- d. Projects/programmes and related costs that have already occurred.
- e. Any costs involved in preparing the application.
- f. Catering costs.
- g. Projects or operational costs already substantially funded by Council.
- h. Political organisations.
- i. Repayment of debt, loan, mortgage repayments or investments of any kind.

5. Ngā Tononga Whakaritenga | Application requirements

5.1 The total financial assistance provided to the community through grants and funding covered by this Policy is set out in Council's Long Term Plan (LTP), and Annual Plan budgets each year.

5.2 Successful grant recipients are required to submit an accountability report within twelve months of funding being granted. The report must contain a short

summary of the project, photos or evidence of the project, and confirmation that the funding criteria have been met.

- 5.3 Failure to provide an accountability report within this timeframe, may result in future grant applications being declined. Any unused funds must be returned to Council.

6. Te Whakataunga | Decision-making

- 6.1 Council will assess applications for funding from the Multi-Year Community Grants as part of its LTP consultation process.
- 6.2 Council delegates a grants committee (consisting of one elected member from each ward) to assess and determine applications for funding from the Single-Year Community Grants. Funding will be allocated across the district in accordance with the criteria in this Policy.
- 6.3 Council may choose to fund all, part or none of an application.

7. Take Taharua | Conflict of interest

- 7.1 If an elected member has a direct conflict of interest in relation to any application to this fund, they must not participate in the consideration or decision-making process for that application. Any declared conflict and the actions taken to manage that conflict, will be recorded.

8. Kaupapahere Te Mātaītanga, me te Arotakenga | Policy monitoring and review

- 8.1 The Policy, Partnerships and Governance team are responsible for providing Council with a summary of expenditure. This Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years.

Rārangi 1: Te Tukanga Pūtea | Schedule 1: Funding Process



Rārangi 2: Ngā Aratohu | Schedule 2 - Guidelines

How can I apply?

All applications must be made through Council's online grant application system mpdc.nz/grants.

What must accompany the application?

- The applicant's latest bank statement for all accounts. These need to be no greater than three months old.
- The applicant's most recent annual financial accounts, if available.
- An accountability report must have been received for any previous grants before any new grant application will be processed, if applicable.
- Current proof of bank account in the name of the applicant group.

What are the requirements that have to be met?

- Successful applications may be required to complete a grant agreement prior to payment of the grant.
- Successful applicants must adhere to the accountability reporting requirements.
- Recipients that fail to submit accountability reports, or that have not spent the money in accordance with the application/contract shall not be eligible for any further Council grants until:
 - Accountability reporting requirements have been met and/or grant monies returned;
 - The organisation can demonstrate their ability to meet Council's eligibility criteria for a grant;
 - The organisation is capable of delivering the project outcomes of which they are making an application for.

How will I know if funding has been approved?

Applications will be assessed and decided by Council or Council's Single-Year Community Grants Committee. You will be notified of the decision as soon as practicable (maximum of six weeks after applications close). The decision of the Council/Council's Grants Committee is final.

Upon receipt of invoice, payment will be made on the 20th of the following month. Funds are GST exclusive where an organisation is GST registered. If an organisation is not GST registered, no GST will be included in the fund.

Application processes

	How much is available?	When can I apply?	Grant decision	Uplifting funds	Who can apply?
Multi-Year Grants	The total funding assistance provided is set out in Council's Long Term Plan (LTP), and Annual Plan budgets.	Funding rounds occur every three years as part of the LTP consultation process.	Applicants will be advised in June/July every three years.	Funds must be uplifted before the end of each financial year (30 June).	Applicants must be a legally constituted community group or organisation which: - Is located in the Matamata-Piako district. - Is sustainable and has the capacity to deliver agreed outcomes.
Single-Year Grants	Generally, the maximum amount that will be allocated per application is \$2,500 . However, applications for funding above this amount may be considered if there are special circumstances.	There are two funding rounds per year in April/September.	Applicants will be advised as soon as practicable (maximum of six weeks after applications close).	Funds must be uplifted within six months of being granted.	Applicants must be a not-for-profit community group or an organisation/individual organising a not-for-profit community event which: - Is located within the district. - Is sustainable and has the capacity to deliver outcomes. Groups who already receive a Multi-Year Community Grant will not be funded, unless the project is entirely separate from any funding received for that grant.



Te Kaupapahere kārati mō ngā taonga tuku iho o te taiao, ahurea, me ngā whare tawhito | Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant Policy 2027

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 26 AUGUST 2026

Department	Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
CM Reference	3206123
Resolution Date	26 August 2026
Policy Effective From	1 July 2027
Engagement Required	NA
Review Frequency	Three-yearly or as required by Council or legislative changes
Review Date	1 July 2030
Policy Supersedes	Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant Policy 2024



1. Te Kaupapa | Purpose

1.1 This Policy sets out Matamata-Piako District Council's (Council) criteria and allocation process for financial assistance provided through:

- a. Grants to organisations, businesses or individuals for Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage projects; and
- b. Grants to not-for-profit community organisations to assist with resource consent costs.

1.2 This Policy does not apply to loans (or loan guarantees), rates remittance, community leases or rentals, or major event sponsorship and capital projects.

1.3 The purpose of the Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant is to support the protection, restoration, enhancement and recognition of natural, cultural and built heritage values within the Matamata-Piako District (district).

1.4 Council recognises that the protection of natural, cultural and built heritage delivers a public benefit by preserving important environmental, cultural and historic assets for current and future generations. Council also recognises that not-for-profit community organisations often incur resource consent costs when delivering projects that provide a public benefit to the community.

2. Minenga | Audience

2.1 Not-for-profit community organisations, businesses and individuals within the district or where a benefit is directly linked to the district.

NOTE: Businesses and individuals cannot apply for resource consent funding assistance. This is for not-for-profit community organisations only.

3. Ngā Hua | Outcomes

3.1 This fund intends to fulfil the following outcomes:

- a. Natural, cultural and built heritage values are protected, restored and enhanced for current and future generations.
- b. Heritage assets, sites, places and features that contribute to the district's identity and character are conserved and maintained.
- c. Mana whenua cultural values, sights of significance, mātauranga Māori and other cultural heritage values are recognised as supported.
- d. Not-for-profit community organisations are supported to undertake projects that provide a demonstrable public benefit, through assistance with eligible resource consent costs.
- e. Greater awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the district's

- national, cultural and built heritage is fostered across the community.
- f. Council's environmental, heritage and community wellbeing outcomes are advanced.

4. Ngā Kaupapa ka tautokona ā-pūtea | What we fund

4.1 This Policy intends to fund the following:

- Natural heritage projects/assessments that champion, protect and/or keep our native plants, trees (flora) and animal life (fauna) safe from harm.
- Physical heritage projects/assessments that restore, protect and/or conserve places, structures and large built objects that are important to our history.
- Cultural heritage projects that champion, protect and/or conserve collections and stories that are important to our cultural heritage and identity.
- Help fund the costs of resource consents for not-for-profit community organisations.

4.2 Funding consideration will be prioritised for the following:

- Projects that protect, restore or preserve Natural, Cultural and Built heritage.
- Projects that are able to contribute to one or more of Council's Community Outcomes and/or demonstrate one or more community benefits.
- Buildings/areas that are protected in perpetuity. Trees should have formal protection under Council's District Plan.

4.3 Applicants that have already received multi or single-year community grants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

5. Ngā kaupapa kāore e tautokona ā-pūtea | What we don't fund

5.1 Funding may not be used for any of the following:

- Repaying or servicing debt.
- Refinancing loans, deposits or underwriting projects.
- Commercial, political and/or religious objectives, including employment and/or business initiatives, commercial enterprises, political advocacy or projects which seek to change legislation.
- Fundraisers and projects which seek to raise funds in or for a specific sector, or are involved with the training or employment of fundraisers.

- e. Projects which seek to redistribute funding to others.
- f. Overseas aid or disaster relief.
- g. Alcohol and drug treatment, education and support services.
- h. Medical expenses, operations, treatments or the purchase of major items of health equipment.
- i. Capital investment or trust funds.
- j. Projects or activities completed (retrospective funding) or items bought before the request.
- k. Operating expenses, such as administration, staffing, or ordinary upkeep and maintenance.

6. Ngā Tononga Whakaritenga | Application requirements

- 6.1** Applications may be submitted at any time during the year while funding remains available. Council may choose to introduce funding rounds if demand exceeds the available budget, or if this would provide a fairer assessment process.
- 6.2** The amount of funding available for this grant is set through the Council's Long Term Plan or Annual Plan budgets each year. Funding is limited and applications will be considered subject to the available budget.
- 6.3** The criteria to apply for this grant is set out in Schedules 1 and 2.
- 6.4** Successful grant recipients are required to submit an accountability report within three months of completing their project. The report must contain a short summary of the completed project, photos or evidence of the completed project, and confirmation that the funding criteria have been met.
- 6.5** Failure to provide an accountability report within this timeframe, may result in future grant applications being declined. Any unused funds must be returned to Council.

7. Te Whakataunga | Decision-making

- 7.1** The Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager/Planning Manager are delegated to assess and determine applications for funding. The Group Manager People and Performance/Group Manager Kaitiaki, Partnerships and Development are also delegated to assess and determine applications for funding if required.
- 7.2** Generally, the maximum amount that will be allocated per application is \$5,000. However, applications for funding above this amount may be considered by Council if there are special circumstances.
- 7.3** Council may choose to fund all, part or none of an application.

8. Take Taharua | Conflict of interest

- 8.1** If a decision-maker has a direct conflict of interest in relation to any application to this fund, they must not participate in the consideration or decision-making process for that application. Any declared conflict and the actions taken to manage that conflict, will be recorded.

9. Kaupapahere Te Mātaītanga, me te Arotakenga | Policy monitoring and review

- 9.1** The Policy, Partnerships and Governance team are responsible for providing Council with a summary of expenditure. This Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years.

10. Ētahi Atu Pārongo | More information

- Local Government Act 2002 Section 10 – Purpose of Local Government.
- Matamata-Piako District Council Operative District Plan Schedules: Heritage sites, Heritage – waahi tapu, Outstanding or Significant Natural Features and trees and other protected items.

Rārangi 1: Ngā paearu pūtea mō te kāratī o ngā taonga tuku iho o te taiao, ahurea, me ngā whare tawhito | Schedule 1: Funding Criteria for Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Projects Grant

A number of the following criteria will be used to determine funding for applicants.

Heritage significance:

- Consideration will be given to the significance of the natural, cultural or built heritage value being protected, restored or promoted.

Public and community benefit:

- Consideration will be given to the extent to which the project benefits the wider community, improves public understanding, or contributes to the district's identity and wellbeing.

Mana whenua and cultural values:

- Consideration will be given to the how the project recognises, protects or enhances Māori cultural values, including wāhi tapu, sights of significance, taonga species, mātauranga Māori and the relationship of mana whenua with ancestral lands, waters and taonga.

Urgency or risk:

- Consideration will be given to whether the project addresses an immediate risk of loss, damage, deterioration or decline.

Alignment with Council outcomes:

- Consideration will be given to how well the project aligns with Council strategies, plans, policies, District Plan provisions and community outcomes.

Project viability:

- Consideration will be given to whether the project is realistic, well planned, and capable of being delivered within the proposed timeframe.

Value for money:

- Consideration will be given to whether the project costs are reasonable and whether Council funding will make a meaningful contribution to the project.

Applicant contribution and partnership:

- Consideration will be given to the level of applicant contribution, co-funding, volunteer support or partnership with others.

Long term protection:

- Consideration will be given to whether the project will provide lasting benefits or support the ongoing care and protection of the feature.

Ngā kaupapa kāore e tautokona ā-pūtea | What we don't fund

The Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant does not fund:

- Projects to conserve, restore or protect privately or commercially owned land, buildings, structures and/or large built objects that do not prove to be significant.
- Projects to plan, develop or create historic gardens.
- Individual people, including projects undertaken as part of a university qualification.
- Projects to build or restore historic replicas, including copies of vehicles, equipment or buildings.
- Projects to install or upgrade services such as kitchens or toilets that are not part of larger construction or restoration projects.
- Purchases of bare land.
- Recycling schemes or related projects.
- Research projects.
- Reunions.
- Legal services.
- Architectural design (other than preliminary designs to inform a feasibility study).
- Planning approval for projects (see schedule 3 for funding criteria for resource consent grants).
- Fundraising campaign plans.
- Business plans.
- Feasibility studies that have been completed prior to application.

Rārangi 2: Ngā paearu pūtea mō ngā whakaaetanga ā-rawa | Schedule 2: Funding Criteria for Resource Consent Grants

Who can apply?

Applicants must be a not-for-profit community organisation and should:

- Have a high ratio of volunteers to paid employees;
- Have a high degree of public access to the organisation; and
- Primarily be funded from grants, donations, subscriptions or similar and not from fees, charges or funding from central government.

Applicants must provide evidence of a formal organisational structure. This may include (but is not limited to) a list of members, election of a committee, holding an annual general meeting, a constitution, incorporated society status or charitable trust status.

Individuals, government agencies, and organisations supported by government agencies (e.g. schools) are not eligible for this grant.

What kinds of projects are eligible for funding?

Applications must meet the following criteria:

- The project must have no commercial aspect and must clearly demonstrate community benefit.
- You must have a business plan setting out in sufficient detail the proposal, timeline, long-term plans, confirmed and potential funding sources, and any other relevant information for your project.

Applications will be assessed for consistency with other Council plans and strategies.

What can funds be used for?

Funds approved under this policy must be used to pay Council for the cost of processing a resource consent application (including staff time, consultants engaged by Council and peer reviews).

The cost of any hearing commissioners, regional council consent, appeals, or other Council consent applications (such as building consent) are not covered under this policy.

Applications under this policy may be made prior to a resource consent being lodged with Council. If Council awards funding prior to a resource consent being lodged with Council, a deposit when lodging the resource consent will not be required.

If funding is granted after a resource consent application is lodged with Council, the organisation must pay its deposit for the resource consent to be processed. The

deposit (up to \$5,000) will then be paid to the organisation as a reimbursement into the bank account stated in your application.

Council staff will process the resource consent in the usual way. Processing costs up to \$5,000 (the maximum funding under this policy) will not be charged to the organisation. If processing costs are less than \$5,000, the organisation is not entitled to request the remaining amount be used for any other costs.

The organisation will be charged for all additional costs above \$5,000. A decision by Council to grant funding does not mean that your resource consent application will be successful.

Rārangi 3: Tukanga mō ngā tononga me te pūtea | Schedule 3 Application and Funding Process

How can I apply?

- Applications can be made at any time while funding remains during the year online at mpdc.govt.nz/grants
- Applications under this policy must be made prior to commencement of project/initiative or prior to resource consent being granted.
- Successful applicants must uplift their funding within six months of the application being granted, or as agreed with Council.

What must accompany the application?

- An accountability report must have been received for any previous grants before any new grant application will be processed, if applicable.
- Current proof of bank account details in the name of the applicant group for each account held.

In addition, for applications under Schedule 2 (Funding Criteria for Resource Consent), the applicant must provide;

- The applicant's annual financial accounts.
- The applicant's statement of financial position showing year to date income and expenditure. This needs to be no greater than six months old.

What are the requirements that have to be met?

- All successful applications will be required to complete a grant agreement prior to payment of the grant.
- Successful applicants must adhere to the funding reporting requirements as prescribed by Council.
- Grant recipients will provide an accountability report documenting how their activities have contributed to/achieved the objectives for which the funding was allocated.
- Recipients that fail to submit accountability reports, or that have not spent the money in accordance with the application/contract shall not be eligible for any further Council grants until:
 - Accountability requirements have been met and/or grant monies returned and;
 - the organisation can demonstrate their ability to meet Council's eligibility criteria for a grant; and
 - the organisation is capable of delivering the project outcomes of which they are making an application for.

How will I know if funding has been approved?

Applications will be assessed and decided by the Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager/ Planning Manager. You will be notified of the decision via the email address provided on your application form.





Te Kaupapahere ā-putea o te Koromatua I Mayoral Fund Policy 2026

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 26 AUGUST 2026

Department	Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
CM Reference	3178807
Resolution Date	26 August 2026
Policy Effective From	1 September 2026
Engagement Required	Not Applicable
Review Frequency	Three-yearly or as required by Council or legislative changes
Review Date	1 September 2029
Policy Supersedes	Mayoral Fund Policy 2023



1. Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on the administration and management of the Mayoral Fund (Fund).

The Mayor receives regular requests for grants, donations and financial assistance to support ad-hoc projects and community initiatives. While many requests are dealt with through applications for other Council provided or administered grants, the Mayor has the discretion to allocate funding from the Mayoral Fund.

The total financial assistance provided to the community through the Mayoral Fund is set out in Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan budgets.

2. Ngā pūrongo pūtea | Reporting on Funding

A schedule of grants made under this Policy will be reported to the Risk and Assurance Committee on an annual basis, or as required, any private personal details, such as phone numbers, addresses etc. will be redacted to protect the privacy of recipients.

The Mayor may report to Council on applications that require discussion.

3. Te Arotakenqa | Review

The Risk and Assurance Committee will review the Policy three-yearly or as otherwise determined through Risk and Assurance Committee's work programme. This review is for oversight and assurance purposes and does not replace the formal Council review. The Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years, however, Council may elect to review this Policy at any time.

4. Ngā kaupapa ka tautokona ā-pūtea | What we fund

Any grant provided will be at the discretion of the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor).

Applications will be considered if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- assists an individual or group with the development and/or implementation of a project, scheme or initiative which will benefit the Matamata-Piako district;
- contributes towards the cost of an individual or group attending a sporting, cultural or other major event at which they are representing the Matamata-Piako district or New Zealand;
- provides assistance or donations to any cause that aligns with Council priorities and delivers a direct or indirect benefit to the Matamata-Piako district;
- contributes towards an unfunded project or event which benefits the Matamata-Piako district; and
- the Mayor has discretion for funding as covered in Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Priority may be given to applications that include further considerations, such as:

- the extent and level of community participation in the project/organisation;
- other sources of funding that may be available;

- the amount of funding being sought in comparison to the total cost and how the remaining proportion will be funded; and
- the likelihood of the project/organisation becoming self-sustaining.

5. Ngā kaupapa kāore e tautokona ā-pūtea | What we don't fund

The Fund will not be granted for:

- funding for private gain, business initiatives and commercial enterprises;
- projects/programmes and related costs which have already occurred;
- any costs involved in preparing funding applications;
- projects or related costs already substantially funded by Council provided or administered grants;
- funding for any political purposes; and
- repayment of debt, loan, repayments or investments of any kind.

6. Whakataunga o te Putea | Decisions on Funding

Any grant provided will be at the discretion of the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor) within the parameters of this Policy. The Mayor (or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor) may seek advice from Council officers or other suitably qualified persons when assessing applications.

Generally, the maximum amount that will be allocated per application is \$500. However, applications above this amount may be considered on their merit and availability of funds, discretion remains with the Mayor.

Applications requesting more than \$500 are subject to a two-step approval process:

- first step – applications will be reviewed by the Mayor who will provide a written recommendation.
- second step – a Councillor, other than the Mayor, will independently review and assess the application and either endorse or not endorse the Mayor's recommendation. The Councillor's comments and recommendation will be returned to the Mayor for consideration.

After considering the Councillor's review, the Mayor will make the final decision to approve or decline the application. If the Councillor does not endorse the Mayor's recommendation, the Mayor can seek advice from all elected members.

Where the value of eligible applications exceeds the funding available, funding may be prioritised having regard to the priority areas set out in section 4 of this Policy.

7. Tukunga Whakatau | Application Process

Written applications in the form of a letter/email (info@mpdc.govt.nz) may be received at any time by the Mayor for the Fund. The following details should be included:

- name and full contact details of applicant/group;
- purpose and anticipated benefit to the Matamata-Piako district of the request;
- amount requested and indication of total funds required for the project/activity as well as any other sources of funding applied for/received; and
- any other details that will aid the Mayor in making a decision.

8. Tikanga kia whiwhi te Kaupapahere ā-putea o te Koromatua | Conditions of Receiving a Mayoral Fund Grant

All grants provided must be used solely for the purpose for which they were given.

Receivers of a grant from the Fund may be required to meet certain conditions and provide supporting documentation to substantiate their claim, or demonstrate how funding has been used.

Recipients may be required to:

- acknowledge Council's contribution at the activity/project/event and/or in any written documentation associated with it using Council's logo; and
- write to Council within three months of completing the funded activity/project/event to indicate the outcome, including any relevant photographs and press clippings; and
- return any unused funds to Council.

Failure to comply with any conditions may result in Council seeking repayment of the grant.

9. Tautapa me te Tautukunga | Delegations and Responsibilities

The Chief Executive, or their delegate, will provide administrative oversight of the Mayoral Fund process.

All decisions must be documented and recorded to ensure transparency and accountability. The following details should be included in the schedule of grants made under this Policy:

- when and why an application has been granted over \$500;
- who reviewed and approved or declined the application; and
- any reasons for the decision.

Generally, no funding assistance will be considered during the three-month pre-election period of the local body elections. If an application is agreed to, the Chief Executive Officer is required to authorise any payment within this period.

The budget is not to be exceeded without a resolution of Council. Applicants will be advised in writing as soon as practicable of the decision relating to their application.

10. Take Taharua | Conflict of Interest

If the Mayor has a direct conflict of interest in relation to any application to the Mayoral Fund, the Mayor must not participate in the consideration or decision-making process for that application. In such circumstances, all powers and responsibilities of the Mayor in respect of that application are automatically delegated to the Deputy Mayor, who shall exercise those powers independently and in accordance with this Policy.



Te Putea awhina ā-Parekura o te Koromatua | Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund Policy 2026

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL 26 AUGUST 2026

Department	Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
CM Reference	3178774
Resolution Date	26 August 2026
Policy Effective From	1 September 2026
Engagement Required	Not Applicable
Review Frequency	Three-yearly or as required by Council or legislative changes
Review Date	1 September 2029
Policy Supersedes	Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund 2023



1. Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on the establishment, administration and management of the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund (Fund).

The aim of the Fund is to help towards alleviating the emotional and financial stress experienced by individuals, whānau, businesses and community organisations affected by an emergency or a significant disaster event.

The Fund can be set up by Council following an emergency or significant disaster event to provide financial support to those individuals, families, small businesses, community groups and marae adversely affected by that event.

Contributions to the Fund may be made by Council, the public, community groups and organisations. The Government may also provide a financial contribution following an emergency event.

The funding provided by the Government will be ring-fenced for the specific event for which it was provided and used in accordance with any conditions specified by the Government. Any unspent Government funding must be returned to the Government where required.

2. Ngā pūrongo pūtea | Reporting on Funding

Where a Fund has been activated, a schedule of grants made under this Policy will be reported to the Risk and Assurance Committee following closure of the Fund or as required by the Committee. Any personal details related to the grants provided will be redacted to protect the privacy of recipients.

Where a Government contribution has been provided, Council will provide any reporting required by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) or other Government agency within the required timeframe.

3. Te Arotakenqa | Review

The Risk and Assurance Committee will review the Policy three-yearly or as otherwise determined through Risk and Assurance Committee's work programme. This review is for oversight and assurance purposes and does not replace the formal Council review of the Policy. The Policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years, however, Council may elect to review this Policy at any time.

4. Ngā kaupapa ka tautokona ā-pūtea | What we fund

Any grant provided will be at the discretion of the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor).

The Fund provides one off financial assistance for circumstances where a genuine need can be demonstrated. The Fund may be used to support and meet the needs of affected individuals, families, community organisations, small businesses, marae and other community groups adversely affected by the event.

Priority may be given to applications relating to any of the following:

- immediate health, safety and welfare needs, essential household needs;
- vulnerable individuals and households experiencing hardship;
- replacement of essential uninsured or underinsured household goods and personal items;
- temporary accommodation costs;
- essential recovery and reinstatement costs, debris removal and property clean-up costs;
- insurance excess payments;
- community organisations and marae supporting community recovery efforts;
- other exceptional circumstances approved under this Policy.

The Fund is intended to assist with recovery and hardship resulting from the emergency or significant disaster event and is not intended to provide full compensation for losses incurred. Consideration will be given to the overall level of need across the affected community and the objective of achieving a fair and equitable distribution of available funds.

Financial assistance distributed from the Fund must not be used by Council for administrative, operational or business costs.

5. Ngā Kaupapa kāore e tautokona ā-pūtea | What we don't fund

The Fund is intended as a last resort measure when other appropriate sources of funding have been exhausted. This Fund is not intended to replace other existing funding sources, such as:

Welfare assistance	Assistance available through Government agencies and relief programmes.
Infrastructure assistance	Government assistance available from eligible infrastructure recovery.
Insurance	Costs covered by insurance policies.
Other Government support	Any other relief, recovery or hardship funding programmes.

In addition, the Fund will not normally be used to replace insurance cover, fund costs already covered by another source, compensate for loss of income or loss of business profits, fund upgrades, improvements or betterment works unrelated to recovery, to meet ongoing operational costs unrelated to the emergency event, cover Council operational or administrative expenses or fully compensate applicants for all losses suffered.



6. Whakataunga o te Putea | Decisions on Funding

The Mayor (or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor) has delegated authority to assess and approve applications to the Fund where all of the following are met:

- the total funds available for the distribution do not exceed \$10,000;
- no individual grant exceeds \$500;
- the total value of eligible applications does not exceed the available funding;
- the application meets the criteria of the Policy;
- no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest exists.

The Mayor (or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor) may seek advice from Council officers or other suitably qualified persons when assessing applications.

Where the value of eligible applications exceeds the funding available, funding may be prioritised having regard to the priority areas set out in section 4 of this Policy.

Consideration will also be given to the extent of the impact of the event, the level of hardship experienced, evidence provided by the applicant, the total number and type of claims, assistance available from other sources and the need to ensure fair and consistent decision-making.

Relief Fund Assessment Panel

The Mayor will form a Panel when an emergency or significant disaster event is declared to assist with decision-making relating to the Fund. The Panel may determine that full or partial grants are appropriate to ensure the available funding achieves the greatest benefit for the community. Where the value of eligible applications exceeds the funding available, funding may be prioritised having regard to the priority areas set out in section 4 of this Policy.

A Relief Fund Assessment Panel will be established where at least one of the following applies:

- the total funds available for distribution exceed \$10,000;
- an individual application exceeds \$500;
- the total value of eligible applications exceeds the funding available;
- prioritisation between eligible applicants is required;
- an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest exists;
- the Mayor considers collective decision-making appropriate.

The Panel will comprise of the following:

- the Mayor;
- the Deputy Mayor;
- one councillor from each ward, or such other councillors as determined by the Mayor having regard to the circumstances of the event.

The Panel may do any of the following:

- approve or partially approve applications;
- decline applications;
- impose conditions.

Meetings of the Panel may be held in person, electronically or by circulation where urgent decisions are required. All funding decisions will be documented and recorded to ensure transparency, accountability and auditability. Decisions made under this Policy are final.

Applicants will be advised in writing of the decision relating to their application. Council contribution to the Funds in excess of the annual budget is unbudgeted expenditure and requires Council approval.

7. Tukunga Whakatau | Application Process

Applications must be on the prescribed form available on Council's website and supporting information provided as per the application form. Where appropriate, written applications by email or letter may also be accepted.

Applications will remain open for a set period of time after a significant event as determined by the Mayor, following the activation of the Fund.

8. Tikanga kia whiwhi te Putea awhina ā-Parekura o te Koromatua | Conditions of Receiving a Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund Grant

All grants provided must be used solely for the purpose for which they were approved.

Receivers of a grant from the Fund may be required to meet certain conditions and provide supporting documentation to substantiate their claim, or demonstrate how funding has been used.

Recipients may be required to:

- provide receipts, invoices or other evidence relating to expenditure;
- return any unused funding where requested by Council; and
- repay funds obtained through false, misleading or incomplete information.

Failure to comply with any conditions may result in Council seeking repayment of the grant.

9. Tautapa me te Tautukunga | Delegations and Responsibilities

The Mayor (and the Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor) has delegated authority to determine applications for situations covered in section 6 of this Policy.

The Relief Fund Assessment Panel has delegated authority to determine applications for situations covered in section 6 of this Policy.

The Mayor and the Relief Fund Assessment Panel (where established) are responsible for ensuring decisions are made fairly, consistently, transparently and in accordance with the purpose of this Policy.

Council officers are responsible for policy administration, supporting implementation of this Policy and providing advice and recommendations where appropriate, and managing reporting obligations.

10. Take Taharua | Conflict of Interest

If the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor or any member of the Relief Fund Assessment Panel has a direct conflict of interest in relation to any application to the Fund, they must not participate in the consideration or decision-making process for that application. Any declared conflict and the actions taken to manage that conflict, will be recorded.

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.4 External Member Remuneration Update

CM No.: 3221191

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This purpose of this report is to provide Te Manawhenua Forum (TMF) with examples of other councils' remuneration for iwi representatives, and to seek feedback on whether the proposed remuneration framework and factors (for inclusion within a draft External Member Remuneration Policy) appropriately capture the role of an iwi representative on TMF.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

External Members are persons appointed to participate in a Council decision-making process as a chairperson or ordinary member, who are not elected members, Council staff members or contractors/consultants.

Council recognises that nominally compensating External Members for their participation in invited decision-making processes enables fuller, fairer and more equitable participation. It also ensures greater transparency and accountability between Council and External Members.

Iwi representatives play a distinct role in these decision-making processes, including cultural knowledge, relationship building and strategic input provided to Council. Council staff intend to capture TMF's role in the proposed remuneration framework and factors to be included in the draft Policy.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The report be received.
2. The proposed remuneration framework and factors be endorsed by Te Manawhenua Forum.
3. Te Manawhenua Forum provides any feedback on the proposed remuneration framework and factors for Council consideration *[feedback to be specified]*.

Horopaki | Background

At the 4 August 2026 workshop, TMF provided early input to assist with policy development. The meeting minutes read:

Members emphasised that they participate as iwi representatives, not solely as individuals with particular skills or experience. The role requires members to consult with and report back to their iwi on kaupapa considered by the Forum, creating additional responsibilities beyond attendance at meetings or workshops.

A consistent theme was that remuneration should recognise the value, expertise, preparation, consultation and follow-up work contributed by mana whenua members. Members noted that participation is not primarily about payment, but appropriate remuneration helps recognise the mana of the role and the professional advice provided.

Members discussed whether the same payment should apply to meetings and workshops, or whether different rates should reflect time, commitment and the nature of the work required. The view was expressed that the level of commitment is often the same regardless of whether the engagement is a formal meeting or workshop.

Members highlighted that iwi representatives are expected to undertake background work, provide advice, attend hui, and give feedback to their iwi and Council. This work is not always visible or captured through meeting attendance alone, but should be considered as part of the remuneration framework.

Members suggested that Council consider examples used by iwi, government agencies and other organisations for professional advice and consultation. Support was expressed for a standardised framework that could be reviewed periodically and adapted as future local government changes progress.

The discussion identified potential principles for the remuneration framework, which Council staff have reflected in the factors to be considered further in this report.

Kōrerorero | Discussion

Iwi Remuneration

The action from the 4 August 2026 workshop was for Council staff to explore how other councils remunerate their iwi representatives. Council staff have since collated this information into the table below. The figures included range from 2020 to present-day.

Council	Payment	Other Information
Matamata-Piako District Council	Te Manawhenua Forum - \$250 per meeting.	Heads of Agreement outlines remuneration and expenses of Forum members. It also acknowledges that meeting allowance and mileage will be payable for other Council groups.
Hamilton City Council	Māngai Māori Chair - \$40,000 per annum.	
Hauraki District Council	\$150 per meeting.	No representatives currently active.
Mackenzie District Council	Unknown	The chair is paid like a contractor, i.e. on invoice at an hourly rate plus travel/ This works, as on occasion, the CEO asks for additional support which is unrelated to their role as chair.
Marlborough District Council	Iwi representative on Environment and Planning Committee - \$12,840 per annum.	
Napier City Council	Unknown	The chair is paid a meeting fee that is higher than ordinary members plus an additional

Council	Payment	Other Information
		rate for attending the pre-agenda meeting. The rate for attending workshops is the same as other members.
Palmerston North City Council	\$250 per meeting.	Only for iwi-related meetings, other remuneration received when partaking in other Council matters.
Rotorua Lakes Council	From \$35-200+ per hour, or from \$0-200 per meeting.	Fee is a guide for Māori Technical Expertise and Meeting Participation. Free parking and lunch offered.
Waikato Regional Council	Ngā Karu Atua o te Waka, Future Proof Hearings Panel or Future Proof Implementation Committee (attendee) - \$500 per meeting. Future Proof Working Party (attendee) - \$350 per meeting.	Mileage paid in addition to meeting fees. Koha is offered for community level hui where governance is not required. Koha is case-by-case depending on Kaupapa and level of engagement.
Waipa District Council	Te Kanohi x4 Representatives - \$450-\$550 per meeting.	Latter cost when meeting is at least four hours. For Resource Management Act hearings, Te Kanohi will be paid the same rate and under the same provisions as councillors.

The cabinet fees framework (see below) applies to central government agencies.

An example of crown payments is New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's Mana Whenua Steering Group members - \$500 per meeting (<4 hours) or \$950 per meeting (>4 hours). A fee of \$130 is paid for pre-reading (capped at four hours), plus a minimum of \$150 and maximum of \$250 per hour for services provided outside of meetings.

Proposed Remuneration Framework

At the 19 August 2026 Council workshop, Council staff discussed developing a policy to provide guidance on external member remuneration with Elected Members.

In line with direction given by Council, staff have started preparing a draft Policy that sets out a framework for different contributions to be assessed consistently without assuming all external member roles are the same.

It introduces the following five remuneration levels. The remuneration framework also provides an opportunity to determine whether future Council committees or working groups with similar functions should be treated likewise.

Council staff seek feedback from TMF on the proposed remuneration framework.

- Level 1: Formal decision-making roles exercising delegated authority on behalf of Council.
- Level 2: Specialist, technical, or professional input supporting regulatory or statutory matters.
- Level 3: Strategic, policy or representative contributions to Council decision-making.
- Level 4: Advisory or engagement participation supporting Council decision-making.
- Level 5: Limited-scope advisory input, including local knowledge or lived-experience perspectives.

The levels have proposed remuneration rates informed by the [Cabinet Fees Framework \(Cabinet Office Circular CO \(25\) 2\)](#) – specifically group 4 on pages 28-30, which refers to all committees and other bodies, but does not replace it where a statutory or other fee-setting regime applies.

Daily rates are used where roles involve substantial responsibility, preparation and formal decision-making duties (i.e. Levels 1 and 2). Flat fees are used where roles are meeting-based and a daily rate is not the most practical mechanism (i.e. Levels 3, 4 and 5).

It is considered the TMF falls under Level 3, in line with its role under the Heads of Agreement.

Proposed Factors for Determining Remuneration

Staff propose that Council consider the following factors when determining whether remuneration is appropriate. Council staff seek TMF's feedback on whether these factors appropriately capture the role of an iwi representative.

1. Nature of Contribution
 - Whether the participant is providing specialist, technical or cultural expertise, governance, advisory or decision-making input, community representation, general feedback or consultation input.
 - Contributions requiring specific skills or knowledge are more likely to warrant remuneration.
2. Level of Responsibility
 - Whether the participant has accountability, decision-making, consultation or iwi representational obligations.
 - Higher levels of responsibility support remuneration.
3. Time and Commitment Required
 - Whether requirements around preparation, travel, duration of engagement, and any follow-up work between meetings need to be considered.
 - Greater commitments may justify remuneration.
4. Representation and Equity
 - Whether the participant is representing a community, iwi/hapū entity, organisation, stakeholder group or providing their own individual perspective.
 - Remuneration may be required to remove barriers and support fair and inclusive participation.
5. Consistency, Transparency and Value for Money

- Whether the approach is consistent with similar Council engagements and regularly reviewed.
- Remuneration should be given if the rationale can be clearly explained and demonstrates value to ratepayers.

The framework also recognises that, in some circumstances, **non-monetary recognition** may be more appropriate than remuneration. For instance, where participation is community-based, voluntary, consultative or focused on sharing community perspectives, provided that participation costs are not a barrier to engagement.

Examples include:

- Koha or gifts.
- Vouchers or gift cards.
- Catering and hospitality.
- Professional development opportunities.
- Certificates or letters of appreciation.
- Public recognition.
- Reimbursement for mileage/travel expenses.

Mōrearea | Risk

There is a risk that without formal guidance and supporting processes in place, inconsistency, equity risk, reputational and audit risk and uncertainty for Council and Council staff may arise when new committees and working groups are established.

Timeframes

Council staff are working to the following timeframes for this project:

Key Task	Dates
Initial Council workshop on direction	17 June 2026
Te Manawhenua Forum (TMF) workshop on initial feedback	4 August 2026
Second Council workshop on draft framework supported by examples of current remuneration and TMF feedback	19 August 2026
Policy development	August – October
TMF meeting for feedback on proposed framework and factors for inclusion in draft policy	15 September 2026
Third Council workshop to review draft policy and TMF feedback	23 September 2026
Policy finalised / adoption by Council	28 October 2026

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. ‘The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.’			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

All community outcomes relevant to this report.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The development of this policy falls within the Strategies and Plans budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.5 Policy update - Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Climate Resilience Strategy and Significance and Engagement Policy

CM No.: 3225394

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To update and seek any further feedback from Te Manawhenua Forum on the

- Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Draft Climate Resilience Strategy
- Significance and Engagement Policy

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

At the 26 August meeting, Council adopted the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and draft Climate Resilience Strategy for consultation from 2 September to 2 October. Council also adopted the Significance and Engagement Policy to come into force from 1 September 2026 without wider community consultation.

These documents have previously been discussed with Te Manawhenua Forum and feedback has been incorporated. This report aims to summarise the policies for members to consider whether the Forum would like to make a submission for Council consideration.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Forum:
 - a) Provides a collective submission or feedback to Council on either or both the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and the Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata - Climate Resilience Strategy *[feedback to be specified]*; or
 - b) Does not provide a submission or feedback to Council on either or both the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and the Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata - Climate Resilience Strategy.

Horopaki | Background

Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata - Climate Resilience Strategy

The draft Climate Resilience Strategy was developed with a working group of Elected Members, Te Manawhenua members and Council staff. An organisational climate risk assessment was also undertaken which identifies key risks to Council's assets, services and operations, from climate-related hazards, and highlights adaptation options. The risk assessment informed the development of the Strategy, and its focus on increasing Council's resilience. The draft Climate

Resilience Strategy aims to prepare and protect our people and place from severe weather impacts. Its purpose is to guide present and future decision-making and help us take action and respond to climate risks in a coordinated way.

The draft strategy and consultation information is available here: [Climate Resilience Strategy](#)

Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) sets Council's direction for managing and minimising waste in the Matamata-Piako district. Council is required to review the WMMP and complete a Waste Assessment every six years under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

The Waste Assessment is a technical evidence base that considers current services, waste trends, future demand, legislative requirements and options for meeting the district's waste management and minimisation needs.

The findings in the assessment help to frame the key issues for Council and provide the basis for determining whether the current WMMP remains fit for purpose.

The district sends approximately 13,856 tonnes of waste to Class 1 landfill each year, and around 53.1% could potentially be diverted through existing or feasible recycling, composting and recovery systems.

Organics are the largest component of landfill waste, making up around 36.1% of the overall waste stream. The November 2025 kerbside audit found that 49.1% of the average rubbish bin was divertible, with food waste alone accounting for 31.7% of bin contents.

Council's transfer stations are ageing and face site constraints that reduce their ability to support future resource recovery. Site condition and performance vary, with Morrinsville requiring particular attention to layout, access, paving, safety and operational improvements. Improvement works are currently programmed to upgrade and renew assets at the site.

The expected earlier closure of Tirohia Landfill, potentially around 2029 despite consent through to 2035, presents a significant future disposal, transport and cost risk.

Construction and demolition waste is a growing and poorly understood waste stream as the district continues to grow.

Significant data gaps remain across private collections, commercial and industrial waste, rural and farm waste, construction and demolition waste, and Class 2–5 fills. Improved data is essential for evidence-based planning and monitoring.

In addition to identifying service and infrastructure issues, the assessment highlights the broader strategic context for waste planning. This includes evolving national direction, increasing expectations for reuse, recycling and recovery, the need for improved data to support evidence-based decisions, and the importance of considering future service demand, affordability and resilience.

The draft WMMP 2027 updates the current plan while keeping the structure practical and easy to follow. The key updates include a refreshed vision aligned with Council's community outcomes, reviewed goals, simpler and more measurable targets, and an updated action programme that has been reviewed and reprioritised against the 2026 Waste Assessment findings. The draft plan also updates key figures, legislative and strategic references, aligns the waste hierarchy with the current national direction, and places greater emphasis on implementation, waste levy funding, data improvement, organics diversion, transfer station resilience, product stewardship and future disposal planning.

The draft plan and consultation information is available here: [Waste Management and Minimisation Plan](#)

Significance and Engagement Policy

The draft SEP policy was provided to the Forum at its August meeting. The key changes included a refresh of the significance framework, including:

- Significance framework (schedule 2): new examples for each criterion
- Strategic assets: addition of the Refuse Transfer Station and Te Aroha Mineral Spas and the removal of water and wastewater assets as strategic Council assets
- Mandatory changes: new clauses for joint water agreements and determining a significant stormwater contract
- Bilingual headings
- A new 'Engagement with Māori' clause – previously combined under 'general principles'

Under the LGA, if Council determines it has 'sufficient information' on the aspirations of the community then it does not need to consult on the policy. Council agreed not to consult on the policy with the wider community and adopted it to come into force from 1 September 2026.

The final policy is available on Council's website here: [Significance and Engagement Policy 2026.pdf](#)

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The Forum can write a submission on the WMMP and/or Climate Resilience Strategy for Council to consider during deliberations by 2 October if desired.

If individuals would like to make a submission, Council's consultation website is available here: [Let's Talk](#). If people wish to present their submission to Council, they can indicate they would like to attend the hearing on 28 October.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

The Forum can provide a submission to Council on either or both of the topics that are out for consultation. The Forum can include its submission and/or feedback for Council consideration in the minutes, or the Forum can develop a separate submission and provide it to Council via email or the submissions website. Individual iwi may also wish to make a submission.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a low/medium level of significance.

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed above in this report.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	Consultation is addressed above in this report.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	The Significance and Engagement Policy is considered above. This issue is assessed as having a <i>low/medium</i> level of significance.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	Consultation is addressed above in this report.

Policy Considerations

To the best of the writer's knowledge, this recommendation is not significantly inconsistent with nor is anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Council meeting	26 August 2026
Consultation opens	2 September 2026
Te Manawhenua Forum hui	15 September 2026
Consultation closes	2 October 2026
Hearing and deliberations	28 October 2026

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The WMMP, Climate Resilience Strategy and Significance and Engagement Policy are funded within existing budgets.

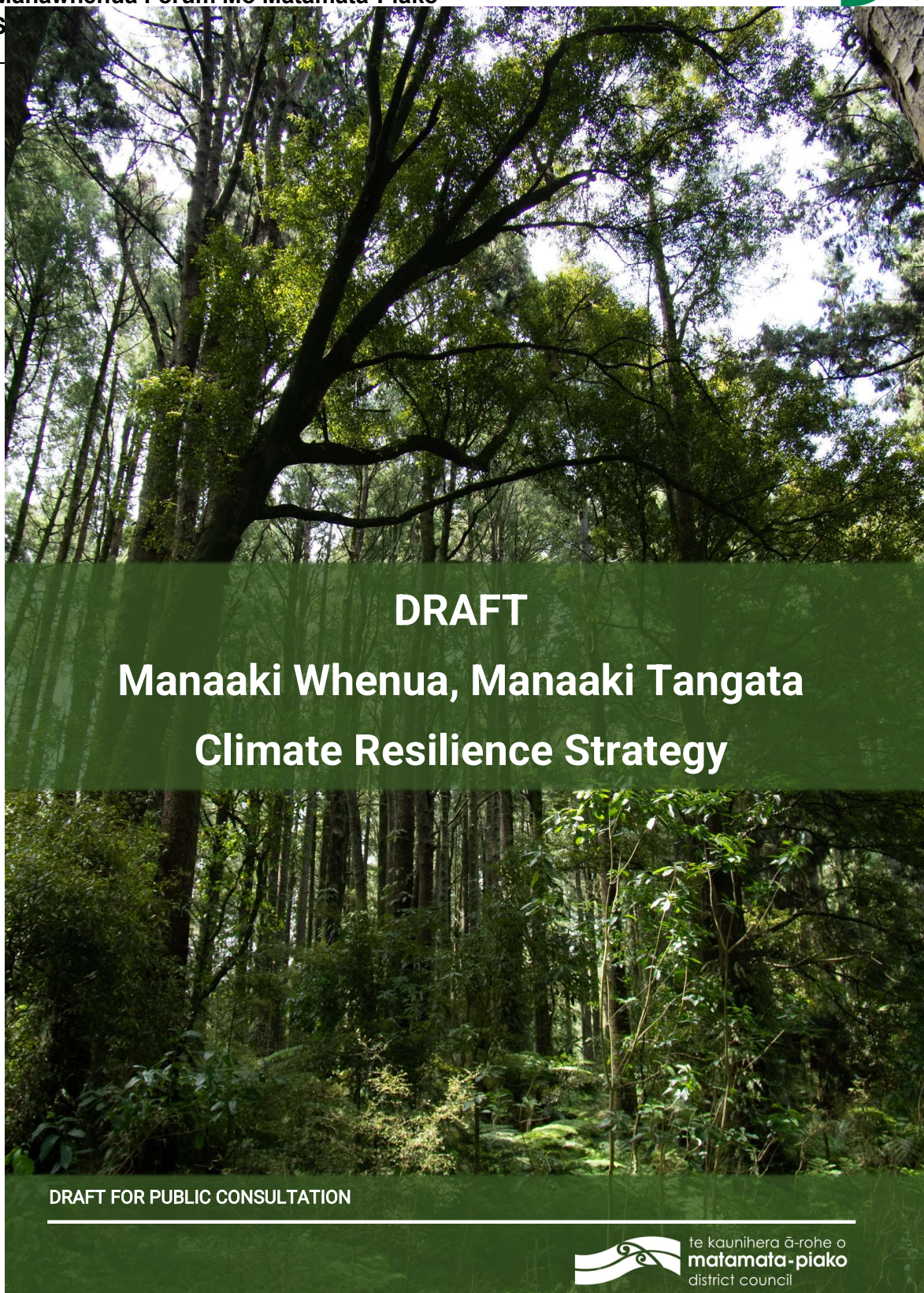
Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

- A. Draft Climate Resilience Strategy - Adopted by Council for Public Consultation 27/08/2026
- B. Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2027 (WMMP) for Council - 26th August 2026
- C. FINAL Significance and Engagement Policy 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Olivia Picard	
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Approved by	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere me te Kāwana Policy and Governance Manager	





Item 8.5

Attachment A

Mihi | Acknowledgement

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua – Go forth into the future with our past laid out before us.

This whakatauki - proverb is a reminder that resilience is strengthened by carrying forward the wisdom of our past into the challenges of our future. In shaping the Climate Resilience Strategy, the pathways forward can be guided by the knowledge, values, and practices handed down through our tūpuna - ancestors. Their wairua or presence remains in our whakapapa, in our whenua, in our waters, and in the spirit of collective care.

By grounding our response to the changing climate in this perspective, we honour the interconnectedness of past, present, and future. We acknowledge that our actions today are not separate from those who came before, nor from those who will come after. This strategy therefore rests on a foundation of whakapapa and tikanga, ensuring that resilience is not only about surviving change, but about carrying forward the strength and wisdom of generations.



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SECTION 1:

**Kupu Whakataki |
Introduction**



Nau mai | Welcome

Matamata-Piako is a vibrant rural district in the Waikato, with closely connected communities and an economy based on the natural resources of the area. We have important transport links to Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, precious natural places such as our awa and maunga, and community spaces such as libraries, sports facilities and marae that all help to make this a great place to live. And throughout the district we have individuals and groups working to support the wellbeing of our people and environment in many different ways.

The towns, rural areas and settlements in our district have developed here over time based on a temperate climate. However, our weather can sometimes be unpredictable, and extreme. In the years ahead, in Matamata-Piako, we are likely to face increasing costs and impacts from severe storms, floods and drought.

The weather can sometimes negatively impact many aspects of our lives, including our home, school, and work life, our marae, our sports and recreation choices, our cultural practices, and our health. By working together, we can respond to these challenges and prepare and adapt in ways that help protect the things that matter most, for now and for the future.

We all have our part to play. This strategy is about how Council plans to play its part and take practical steps in ensuring we can continue to provide services to the community and support our communities to be adaptable and continue to thrive. It's not about Council imposing rules and regulations on residents but rather ensuring that we are supporting the wellbeing and aspirations of our community. By understanding and communicating the risks, by adapting and investing to minimise the impacts, by reducing our contribution to the risks, and by preparing to respond effectively when extreme weather events happen, we will be doing our part to help ensure our people and environment can thrive into the future.

This strategy has been a collaboration between Council and Te Manawhenua Forum, including detailed input and oversight from a working group made up of elected members, Forum members and executive staff. It has also been guided by in depth community feedback, and staff expertise from across the organisation. We're grateful to everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy that will help guide our decision-making into the future.

Ngā Pānga ā-Āhuarangi | Climate Impacts

Climate hazards and risks

Here in New Zealand, we have seen and experienced how disruptive weather events can negatively impact our communities when we are not prepared.

These events can severely impact daily life and, over time, can have long term implications for our environment, economy and ways of life. That's why it's important we plan ahead and protect the things that are important to us.

Temperature Increase and Drought	Flooding and Extreme Weather
Extreme temperature	Extreme precipitation
Increased humidity	Extreme weather events
Wildfire	Extreme wind
Drought	Landslips
New pest and diseases	Inland flooding

What this means for Matamata-Piako

To ensure we plan well and invest wisely for the future, we will refer to a broad range of information to help us understand potential climate impacts and what it could mean for us here in Matamata-Piako. We can draw on many sources to build this picture. Historical data, climate science projections, research reports, mātauranga Māori, local experience, and lessons learnt from elsewhere in the country can all contribute to our understanding.

When we experience disruptive weather events the impacts are local, and that means our responses need to be local too. For Matamata-Piako, the key climate hazards we're likely to face are extreme weather - including extreme wind, for example along the Kaimai Ranges, flooding, increased fire risk, dryness and drought, and higher temperatures.

These changes will affect our land, water, communities, and economy, and we'll need to plan carefully in order to adapt effectively.

Table 1: Assessment of climate hazard exposure by district

										
	Flooding (Fluvial And Pluvial)	Coastal Hazards	Extreme Weather	Higher Temperature	Dryness And Drought	Increased Fire Weather	Groundwater Rise And Salinity Stress	Landslides And Soil Erosion	Marine Heatwaves And Ocean Chemistry Changes	Decreased Frost
Thames Coromandel	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Haruraki	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓
Waikato	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Hamilton City	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Matamata- Piako	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
South Waikato	✓	N/A	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓✓
Waipā	✓✓	N/A	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓
Ōtorohanga	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Waitomo	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
Taupō	✓✓	N/A	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓✓
Rotorua Lakes (WRC Area)	✓	N/A	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	N/A	✓✓	N/A	✓✓

Source: Waikato regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report, 2025.

Climate hazards can have direct, immediate impacts like property damage from storm events, or water shortages during periods of drought.

They can also cause indirect and cascading risks, such as pressure on Council finances due to increased costs for maintenance and repairs, rising insurance costs for Council and community, and pressure on the primary sector economy due to repeated drought and heat stress events.

The table below describes some of these effects – direct and indirect, as they relate to the people, environment, infrastructure and economy of Matamata-Piako.

Find out more

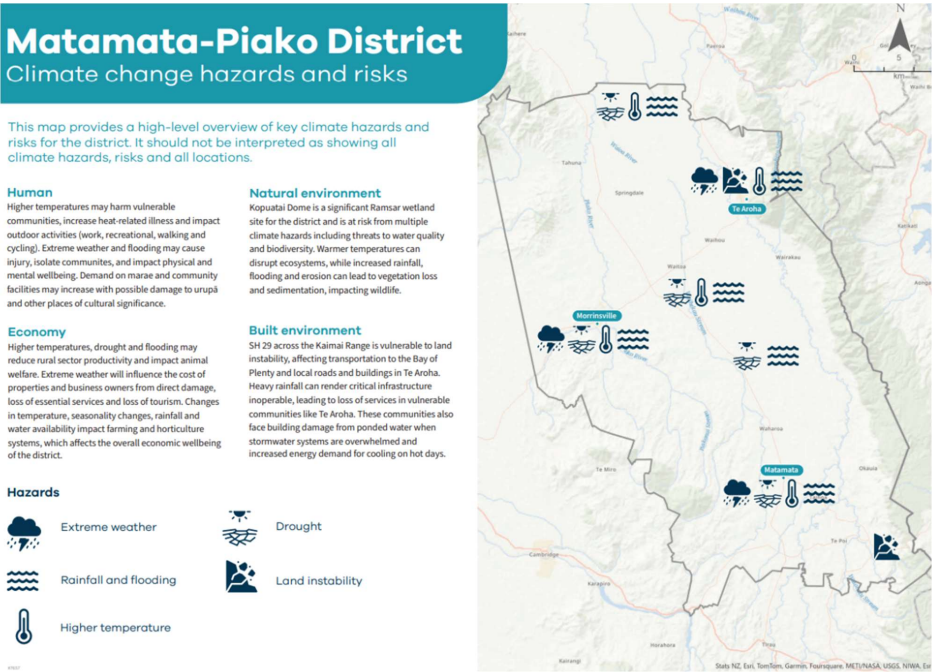
To read more about the projected impacts on the Waikato read:

- [Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report](#)
- [Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Full Report](#)

To understand more about the water pressure facing the Waikato read:

- [Water Security Strategy for the Waikato Region](#)

Table 2: Matamata-Piako District Climate Change Hazards and Risks



Source: Waikato Regional Climate Change Hazards and Risks Summary Report, 2025

Te whakariterite mō ngā kawekawe āhuarangi | Preparing for Climate Impacts

What can we all do?

We know what our major climate risks are so we can mitigate potential impacts by preparing for extreme weather, droughts, and floods, and building resilience in our homes, communities, and services.

The most effective response is to take action as individuals, whānau, communities and organisations. By working together, we can reduce risks now and lessen the impacts for future generations.

What is Council's role?

Council has legislated responsibilities to help our district prepare for and respond to climate impacts. These include:

- Land use planning: Making sure development happens in places that will be safe for the long-term.
- Infrastructure planning: Designing and maintaining services that can cope with changing conditions.
- Civil defence and emergency management: Helping communities prepare for and recover from natural hazard events
- Sharing hazard information: Ensuring people can make informed decisions

Council also plays a broader part in climate response by providing leadership, listening to and reflecting community views, supporting community-led initiatives, and working in partnership with mana whenua and other organisations.

Table 3: Climate response roles and responsibilities for local government

Legislation	Roles and responsibilities for local government
Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and associated National Policy Statements	Section 6(h) "the management of significant risks from natural hazards" be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance. Section 7(i) requires all persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA to have particular regard to the "effects of climate change".
Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002	Section 64(1) A local authority must plan and provide for civil defence emergency management within its district. Local authorities are required to establish a joint Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) for their region. Their role is to identify hazards and mitigation activities, and gaps in hazard knowledge and inefficiencies in mitigation.
Local Government Act 2002	Provide a long term focus for the decisions and activities of council. Provide integrated decision making and coordination of the resources of council, managing its assets, liabilities and general

	finances prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. Recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. (Part 1, section 4). Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of council, consider ways it may foster development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making and provide relevant information to Māori for these purposes. (Part 6, section 81).
LGOIMA Amendment Act 2023	Section 44B (1) Natural hazard information to be included in land information memoranda: (a) natural hazards, (b) impacts of climate change that exacerbate natural hazards.
Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019	On request, Council must provide information to the Minister of Climate Change about its governance, risk identification, and management of climate change impacts.
National Adaptation Plan	Councils must have regard to the plan when changing District Plans.
National Emissions Reduction Plan	Councils must have regard to the plan when changing District Plans.
National Policy Statement on Natural Hazard Decision-Making (NPS-NHD) 2025	The NPS-NH 2025 establishes a framework for councils to manage natural hazard risks in new developments, based on the level of risk involved. Consideration of the potential impacts of climate change to at least 100 years into the future must be included in the assessment of risk.
Auditor General expectations for local government	"The statutory purposes of a long-term plan include integrated decision-making, taking a long-term focus for the council's decisions and activities, and being accountable to communities. Climate change is an issue with long-term implications, and it needs to be integrated into the council's processes, plans, and strategies."
Waikato Regional Policy Statement	District Plans should assume a climate change scenario of temperature increase of at least 2.1C by 2090.

What is Council currently doing?

As part of developing the Long Term Plan 2024-2034, Council created a Climate Change Rivermap that set the priorities for Council's response to climate risks, and outlines the key actions we're taking across our services. A performance measure tracking progress on the actions in the Rivermap is included in the Long Term Plan and reported on each year in the Annual Report. The Climate Change Rivermap has five workstreams, each with a climate resilience goal.

Climate Change Rivermap – Stormwater workstream

The focus for stormwater is on reducing risk to our communities. We're modelling how our urban stormwater systems perform under future climate conditions, so we can understand the risks and plan for resilience. We've also increased

our maintenance and water quality monitoring programmes to help reduce flooding risk and better manage what's discharged into our waterways.

Climate Change Rivermap – Rubbish workstream

The focus is on both waste minimisation and waste separation, including keeping food waste out of landfill. We're also separating e-waste, batteries, whiteware and tyres from general waste at the transfer stations, and degassing refrigeration. We are tracking what the government is doing next in relation to emissions from organics and construction and demolition waste (wood). We are also beginning to work internally to look at our organisational sustainability.

Climate Change Rivermap – Strategy workstream

There are five key areas of work:

Growing governance knowledge: Council and committee members have taken part in workshops on climate risks, insurance, emissions, and adaptation.

Building organisational knowledge: We've completed an emissions inventory and organisational climate risk assessment, and staff have been involved in climate-related workshops.

Developing this strategy to guide our response and planning.

Growing community resilience: the focus to date has been on gathering community feedback on concerns and priorities for responding to climate risks.

Planning in an integrated way: Climate hazards is now treated as a top risk for our organisation, and we're working more closely with regional partners.

Climate Change Rivermap – Water workstream

A key challenge for us going forward is the availability and quality of the water we supply to our community. Looking at water availability for the catchments in our region, we know that the Waihou catchment has sufficient capacity but the Piako catchment is under very high pressure with water use well above sustainable levels year round.

We're working on fixing leaks in the network, installing network water meters to understand and manage water loss, and requiring grey water systems in new developments. This work continues as we prepare to transition the management of our water assets to the new sub regional council-controlled organisation, Waikato Water Ltd., which will occur 1 October 2026.

Climate Change Rivermap – Wastewater workstream

We're working to reduce environmental risks from wastewater. Extreme weather events bring large amounts of rainfall in a short period of time which can overwhelm the network resulting in overflows.

We have a programme of work underway to reduce stormwater entering the wastewater network and to upgrade our treatment plants to meet future demand and improve discharge quality. This work also continues as we prepare for the transition to Waikato Water Ltd. On 1 October 2026.



What you told us

To help shape this strategy, we asked our community for feedback. We gathered community views through two surveys:

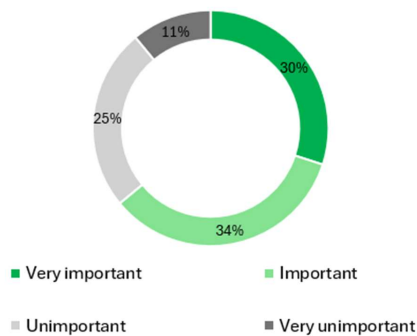
- Matamata-Piako District Council 2025 Resident's Survey, conducted by Key Research. We included a climate change question, and received 382 responses. The responses are weighted to ensure they reflect the demographics of our district.

- A Climate Ready Survey with 140 responses. This was an online survey on Council's website, the responders were self-selected.

The results are outlined below. To read the feedback received in full, please see here: [Climate Survey Results](#)

Matamata-Piako District Council 2025 Resident's Survey

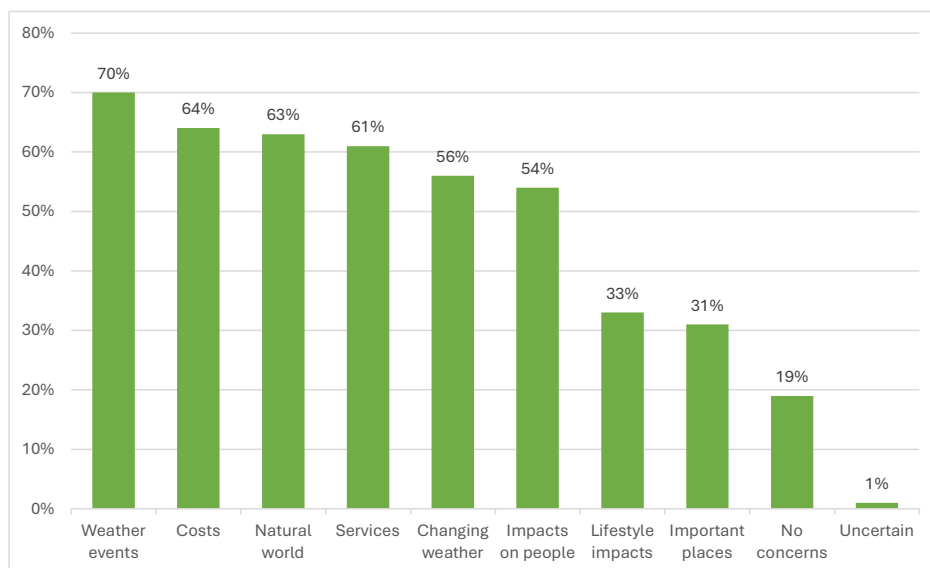
Question: Do you think it is important for Council to take a leadership role in climate change response for our community?



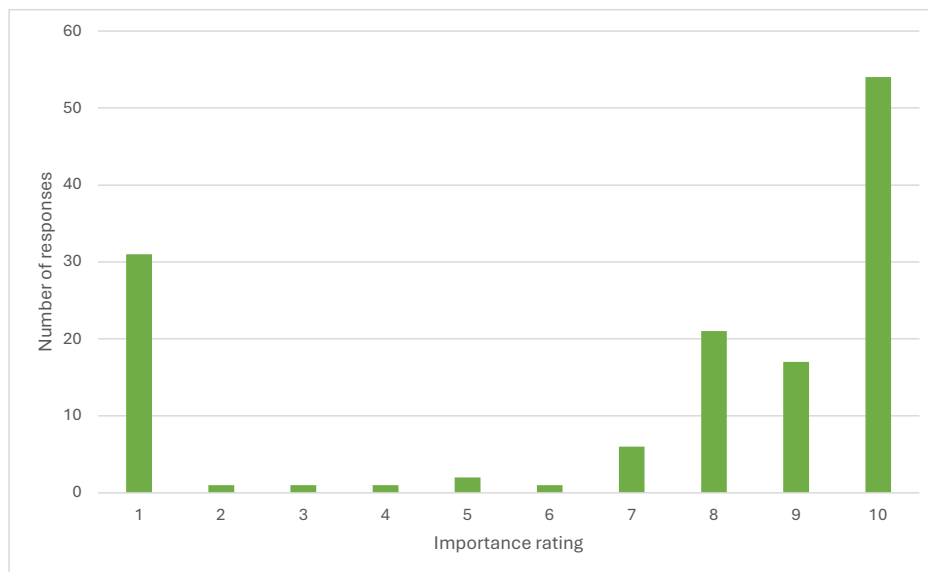
64% of residents state that it is Important for Council to take a leadership role in climate change response for our community. This opinion is significantly stronger among respondents who have lived in the district for 6-10 years (75%) compared to those who have lived in the district for over 10 years (58%).

Climate Ready Survey

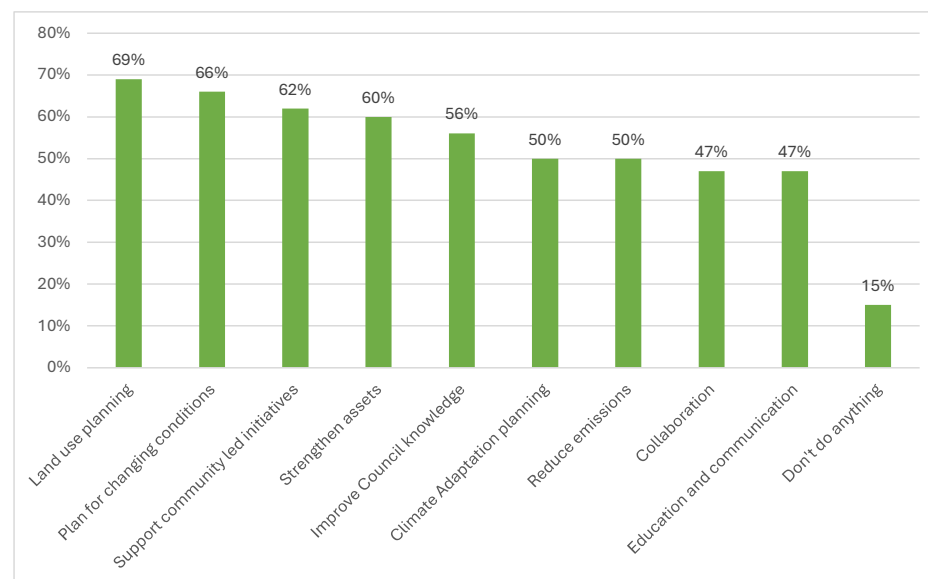
Question 1: In terms of climate impacts, what are you most concerned about?



Question 2: How important is it to you for Council to take a leadership role in responding to climate change?
(scale: 1 – not at all, 10 – very important).



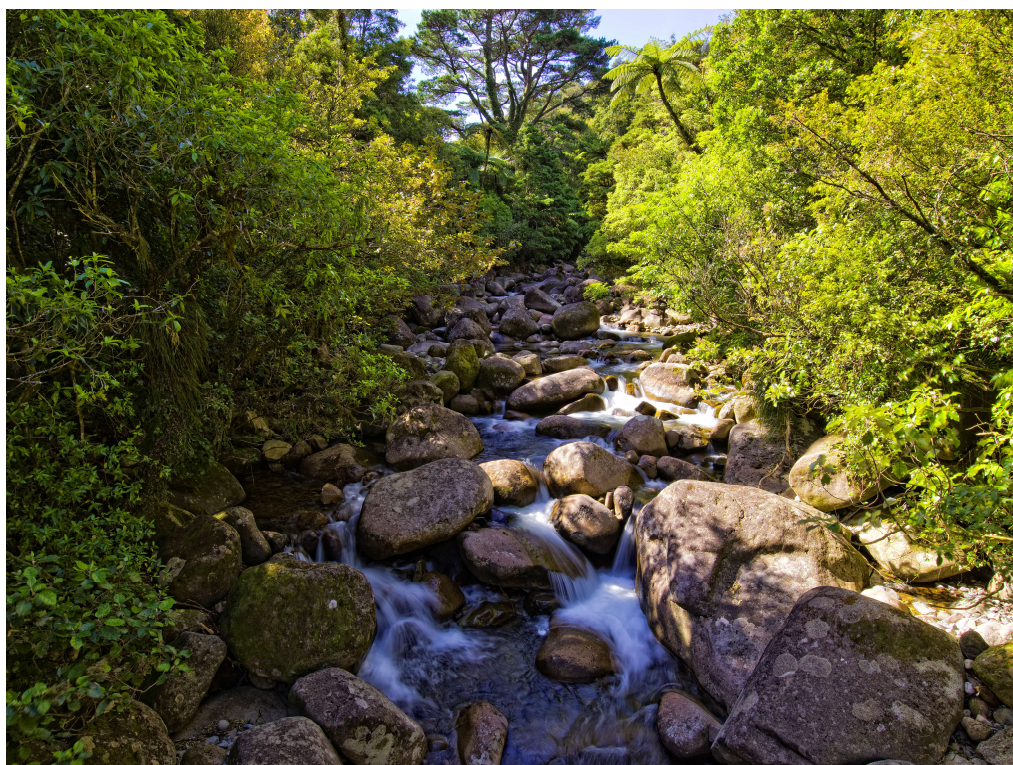
Question 3: What actions are most important for Council to take to respond to climate change?



Navigating climate conversations

We know when an extreme weather event hits, it can have really significant impacts for the community. We need to make sure we're prepared so that we can minimise the impacts of extreme weather, avoid people getting hurt, and recover quickly. Preparing and adapting in these ways will be much more effective if we can work together.

Having open, ongoing conversations is an essential part of navigating our collective response to the changing climate. By acknowledging a range of perspectives and knowledge systems, and by navigating these climate conversations together we can build understanding, strengthen community connections, and shape a collective response to the challenges ahead.



Te Urupare Whai Rautaki a te Kaunihera | Our Climate Resilience Strategy

This strategy builds on the work we've done to date and is informed by the feedback gathered from our community. It's our next step in planning how Council and our communities can become more resilient to climate impacts.

The strategy sets out how we can work together to look after the things we value most, and ensure the future wellbeing of our district and people.

Vision

Working together to increase our climate resilience and protect the people, places, taonga and ways of life we care most about, now and for the future.

Goal

Thriving, informed, climate-resilient communities in Matamata-Piako supported by a prepared and responsive Council.

Guiding Principles

Te Taiao | Our environment is central to our wellbeing

Kotahitanga | Working together gets us further

Mātauranga | We value knowledge and learning

Whakatakatū | Getting ready now ensures we're prepared for whatever the future holds

Oranga Tonutanga | Our aim is thriving communities into the future

Purpose of the strategy

This strategy sets out our overall approach and key areas of focus. Its purpose is to guide present and future decision-making and help us take action and respond to climate risks in a coordinated way.

Costs and capacity

The costs associated with climate impacts was highlighted as a key concern by those who responded to the Climate Ready Survey.

Getting prepared now is likely to be much less costly, and much more effective at preventing harm in the long run, than waiting until damage occurs and having to respond reactively. But it means incurring costs now for benefits that may not be felt for some years to come. And we know there is a limit on what our community can afford. These are tough trade-offs to navigate.

Being clear and transparent about the choices we are making as a Council, and being guided by the priorities of our community, will help us to make these complex decisions in the years to come.

In many ways, Council is already responding to climate risks by working to ensure core services like roads, the stormwater network and parks are fit for purpose for changing conditions. From here, as outlined in the Strategy, we'll build on the work done to date, including by integrating the results of our Climate Risk Assessment into our planning, continuing to deliver on the priorities in the Rivermap, and undertaking our Civil Defence Emergency Management work programme. Other work in the Strategy will require further consideration and funding decisions.

Focus area

We've identified three key areas where we'll focus our efforts:

Council resilience

Ensuring Council can continue to deliver services to our communities into the future.

- Understanding local impacts.
- Building resilient assets and services.
- Strengthening Council as an organisation.

Community adaptation and preparedness

Helping communities stay safe, informed and involved in decisions that affect them.

- Keeping communities out of harm's way 'Avoiding the risk'.
- Working with communities to plan for the future 'Adapting to the risk'.
- Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions 'Being ready for risks when they happen'.

Council and community sustainability

Reducing our impact on the environment and supporting positive action to protect and restore the natural world.

- Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao | our environment.
- Reducing the community's impact.
- Reducing Council's impact.

Wāhi Arotahi: Te Aumangea o te Kaunihera | Focus Area: Council Resilience.

Ensuring Council can continue to deliver services to our communities into the future.



Understanding local impacts.

We will work to better understand how climate impacts are likely to affect our district, now and in the future. This knowledge helps us make good decisions and invest in cost-effective ways to protect people, places, and services.

What we've done so far

We've increased our natural hazard and climate risk information including completing a Climate Risk Assessment for Council, undertaking modelling of our urban flood risk, measuring Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and installing rain gauges to track rainfall in our district. We've also shared knowledge with elected members, and other councils.

What's next

To continue building our understanding, we will need to:

- Keep growing our understanding of the risks, including by drawing on the knowledge of iwi and other long term residents, increasing locally specific hazard data, and partnering with others to share expertise and costs.
- Continue to track and assess local impacts, like the cost of extreme weather events to our roads, pipes and other infrastructure.
- Support knowledge building within Council, so elected members and staff can make informed decisions.
- Advocate to central government for open access to nationally consistent, local hazard and risk information that helps communities and councils plan well.



Building resilient assets and services.

We will continue to plan ahead and invest in ensuring our assets and services are resilient and fit for purpose into the future, including trying new ways of working. With the right information and planning methods we can invest wisely for the future, prioritising work in such a way as to minimise long term costs and maximise benefits now and for the future.

What we've done so far

We've started to build climate resilience into our infrastructure planning by developing an Operational Resilience Strategy, Water and Wastewater Master Plans, an Inflow and Infiltration Strategy, and a Water Conservation Strategy. We're progressing actions across the five streams of work outlined in the Climate Change Rivermap.

What's next

To continue building the resilience of our assets and services, we will need to:

- Use climate risk information to guide asset management and inform business cases so that the cost-benefit of resilient solutions are articulated.
- Grow staff expertise in climate-resilient infrastructure planning and design methods.
- Trial new approaches, like adjusting the level of service in an area where repeated weather damage is driving up costs and expanding the scope of our current services to support community needs under more extreme conditions.
- Explore funding options for future climate adaptation, such as targeted rates or green loans.
- Advocate for a more integrated and coordinated government response, such as including climate adaptation in the Local Government Act, and more closely aligning climate, emergency management and resource management legislation.
- Build our understanding of how a changing climate could affect population growth, economic development, changing service demand etc so we can plan infrastructure that meets future needs.

Strengthening Council as an organisation.

We will make sure Council is as ready as possible to manage climate risks as part of good governance.

What we've done so far

Climate impacts are now treated as one of Council's organisational risks.

What's next

To continue to strengthen Council as an organisation, we will need to:

- Continue regular, measurable reporting to governance and integrate the results of the Climate Risk Assessment into strategic planning to improve the ways we do things.
- Update our Business Continuity Plans to ensure we can continue to operate effectively in emergency situations.
- Review and monitor how climate risks could affect Council's insurance, finances and staff.
- Check we have the right expertise in-house available to give sound policy and technical advice on climate issues.
- Develop the way we report back to the community on the actions we are taking.
- As part of the local government sector, advocate to central government for clearer roles, responsibilities, and funding arrangements for climate adaptation across the country.
- Collaborate regionally, where it makes sense, to solve shared problems together.



Wāhi Arotahi: Te Urutau me te Whakarite a te Hapori | Focus Area: Community Adaptation and Preparedness.

Helping communities stay safe, informed, and involved in decisions that affect them.



Item 8.5

Attachment A

Keeping communities out of harm's way - 'Avoiding the risk'.

We will work to reduce risk to our community from natural hazards, with a focus on the hazards that impact us most significantly, such as flooding and wind.

What we've done so far

In partnership with Waikato Regional Council we have been updating the flood modelling for our district. And we've been improving how we share natural hazard information on property files, in line with new regulations.

What's next

To continue to play our part in helping keep communities safe, we will need to:

- Use our most up to date flood modelling and climate risk data to guide our Growth Strategy and our approach to land use planning, in a way that still supports development.
- Look at how other councils are using District Plan rules to reduce risk to communities and encourage stormwater management in new and existing developments.
- Communicate with the community about the importance of stormwater management, and what we can all do to help reduce flooding impacts.
- As we increase our natural hazard data, continue to develop the way we communicate with affected residents so that residents have clear, relevant and reliable information about the issues that affect them.
- Encourage collaboration across regional groups, including those focused on growth, infrastructure, building, and emergency management.
- Maintain communication with the insurance sector on our communities' behalf to keep the sector informed about Council's resilience planning.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency) Green Loans, such as opening streams, building flood bypasses, or creating swales to manage surface runoff.
- Continually refine our natural hazard modelling to ensure it reflects real-world local data, is based on realistic projections and is as robust as possible.

Working with communities to plan for the future - 'Adapting to the risk'.

We will start to work with communities to support adaptation planning.

What we've done so far

We have been learning from our neighbour councils' experiences of community climate adaptation processes.

What's next

To support future-focussed planning in the community, we will need to:

- Assess climate hazard exposure across the district to understand the areas most at risk, including working with mana whenua to include mātauranga Māori / Māori knowledge and kōrero tuku iho / local stories and histories, and with other residents who have long term knowledge of our district.
- Further develop our understanding and skills in the area of community adaptation planning, and develop a pilot project.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, such as protecting buildings, infrastructure, and cultural heritage sites from floods and landslides; and explore ways for Council to be a connector for funding options for groups wanting to undertake adaptation / resilience projects.



Supporting people to be prepared and make informed decisions - 'Being ready for risks when they happen'.

We will upskill, inform and enable our communities to be prepared for climate impacts.

What we've done so far

We've identified emergency response and recovery as one of Council's organisational risks and committed to developing community response plans.

To support communities, we will need to:

- Develop community response plans with vulnerable communities including supporting marae and papakāinga resilience projects in line with iwi aspirations.
- Provide locally relevant and practical resources to communities, directly or through community partners, to grow understanding of climate risks and impacts, and what we can do to adapt.
- Work with other organisations to improve our understanding of the vulnerabilities to routes and services that are important for Council, the community, and industry, and integrate this knowledge into our resilience planning.

- Align and integrate local and regional civil defence and climate adaptation work programmes to maximise their effectiveness.
- During and after weather events, communicate to the community about the specific impacts of these events eg roads closed, trees down, houses without power, to build up an understanding of impacts and Council's response.
- Identify projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, such as warning systems and emergency preparedness measures in areas at risk of floods or landslides; or through NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) Resilience Fund grants to grow our capability and knowledge around managing climate impacts. We can also advocate to government for increased local funding for emergency preparedness and response.

Wāhi Arotahi: Te Toitūtanga o te Kaunihera me te Hapori| Focus Area: Council and Community Sustainability

Reducing our impact on the environment and supporting positive action to protect
and restore the natural world.



Supporting people's connection and care for te taiao | the environment.

We will support community actions that build connection and care for te taiao | our environment

What we've done so far

We've provided grants and staff support to community organisations and iwi and catchment groups for a range of environmental projects.

What's next

To continue to support environmental action, where practical and economically viable, we'll need to:

- Support community-led initiatives that protect, restore, and connect others with the environment through a review of our grants and by providing advice about other possible funding sources including LGFA Green Loans.
- Support local initiatives through our community development team, and explore new ideas like Council staff and elected members undertaking voluntary work alongside the community.
- Support landowners to access information and advice about managing slip prone land and reducing the impacts of weather events, with benefits for water quality, biodiversity and district resilience.



Reducing the community's impact.

We will encourage actions that reduce waste and conserve our natural resources.

What we've done so far

We've introduced kerbside collection of food scraps, diversion of batteries, e-waste, tyres and whiteware from landfill, and degassing of refrigerants. We've provided grants to support community sustainability initiatives. We've introduced District Plan rules that require water-saving measures in new developments. We've invested in walking, cycling, and accessibility improvements to support active transport and recreation.

What's next

To continue supporting actions that minimise impact on the environment, where practical, we'll need to:

- Support community-led sustainability initiatives that promote impactful energy and water conservation.
- Grow people's awareness of the practical actions they can take at the household level to support district-wide priorities such as water conservation, protecting stormwater quality, and reducing waste.
- Encourage low-impact development through our Growth Strategy, District Plan, and regional planning.
- Update the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan.
- Support the community with projects that could be funded through LGFA Green Loans, including those that encourage walking and cycling, increase recycling, and improve stormwater quality.
- Explore new ways to amplify sustainability action such as a sustainability category in local business awards, and social media to highlight Council's leadership in this space.



Reducing Council's impact.

We will make changes to how Council operates so we can reduce our environmental impact and lead by example. That means thinking about processes such as how we design and procure for new projects, the purchases we make, and the way we manage our own waste.

What we've done so far

We undertake ongoing monitoring and management of Council's energy usage. We've developed an understanding of Council's key emissions sources and communicated that to the public. We've been replacing Council vehicles at end of life with hybrid vehicles, shifting from petrol to electric powered tools for some usage, trialled use of chemical-free weed control on Council parks and cemeteries and installed nature based solutions for stormwater management which provide water quality, biodiversity and public amenity benefits.

What's next

To continue to reduce our impact, where practical, we'll need to:

- Review Council processes to find meaningful opportunities to reduce Council's impact on the environment.
- Investigate ways to improve water quality, reduce costs and increase biodiversity on Council-owned land, such as esplanade reserves, floodplain areas, under-utilised parts of parks, and around our drinking water sources.
- Expand the use of nature-based stormwater solutions, like rain gardens, in a way that minimises maintenance and uses best practice design.
- Explore sustainable and practical upgrades as part of other scheduled work, like replacing the gas boiler at Morrinsville Pool with an electric heat pump or adding solar panels to Council buildings, to save energy, improve energy security, reduce emissions, and cut costs.
- Identify projects for LGFA Green Loan funding, especially those related to energy efficiency and green building, where there is positive return on investment.
- Undertake a corporate emissions inventory, in line with the Long Term Plan, where required for statutory or reporting purposes.



district council



ENABLING OUR COMMUNITY TO REDUCE WASTE,
USE RESOURCES WISELY AND CREATE POSITIVE
OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE

WASTE MANAGEMENT & **MINIMISATION PLAN**

REDUCING WASTE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE 2027 -2033



Te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council



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Introduction

As Council we are required to develop and adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) under s44 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 (WMA 2008). Our last WMMP was adopted in 2021.

This updated plan has been developed for the Matamata-Piako District to meet our statutory responsibilities and respond to our communities' needs. It supports practical waste management and minimisation services that are fit for the future, while aligning with national legislation, the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the national waste hierarchy.

Waste issues, infrastructure needs and service opportunities often extend beyond district boundaries. We will continue to work with neighbouring councils, Waikato regional partners, central government, the commercial waste sector, Iwi and community organisations where a coordinated approach can improve outcomes, reduce duplication, support better data, or provide more practical and cost-effective waste management options for our communities.

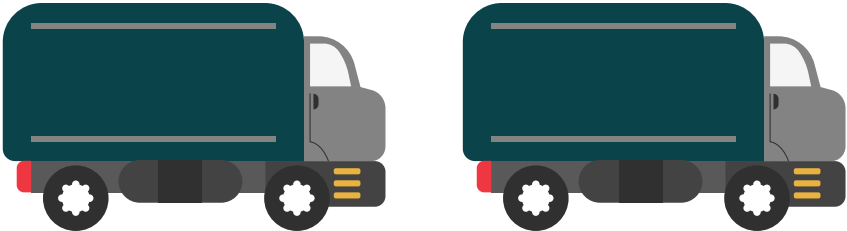
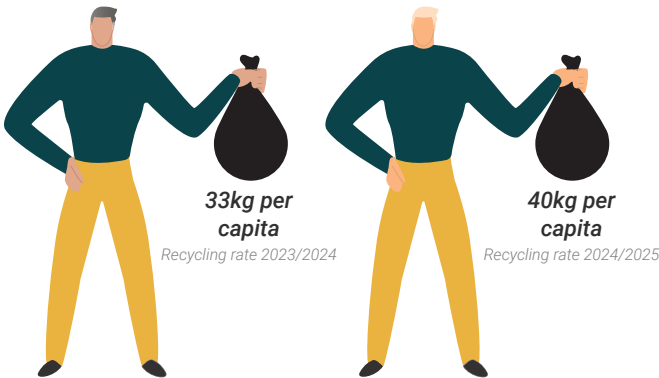
It is based on a collaborative model where Council, businesses, Iwi, community groups and households can all work together to build new waste minimisation services and grow local economic development, ultimately building community resilience at the same time.

We will ensure everyone has access to recycling, resource recovery and waste management services, that businesses and individuals understand that reducing and minimising waste is their responsibility, and that valuable resources are reused or recycled and don't go to landfill.



How much waste do we have?

Unlike the majority of New Zealand, our council's volume of waste to landfill has not increased dramatically over the past 10 years. While the volume of waste to landfill remains steady, our recycling rate has increased but still remains comparatively low.



The management of our CRRC's will remain in-house. This means there is a responsibility for our Council to consider all waste in our district, although we may not have direct involvement in the management of it all. This will include suggesting areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves, or where councils, Iwi, businesses and the community can work together collaboratively to enhance local economic development and build community resilience.

Council's rates-funded kerbside rubbish, recycling, glass and food scraps services commenced in September 2023. We will continue to monitor and optimise these services, alongside refuse transfer station operations and private sector activity, to ensure they support practical waste reduction, reliable service delivery and compliance with national direction.

All of these changes will require a change in behaviour, a key consideration in the development of this plan. The actions in this plan will be carried forward into our long term and annual plans to ensure we have the resources to deliver the WMMP's goals and objectives. Our WMMP needs to be reviewed at least every six years with new goals set and this proposed WMMP will cover the period 2027-2033.

We do not have data on waste that is burned or buried so the actual volume of waste being disposed of within our District is unknown.

Central government has set national direction through the WMA 2008, the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy, product stewardship requirements, waste disposal levy settings and national waste data expectations. These settings reinforce the need for councils to reduce waste sent to landfill where practical, improve data and reporting, support resource recovery, and manage disposal responsibly.

We propose to do this by progressively converting our Refuse Transfer Stations into Community Resource Recovery Centres (CRRC) to provide for greater separation of waste streams, and provide for collaborative enterprises that allow for community and business input.

VISION: Enabling our community to reduce waste, use resources wisely and create positive outcomes for people and place

Goals and objectives: What we want to achieve

G1

Use resources well

A community that considers and, where appropriate, implements new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimising waste sent to landfill.

- Provide sustainable waste minimisation services that are cost-effective to the community.
- View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products can be diverted from landfill.
- Prioritise waste reduction, reuse and recovery initiatives that align with other council objectives.
- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community making best use of existing services and any potential new services.
- Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to 'future-proof' our Refuse Transfer Stations.
- Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective.



G2

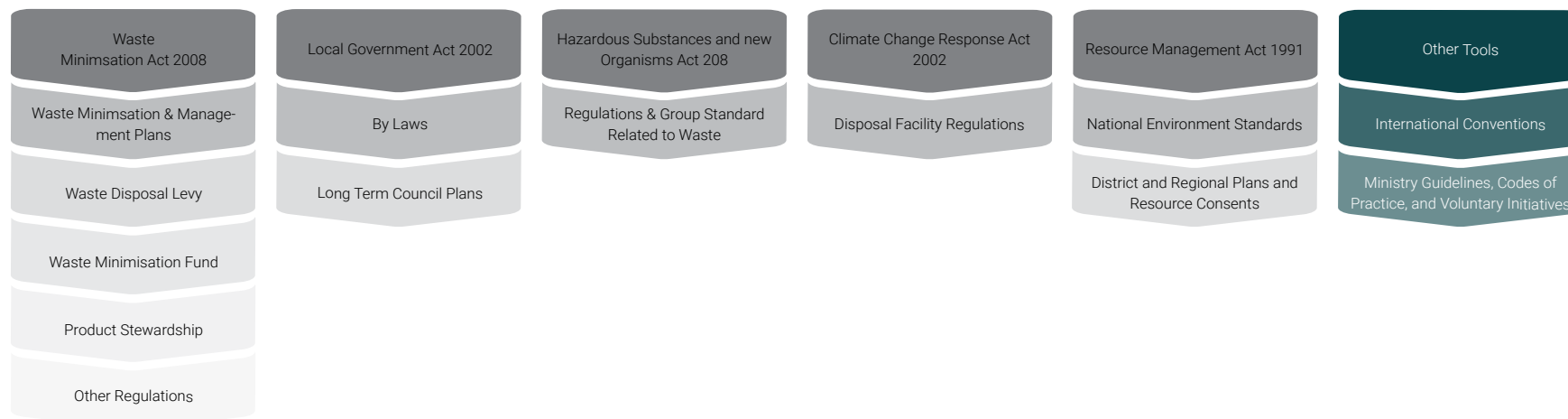
Protect people and place

Minimise environmental harm and protect public health.

- Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices.
- Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.

NEW ZEALAND WASTE STRATEGY

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK



Why do we need a plan?

Council has a statutory requirement under the WMA 2008 to promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within our district, we do this by adopting a WMMP. We also have obligations under the Health Act 1956 to ensure that our waste management systems protect public health.

Our WMMP sets the priorities and strategic framework for managing waste in the district. The WMMP should align to the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy, the waste hierarchy, Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plans, and it should also support or align with other relevant strategies and plans including any other central government directions on the issue of waste management.

What informs the plan?

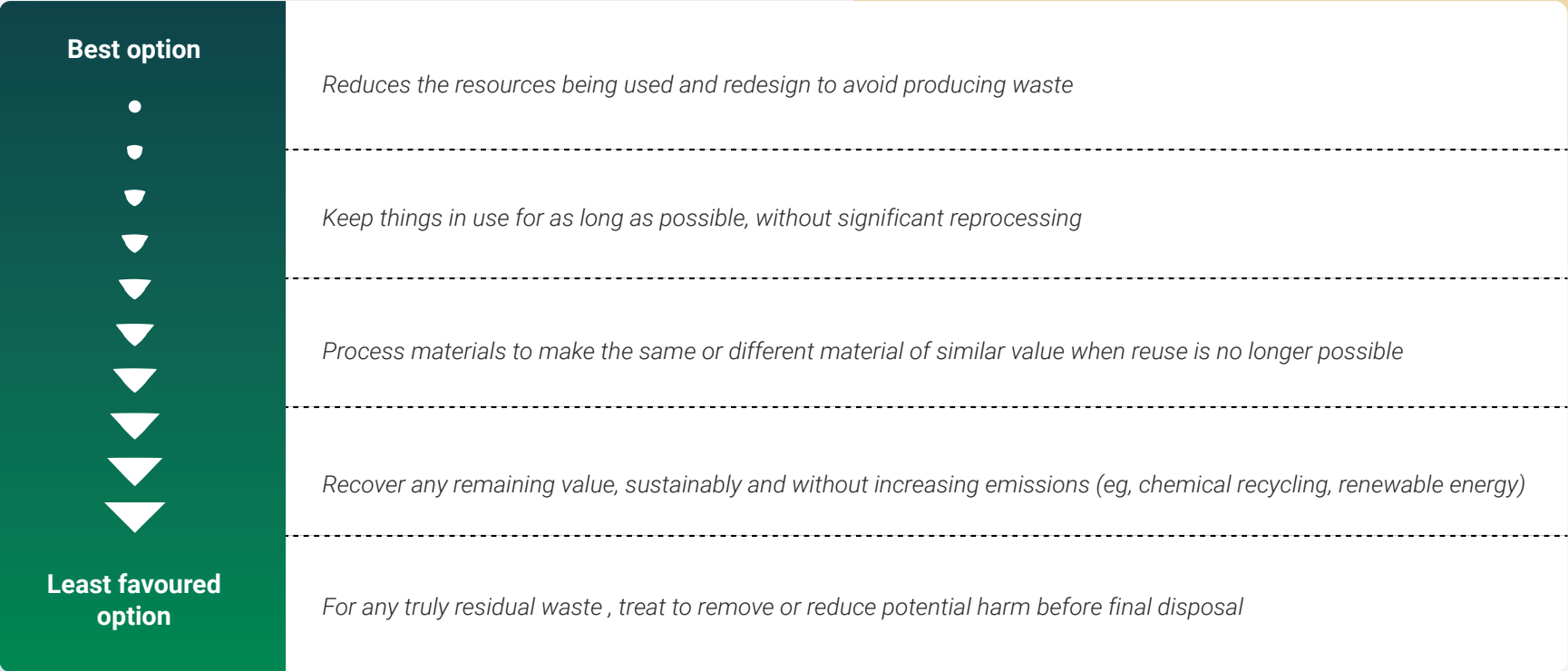
The plan must meet requirements set out in the Waste Minimisation Act, including:

- Considering the 'Waste Hierarchy', which sets priorities for how we should manage waste
- Ensuring that waste does not create a 'nuisance'
- 'Having regard to' the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and other key government policies, including the recently released guidelines by central government that signal changes to the way we will need to manage waste.
- Considering the outcomes of the 'Waste Assessment'
- Following the Special Consultative Procedure set out in the Local Government Act (2002).



The waste hierarchy

The 'waste hierarchy' is a common approach to ways we can think about waste. It is a framework used to rank waste management options from the most environmentally preferable to the least preferable. Efforts to eliminate or reduce waste are at the top of the hierarchy and disposal is at the bottom.





The New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and waste hierarchy

Our vision aligns with the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the waste hierarchy. It recognises that the most effective way to manage waste is to reduce the resources we use and design waste out where possible, keep products and materials in use for longer, process materials into new products where practical, recover value where possible, and use treatment and disposal only as the least favoured option.

This approach supports practical decision-making for our district. It encourages Council, Iwi, businesses, community groups and households to keep resources in use for longer, recover value from materials where possible, and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Tangata whenua principles such as kaitiakitanga continue to be important to how we think about waste and resources. These principles sit alongside the national direction by encouraging care for land, air and water, responsible resource use, and long-term protection of people and place.

What is waste and why is it a problem?

The national direction encourages councils and communities to reduce the amount of waste generated, keep products and materials in use where practical, recover value from materials where viable, and send material to landfill only where better options are not practical or available.

Most of the things we do, buy, and consume generate some form of waste. Managing this waste properly comes at a cost and represents a loss of potentially valuable resources. Importantly, if we do not manage the waste properly, it can cause significant impacts on the environment, people's health and communities. Our WMMP covers all solid waste and diverted material in the district whether council manages it or not.

This does not necessarily mean that the Council is going to have direct involvement in the management of all waste, but there is a responsibility for us to at least consider all waste in our district, and to suggest areas where other groups, such as businesses or households, could take action themselves.





The New Zealand situation

Prior to 2018, most of our recyclables materials were sent to China. Restrictions introduced by the Chinese Government in 2019 reduced the types and quantities of recycled materials accepted by China. The effect has been that we need to find new markets and uses for recyclable materials, particularly onshore. Awareness amongst the public about a number of waste issues, notably plastic bags and single-use plastics, has increased dramatically and led to petitions calling on government to ban single-use packaging and other similar items.

There has been increased investment into onshore facilities so that we can process (recycle) more materials onshore. However, the quality of materials collected for recycling has a big effect on the costs and feasibility of recycling; contaminated and mixed material types are more costly to sort and reprocess (for example food waste mixed with plastic packaging). There is therefore a need to continue to improve the quality of recyclable materials so that this investment in infrastructure does not go to waste.

We also need to consider adopting procurement policies that encourage and support the use of recycled products. Buying recycled is not just about reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill, but also reducing the amount of 'virgin' materials that are extracted for manufacturing. The reuse of materials that we already have available through recycling, rather than throwing items away after a short time and extracting more raw materials, is far more preferable in terms of environmental impact and long-term economic resilience.

Our district

How much waste is there and where does it come from?

Based on population-adjusted 2025 data, Matamata Piako District sends an estimated 13,856 tonnes per annum of waste to Class 1 landfill. This waste comes from household kerbside waste collections, industrial or commercial activities, and includes commercial, residential and rural residents taking loads to our three transfer stations and, waste taken directly to landfill by private operators. It also includes the tonnage taken out of the district for disposal.

In September 2023, MPDC transitioned from a user-pays bag-based rubbish system to a comprehensive rates-funded kerbside service, an element of which included the introduction of food scraps collections. In September 2023, our council ceased commercial collections. Currently those living and working in the Matamata Piako District have access to a range of options to manage their waste including:

Council rates-funded kerbside service:



Fortnightly mixed recycling in 240-litre wheelie bins.



Fortnightly rubbish collection in 120-litre wheelie bins.



Weekly food scraps collection in 23-litre bins.



Fortnightly glass collection in crates.

Private company wheelie bin services

Green waste drop-off at Refuse Transfer Stations

Refuse Transfer Stations accept:

- general refuse
- paper and cardboard, plastics 1, 2, and 5, steel and aluminium tins and cans
- green waste
- scrap steel, tyres, whiteware
- household hazardous waste

To view the complete list of items accepted at the Refuse Transfer Station, please visit:

www.mpdc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling/transfer-stations

Due to perceived convenience, the household wheelie bin market is highly competitive nationally. This has led to a number of councils losing significant market share and even reviewing their role in providing waste collections. Prior to the introduction of rates-funded kerbside wheelie bin services, many households in the district already used wheeled-bin services provided by private companies, with approximately only 9% of the waste collected in our district using council rubbish bags. The remaining waste going to landfill includes waste from industrial and commercial sources and waste taken directly to the Tirohia Landfill, or to one of our three Refuse Transfer Stations.

The commercial collection market is served entirely by private operators. Matamata-Piako District Council ceased rubbish and recycling collections from commercial areas in September 2023, with businesses directed to arrange their own services. Private operators provide regular collection of commercial residual waste and recycling in various container types, with charges depending on type, size, and frequency. This market is reasonably well-served, with multiple providers offering flexible options suited to differing commercial needs.

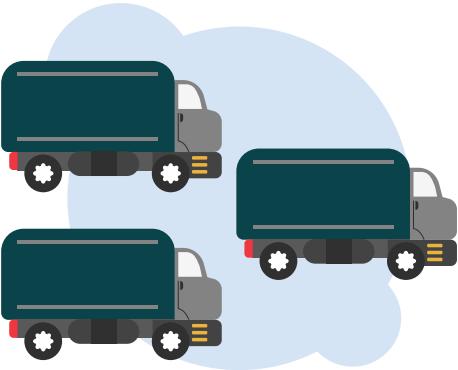
What happens with our waste?

Council-collected waste passes through one of our three Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) in Te Aroha, Morrinsville and Matamata, where waste can also be taken directly by residents and business. Some waste travels directly from source to Tirohia landfill. Commercial operators (waste companies) provide household and commercial collections that account for the rest of the district's waste.

Recycling collected at the kerbside and at our RTS's is managed by our contractor who sort and bale materials that are then on-sold.

A 2025 audit of Council wheelie bins estimates 19.1 tonnes of organic waste (kitchen and green waste) are put out for collection in rubbish wheelie bins each week, or over 990 tonnes per annum, contributing nearly half (46.6%) of the total kerbside rubbish. Sanitary paper was the second most common component at 12.5% (5.1 tonnes per week), followed closely by plastics at 12.3% (5.1 tonnes per week).

While the council now provides a rates-funded kerbside collection to residential properties, some households continue to use a private wheelie bin company. Council data on the qualities of waste collected does not account for the market share split between private and Council waste to landfill, so it is not possible to gain a clear picture of overall waste volumes and trends. Therefore, rather than incorporating updated Council figures in isolation, a blanket population growth rate has been applied to the total waste to landfill figure from the 2020 SWAP to provide a projected estimate of current volumes.



**All waste to landfill from
Refuse Transfer Stations,
kerbside and commercial
collections = 13,856
tonnes per annum**

**Organic waste (food and
garden) = 5,002 tonnes
per annum**

The top three waste streams that could be diverted from the overall waste disposed of at Class 1 landfill are:



1. Food waste: 44.5 tonnes per week



2. Compostable green waste: 37.6 tonnes per week



3. Recyclable paper: 9.5 tonnes per week

Overall, we could divert close to 50% of our waste from landfill every year and recycle or compost this instead. This is important, particularly as Tirohia Landfill will have closed by 2038. The closest landfill will then be 75kms away and any waste created will need to be transported out of the district for disposal.

How well are we doing?

While we have completed a number of the actions from the last WMMP, it is difficult to measure what impact this has had on our performance due to changes in the way we collect and store information.

To determine how well we are doing in terms of waste minimisation it is useful to compare ourselves with other parts of New Zealand.

- When we consider all waste sent to landfill, the waste per capita is 350kg, which is down from 419kg when surveyed in 2010.
- When it comes to kerbside household recycling, we recycle about 40kg per capita per year, which has increased from 33kg per capita in 2023/24. This is still on the lower side when compared to other councils.
- When we look at how much waste from households we send to landfill from our kerbside collections, we generate about 93kg per person, per year. This has reduced from 183kg per person and is also lower than many other councils. However, it is important to note that this figure only accounts for households that utilise the Council kerbside collection service (59% of the district’s population), so does not include a significant proportion of households that still use private wheelie bin services, properties that may be generating much higher quantities of waste per person.

How much better could we do?

Surveys of the rubbish picked up at the kerbside, and the rubbish sent to landfill, show that there is a large percentage that does not need to go to landfill and could instead be recycled, composted or be recovered in some other way such as reused.

WHAT COULD BE DIVERTED?

Recoverable materials in all waste to Class 1 landfills - Projected 2025 quantities	Overall waste (includes kerbside rubbish)	
	% of total	Tonnes per week
Paper - Recyclable	3.6%	9.5 T/week
Paper - Cardboard	2.8%	7.3 T/week
Plastic - Recyclable	1.3%	3.5 T/week
Ferrous metals	3.0%	7.8 T/week
Non-ferrous metals	0.8%	2.2 T/week
Glass - Recyclable	2.9%	7.7 T/week
Textiles - Clothing	1.8%	4.9 T/week
Rubble - Cleanfill	2.0%	5.2 T/week
Timber - Reusable	0.6%	1.7 T/week
Subtotal	18.8%	49.9 T/week
Compostable materials		
Kitchen waste	16.7%	44.5 T/week
Compostable greenwaste	14.2%	37.6 T/week
New plasterboard	1.4%	3.6 T/week
Untreated/unpainted timber	2.1%	5.6 T/week
Subtotal	34.3%	91.2 T/week
TOTAL - POTENTIALLY DIVERTABLE	53.1%	141.2 T/week

Recoverable materials in Council kerbside rubbish bins November 2025	Overall waste (includes kerbside rubbish)	
	% of total	Tonnes per week
Paper - Recyclable	4.2%	0.34 T/bin
Plastics - #1,2,5 containers	2.1%	0.17 T/bin
Ferrous metals – steel cans	1.3%	0.03 T/bin
Non-ferrous metals – aluminium cans	0.4%	0.03 T/bin
Glass – bottles/jars	2.3%	0.19 T/bin
Subtotal	9.4%	0.77 T/bin
Compostable materials		
Organics – food waste	31.7%	2.61 T/bin
Organics – garden waste	8.1%	0.67 T/bin
Subtotal	39.8%	3.28 T/bin
TOTAL - POTENTIALLY DIVERTABLE	49.1%	4.04 T/bin



Key issues

The 2026 Waste Assessment looked across all aspects of waste management in the Matamata Piako District and identified the main areas where we could improve our effectiveness and efficiencies.

- A significant proportion of waste going to landfill is organic waste, with food waste present across all kerbside rubbish collection systems.
- We now provides a wheelie bin service for rubbish and mixed recycling kerbside collection. While this is being utilised by a significant proportion of the population (59% of households) many households continue to use private wheelie bin services.
- There is a lack of facilities to recycle or otherwise divert a range of materials other than household recyclables, green waste, scrap metal and waste for disposal.
- Licensing provisions in the Council's Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 are not yet implemented, so there is little data available on private operator activities and non-council waste streams in general.
- While there are services to manage household hazardous waste, there are no other services.
- Community engagement, understanding and awareness of waste issues could be improved.
- More recyclables could be diverted from both domestic and commercial properties.
- There is scope to increase landfill diversion of a broader range of materials from industrial and commercial. Paper and cardboard is the main material type currently diverted.

Future demand

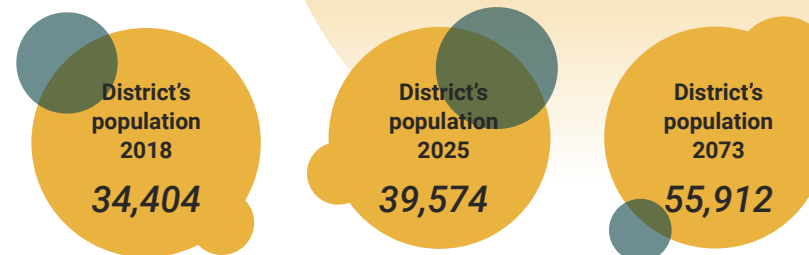
A wide range of complex factors will impact future demand for waste services.

Factors include:

- Economic growth or decline
- Population growth or decline
- Construction and demolition activity
- Changes in lifestyles and consumption. e.g. an increased use of electronics
- Demographic changes such as an aging population, e.g. more home-based medical assistance and wastes that require specialised recovery
- Changes in collection services and/or change in recovery of waste streams including rural wastes.
- The growing shift towards Product Stewardship, where producers take responsibility for their own waste.

Population growth in the district has been steady over the past 15 years. In 2018, it was 34,404 and has now surpassed 39,500 in 2025. It is expected to continue growing, projected to reach close to 56,000 by 2073 (41.3% growth).

The population aged 0-64 years is expected to ease slightly while the population aged 65 years and over will grow strongly. The number of households is projected to grow steadily from 14,631 in 2025 to 19,391 in 2072. This suggests no dramatic shifts are expected over this period of time.



Assuming quantities of waste increase in line with expected population growth, the total quantity of waste to landfill in the district is expected to be over 14,700 tonnes in 2035. This is likely to be a conservative estimate particularly given growth rates over recent years have exceeded previous projections.

The structure of our plan

This plan is in three parts:

Part A - Strategy: contains core elements vision, goals, objectives, and targets. It sets out what we are aiming to achieve and the broad framework for working towards the vision.

Part B - Action plan: sets out the proposed actions to be taken to achieve the goals, objectives, and targets set out in Part A. Part B also shows how we will monitor and report on our actions and how they will be funded.

Part C - Supporting information: contains the background information that has informed the development of our WMMP. Most of this information is contained in the Waste Assessment.



PART A: THE STRATEGY - Our Vision for the Future

Enabling our community to reduce waste, use resources wisely and create positive outcomes for people and place



Our vision reflects the intended direction for the district in putting maximum effort into diversion and using landfill disposal as a last resort.

It is guided by the New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy and the waste hierarchy, with a focus on reducing waste, keeping resources in use for as long as possible, and using landfill disposal only where better options are not practical or available.

In practice, this means making decisions that help products and materials last longer, support repair and reuse where practical, improve recycling and recovery options, and reduce reliance on landfill disposal.

G1

Use Resources Well:

A community that considers, and where appropriate implements, new initiatives and innovative ways to assist in reducing, reusing and recycling waste, minimising waste sent to landfill.

- Provide sustainable services that are cost-effective to the community as a whole.
- View waste as a resource, improving and modifying collections and facilities so that more materials and products are diverted from landfill.
- Prioritise waste reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling initiatives that align with other council objectives.
- Promote, encourage, and emphasise reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Remove or reduce barriers that are preventing the community of make best use of existing services and any potential new services.
- Process and manage waste locally, or within the district wherever feasible and cost-effective.
- Investigate and implement new services, facilities, or other initiatives that will increase the amount of waste reduced, reused, or recycled.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing community resource recovery centres for bulky goods, e-waste, rural waste and other waste streams to 'future-proof' our Refuse Transfer Stations.
- Use the national waste hierarchy to guide decisions about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal.

G2

Protect People and Place: Protect and enhance our place while supporting healthy communities.

- Ensure the reduction of environmental harm is understood from a holistic perspective that incorporates tikanga and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) as an important component of sustainable practices.
- Consider the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options and choose those that are cost-effective to the community, while also protecting environmental and public health.

PART B: ACTION PLAN: What are we going to do?

Targets

1

Reduce the amount of kerbside household waste disposed to landfill.

Reduction of 1% each year, measured against the previous year's average.

This recognises ongoing residential growth and development across the district while still focusing on waste reduction at a household level.

2

Enhance the recovery of organic materials (such as food waste) from kerbside waste streams by establishing cost-efficient collection and processing services that divert organic waste from landfills.

Aim to increase the amount of organic materials diverted from landfill by 30% above the baseline of 400 tonnes annually by 2033, with annual progress assessments.

Action plan overview

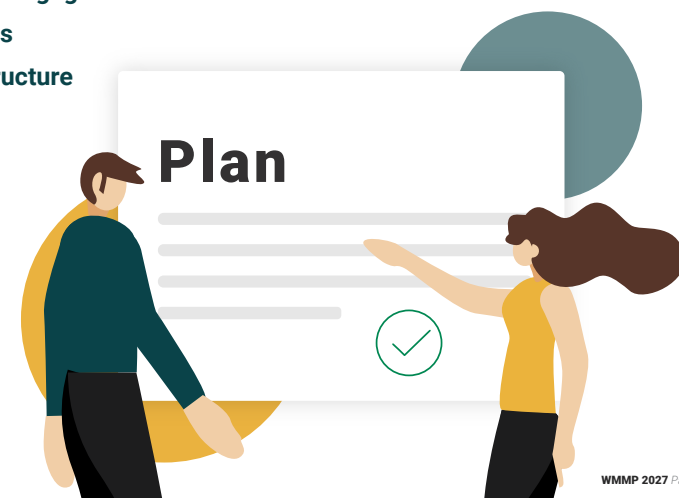
The action plan aims to set out clear, practical initiatives for Matamata Piako District Council to implement, either on our own or jointly. While the action plan forms part of the WMMP, it is intended to be a 'living' document that can be regularly updated to reflect current plans and progress.

Leadership actions focus on advocacy, regional collaboration, funding support and partnerships. This recognises that coordinated work with neighbouring councils, central government, the commercial waste sector, Iwi, community organisations and regional groups will be needed to improve waste data, plan infrastructure, respond to national policy direction, and support practical local outcomes.

Our proposed key action areas

Our action plan includes practical activities that will enable us to achieve our vision for reducing waste, using resources wisely and managing disposal responsibly. Regional collaboration is woven through the action plan because some waste streams, infrastructure needs, data gaps and policy settings cannot be addressed effectively by our council alone.

1. Regulation
2. Measuring and monitoring
3. Education and engagement
4. Waste services
5. Waste infrastructure
6. Leadership



Action Area	Key Actions	Issues addressed and what it will do
Regulation	Increase data visibility across the waste industry, including construction and demolition, and event-related waste. Take action against illegal dumping and littering.	Addressing poor understanding of waste streams; better access to data enables better management of waste. Reducing the amount of waste being dumped and entering the environment.
Measuring and monitoring	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows. Continued monitoring of both council and non-council waste flows.	Addressing poor understanding of waste streams; better access to data enables better management of waste.
Education and engagement	Provide community-wide education and awareness raising. Monitor areas not performing well. Develop behaviour change interventions.	Increasing wider understanding of waste issues and opportunities.
Waste service	Provide and optimise household collection and recycling services. Collaborate with commercial waste sector to facilitate improvements.	Addressing large amounts of divertable waste not yet being diverted from landfill.
Waste infrastructure	Update waste infrastructure via maintenance or construction as appropriate. Develop infrastructure such as resource recovery and organic waste processing facilities. Develop region-wide relationships.	Addressing large amounts of divertable waste not yet being diverted from landfill.
Leadership	Continue to provide funding for waste minimisation projects. Collaborate and advocate across stakeholders for infrastructure and policy.	Supporting local innovation in priority waste streams. Improving waste diversion.

Considerations

The action plan outlines high-level intentions for actions to meet our obligations under the WMA 2008. In some cases, further research might be required to work out the costs and feasibility of some projects. This might change how, when, or if they are implemented.

Completing some other actions might depend on changing contractual arrangements with providers, or setting up new contracts. These type of contracts can be unpredictable, and this might impact the nature, timing, or costs of these projects.

Council's intended role

We intend to oversee, facilitate and manage a range of programmes and interventions to achieve effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within the district. We will do this through our internal structures responsible for waste management. We are responsible for a range of contracts, facilities and programmes to provide waste management and minimisation services to the residents and ratepayers of Matamata Piako District.

ACTION PLAN



Regulation				
Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
R1	Implement the provisions in the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 in full - as part of this, introduce operator licensing and licensing fees. Act on conditions requiring that operators provide ongoing reporting on quantities and types of waste	Large quantities of organic waste and some recyclables still going to landfill. Poor understanding of rural waste streams, construction and demolition waste. Increase monitoring and reporting required by central government	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Regulator
R2	Require construction and event Waste Minimisation Management Plans and related data reporting as per the provisions in the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024	Poor understanding of construction and demolition waste Poor understanding and control of event related waste	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Regulator
R3	Continue to take action against illegal dumping and littering, using relevant legislation	Waste is dumped and enters the environment	Reduce the amount of waste being dumped illegally or littered	Regulator



Measuring and Monitoring

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
M1	Undertake regular waste composition audits and reviews of waste flows to better understand opportunities for waste management and minimisation	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste going through the district year-round	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Provider, funder
M2	Maintain current monitoring levels; monitoring waste at kerbside, transfer stations, and to landfill	Understanding of current council waste streams provides some information for performance	Maintain status quo	Provider
M3	Monitor non-council waste flows through waste operator licensing with associated data collection requirements (linked to option R1)	Poor understanding of some waste streams and total quantities and composition of waste	Having access to better data enables better management of waste streams and future identification of issues	Provider, funder

Education and Engagement

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
E1	Provide community-wide waste minimisation education and awareness raising, including to continue to educate households on the importance of food waste collections and participation in kerbside food waste collection services	Support action on many other waste issues. Need for additional waste minimisation education. Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill	Need for education/engagement (i.e. demand) is proactively identified and addressed. Increased responsibility taken by various sectors for waste management within the community. Better understanding across the board of non-household waste management and opportunities to move up the hierarchy	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E2	Monitor and survey to identify areas that are not performing as well (e.g. higher contamination, lower recycling, problematic waste streams) and undertake targeted education campaigns	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken in areas where particular issues have been identified, improving the community's understanding of the issues and the opportunities to improve waste management and minimisation	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E3	Work in partnership with private waste companies to educate wheeled bin users about preferred behaviour, e.g. encouraging organic collections	Large quantities of organic waste going to landfill Support action on many other waste issues	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Facilitator, Funder
E4	Undertake targeted communication campaigns as required to support service changes, e.g. new/alterd services, regulatory changes, legislative changes	Specific education and engagement activities are undertaken to ensure services are used appropriately. Contamination and usage levels addressed	Increases wider understanding of specific waste issues and the opportunities	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
E5	Develop community-based behaviour change interventions, identifying appropriate community groups and working with them to develop and deliver behaviour change campaigns. Including, but not limited to, the Para Kore programme	Education and engagement activities are undertaken with a consistent behaviour change approach, and are delivered where possible through community groups	Education and engagement is extended into behaviour change campaigns, delivered within the communities	Facilitator, Funder



Waste Services

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
S1	Continue to provide current council kerbside collection services as present. Continue to deliver and optimise household recycling services to urban ratepayers	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill	Additional material is diverted from landfill for reuse or recycling	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
S2	Work with the commercial waste sector to identify and facilitate improvements to collection services	More material is collected for diversion outside Council's kerbside collections	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling	Facilitator

Waste Infrastructure

Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
WI1	Upgrade the existing RTS network by retaining all three sites and improving each site where affordable and practicable, to maximise waste diversion and resource recovery opportunities	Ageing infrastructure limits operational efficiency and the ability to divert recoverable materials from landfill	Maintains local service levels, improves waste diversion where reasonably practicable, and supports affordable, staged investment	Provider, Funder
WI2	Investigate a greenfield community resource recovery park or regional supersite with neighbouring councils, where practical and affordable	Ageing RTS infrastructure may limit future service delivery, resource recovery opportunities, and regional waste diversion options	Assesses whether a resource recovery park or regional supersite could improve diversion, recovery, efficiency and affordability for the district or region	Provider, Funder
WI3	Provide storage space at an RTS for increased diversion, e.g. Space for storing reuse items, covered space for textile sorting or e-waste storage	Large quantities of divertible waste going to landfill.	Additional material is diverted from landfill for recycling and additional services are available in the district	Provider, Facilitator, Funder
WI4	Develop or procure organic waste processing, appropriate for the types/quantities of organic wastes to be processed (i.e. food waste only or mixed food and garden etc)	Large quantities of organic waste still going to landfill	Additional organic waste can be diverted from landfill	Provider, Funder
WI5	Work with product stewardship scheme providers to identify infrastructure needs and consider provision/facilitation locally (such as collecting batteries at the RTS)	Limited local infrastructure to support product stewardship schemes, particularly for e-waste, batteries, and farm plastics.	Additional material is diverted from landfill through product stewardship; district residents have improved access to scheme drop-off points	Facilitator, Funder, Provider.
WI6	Investigate and where feasible, develop region-wide relationships to increase resource recovery, including with social enterprise, to extract value from waste and to provide employment	Fragmented regional infrastructure; limited economies of scale for processing and recovery	Improved regional resource recovery outcomes; potential for social and employment benefits through enterprise partnerships	Facilitator, Funder

Leadership				
Reference	Action	Issues addressed	Impact on current / future demand	Council's role
L1	Continue to provide a local fund for waste minimisation projects (the Resource Recovery Fund)	Community and business capacity to develop and implement local waste minimisation initiatives	Local innovation and waste minimisation activity is supported and sustained; community-led projects receive funding to develop	Funder
L2	Undertake targeted funding rounds to encourage specific outcomes e.g. construction and demolition recovery, textiles recovery	Specific waste streams, including construction and demolition waste and textiles, remain largely unaddressed	Focused funding drives activity in priority waste streams; additional material is diverted from landfill in areas where market-led solutions have not yet emerged	Funder
L3	Continue involvement in the development of a national approach to disaster waste management, and prepares a local disaster waste management plan	Growing risk of disaster waste events	The district is better prepared to manage disaster waste efficiently	Provider, Facilitator
L4	Collaborate with the commercial waste sector to proactively identify and facilitate opportunities for improved waste management services and infrastructure	Limited visibility of commercial and industrial waste flows. Large quantities of waste going to landfill	Improved commercial waste diversion; better alignment between Council strategy and private sector service delivery across the district	Facilitator
L5	Advocate to central Government for increased action on issues such as product stewardship and extended producer responsibility	Councils bear disproportionate responsibility for managing waste streams, that are better addressed through centrally led schemes	Central government action on product stewardship reduces the burden on local ratepayers and improves management of difficult waste streams at a national scale	Facilitator
L6	Continue with regular Mana Whenua Forum, where updates can be provided on key projects and progress towards targets, and partnership working options are identified and pursued	Need to ensure waste minimisation strategies reflect tikanga Māori and fulfil te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations; importance of mana whenua partnership in waste planning and delivery	Stronger relationships with mana whenua support culturally appropriate service design and community engagement; partnership opportunities are identified and progressed	Facilitator
L7	Adopt a circular economy approach during procurement by specifying products with recycled content, where possible, to avoid emissions associated with raw material extraction and production and to support the circular economy	Large amounts of divertable materials going to landfill	Procurement decisions reinforce the district's broader waste minimisation goals	Provider, Funder, Facilitator



FUNDING THE PLAN

The WMA 2008 (s43) requires that councils include information about how the implementation of this WMMP will be funded, as well as information about any grants made and expenditure of waste levy funds.

Funding local actions

There is a range of options available to local councils to fund the activities set out in this plan. These include:

- **Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)** - a charge that is paid by all ratepayers
- **User Charges** - includes charges for user-pays collections as well as transfer station gate fees
- **Targeted rates** - a charge applied to those properties receiving a particular council service
- **Waste levy funding** - The Government redistributes funds from the \$10 per tonne waste levy to local authorities on a per capita basis. By law, 50% of the money collected through the levy must be returned to councils. This money must be applied to waste minimisation and wider environmental activities
- **Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF)** - Most of the remaining 50% of the levy money collected is redistributed to specific projects approved by the Ministry for the Environment. Anyone can apply to the WMF for funding for projects
- **Private sector funding** - The private sector may undertake to fund/supply certain waste minimisation activities, for example in order to look to generate income from the sale of recovered materials etc. Council may work with private sector service providers where this will assist in achieving the WMMP goals.

Funding considerations take into account a number of factors including:

- Prioritising harmful wastes;
- Waste minimisation and reduction of residual waste to landfill;
- Full-cost pricing - 'polluter pays';
- Public good vs. private good component of a particular service;
- That the environmental effects of production, distribution, consumption and disposal of goods and services should be consistently costed, and charged as closely as possible to the point they occur to ensure that price incentives cover all costs;
- Protection of public health;
- Affordability; and
- Cost effectiveness.

The potential sources of funding for each of the actions are noted in the tables in Part B of the WMMP. Budgets to deliver the activities set out in this plan will be carefully developed through our Annual Plan and Long Term Plan processes. The approach taken will be to implement as many of the activities as possible while controlling costs and, where possible, taking advantage of cost savings and efficiencies. It is anticipated that by setting appropriate user charges, reducing costs through avoided disposal, more efficient service delivery from joint working, and targeted application of waste levy money, the increased levels of waste minimisation as set out in this WMMP will be able to be achieved without overall additional increases to the average household cost.



Territorial Authorities waste levy funding

Council receives, based on population, a share of national waste levy funds from the Ministry for the Environment. It is estimated that at the current rates (ranging from \$15 to \$70 per tonne) our council's total share of waste levy funding will be approximately \$240k per annum.

The WMA requires that all waste levy funding received by councils must be "spent on matters to promote waste minimisation and in accordance with their WMMP".

Waste levy funds can be spent on ongoing waste minimisation services, new services, or an expansion of existing services. The funding can be used for education and communication, policy research and reporting, to provide grants, or as infrastructure capital, and other activities in our WMMP.

We intend to use our waste levy funds for a range of waste minimisation activities and services as set out in the action plan.

In addition, we may make an application for contestable waste levy funds from the WMF, either separately, with other councils, or with another party. The WMF provides additional waste levy funds for waste minimisation activities.

Funding business and community actions

Councils have the ability under the WMA (s47) to provide grants and advances of money to any person, organisation or group for the purposes of promoting or achieving waste management and minimisation, as long as this is authorised by the WMMP.

Council will investigate the development of a grants programme where Matamata Piako District businesses, community groups, and other organisations can apply for funding from council for projects which align with, and further, the objectives of this WMMP on an annual basis.

MONITORING EVALUATING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

This WMMP contains a number of actions with timeframes (refer to Part B), as well as a set of waste minimisation targets. Progress on each of these actions and targets will be reported annually to Council.



GLOSSARY

Bulky items	Large and small household appliances, furniture, carpets, mattresses, bric-a-brac etc
Circular Economy	A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.
CRRC	Community Resource Recovery Centre
E-waste	E-waste (electronic waste) refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted.
Food waste	Any food scraps – from preparing meals, leftovers, scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds.
Green waste	Waste largely from the garden – including hedge and/or tree clippings, and/or lawn clippings.
Household hazardous waste	Waste that can cause harm or damage to people or the environment like strong chemicals.
Kaitiakitanga	Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It is a way of managing the environment, based on the Māori world view
Mana whenua	Territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land.
Mātauranga Māori	Mātauranga Māori is about a Māori way of being and engaging in the world – in its simplest form, it uses kawa (cultural practices) and tikanga (cultural principles) to critique, examine, analyse and understand the world.
New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy	The Government's priorities for minimising waste and improving waste management, see environment.govt.nz/news/waste-strategy/ It replaces Te Rautaki Para New Zealand waste strategy adopted by the previous Government in March 2023.
Organic waste	Plant-based material and other bio-degradable material that can be recovered through composting, digestion or other similar processes.
Para Kore	A call to action that aims to end the current take, make, and dispose mentality of human society.
Polluter pays	The commonly accepted practice that those who produce pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment
Product stewardship	Product stewardship is the responsible management of the environmental impact of a product including the cost. It aims to reduce the impact of manufactured products at all stages of the product life cycle.
RTS	Refuse Transfer Station
Rural waste	In rural areas, examples of solid waste include wastes from kitchens, gardens, cattle sheds, agriculture, and materials such as metal, paper, plastic, cloth, and so on. They are organic and inorganic materials with no remaining economic value to the owner produced by homes, commercial and industrial establishments.

Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2024 Council’s solid waste bylaw which can be viewed at: www.mpd.govt.nz/policies-a-bylaws/consolidated-bylaw-2008

SWAP	Solid Waste Analysis Protocol
WMA 2008	The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 Act (the Act) encourages a reduction in the amount of waste we generate and dispose of in New Zealand. The aim is to reduce the environmental harm of waste and provide economic, social and cultural benefits for New Zealand.
WMF	Waste Minimisation Fund
WMMP	A Waste Management and Minimisation Plan as defined by s43 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.



WASTE MANAGEMENT & **MINIMISATION PLAN**

REDUCING WASTE AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE





Matamata-Piako District Council

Kaupapahere nui me te whakawhitiwhiti | Significance and Engagement Policy 2026

Adopted by Council 26 August 2026

Department	Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
CM Reference	3222616
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Review Frequency	From time to time, as required by Council or legislative changes
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1. Te Kaupapa | Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to:
 - 1.1.1 Enable Council and its communities to identify the degree of significance attached to issues, proposals, assets, decisions and activities; and
 - 1.1.2 Provide clarity on how and when communities can expect to be engaged in Council decisions; and
 - 1.1.3 Guide Council in determining the appropriate types and/or level of engagement to support robust decision-making; and
 - 1.1.4 List the assets Council considers to be strategic assets.

2. Te Tononga o te Kaupapahere | Application of Policy

- 2.1 This Policy will be applied to all proposals that are likely to impact the community. It does not affect other legislation that has specific consultation requirements.
- 2.2 The degree of significance and the appropriate level of engagement will be considered by Council in the early stages of a proposal before decision-making occurs and, if necessary, reconsidered as a proposal develops.
- 2.3 Significance will initially be assessed by staff using professional judgement in reports to Council.
- 2.4 Council will establish the degree of significance of each issue, proposal, decision or other matter on a case-by-case basis using the considerations outlined in Schedule 2 of this Policy.
- 2.5 Where the significance of an issue, proposal, decision or other matter is unclear against one or more of the criteria listed in Schedule 2, then Council will treat that criterion as being more, rather than less significant.
- 2.6 When Council makes a decision that is significantly inconsistent with this Policy, the steps identified in Section 80 of the Local Government Act 2002 will be undertaken.

3. Ngā Mātāpono | General Principles

- 3.1 Council will consider engagement early in the planning process to ensure that the public can influence the decision process at appropriate stages and to ensure sufficient time to allow genuine engagement with interested and affected communities.
- 3.2 Any engagement Council has with the community will be conducted in good faith and in an honest, and transparent manner. Council will be clear about the scope and purpose of the engagement.
- 3.3 Council will receive views with openness and respect and will give those views due consideration when considering matters and making decisions.
- 3.4 Council will adapt how it engages with communities depending on the target audience and the needs and/or preferences of that audience.
- 3.5 Council will work in partnership with affected or interested groups. This may include, but is not limited to: Iwi representatives, community groups and stakeholders.
- 3.6 The degree of significance of a matter or decision will impact the extent of engagement, time and resources required to evaluate options and understand the views of communities.
- 3.7 Wherever possible, Council will maintain consistent processes of engagement so that the community can build familiarity with how and where to participate. In particular, Council will endeavour to consult the community through Council's consultation website, and Council offices and libraries.
- 3.8 Council will integrate and combine engagement and decision-making processes across departments, as appropriate and wherever practicable.

4. Te Whakawhitiwhitinga a te iwi Māori | Engagement with Māori

- 4.1 Council acknowledges its responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 and is committed to the inclusion of Māori in Council's decision-making processes.
- 4.2 Council acknowledges the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and recognise and provide for the special relationship between Māori, their culture, traditions, land, water and taonga.
- 4.3 Where joint management agreements, memorandum of understanding or any other similar high-level agreements exist, these will be considered as a starting point when engaging with Māori.
- 4.4 Council will pay particular regard to iwi aspirations when determining the degree of significance. This is included as a consideration in Schedule 2 of this Policy.

5. Ngā take e whakawhitiwhiti te Kaunihera | When Council will engage

- 5.1 Council will seek public participation in the decision-making process in the following circumstances:
 - 5.1.1 **When specifically required by legislation:** Council will involve the public in the decision-making process when it is a legal requirement to do so (as set out in Clause 6 and 7 of this Policy). Council will undertake engagement processes in accordance with the legislative requirements guiding them, as a minimum; and
 - 5.1.2 **For any other matters in relation to their degree of significance:** This Policy recognises significance as a continuum – ranging from ‘low’ importance and impact, through to those with a ‘moderate’ or ‘high’ level of importance and impact. Subject to consideration of factors in Schedule 2.
- 5.2 Reference may be made to the Council’s Engagement Toolbox to assist Council in undertaking genuine engagement leading to beneficial outcomes for the communities of Matamata-Piako.
- 5.3 Council aims to apply the Public Participation Spectrum from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) to assist in determining the appropriate types of engagement with the community. Differing levels of engagement may be required during the varying phases of decision-making on an issue, and for different stakeholders.

Figure 1: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation¹

		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION				
		INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.	
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.	

¹ This work was created with contributions from Lewis Michaelson, Martha Rozelle, and Doug Sarno. www.iap2.org. Council has permission from the Engagement Institute to use the Spectrum of Public Participation for the purpose of this policy and acknowledges IAP2 International as the source and the custodian of this body of intellectual knowledge. It should be noted the spectrum speaks to increasing levels of *influence* in a decision - not engagement.

6. Ngā take kāre pea e whakawhitiwhiti te Kaunihera | When Council may not engage

- 6.1 There are times when it may not be appropriate to engage with the community on certain issues, proposals, decisions, or matters. Council may not seek public participation where the following circumstances may apply:
 - 6.1.1 The matter is not of a nature or significance that requires public engagement; or
 - 6.1.2 Council already has a sound understanding of the views and preferences of the persons likely to be affected or interested in the matter; or
 - 6.1.3 There is a need for confidentiality, commercial sensitivity, or protection of personal privacy.
 - 6.1.4 The costs of public engagement outweigh the benefits; or
 - 6.1.5 The matter has already been addressed by Council's policies or plans, which have previously been consulted on; or
 - 6.1.6 An immediate response is necessary because of emergency or in the interests of health and safety; or
 - 6.1.7 Decisions are required to manage an urgent issue; or
 - 6.1.8 There are no alternative practicable options to choose from; or
 - 6.1.9 Entry or exit from a development agreement (private contract) under section 207A of the Local Government Act 2002.

7. Ētahi atu whakaritenga ā-Ture | Other legislative requirements

- 7.1 Where council is required to consult on a matter as required by legislation, this legislation may take precedence over this Policy. Legislation includes but not limited to:
 - 7.1.1 Resource Management Act 1991 (or its replacement - Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill).
 - 7.1.2 Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002
 - 7.1.3 Land Transport Act 1998
 - 7.1.4 Local Electoral Act 2001
 - 7.1.5 Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

8. Whakaratonga ā Wai | Water services

- 8.1 Matamata-Piako District Council is a shareholder in Waikato Waters Ltd. Waikato Waters Ltd is a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) responsible for water and wastewater infrastructure and operations.
- 8.2 Waikato Waters Ltd has its own policies that provide details on its consultation responsibilities on waters matters.
- 8.3 For the avoidance of doubt, Stormwater remains a Council strategic asset and is not subject to transfer.

9. Ngā kirimana motuhake a te waimarangai | Significant stormwater contracts

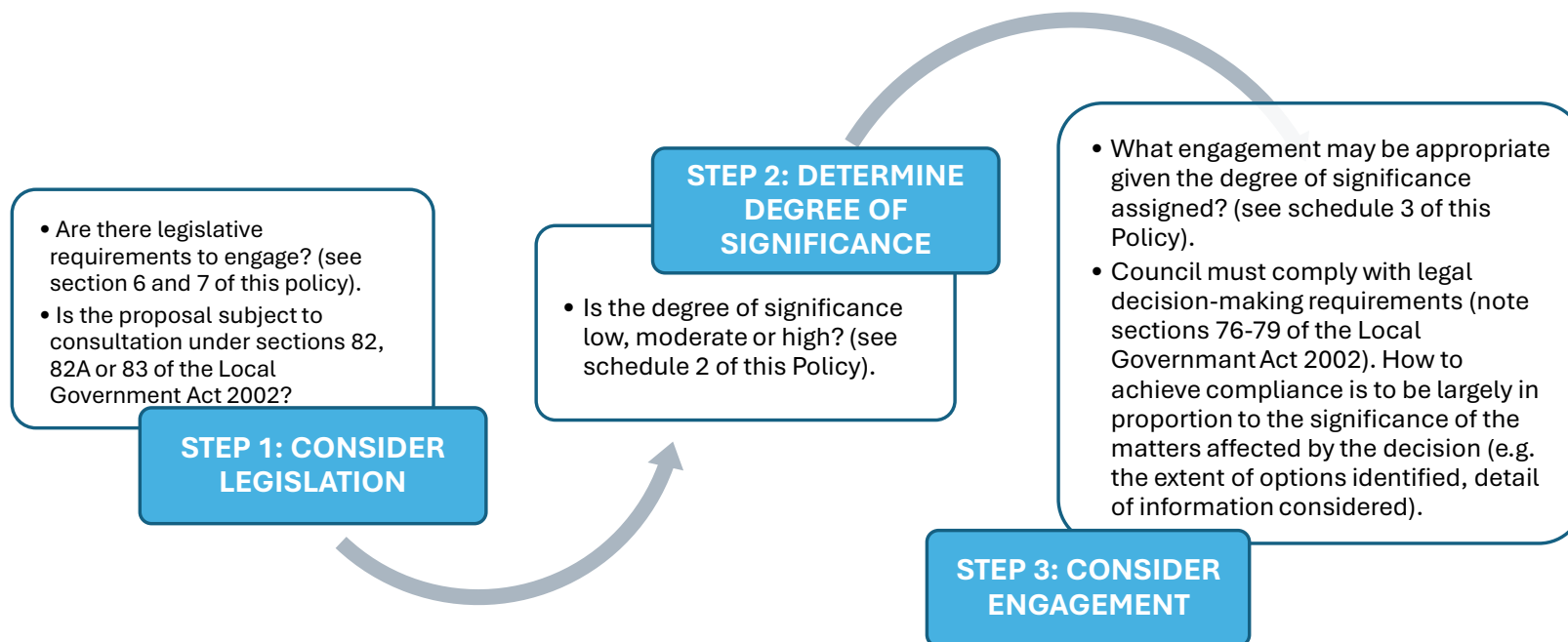
- 9.1 Council will, at a minimum, engage the community in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and/or Local Government Act 2002 (as applicable) when considering transferring ownership or control of a strategic water services asset or receiving a transfer of ownership or control of a strategic water services asset.
- 9.2 Council will determine whether a stormwater services contract is significant by considering the following criteria:
 - 9.2.1 Whether the proposed stormwater services contract will have a significant adverse effect on Council's ability to meet its obligations under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025; and
 - 9.2.2 Whether the contract is of high value, relative to Council's revenue received from providing the service to which the contract relates, at a minimum of 10% of Council's annual operating revenue for that service; and
 - 9.2.3 Whether the contract will create a public-private partnership; and
 - 9.2.4 Whether a contract will be for a period of at least 15 years; and
 - 9.2.5 Whether the proposed stormwater services contract involves any significant changes to Council's ownership or control of strategic stormwater services assets (as defined in section 4 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and under this Policy).
- 9.3 A contract will only be considered significant after considering all the criteria under Clause 9.2 in conjunction with the overall impact, value, and importance of a contract. This supports Council's intention to ensure that only contracts with substantial impact on Council's operations, finances, or strategic direction are determined to be significant.
- 9.4 If Council determines that the contract is significant, Council will undertake the options assessment and consultation required by sections 30 to 32 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.

10. Ngā whakaritenga kaituku ratonga ā-wai | Joint water service provider arrangements

- 10.1 When considering or negotiating a proposed joint water service provider arrangement under section 26 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, Council will determine whether the arrangement is significant for the purposes of the Act.
- 10.2 In making this determination, Council will consider the nature, scale and likely consequences of the proposed arrangement, and apply the criteria in Schedule 2.
- 10.3 If Council determines that the proposed arrangement is significant, Council will undertake the options assessment and consultation required by sections 30 to 34 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.
- 10.4 Engagement on a significant joint water service provider arrangement will be proportionate to its significance and will provide affected and interested persons with reasonable information about the proposal and a reasonable opportunity to present their views.
- 10.5 Where applicable, Council will also comply with the requirements of section 26 relating to consultation with, and approval by, shareholders of a water organisation.

Whakaritenga | Schedule 1: How to Apply the Significance and Engagement Policy

The degree of significance should be considered when first starting a project and revisited at key milestones along the way. This is to help guide engagement from the very beginning. Follow the below steps to understand the degree of significance and what engagement may be required.



Ensure to outline the degree of significance and proposed level of engagement in your reports to Council and clearly document the rationale to support your conclusions.

Whakaritenga | Schedule 2: Significance criteria

Council will assess the degree of significance of a proposal or decision on a case-by-case basis using the table below and determine the level of significance of a proposal or decision to be low, moderate, or high.

If any of the following criteria are met, the proposal or decision may be 'significant'. However, the criteria should be considered collectively to get to this point.

	Criteria	Low	Moderate	High
1)	Consistency with a prior decision	Decision or proposal is consistent <i>E.g. Council implements a project consulted on as part of the Long-Term Plan / Annual Plan / annual plan</i>	Decision or proposal is moderately inconsistent <i>E.g. Council makes some changes to a project previously agreed to</i>	Decision or proposal is significantly inconsistent <i>E.g. Council decides not to proceed with a major project that forms part of the Long-Term Plan that the community are expecting to happen</i>
2)	People impacted	Affects a small sub group <i>E.g. Removal of a street tree</i>	Affects large sub group(s) <i>E.g. Creation of a new sports field.</i>	Affects a wide range of people <i>E.g. Adoption of a Long Term Plan</i>
3)	Financial impact	Minimal financial impact <i>E.g. Can be funded within existing budgets and/or no or minimal impact on rates/debt levels</i>	Moderate financial impact <i>E.g. Not funded within existing budgets and/or moderate impact on rates/debt levels</i>	Significant financial impact <i>E.g. Not funded within existing budgets and/or significant impact on rates/debt levels</i>
4)	Level of interest to the public	Low public interest <i>E.g. Minor amendment of Council's Standing Orders.</i>	Moderate public interest <i>E.g. Annual Plan with minor amendments to what was in the Long-Term Plan</i>	High public interest <i>E.g. Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan with material amendments, or the sale of a strategic asset</i>
5)	Impact on current and future generations	Low consequences for the present and future community <i>E.g. Temporary road closure for upgrades</i>	Moderate consequences for the present and future community <i>E.g. Reduced library operating hours</i>	Large consequences for the present and future community <i>E.g. Transfer of a strategic asset</i>

	Criteria	Low	Moderate	High
6)	Significance to Māori	Unlikely to be of cultural significance to Māori and their relationship to culture, traditions, land, water and taonga <i>e.g. Minor amendments to the Easter Trading Policy where there are no known impact on Māori cultural values, land, water, taonga, or relationships.</i>	Likely to be of moderate cultural significance to Māori and their relationship to culture, traditions, land, water and taonga <i>E.g. Rating of Māori land.</i>	Likely to be of high cultural significance to Māori and their relationship to culture, traditions, land, water and taonga <i>E.g. An issue, plan or decision affecting a site, waterbody, or reserve identified by Iwi as culturally significant, including changes that may affect access, protection, restoration, or customary use.</i>
7)	Alignment with iwi aspirations and/or level of opposition to an issue, proposal, decision or matter	Matter is strongly aligned with iwi aspirations and/or support has been expressed <i>E.g. Bilingual signage or use of te reo Māori place names where iwi have expressed support, or where the action reflects an agreed iwi/Māori engagement plan.</i>	Matter is moderately aligned with iwi aspirations and/or there is no clear understanding/ consensus <i>E.g. A reserve management plan or recreation project where iwi aspirations are partly reflected, but some matters still need further discussion or there is not yet a clear shared position.</i>	Matter is not aligned with iwi aspirations and/or iwi have expressed opposition to the matter <i>E.g. A proposal relating to a culturally significant reserve or site where iwi have expressed opposition or concern around their aspirations for protection, access, restoration, or customary use.</i>
8)	Levels of service	Unlikely to affect the level of service of a significant activity <i>E.g. New bench seats in a cemetery or town centre donated from the community or an organisation.</i>	Likely to moderately affect the level of service of a significant activity <i>E.g. Moderate change to services like library opening hours, park maintenance frequency, or customer service availability that affects how the community accesses a service, but does not remove the service entirely.</i>	Likely to significantly affect the level of service of a significant activity <i>E.g. Council no longer provides a service or provides a new service that was not planned in the LTP or Annual Plan</i>

	Criteria	Low	Moderate	High
9)	Reversibility of a decision	Decision is easy to reverse <i>E.g. Minor correction of a resolution</i>	Decision is moderately difficult to reverse <i>E.g. Entering into a service contract, lease, or funding agreement that can be changed but may involve cost, notice periods, or disruption</i>	Decision is highly difficult to reverse <i>E.g. Transferring of strategic assets or a long-term commitment that would be costly or difficult to unwind</i>
10)	Climate/ environmental impact	Little to no impact on the district's environment <i>E.g. Change to an existing policy or process, with no material change to emissions, energy use, waste, land use, or climate resilience.</i>	Some impact on the district's environment <i>E.g. Upgrade of a Council facility or service that changes energy use, waste generation, stormwater management, but can be managed through standard measures.</i>	Significant impact on the district's environment <i>E.g. A major infrastructure, land-use, or service-level decision that is likely to reduce resilience or affect the district's ability to adapt to flood risks, or severe weather impacts.</i>
11)	Knowledge of community views	Community views are already known <i>E.g. a recent consultation or survey on the same or similar topic</i>	Community views are already known but may have changed <i>E.g. a recent consultation or survey on a similar topic but some information (like</i>	Community views are not known <i>E.g. Council has limited or no recent information about community views on a new, sensitive, or potentially contentious proposal.</i>

Whakaritenga | Schedule 3: Engagement – what might this involve?

Low	Moderate	High
If a matter is of low significance, Council can inform the community by providing information about a relevant decision or issue. Informing the community can facilitate openness and transparency in its decision-making. Council may use a range of engagement tools to inform the community, including but not limited to: • Newspapers • Facebook • E-newsletters • Websites • Brochures/Fact Sheets • Public Notices • Publishing the decision on Council's website	If a matter is of moderate significance, Council may decide to engage. This may involve two-way communications designed to obtain public feedback, ideas, and suggested alternatives on proposals to inform decision-making. Council may also decide it is not appropriate or necessary to engage with the community. It may be appropriate for Council to consider more participatory processes such as co-design or participatory budgeting to ensure that community views are understood and considered prior to decision-making. This may involve the use of the below tools as well as those listed in the 'low' column: • Open Days • Attending community events (e.g. market days) • Formal submissions and hearings • Surveys • Workshops/Focus Groups	If a matter is of high significance, Council must engage with the community under this Policy. Depending on the degree of significance, Council would work together with the community to develop understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions. This would likely involve large scale publicity and may include both informal engagement/discussions with the community followed by formal consultation in accordance with the LGA. This may involve the use of the below tools as well as those listed in the 'low' and 'moderate' columns: • Partnering with the community, e.g. co-drafting, co designing • Citizens Assemblies
Examples: • Minor amendment to an existing bylaw or policy that has low community interest • Adoption of an Annual Plan that largely reflects what was agreed in the Long-Term Plan • A change to Council user fees and charges that affects a sub group, e.g. Building Consent fees. • An operational decision made by Council officers under delegation during the implementation of a Council decision. • Information campaign. E.g. food waste, dog safety, or what rates pay for.	Examples: • Adoption of or major/significant amendment to a bylaw or policy • Adoption of an Annual Plan with minor changes to what was agreed in the Long-Term Plan • Proposing a moderate change to Council's level of service of a significant activity that will have a moderate impact on a sub group of the community, e.g. library opening hours. • A moderate investment, e.g. a project partially funded through other sources (an example of this may be a community playground).	Examples: • Adoption of a Long Term Plan • Adoption of an Annual Plan that proposes major changes to what was agreed in the Long-Term Plan • Ceasing a Council activity • Proposing a large change to the level of service for a significant activity that will have a major impact on a large number of people, e.g. parks and open spaces. • Transfer of a strategic asset.

Whakaritenga | Schedule 4: Strategic Assets

The following is a list of Council's "strategic assets" for the purposes of section 97 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The assets listed refer to the assets "as a whole". Where a strategic asset is a network or has many components, decisions may be made in respect of individual components within the networks to transfer ownership or control, without those components being regarded as strategic assets. For example, this means it is the Stormwater Network as a whole that is the strategic asset rather than each individual pipeline, filter and pump station. Likewise, the Roding Network is a strategic asset, but small parcels of land that make it up may not be, and the purchase (or sale) of such parcels of land is unlikely to amount to a significant decision.

Assets	Detail
Parks and Open Spaces (as listed)	• Firth Tower Reserve • Hetana Street Reserve • Howie Park • Te Aroha Domain • Boyd Park • Matamata Domain • Morrinsville Recreation Ground • Matamata Cemetery • Maukoro Cemetery • Old Morrinsville Cemetery • Piako Lawn Cemetery • Te Aroha Cemetery • Waharoa Cemetery • Matamata (Waharoa) Aerodrome
Community facilities and buildings (as listed)	• Libraries • Council offices • Morrinsville Events Centre • Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre • Open Country Community Stadium, Matamata (note: majority owned by Council, with shared use by Matamata College) • Headon Events Centre, Matamata • Silver Fern Farms Events Centre, Te Aroha • Swim Zone Matamata • Swim Zone Morrinsville • Swim Zone Te Aroha • Te Aroha Mineral Spas
Elderly Person Housing	
Roding and footpath network as a whole.	
Stormwater reticulation network as a whole	
Refuse Transfer Stations	

Assets	Detail
Shareholding in Waikato Waters Limited	Council's shareholding/interest in the company (as a jointly owned Council Controlled Organisation)
Shareholding in Waikato Regional Airport Limited	Equity held in an airport company within the meaning of the Airport Authorities Act 1966

Whakaritenga | Schedule 5: Definitions

Community	Includes people or groups of people who live in the district and/or have a connection with the district and may be affected by the issue, proposal, decision, or matter subject to engagement. Includes interested parties, affected people and key stakeholders.
Consultation	Involves Council providing information relevant to an issue, proposal, decision, or matter, seeking information and perspectives that may not otherwise have been taken into account, listening to what the community has to say, considering their responses, and then making a decision. Consultation is one of the tools used in engagement.
Council	Matamata-Piako District Council
Decision	Refers to all the decisions made by, or on behalf of, Council including those made under delegation. (Management decisions made by officers under delegation during the implementation of Council decisions will not be deemed to be significant).
Engagement	The process of working collaboratively with the community to develop ideas, concepts and/or proposals in order to inform and assist Council decision-making. There is a continuum of community engagement.
Joint water arrangements	As per Part 1 (4) of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.
Policy	Refers to the Matamata-Piako District Council Significance and Engagement Policy (this document).
Significance	In relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter that concerns or is before a local authority, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter, as assessed by the local authority, in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for, — a) the district or region b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so
Significant	In relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance
Significant Activity	Is an activity (or group of activities) as listed below: • Parks and open reserves network as a whole • Library services • Cemeteries • Elderly person housing • Aquatic facilities (including spa facilities) • District event centres • Rubbish and recycling (solid waste) • The roading network as a whole • The stormwater reticulation network as a whole.
Significant Contract	means a proposed contract for water services that meets the criteria for significance set out in this Policy, having regard to the requirements of section 24 of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.
Strategic Asset	Means an asset or group of assets as set out in section 5(1) of the LGA. Council's strategic assets are listed in schedule 4 of this Policy.

Sub Group	Means an assortment of people commonly recognised as a group/collection within the district's community, i.e. residents of a recognised town e.g. Morrinsville, ward or particular area (e.g.; CBD), households/businesses along the length of a major road, dog owners, users of a district reserve/facility/service, etc.
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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.6 Parks and Facilities Planning Team update

CM No.: 3222902

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To provide an update on strategy and policy work affecting parks and community facilities as well as progress report on the implementation of Rautaki mō ngā Papa Rēhia me ngā Wāhi Wātea | Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021-51.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary Staff in attendance to provide an update on strategy and policy work affecting parks and community facilities.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The report be received.

Horopaki | Background

Staff in attendance to provide an update on strategy and policy work affecting parks and community facilities undertaken this year.

This included work related to:

- Rautaki mō ngā papa rēhia me ngā wāhi wātea | Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021-51 (See Attachment A)
- Tākaro, rēhia hihiri me te mahere hākina | Play, Active Recreation, & Sport Plan
- Signage Manual
- Reserve Management Plans:
 - Waharoa Aerodrome Reserve Management Plan
 - Nature Parks Reserve Management Plan
- Asset Management Plans:
 - Rautaki whakahaere papa rēhia me ngā wāhi wātea | Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan
 - Rautaki whakahaere whare, rauhanga hoki ā-hapori | Community Facilities and Buildings Asset Management Plan
- Strategies, policies, plans for review or development over the past year:
 - Furniture Policy (adopted)
 - Tree Policy (under review)
 - Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (drafted)
- Staff also provided input into corporate strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws, including:
 - Plan Change 65

- Community Safety bylaws
- Cemeteries bylaws
- Dog bylaws
- Long Term Plan 2027-37

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. ‘The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

The activity contributes to all of the community outcomes.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓.](#) Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan Update

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako

15 September 2026

DESCRIPTION	GOAL(S) IT RELATES TO	PRIORITY	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM	STATUS	ANNUAL UPDATE 2024-25
Monitor sport & recreation trends	2	BAU					Staff attended Recreation Aotearoa workshops & conferences. Sport Waikato survey data.
Work with national/regional sport & recreation organisations to get good data on needs, trend, issues to enable informed decision-making	2	BAU					Gathering visitor data for 15 sites.
Update/Review webpages on Council website concerning P&OS	5	BAU					Updating complete
Participate in regional/sub-regional forums e.g. catchment forums, Recreation Aotearoa, Sport Waikato etc.	6	BAU					Staff attended workshops/meetings with Kaimai-Mamaku Trust, Sport Waikato, Co-Lab Community Assets Forum, Recreation Aotearoa
Prioritise support to volunteer programmes that align with the strategy	7	BAU					Provided support to Piako-Waihou Trust, KTAB, and others for restoration work
Provide technical support to volunteers	7	BAU					Provided support to Piako-Waihou Trust, KTAB, and others for restoration work
Promote and provide support to community events	5,7	BAU					Grants available for events
We will report progress annually to Te Manawhenua Forum	1	BAU					Reporting 15 September 2026
Engage with Tangata Whenua and apply Te Aranga Design Principles when designing a new park or open space or when significantly redeveloping an existing one	1	BAU					Used for MV Rec Plan, Hetana Street Reserve, Thomas Park, Matamata Domain
Look for opportunities to incorporate storytelling into landscape & urban design, naming of sites, signage, artwork, technological aids (e.g. apps)	1,5	BAU					Storytelling app along Tui-Domain Track. Te Aroha Domain signage developed with Ngati Tumutumu.
Review the strategy periodically or in response to change	2	BAU					Light review planned to benchmark growth assumptions and incorporate trees
Use a design approach e.g. using masterplan or landscape development plan to guide significant redevelopment of existing parks	2	BAU					Used for major developments/redevelopments
Use a design approach e.g. using masterplan or landscape development plan to guide development of new parks		BAU					Nothing to report
Consider the use of tactical urbanism & co-design approaches to trial potential solutions	2	BAU					CDP Team have done some activations and trials
Undertake regular CPED audits to identify and address safety improvements	3	BAU					Audits completed
Conduct regular condition assessments of structures and playgrounds to inform renewal and maintenance programmes	3	BAU					Playgrounds done. Track structures mostly completed
Conduct surveys to gauge satisfaction with parks and open spaces	3	BAU					Annual customer survey. Dog bylaw survey.
Participate in benchmarking programmes	3	BAU					Yardstick last done in 2021. Co-Lab asset management roopu - data standards
Establish Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) or similar agreements with volunteer community groups	3,5	BAU					Ongoing
Periodically review the provision of different categories of parks and open spaces	4	BAU					Done as part of Parks & Open Spaces Strategy in 2021
Playground renewal programme to target improving accessibility at existing playgrounds	4	BAU					Ongoing e.g. Lindale Reserve, Russell Avenue, Gilchrist Reserve; Matamata Domain
Work with tourism, sport & recreation organisations to promote our parks & open spaces	5	BAU					Nothing to report
Work with agencies like DOC, regional council, QEII National Trust etc. to identify sites of ecological significance on/near our P&OS	6	BAU					Have been looking at ecological corridors with WRC, DOC, MKMT-
Acquire esplanade reserves or strips along major rivers in urban areas and other strategic locations (incorporate in reserve acquisition policy)	2,6	BAU					Underway
Optimise opportunities presented by national or regional programmes e.g. Working for Nature, Billion Trees, Predator Free NZ, UBS, etc.	6	BAU					Cooperation with Jobs 4 Nature & Kauri Protection but major funding challenges.
Establish a technical advisory group representing Tangata Whenua to assist with & monitor implementation	1	H					Established; Named Te Ohu Whakahaere; next meeting on the 16th of September 2026
Develop a reserve acquisition policy to guide subdivision process	2	H					90% complete. To workshop with new Council and refine.
Improve administrative process for P&OS input into subdivisions	2	H					Underway
Work with Tangata Whenua and other groups e.g. historic societies, Heritage New Zealand, DOC etc. to map sites of significance on or near our P&OS	1,5	H					Nothing to report
Work with Tangata Whenua to identify stories / themes that can be celebrated at our P&OS	1,5	H					Storytelling app & bilingual interpretation signs along Tui-Domain Track; interpretive signage to be installed at Matamata Domain
Incorporate bilingual approach in Signage Manual	1,5	H					Bilingual signage incorporated in manual and being implemented
Identify and fund signage improvements especially wayfinding & interpretation	1,5	H					New signage at Te Aroha Domain, MV Recreation Ground, Waihou Rec Reserve, Tom Grant Drive; Centennial Drive
Playground improvement programme to increase play value at existing playgrounds	4	H					Lindale Reserve, Russell Avenue, Farmers St, Gilchrist Reserve; Matamata Domain
Investigate demand for additional off leash dog exercise areas and/or dog parks. If sufficient demand, develop a response e.g. acquiring/developing suitable land.	4	H					Feasibility study for MV underway, Tom Grant Drive and Centennial Drive no longer dog exercise areas in 2026 bylaws
Undertake ecological assessments of natural areas (e.g. native forest, wetlands etc.)	6	H					Bat survey Te Miro; can anticipate more for Nature Parks RMP
Develop restoration plans for natural areas where needed	6	H					None completed this year. Need to revise Te Aroha Domain Lands with Ngati Tumutumu
Review the support given to volunteers and models to support volunteers	7	H					Met with Community Development Team to discuss. Business case for volunteer coordinator underway.
Resource/Fund training programmes for volunteers to enable them to undertake key tasks	7	H					Grant available as a part of the Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Grant
Review Memorandum of Understanding with DOC	7	H					Established contact with new regional operations manager. Discussion about MOU Underway
Investigate demand for bridle trails for horses, potentially working with neighbouring Councils. If sufficient demand, develop a response e.g. acquiring/developing suitable land.	4	L					Not deemed a priority by Council
Review current names for parks and reserves and consider dual naming and/or renaming as appropriate	1	M					Nothing to report
Consider changing District Plan to align with strategy for esplanade areas	2	M					Awaiting new legislation for clarity
Develop a localised set of Tangata Whenua engagement and design principles	1	M					Nothing to report
Investigate suitable sites for recreational use of RPAS/UAVs/"Drones" where they may be flown without a permit	4	M					Nothing to report
Consider stopping unformed legal roads along the banks of the Waihou River and change status to Esplanade Reserve	2,3,4,6	M					Nothing to report
Audit land portfolio, identify unsuitable or underutilised land, consider ways to revitalise or repurpose it or rationalise it and acquire more suitable land instead	2	M					Currently recruiting an additional staff member to help with this
Adopt maintenance standards and set minimum standards for operations and maintenance activities	3	M					Nothing to report
Develop service level agreements	3	M					Nothing to report
Audit compliance with standards	3	M					Nothing to report
Participate in the Green Flag Award or similar schemes that recognise good park management	3	M					Council did not support this
Establish user groups or similar forums for major sports & recreation parks	2,3,4	M					No new ones created
Consider providing each town with a community or destination playground that provides a wide variety of play experience	4	M					Morrinsville done. Matamata underway. Te Aroha planned for 2026
Realign reserve management plan framework to the park management categories	4,6	M					Begun Nature Parks Reserve Management Plan; will draft without pre-draft consultation.
Review reserve management plans	4,6	M					Begun Nature Parks Reserve Management Plan; will draft without pre-draft consultation.
Investigate needs and potential of motorcaravan tourism and consider ways to respond appropriately	4	M					Nothing to report
Use technology (e.g. apps) to promote our parks & open spaces	5	M					Storytelling app planned for Tui-Domain Track. Te Aroha Domain signage developed with Ngati Tumutumu.

LEGEND
BAU= To become 'business as usual' (i.e. not a discrete project)
H = High i.e. 1-3 years
M = Medium
L = Low

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.7 Emergency Management Update

CM No.: 3223012

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report is to inform the Te Manawhenua Forum with an update on national, regional, and local Civil Defence Emergency Management matters.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Emergency Management Bill (No 2), the National Assurance Project, and the After-Action Reporting (AAR) process for our recent severe weather responses in January and April 2026.

It also signals agreed Joint Committee Actions for proposals requiring increased funding through regional rates increase and ongoing work in marae preparedness, welfare arrangements, Māori partnerships, and community-led response planning.

The report provides information and awareness to support continuous improvement in Council's emergency management capability and preparedness.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. That the report is received.

Horopaki | Background

<Insert text>

National Update

Emergency Management Sector Operations Systems [EMS-OS]

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) staff facilitated a two-day workshop (16 -17 July 2026) for engagement with the CDEM Sector focused on the Emergency Management Sector Operations Systems (EMS-OS) project NEMA announced in May 2026.

EMS-OS is a NEMA led programme to modernise operational technology systems across New Zealand's emergency management sector. NEMA describes it as a "once in a generation" uplift to

support readiness, response, and recovery through better tools, data, workflows, and shared situational awareness.

The priority areas are:

- A **sector data and visualisation tool**, including a **Common Operating Picture**, to provide real-time insights and shared situational awareness.
- **Operational tools** for emergency management personnel to task, collaborate, and manage resources during response and recovery.
- An **upgrade to the National Warning System** to support timely, accessible public alerts.
- **Use of automation and AI**

The programme may also explore automation and AI where appropriate. Public reporting says AI-assisted analysis of satellite imagery and spatial data could help identify damaged buildings, roads, bridges, or critical infrastructure after major events, helping responders prioritise checks and recovery decisions. NEMA received funding in the recent Budget which will enable it to deliver on EMS-OS.

Implication insights for Council

The new tools will be delivered nationally, coordinated regionally and implemented locally. This could mean local integration with existing technology, response and recovery staff will have to learn new systems and build local capability (with limited or no new funding). The new tool will also enable better understanding on cross boundary issues.

Emergency Management (EM) Bill No2

On 25 August 2026 the EM Bill No2 had its third reading in the in the House, presented by Minister Mitchell.

On 4 September 2026 the Emergency Management Act 2026 came into force with some provisions delayed by 12 months to allow relevant parties to prepare for implementation.

<https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2026/53/en/latest/#LMS1022330>

[Emergency Management Act » National Emergency Management Agency](#)

NEMA also published new declaration forms which can be used electronically as well as an updated range of Topic Information and Role Information Sheets.

On 2 September 2026, the National Controller at NEMA advised they would implement EM Act Webinars for the different stakeholders including Chief Executives, Mayors, Joint Committees, Coordinating Executive Groups, Controllers and Recovery Managers.

A verbal update can be provided on some key changes to the EM system because of the EM Bill when this paper is presented to the TMF.

Implication insights for Council

The Emergency Management Bill (No 2) represents a significant reset of New Zealand's emergency management framework. The Bill is expected to clarify responsibilities across National, Regional, and Local levels; strengthen the role of communities and iwi Māori; raise minimum expectations for emergency management capability; and place greater emphasis on essential infrastructure continuity and all-hazards risk management.

For **Councils**, the main issue is not only legislative compliance.

The Bill is likely to require active governance oversight of local readiness, regional participation, community resilience, infrastructure risk, funding, and transition planning. Council will need to ensure that local arrangements remain legally current, operationally practical, and aligned with regional and national emergency management settings.

CDEM Sector Self-Assurance Project

Phase two of the national Assurance Monitoring and Evaluation project is underway with several workshops focussing on self-assessment tool design, build and pilot. Andy BuBear is the Waikato representative and recently spent four days in Wellington with the project team.

The project aims to provide an assessment tool for all organisations and agencies with Emergency Management responsibilities under legislation and the CDEM National Plan Order 2015. [National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015 and Guide to the Plan » National Emergency Management Agency](#)

The new assessment tool will report on capability and align with the National Disaster Resilience Strategy: [National Disaster Resilience Strategy » National Emergency Management Agency](#)

The tool will also report on People, Plans and procedures, Tools and Resources, Systems and Relationships and Governance which are current CDEM activities we undertake.

Implication Insights for Council

The proposed tool will provide a consistent way for councils to understand how well they are positioned across people, tools and resources, plans and processes, systems and relationships, governance, risk management, response and recovery, and community resilience.

The tool should turn Emergency Management capability into a clearer governance conversation and help elected members understand where the council is well prepared, where gaps or risks exist, and what investment or support may be needed to strengthen readiness and resilience.

It would also support more transparent reporting, better prioritisation, and a stronger evidence base for decisions about training, planning, partnerships, infrastructure resilience, and community preparedness.

Key implications include the need for councils to maintain sufficient trained people, practical and exercised plans, reliable tools and systems, strong relationships with partners and communities, and clear governance oversight of emergency management risks.

Overall, the national self-assessment tool aims to help councils move from informal confidence to evidenced assurance. It would support better governance, clearer accountability, and stronger community resilience before, during, and after emergencies.

This phase is moving at pace with a number of CDEM Groups participating in an initial “pilot” of the new tool. The week of 24th August some of our Emergency Management staff, (Toka, Andy and Ally) spent several hours answering “pilot tool” questions and providing feedback.

A verbal report can be provided with the latest update if required.

After Action Report (AAR):

The Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) commissioned an independent external review to support the development of an AAR for the following events:

- January 2026 Severe Weather Events
- February 2026 Severe Weather Events
- April 2026 – Cyclone Vaianu

A Terms of Reference was developed and an external contractor, Ian Macdonald, (Sage Planning Ltd) has been engaged to undertake the work and provide a report.

We received initial instructions on what documentation to provide. This will include our staff completing online surveys for the January and April 2026 weather events.

In addition to the surveys a series of face-to-face interviews will be undertaken with individuals who held key leadership, coordination and operational roles during these events.

Sage Planning prioritised the order of their reviews starting with the February 2026 Weather Event which impacted Otorohanga and Waipa Districts. A preliminary report will be submitted to the Coordinating Executive Group on 4th September 2026.

A verbal report can be provided with the latest update if required.

Implication Insights for Council

The AAR process requires us to provide timely documentation, survey responses, and staff input through interviews. It will create an evidence base on what worked well and what needs to improve across recent severe weather and cyclone response activity.

Key implications are staff time, transparency, accountability, and the need to act on any recommendations that identify gaps in planning, coordination, systems, training, welfare, recovery, or community engagement.

The findings may also inform future regional priorities, investment decisions, and governance oversight of emergency management readiness.

Regional Update

Joint Committee Actions

Waikato CDEM Joint Committee met on the 22 June 2026.

Several proposals requiring increased funding were approved, these included:

- Hazard Research to meet EM Bill Requirements.
- Waikato New Zealand Response Teams (NZRT) x 4
- New Group FTE roles for Planning and Community Engagement
- Operational Response System

Minutes at the time of writing this report are yet to be confirmed.

Implication Insights for Council

These projects rely on a Regional Rates increase to fund them. Because Local Authorities provide operational delivery of any new system or process, any implementation will require some kind of resourcing.

Waikato CDEM Group Strategic Plan Actions 2027-2030

On 5th June 2026 the Coordinating Executive Group endorsed the direction of the Regional Work Programme and Local Implementation Plan and requested that the proposed measures be refined into measurable outcomes.

To address this the Waikato CDEM Group Office engaged BECA corporate planning support to review the work programme and facilitate a workshop with CDEM Professional staff from across the region on 19th August 2026.

Our Emergency Management staff attended this workshop and provided input into measurable outcomes for councils. These measures will again be discussed and a decision sought at the next Coordinating Executive meeting on 4th September 2026.

A verbal report can be provided with the latest update if required

Implication Insights for Council

Implementing these measures will require councils to commit staff time, reporting discipline, partnership effort, data collection, and local work programme alignment, with delivery risks mainly linked to resourcing gaps, vacancies, internal dependencies, and the need for consistent regional direction.

Davison External Review Report

The External Review into the Mount Maunganui landslide in January 2026 was publicly released in late August 2026.

<https://stmauaoreportnz.blob.core.windows.net/public/davison-external-review-report-august-2026.pdf>

The report prepared for Tauranga City Council by Paul Davison KC included recommendations which have provided a lot for other councils to consider.

A Hazards Questionnaire based on the ten recommendations has been prepared for the Executive Leadership Team to consider any changes to our business.

Implication Insights for Council

The Davison recommendations have implications beyond the immediate event, highlighting the need for councils to strengthen governance, accountability, monitoring, escalation, and implementation systems for natural hazard risk.

We may need to demonstrate that expert advice is formally recorded and acted on, high-risk public sites are actively monitored, trigger-action response plans are in place, and elected members and executives receive regular assurance that public safety risks are being managed effectively. Following the questionnaire being submitted to the Exec Team, meetings have been scheduled to work through the implications of this report for MPDC.

Local Update

Confirmation of Local Controllers

On 22nd June 2026 the Waikato CDEM Joint Committee confirmed the appointment of the statutory roles of Controller to Ryan Johnston and Andy BuBear.

Ryan has a Tier Three delegation which means he can operate as a Local Controller across our three shared service councils, Hauraki and South Waikato as well as Matamata-Piako.

Andy has a Tier 1 delegation which means he can act as a Group Controller if required as well as Local Controller for any of the Waikato CDEM Group Councils.

Both Ryan and Andy were endorsed as Local Controllers for Matamata-Piako, by Council on 26th August 2026, and by South Waikato District Council, for South Waikato on 27th August 2026. Hauraki District Council will confirm the appointment at a future Council meeting.

Marae Preparedness

As part of the Marae Ake Ake Ake Workshop that our Te Ohu Tūhono team ran on 18 August, we readdressed the status of the Marae Preparedness Plans Template Flipchart design which was nearing completion at the time and is currently ready to be implemented. The intention is for this form to be either an addition to, or replacement for; the Te Puni Kōkiri Template developed in 2017.

This new design can be fixed to a wall and includes MPDC and WRC hazard-based information that is relevant to the location of the marae in addition to general information from our NEMA GetReady website. Similar to the Emergency Procedures flipchart in council managed facilities and other organisations.

The base forms will provide the majority of the emergency preparedness information that is known from our end, all that needs to be applied is local knowledge and arrangements to help fill in the document – after which we can look at implementing and even testing these plans to ensure a more effective emergency response in the future.

We have extended our willingness to coordinate visits to Marae during our Marae Ake Ake Ake workshops and through reaching out using the contact information we have onboard throughout the year.

We are currently awaiting a proposed list of dates that work best for Marae to enable us to proceed with our mahi in building on Marae Preparedness. A reminder that although Tuesdays are the easiest to coordinate around. Other days and weekends aren't a blocker for engagement opportunities, we are flexible.

Local Welfare Committee

We are still in the process of reconnecting with local agencies/organisations as well as developing new relationships with Welfare providers within our district, so we have no proposed date for our first committee meeting yet, but you will be notified once in-place.

This will enable us to also achieve the goal of including Local Iwi/Māori representation as part of our Local Welfare Committee to be a part of the decision-making process and to help bolster any gaps we have with relationships, partnerships and general provision of care to our wider Māori communities during a response.

Aligning with our intention for Marae visits for the purposes of Marae Preparedness Planning, we are also open to scheduling these Committee meetings at Marae to help develop and improve relationships between our Council, Iwi/Māori and Partner agencies.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Toka Wolfswood Āpiha Whakahaere Whakararu Emergency Management Officer	
	Andy BuBear Pou Whakahaere Whakararu Emergency Management Manager	
Approved by	Ally van Kuijk Hautū Kaitiaki, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Whakawhanake Group Manager Kaitiaki, Partnerships and Develo	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.8 Member Representatives Update

CM No.: 3130644

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Forum representatives to provide an update of their activities.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Members are invited to provide a brief update on mahi being undertaken on behalf of their iwi within the district since the previous meeting.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tayla Bamber Kai-whakahaere ā-Tūhono Iwi Relationship Advisor	
Approved by	Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene Pou Tūhono Iwi Relationship Manager	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.9 Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme Update - September 2026

CM No.: 3222359

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide and update to the forum on the work programme.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The work programme is a standing item for each forum hui.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A.↓](#). Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme 2026 - September Update

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tayla Bamber Kai-whakahaere ā-Tūhono Iwi Relationship Advisor	
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Approved by	Tuatahi Nightingale-Pene Pou Tūhono Iwi Relationship Manager	
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TMF Work Programme 2026

Item	Frequency	Team	10-Feb-26		14-Apr-26 Workshop		9-Jun-26		4-Aug-26 Workshop		15-Sep-26		1-Dec-26	
			Status	Comment	Status	Comment	Status	Comment	Status	Comment	Status	Comment	Status	Comment
Standing items														
Update on Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme	Every meeting	Iwi										Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme - October 2026		
Members Update	Every meeting	PPG										Member Representatives Update		
District Plan and Iwi Management Plans Update	Every meeting	Planning					District Plan and Iwi Management Plans Update					District Plan and Iwi Management Plans Update		
Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Update	Every meeting	Planning										*No update		
Partnership Project update	Every meeting	Pou Tūhono												
Community Facilities Strategy and Policy Update	Biannually	Parks and Reserves					*No update					Parks and Facilities Planning Team Update		
Scheduled Reports														
Significance of Engagement policy	Triennially	PPG								LTP 27-37 Significance and Engagement Policy Review				
Consultation on the Annual Plan	Annually	PPG												
Te Kōtuitui Grant update	Annually	Grants												
Te Reo Māori Policy implementation review	Annually	Iwi					*Deferred to Aug workshop			*No update				
Policy/Bylaw Update	As required	Various												
Te Manawhenua Forum annual survey	As required	PPG												
Procurement Policy	Annually	Procurement										*No update		
Schedule of Meetings/Draft Work Programme	Annually	PPG												
Future Ready Team update	Ad-hoc	GM PGR												
Climate resilience team update	Ad-hoc	PPG												
Emergency management update	Quarterly	EMO										Emergency Management Update		
Heads of Agreement Review	Annually	Pou Tūhono												
Long-Term Plan	As required	PPG					Long Term Plan 2027-37 Project Update					Long-Term Plan 2027-2037 Progress Update: September 2026		

KEY	Scheduled
	Complete
	Incomplete
	Not required