

Waitara Community Board Plan 2020-2023

September
2020

Te Mahere o Te Rūnanga Hapori o Whaitara 2020 -2023

The Waitara Community Board Plan (the Plan) sets out the visions and aspirations of the Waitara Community Board. This Plan has been reviewed with input from the community within the Waitara community board area. The Plan provides the New Plymouth District Council with an insight about the matters that are important to the Waitara community and surrounding area, and where investment and action is needed.

Whakatauki

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua
Care for the land, care for people, go forward.

whai (to follow) tara (the dart) – Whaitara

The name of Whaitara (Waitara) town is said to come from the story of Whare Matangi, the estranged son of local Ariki (chief) Ngārue, and his quest to be reunited with his father. Whare Matangi was given a tara (dart) imbued with magic that his mother foretold would lead him to his father. His first four throws landed elsewhere but on the fifth throw, the tara struck Ngārue's house at the mouth of a river, thereafter known as Te Whai-tara-nui-a-Ngārue (follow the dart of Ngārue)

(Ron Lambert, Puke Ariki, 2013).



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

Acknowledgements

The Waitara Community Board would like to thank the members of the community who volunteered their time and to participate in this process, as time permitted, by attending a community board meeting or completing the online survey.

How to submit a Service Request or Report an Issue

Many of the comments received through the Board Review Survey were issues that could have been dealt with via a service request direct to New Plymouth District Council.

To report any issues relating to Council facilities and assets, Service Requests can be submitted by the following means stating the issue, location and, if possible, a photo.



06 759 6060
Available 24/7



enquiries@npdc.govt.nz



Council website
www.newplymouthnz.com
Report and Issue



Correspondence
New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025,
New Plymouth, 4342



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Version	Action	Prepared by	Approval Authority	Date
1.0	Waitara Community Board Plan 2016-2019, Document drafted following extensive community engagement.	Guild Research on behalf of Waitara Community Board, NPDC	Approved by Waitara Community Board; Adopted by Council	30 June 2017
2.0	Waitara Community Board Plan 2020-2023. Community Board Plan reviewed. Key focus areas updated following community survey and discussions.	Jayne Tidbury-Beer Community Relations Officer, NPDC	Approved by Waitara Community Board; Adopted by Council	18 September 2020

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Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present our findings of the review of our Community Board Plan.

We have been hamstrung with Covid-19 and, as a result, most of our submissions and review of our Plan was conducted electronically. Whilst we did start this just prior to the lockdowns, as they came into effect we found ourselves unable to have meetings with community groups and people of our communities. We even found it difficult for the community board members to meet, as we worked through the responses we received from our community.

How did we do our review? We initially made it known, through various channels, that we were planning a review of our Community Board Plan. We had already received some initial feedback. As we went into lockdown, we then focused our attention to the survey and getting it out to our community. We also, and still do, field phone calls from our community on what we should be focusing on. Our community is looking forward to seeing some of what is being planned and what is currently in our Plan, coming to fruition. Our Community Board Plan is a living and robust document meeting the aims and aspirations of our community. We are happy to discuss this.

With this information, and contributions from our community, the community board initially met electronically and later in person, with the help of Jayne Tidbury-Beer we collated our information and now present our community board plan to Council. It is the pleasure of the Waitara Community Board to present to Council the findings of our community board plan review and to have the opportunity to speak to this.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan KP Marshall

Chairperson

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Introduction

Between February and June 2017 the Waitara Community Board facilitated a process that led to the development of its first Community Board Plan (the Plan). The Plan was developed by the Waitara Community Board and supported by a focus group of community members who were invited, by the community board, to participate. The Waitara Community Board Plan was developed in parallel to plans in the Kaitake, Clifton and Inglewood board areas.

The Waitara Community Board Plan has been informed by feedback through conversations with the community and via an online survey. The conversations sought feedback on issues within the Waitara Community Board area, the aspirations for the area and the vision for the future.

It is acknowledged that as the community board were due to begin the review of the Plan, COVID-19 Level 4 lockdown was introduced, which prevented planning of face-to-face community meetings. The community board did, however, continue with the review process through an on-line and hard-copy survey. The online survey generated substantial information about the issues and aspirations for the community. Some of the issues and aspirations identified are beyond the scope of Council activity, thus a partnership with community and social services organisations, iwi and businesses will be required to further consider the action required in these areas.

There are, however, a number of issues that the community board can take to the Council for their consideration – issues where Council has the potential to effect a change through its investment and policy decisions.

The Waitara Community Board has considered the results of the online survey, and has prioritised the feedback from this process and understanding of the issues and aspirations that require attention in the community.

The community board has also endeavoured to respond to the priorities indicated by those who have participated in this process. However, it has not been possible to reflect all of the aspirations. The hope of the community board is that over the life of the Long-Term Plan many more of the community's identified priorities can be addressed.

The priorities that are recommended to the Council cover: district planning and land use, infrastructure improvements and enhancements, recreation and cultural opportunities, environmental and cultural protections, environmental enhancements and representation in decision making forum.

Why review Community Board Plans?

Three years is a long time in local government. Between elections, or as a result of elections, priorities can change within communities and surrounding areas, for example:

- ◆ What seemed very important three years ago may no longer be important to the community today;
- ◆ New issues have arisen or have been resolved within the community;
- ◆ Projects or aspirations identified have been achieved;
- ◆ Local Government legislation changes may have occurred.

Due to these reasons alone, it is necessary for the Waitara Community Board to review their plan to ensure that is the best representation of the current issues and aspirations within their community.

How we got the feedback

In April 2020, the Waitara Community Board began a series of workshops to review the Plan. Unfortunately, planning for community meetings had to be abandoned due to lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic. The community board continued to plan for a survey which was made available online and in hardcopy.

The survey provided proposed statements from the existing community board plan key focus areas and asked the respondents to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the statements. In addition to the questions, the survey provided opportunities for respondents to provide additional commentary about the issues or other matters that were not identified. The survey was promoted by the Waitara Community Board and the New Plymouth District Council via their website, Facebook and Moa Mail.

The feedback gathered from the people who offered their ideas and contributions via the survey and community conversations is reflected in this plan.

The community board has prioritised the aspirational projects it will put forward for funding in the Long-term Plan, taking into account what the community has told us. The prioritization is shown in this document and will be further supported by a submission to the Long-term Plan through the statutory consultation process to be held in March 2021.

Council's Response to COVID-19

Our world was upended by Covid-19. After the national lockdown, New Zealand managed 102 straight days with no community transmissions. Now we're back in Level 2, showing how unpredictable the pandemic is. The shockwaves have knocked our economy badly and we want to make sure Taranaki is managing the turmoil and planning ahead.

Economic consultants Info metrics in July said that while the economic damage to the country will not be as bad as first thought, New Zealand's economy at the end of next year will still be almost 5 per cent smaller than it was pre-Covid.

The Government is leading the economic and social recovery and the regions have their bit to play. In Taranaki, NPDC will be major player. Partnering with iwi and supported by Venture Taranaki Trust, the work we do in coming years will lay the foundations of our recovery and help determine how quickly our community and economy bounces back.

Over the next year, we're expecting a drop in revenue of about \$5.4million. That sounds bad but our books were looking strong when we entered this unprecedented event. International ratings agency Standard and Poor's rated us AA/A-1+, the best possible rating for local government in New Zealand, and the Perpetual Investment Fund, our long-term nest egg valued at about \$273 million, helps us to reduce the cost of rates on households and businesses.

This enabled us to set aside around \$20 million for our Back on Our Feet initiative, including:

- ◆ Rates holidays for struggling households and businesses.
- ◆ Zero-interest and cheap loans to make homes warmer and greener.
- ◆ Slashing licence and on-street dining fees for the hospitality sector.
- ◆ Grants for main street property-owners and businesses to spruce up buildings and shop frontages.
- ◆ Fees cuts for builders and developers.
- ◆ Rent relief for commercial and community tenants.
- ◆ Help for small and medium-sized businesses.
- ◆ An hour's free parking for shoppers.

We're also giving local firms a head-start when we go looking for suppliers and we're encouraging our residents to buy local too.

During lockdown and Level 3 we worked hard to find out what you thought of our Covid response package. Almost a thousand people filled in our survey and many more shared their thoughts on our Zoominars.

But have we got the economic medicine about right? Or should we be looking to find more savings in our operations or be investing more in major work programmes to create jobs and stimulate the local economy? Or finding other ways to support ratepayers, industry and business?

Our long-term economic development strategy Tapuae Roa has now been joined by the Taranaki 2050 roadmap and both paint an exciting future. While the region and New Plymouth pivot to respond to the economic and social challenges of Covid 19, some might say that the ideas and innovations set down in these plans are more relevant than ever.

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework

Vision

Sustainable Lifestyle Capital

Mission

To provide our people with an innovative and resilient district that restores mauri, protects our environment and supports a successful economic transition, while providing quality infrastructure and leadership through operational excellence

Goals

Partnerships

Strengthening a treaty based partnership with tangata whenua and building partnerships with not-for-profit, private enterprise, and government to improve outcomes for all

Delivery

Understanding and balancing our people's needs and wants through prudent delivery of quality infrastructure and services

Community

Achieving well-being through a safe, creative, active and connected community while embracing Te Ao Māori

Sustainability

Nurturing our environment, mitigating our impact and adapting to climate change

Prosperity

Growing a resilient, equitable and sustainable economy where people want to work, live, learn, play and invest across our district

Waitara Community Board Vision

Inclusive, vibrant and culturally relevant to all.

Our Values

The values that underpin our collective aspiration for the Waitara Community Board area and support the achievement of this mission are:

Community / Hapori – People are at the centre of everything we do.

Cultural / Ahura – The collective cultures of the community are honoured and respected.

Capital / Taonga – Strength and growth come from the resources and skills within our community.

Our priorities

The priorities that the Community Board would like to see furthered as part of the Long Term Plan commitments are detailed below.

Aspiration/Issue	Key Initiative	Key Focus Area
Years 1 – 3		
Stormwater and wastewater upgrades in the Waitara and Lepperton townships	NPDC is not meeting stormwater levels of service for a significant number of properties in Waitara. In addition to this there are opportunities to improve the health of the natural water ways in Waitara and the community's relationship and connectivity with the natural environment.	Development and Growth
Planning and completion of the Walkway connection between Waitara (West Quay) and New Plymouth (starting from Waitara)	The Waitara community have expressed a desire to extend the existing Coastal pathway to Waitara. This was listed in the Council's top ten goals from the LTP2018-2028. This project will benefit the whole community, not just Waitara, and will provide an alternative safe route between Waitara and New Plymouth.	Communities; Growth; Talent; Citizens; Destination
Enhancement of community amenities in Lepperton (rubbish bins, shelter, seats up and upgrades, BBQ areas)	Lepperton, as a community, would like an open space near their main center. They would like to have a focal point of a place where people can gather. Provision of a public toilet which a facility currently kindly provided by local store/café who should not have to provide this.	Business and Economy; Community; Recreation

Aspiration/Issue	Key Initiative	Key Focus Area
Years 1 – 3		
Welcome to Waitara Signs.	Since 2012 the Waitara community have been asking for Bilingual "Welcome to Waitara" signs being placed at entrances to Waitara at Raleigh St, Bayly St and Nelston St. Whilst the issue has caused much discussion, nothing has ever eventuated. Waitara, as a town, would have better exposure to visitors to the region if signs are well placed to advise visitors to the region.	Communities; Growth; Destination
Cycleway and walkway maintenance (river track to Bertrand Road bridge, bypass walkway and clip on bridge, Lepperton river tracks)	Walkways such as Dick Wilson, Ranfurly Street Walkway to Pukekohe Domain, need major work and the maintenance of the current river walkway with gathering spaces eg barbeque are places that families gather. Our properties are getting smaller and extended families are looking for places to gather for their family functions like birthdays and celebration. Our walk ways have in the past provided for this but have fallen into disrepair.	Transport and Movement
History and heritage trail, Waitara history centre / museum	All our history matters. Te Kohia is a great start. The aspiration is to see, feel and to know (with a sense of intimacy) our community history from Te Kohia to Onukukaitara and Puketakauere pā sites and up the Waitara Road through the various redoubts into Pukerangiora. The aspiration is to walk these sites, feel the environment and understand the politics of the day and how families were effected.	Communities; Growth; Destination
Marine Park development (retail and recreation space, amenities)	There is an opportunity to develop Marine Park alongside the development of the Coastal Walkway. The Board would like to see a Plan developed for Marine Park in consultation with Hapū, the community and Marine Park users in line with community aspirations.	Community; Destination; Recreation;
Waitara Festive Lighting	Waitara have four large cross road lighting displays and had eight sets of light tubes on "Sail" street light poles. The Eight "Sail" street light pole have fallen into disrepair and are in need of replacement.	Communities Growth; Destination
Waitara Memorial Hall Theatre Upgrade	The Waitara Memorial Hall Theatre is in urgent need of an upgrade. Dressing rooms and back stage and toilets have not been touched and need to be completed. In the Waitara Community Board Plan survey 54% of respondents indicated that this was an important or very important community asset. Dressing rooms and back stage and toilets have not been touched and need to be completed.	Communities; Growth; Talent; Destination

Aspiration/Issue	Key Initiative	Key Focus Area
Years 1 – 3		
Waitara Community Library Upgrade	Waitara Library has been identified as requiring redevelopment as it is no longer suitable for the population size, future growth or the general needs of the Waitara community.	Communities; Growth; Citizens.
Waitara Pool Accessibility Upgrade	People with disabilities, and needing parental or caregiver assistance, find it inappropriate for them to be in a single-sex changing room. A neutral changing room (family room) is required to provide an accessible friendly facility to ensure the safety of community users requiring caregiver or parental assistance.	Communities; Citizens
Waitara Pool – future planning	The Board would like to see a feasibility study of the long term needs of the Waitara Community for the use of the Waitara Pool to ensure its replacement at the end of its life.	Communities; Citizens
Review of Waitara Street names	The Waitara Community Board will lead a community engagement process in partnership with Manukorihi Hapū and Otaraua Hapū to review the street names in Waitara.	Citizens

Aspiration/Issue	Key Initiative	Key Focus Area
Years 4 – 10		
Curb and channelling upgrades throughout the two main townships (Waitara and Lepperton) to improve movement and ensure that they are safe and accessible for all mobility types.	This is an issue due to a lack of spending in recent history over stormwater. Once stormwater is dealt with in Waitara then Curb and Channeling will automatically follow as cannot be done before.	Development and Growth; Transport and movement.
Accessible Boat Ramp	Waitara Sailability boat club made a deputation to Waitara Community Board in June 2018 and made a request for Council to assist their disabled sailors to access boats from their wheelchairs in the more sheltered tidal boat ramp area by their club rooms. There is an existing floating pontoon further towards the river mouth that is used but can be difficult for disabled sailors to use as the ramp is steep and during certain winds moves around a lot. Further community engagement to be undertaken before decision to build is made.	Communities; Destination; Growth; Talent

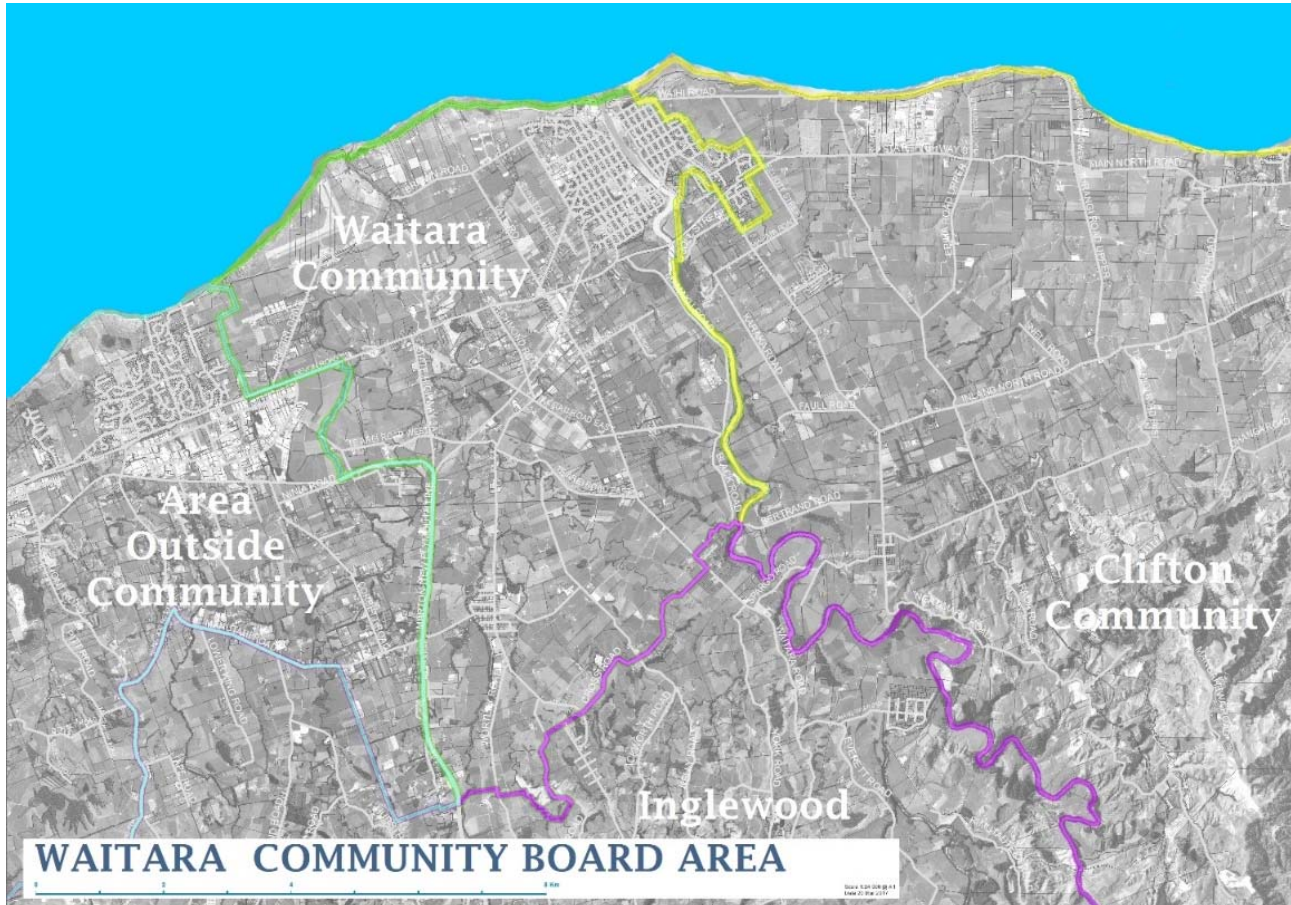
Aspiration/Issue	Key Initiative	Key Focus Area
Years 4 – 10		
Te Kōhia Pā	In 2016 NPDC purchased 1373 Devon road, Brixton on which is situated Te Kōhia pā. Constructed on 15 March 1860 by Wiremu Kingi Te Rangitaake and his followers, the pa was attacked by British forces on 17 March 1860, marking the commencement of the First Taranaki War, a pivotal event in the history of Taranaki.	Communities; Growth; Destination
Recreation Spaces	Upgrade and enhancements to play and recreation spaces (Waitara township and Lepperton)	Community; Recreation; Environment
West Quay Development	Upgrade and enhance the West Quay development (boardwalk, detail and recreation space, amenities, art and sculpture, stories, signage) and ensure ongoing maintenance is provided.	Community; Business and Economy; Recreation
Regional Water Centre	The board would like to see a plan developed to provide a home for waka ama, canoeing, rowing and other river based activities.	Community; Business and Economy; Recreation

Aspiration/Issue	Key Initiative	Key Focus Area
Advocacy		
The Waitara Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Waitara and surrounding community on the following issues as and when required.		
District Plan Review <i>NB: No further submission can be made to the District Plan.</i>	District Plan rules to provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Papakaigna housing ◆ Managed growth in Lepperton to protect rural character ◆ Waitara area zoning (residential and commercial) ◆ Increased protection of green spaces ◆ Increased protection of sites of cultural significance 	Development and Growth
Environmental enhancements, (river, walkway and beach clean-up, planting, signage, environmental enhancement programmes)	This is ongoing– advocacy role for Board.	Community; Environment; Recreation
Review and enhance the representation and governance arrangements for Māori across all tiers of Council organisation and authority.	Te Huinga Taumatua established. Representation from Manukorihi Hapū and Otaraua Hapū are invited to sit at the community board table with speaking rights.	Citizens

Waitara Community Board Area

The Waitara Community Board helps make our community a better place to live by advocating on key issues on behalf of the Waitara and surrounding community. The community board geographic area is from the airport to Lepperton and the area to the eastern boundary of the Waitara urban area.

The iwi and hapū within this rohe are Te Atiawa, Manukorihi Hapū (Owae Marae), Otaraua Hapū (Mangaemiemi Marae) and Pukerangiara Hapū (Kairau Marae).

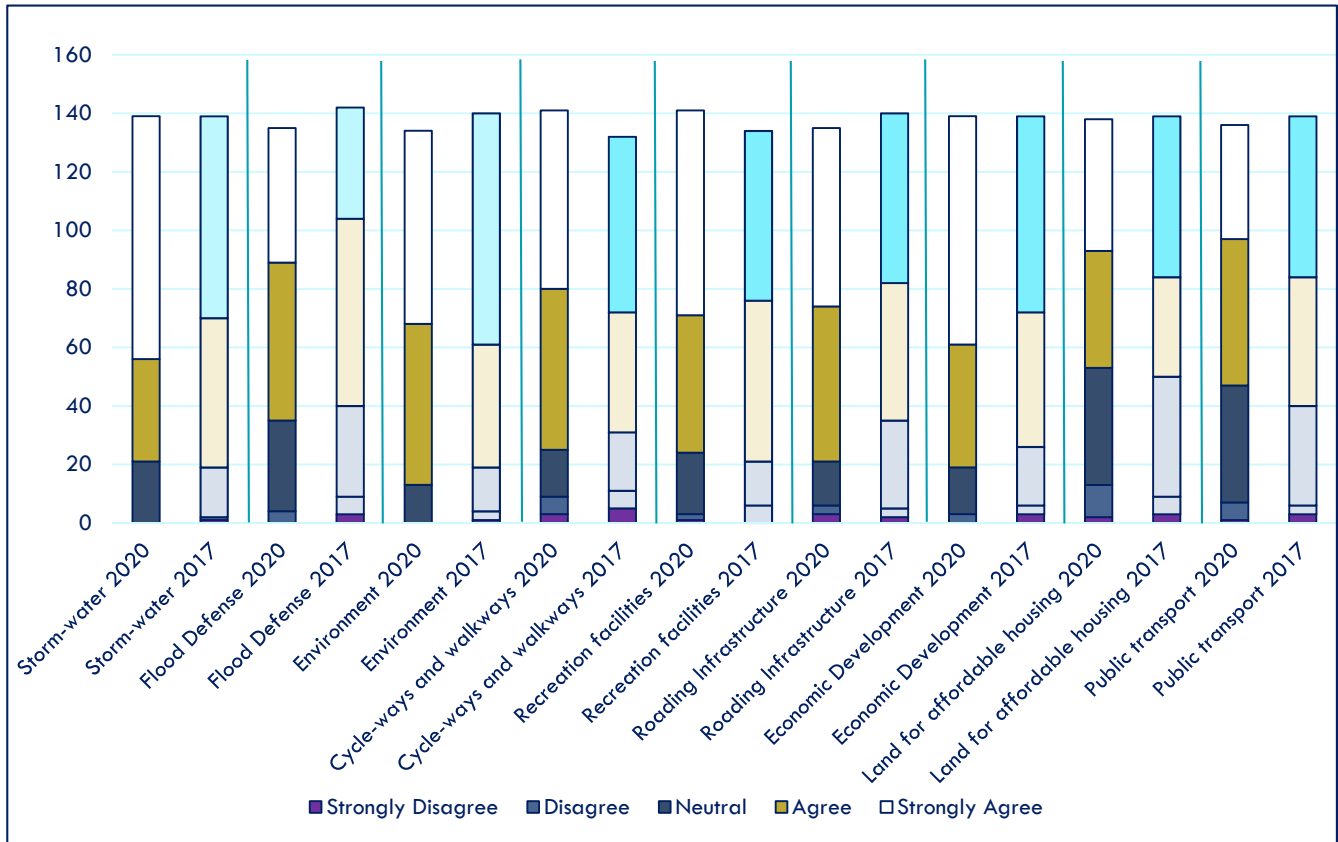


The Waitara Community Board Plan sits alongside the Inglewood, Clifton and Kaitake Community Board Plans setting out the vision, issues and aspirations of each community. This is the first review to be undertaken since the community board plans were originally approved and adopted in July 2017.

The Plan is a plan for the whole community (see Appendix 2 for census Quick Stats) – young and old, Māori and Pākehā, men and women, businesses and employees, families and more. The vision for our community can only come to life because it is innovative, forward looking, focused and cohesive. The hope of the Waitara Community Board is that the issues and aspirations of the community, as set out in this document, will be translated into action and investment by the New Plymouth District Council. This is a 30 year plan (reviewable every three years) and the community know that it will take this length of time for some of the investments into the community to be made. The Waitara Community Board recognize that the Waitara and surrounding community cannot expect to get everything that is wanted in the short term. However, it is important that the Council consider the views of the community and invest in the areas that have been identified as important.

Issues

The following issues were identified as needing attention across Community Board area in 2017. The Community Board asked if these issues should still be the focus in 2020.



The above graph reflects the changes in community response to issues in Waitara between 2017 and 2020. There is very little change over the three year period to any of the issues identified. As was to be expected all of the issues that were still perceived as still being important for the Waitara Community Board area. When considering the issues that the respondents supported and strongly supported, the three most important issues have changed as follows:

1. Stormwater;
2. Economic Development; and
3. Recreation facilities.

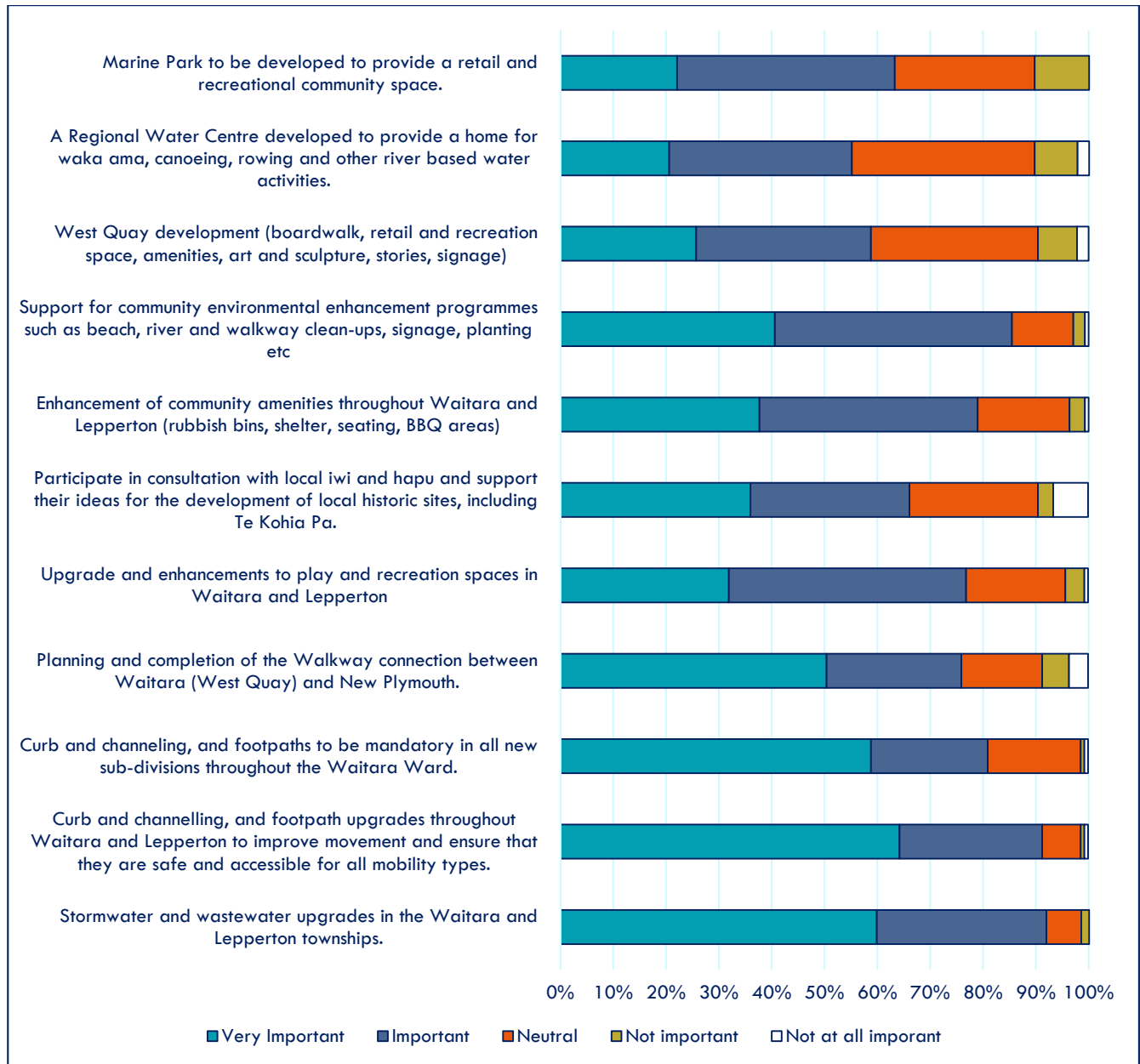
In the 2017, Environment was identified in the top three most important issues. However, in 2020 Recreation facilities was identified by the Waitara and surrounding community as requiring more attention. This could possibly be in anticipation of the pending Waitara – New Plymouth Walkway development. Environment issues is noted as fourth on the list. 132 respondents provided additional comment about the issues they were concerned about. The comments largely aligned to the major issues. However, more detail and clarity was provided about the meaning of the particular issue. The notable issues relate to:

- ◆ Upgrading the CBD and providing an enable environment for business and economic growth
- ◆ Improved walkways and cycleway connections in Waitara and Lepperton
- ◆ Recreation and cultural opportunities and facilities;

- ◆ Improved infrastructure, in particular stormwater; and curb and channelling
- ◆ Management growth and development that allows character of the communities of Waitara and Lepperton to be retained.
- ◆ Public open spaces in Lepperton.

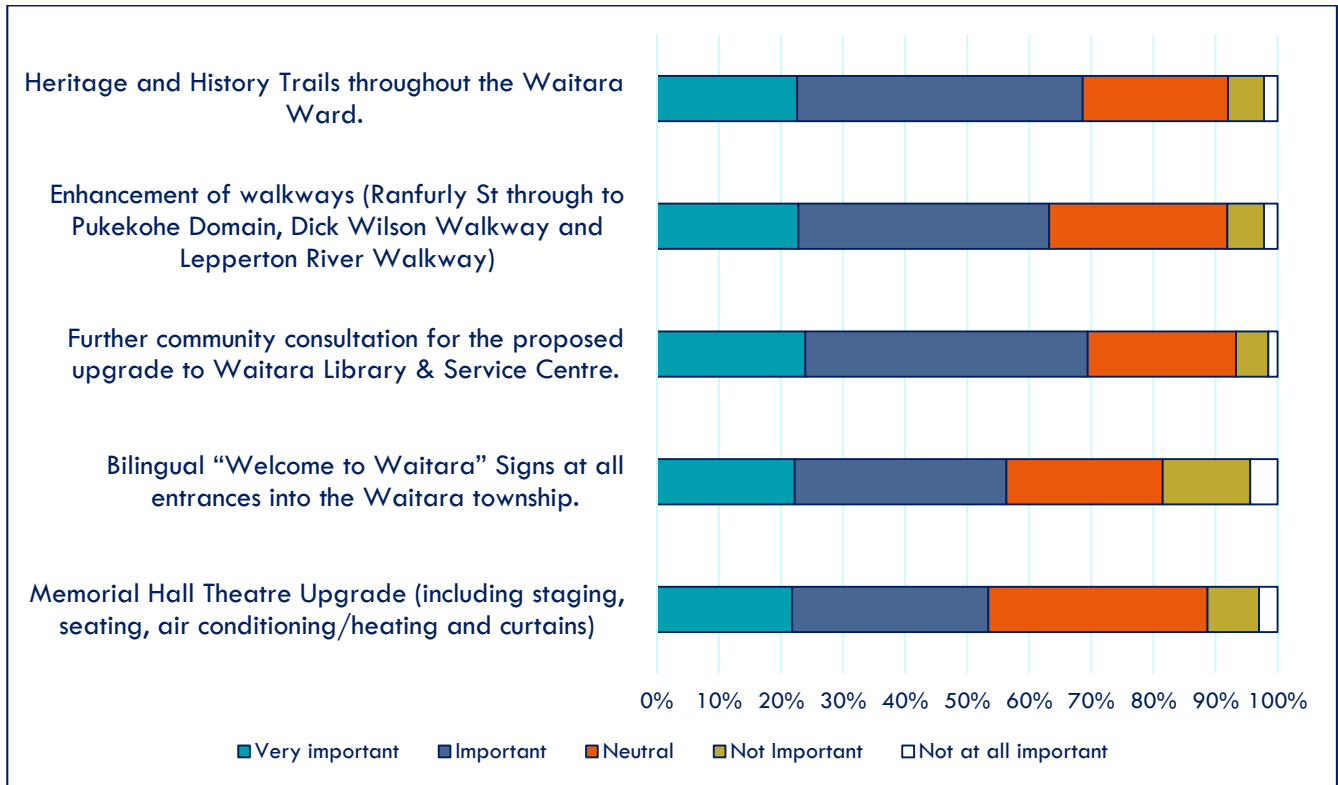
The Waitara Community Board asked respondents two questions regarding issues and/or aspirations and how important they were.

The following priorities will continue to be part of the Council's Long-Term Plan commitments. The Waitara Community Board asked how important these issues and/or aspirations were.



Aspirations

The Waitara Community Board sought feedback on the following projects to see if they should be considered for inclusion in the Council's Long-Term Plan.



Additional comments for the Waitara area

Aspirations

- ◆ The environment should always be a priority in considerations. Having more dog parks/parks for the growing Lepperton community is important.
- ◆ Improved playgrounds and recreation areas and swimming pool available all year-round.
- ◆ Upgrade the CBD to encourage local commercial businesses and tourism, improve the profile of the central business centre of Waitara.
- ◆ Continue to improve public amenities and foster community well-being
- ◆ Protect the history of the community and promotion of community and cultural pride.
- ◆ Support development of industry.
- ◆ Job prosperity and economic growth
- ◆ Become the most sustainable and energy efficient community in Taranaki.
- ◆ A cycleway connecting Lepperton, Waitara and Bell Block.
- ◆ Allow for smaller lots to be available in the rural areas.
- ◆ Complete the coastal walkway from Waitara to New Plymouth.
- ◆ Well maintained playgrounds for our children.
- ◆ Build economic development and create more opportunities to support the people who live here and encourage more people to live here.

Issues

- ◆ Security cameras are needed in the CBD that can provide clearer detail.
- ◆ Curb and Channelling in inner Waitara streets.
- ◆ Town sewer connections in Lepperton.
- ◆ Need for basic indoor training facilities for netball/basketball which is not provided at the Centre on Princess Street.
- ◆ Safety of pedestrians in Lepperton township is of concern. There is more children on the road and also more traffic.
- ◆ Tidy up the main street in the CBD.
- ◆ Clean up the river and make it safe for swimmers.
- ◆ Eliminate the smell along the river walkway behind the wastewater treatment area.
- ◆ Keep the recreation facilities that we have regularly cleaned and maintained and kept to a high standards so that they can be used.
- ◆ Pest and weed control on leased lands that have been left to overgrow.

What makes Waitara a great place to live, work and play?

The survey asked respondents to rank what makes them feel Waitara and the surrounding areas a great place to live, work and play.

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score	No. of Rankings
Sense of community	1		821	123
People living here	2		702	124
The river	3		693	121
Lifestyle	4		688	124
The coast/beaches	5		683	124
The clean, green environment	6		587	123
The history	7		534	121
Marine Park	8		481	120
The industry	9		400	122

Connecting to relevant Plans and Strategies

District Blueprint

The New Plymouth District Blueprint is a high-level spatial plan for the district that supports and implements the Shaping Our Future Together vision and outcomes. The Blueprint helps guide Council decision-making to deliver more integrated social, economic and environmental outcomes for the community and is supported by Eight Key Directions ([Appendix 1](#)) that are integrated and multidisciplinary and will be the Council's focus for planning during the next 30 years. Within each key direction the actions required fall under different disciplines within the Council, and include infrastructure, strategy and policy, and district plan outcomes. The key directions also provide guidance to other government agencies, businesses, industries and the community on how the Council will focus its resources and deliver on the vision and community outcomes of Council.

For the Blueprint to remain relevant it needs to be weaved into local decision-making processes. This will allow it to be a highly relevant document with the intention of keeping the strategic planning of the district in front of mind when making decisions. To aid the Council with its decision making, the Clifton Community Board's five key focus areas align with the eight key directions, being:

1. Environment – Enhance the natural environment with biodiversity links and clean waterways.
2. Communities – Strengthen and connect local communities.
3. Citizens – Enable engaged and resilient citizens.
4. Growth – Direct a cohesive growth strategy that strengthens the city and townships.
5. Industry – Strengthen and manage rural economy, industry, the port and the airport.
6. Talent – Grow and diversify new economies that attract and retain entrepreneurs, talented workers and visitors.
7. Central City – Champion a thriving central city for all.
8. Destination – Become a world-class destination.

Long-term Plan (LTP)

The current Council's Long-term Plan for 2018-2028 (LTP 2018-2028) is a 10 year investment programme. Council's investment in new water infrastructure, for instance, will continue to allow the community to prosper and grow through the provision of clean, drinkable water to households and businesses. Council's parks investments will provide for improvements to our environment, opportunities for people for recreation and fun, and continue to provide tourism opportunities to grow and prosper.

In implementing the vision and outcomes over the next 10 and 30 years, the Council needs to consider the future direction of the New Plymouth District. These are based on the trends seen in the community. Some of the forecasts act as the baseline compared to our aspirations for building a sustainable lifestyle capital, while others represent business-as-usual approaches or show the risks and challenge faced by our community.

The Council's LTP is currently under review in preparation for adoption on 30 June 2021 for the period 2021-2031. The community boards have been provided with an opportunity to have input into the Long-term Planning at the beginning of the process for the first time. The community board has presented its priorities for the next three years and ten years to the Long-term Planning team and will have another opportunity through its submission to the Long-Term Plan community consultation which will be held in March/April 2021.

Infrastructure Strategy

The infrastructure Strategy identifies the significant infrastructure issues the New Plymouth District is likely to face over the next 30 years.



It takes a long-term view of the infrastructure and services the New Plymouth district will need over time, and how the Council might provide them. As well as identifying the key issues, the Infrastructure Strategy details the options the Council has for managing these issues and the implications of each of these options. It also outlines the Council's preferred response and how much it is likely to cost. Sitting alongside the Financial Strategy, the Infrastructure Strategy helps the Council avoid any major surprises in the future.

In developing the Infrastructure Strategy, the Council considered:

- ◆ The infrastructure required to implement the strategic vision;
- ◆ How much the district will grow and where and when that growth will occur;
- ◆ The current state of the district's assets and the issues likely to arise over the next 30 years;
- ◆ The possible solutions to these issues and estimate of how much they are likely to cost; and
- ◆ The impact of any decisions on levels of service, rates and debt.

District Plan

New Plymouth District Council is required to prepare a district plan for the district. The purpose of district plans is to assist territorial authorities in carrying out their functions in order to achieve the sustainable management purpose of the Resource Management Act. District plans must give effect to national policy statements and regional policy statements and must not be inconsistent with regional plans and any applicable water conservation orders.

District Plans cover issues related to the functions of territorial authorities. These include:

- ◆ The effects of land use
- ◆ The control of land use for the purpose of:
 - Avoiding or mitigating natural hazards
 - The management of contaminate land
 - The maintenance of indigenous biological diversity
 - Noise
 - Activities on the surfaces of rivers and lakes

Proposed District Plan

The District Plan is being reviewed and updated and the Proposed District Plan was notified on 23 September 2019, with submission period open until 22 November 2019. The submission period is now closed. Staff are now working through the submission to summarise all the submission points received. Once this is completed, a summary of submissions report will be publicly notified and a call for further submissions made.



For updated details on where this process is, visit [District Plan/Proposed-District-Plan](#) on the council's website.

Concluding remarks

Whilst the review of this Community Board Plan has been a relatively short process, the process has been positive and has sought to be as inclusive as possible given the time constraints and environment caused by COVID-19 lockdown.

The Waitara Community Board recognise that this Plan is a journey; this is a living document and a living process.

There are a number of ways that community board initiatives can be funded:

- ◆ Through general rate funding. The Council decides on the share of general rate funding provided to projects identified by community boards. All decisions on investment in new facilities and major upgrades of facilities are made by Council.
- ◆ By leveraging involvement of other partners such as the private sector, community and other public sector agencies.

The Waitara Community Board has prioritised the aspirational projects it will put forward for funding in the Long-term Plan, taking into account what the community has told us. The prioritization is shown in this document and will be further supported by a submission to the Long-term Plan through the statutory consultation process to be held in March 2021.

In addition to the issues that have been highlighted in this plan, the Waitara Community Board are aware that its role extends far beyond advocating for infrastructure and service improvements. There is a community advocacy role for the community board to undertake. There are many issues where the Council may not have direct control, but because the community board members have been elected to represent their community, there is an expectation that they will be a voice for the community. Therefore the Waitara Community Board is committed to advocating for the wider issues to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of its community.

In working towards the vision, aspirations and issues that have emerged from this process, the Waitara Community Board is looking forward to the next stage of the journey; a journey that will afford them opportunities to work in close partnership with fellow community board members in Kaitake, Clifton and Inglewood; with iwi and hapū; with business and community organisations; and groups across the community board area and with the dedicated and committed individuals that call the Waitara Community Board area their home.

Appendix 1 : Blueprint Eight Key Directions



Environment - Enhance the natural environment with biodiversity links and clean waterways.

The district is home to a unique natural environment with significant areas of indigenous vegetation, and rivers and waterways that flow from the mountain to the sea. Enhanced biodiversity will not only be positive for the natural environment and clean water but will also have significant cultural and economic spin-offs. Biodiversity outcomes will be achieved through collaborating with landowners and agencies – a multi-agency approach is required to achieve the desired environmental outcomes.



Communities - Strengthen and connect local communities

New Plymouth District is made up of many communities and neighborhood centres. Strengthening and connecting local communities ensures that they become successful, safe and livable environments for residents. The Council’s role is to support community, business and industry initiatives by providing high-quality public infrastructure and a pragmatic regulatory response that helps our community achieve their goals.



Citizens – Enable engaged and resilient citizens

Engaging and enabling citizens will help to build community resilience. Encouraging community participation in events that are run in our parks and places will promote community connectedness and overall well-being. It is the Council’s role to build strong strategic partnerships and encourage public and community sector collaboration, leading to more sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes.



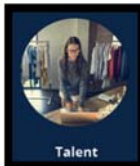
Growth – Direct a cohesive growth strategy that strengthens the city and townships

Our district is growing and we need to consider how we provide for growth into the future. As a result of the anticipated population growth, new growth areas will be required in the city and towns to provide for additional dwellings during the next 30 years. Determining the appropriate locations for growth will contribute to all the community outcomes. The Council needs to be clear on how and where it will accommodate growth into the future, through providing adequate land supply and planning for network infrastructure in appropriate locations.



Industry – Strengthen and manage rural economy, industry, the port and the airport

Our economy has a strong agricultural base and a nationally significant oil and gas sector. It also has a fast-growing poultry sector with significant expansion likely in the short term. Protecting and strengthening these industries will be important for ongoing economic growth and the subsequent benefits for the community. The Council’s role is through its funding of economic development initiatives (Venture Taranaki Trust) to help drive economic activity in the region. The Council can also support industry through appropriate infrastructure provision and a pragmatic solutions-focused District Plan and regulatory framework.



Talent – Grow and diversity new economies that attract and retain entrepreneurs, talented workers and visitors

The New Plymouth District economy is strong, supported by agricultural economies, oil and gas and small business. There is a need to focus on growing a more diverse economy based on our ability to attract and retain talented workers, entrepreneurs and visitors. The Council has a role in ensuring that the highly-regarded Taranaki lifestyle is maintained, supported by our unique landscape, recreation opportunities, rich culture and history.



Central City – Champion a thriving central city for all

The central city of New Plymouth is the social, cultural and business hub for the district and the wider region. However, retail in the central city is facing a challenging transition in the face of new format retail experiences and online retail sales. The central area will need to deliver a diversity of specialty retail, entertainment, cultural and social experiences. The Council has a role in working with business and other stakeholders to develop a strategic approach to drive the success of the central business area.



Destination – Become a world-class destination

Our natural assets – our parks, rivers, coast and Maunga Taranaki – are what make the district a unique and special place to live and visit. A ‘flagship’ initiative to lead this direction is the Taranaki Traverse – a world-class recreational, environmental and cultural tourism experience. This is a long-term initiative that will require time, focus and a collaborative, multi-agency approach.

Appendix 2: Waitara Community Board Quick Stats

(Source: StatsNZ (Census 2018))

In order to understand the Waitara Community Board area, a brief demographic snapshot is provided. Compared to the district overall the Waitara Community Board area has a slightly younger median age. The community has a larger population who identify as Māori. Single parent families in private dwellings is higher than the district average, with couples with children being lower than the district average. Access to internet in private dwellings is lower than the district average.

Population	Total	Female	Male
Waitara Ward	8604	51%	49%
New Plymouth District	80679	51%	49%

Age	Median Age	Over 65s	Under 15s
Waitara Ward	37 years	18%	22%
New Plymouth District	38 years	18%	20%

¹ Ethnic Group	NZ European	Māori	Other
Waitara Ward	76%	38%	7%
New Plymouth District	85%	18%	10%

Families in Occupied Private Dwellings	Couple without children	Couple with child(ren)	One parent with child(ren)
Waitara Ward	40%	34%	26%
New Plymouth District	44%	40%	16%

Internet Access in Occupied Private Dwellings	Internet	No Internet
Waitara Ward	70%	30%
New Plymouth District	79%	21%

Top Five Industries

Waitara	New Plymouth District
1. Manufacturing	1. Manufacturing
2. Construction	2. Health Care and Social Assistance
3. Health Care and Social Assistance	3. Construction
4. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	4. Retail Trade
5. Retail Trade	5. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services

¹ Ethnicity is the ethnic group or groups that people identify with or feel they belong to. Ethnicity is a measure of cultural affiliation, as opposed to race, ancestry, nationality or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived and people can belong to more than one ethnic group.