

2024–2025



Pūrongo ā-Tau Annual Report

Summary



Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness

He mihi

Ko Te Awa Kairangi he pou herenga iwi, he pou herenga waka.

Here mai ko te kei o tō waka ki te tumu herenga waka o ngā pae mounga kua whakatūtūria nei e te hikuroa o Ngake Mai i Tararua ki Remutaka ki Pūrehurehu, ki Pōkai Mangumangu, ki Pareraho, ki Tirohanga, ki Tukutuku, ki Puke Tirotiro, ki Pukeariki, e whakamarumarutia nei Te Tatau o Te Pō a Ngāti Te Whiti, a Ngāti Tāwhirikura, ki Pukeatua, te tuahu tapu o Te Kāhui Mounga i te wā i a Māui ki te whakapuare i te wahanui o Te Ika Whakarau a Kutikuti Pekapeka.

I ahu mai i Te Wai Mānga, i a Rua Tupua, i a Rua Tawhito, Ko Ngake, ko Whātaitai. Ka timu ngā tai o Te Wai Mānga, ka pari ko Te Whanganui a Tara e pōkarekare mai ana.

Ka tū a Pukeatua ki runga i ngā wai e kato ana, i a Awamutu, i a Waiwhetū, kei reira a Arohanui ki te Tangata a Ngāti Puketapu, a Te Matehou, a Ngāti Hāmua e tū ana, tae noa atu rā ki ngā wai tuku kiri o te pūaha o te awa o Te Awa Kairangi.

Koia hoki te puna i heke mai ai he tangata. E kore e mimiti tēnei puna, ka koropupū, ka koropupū. Ko Te Awa Kairangi e rere iho mai ana i hōna pūtakenga i Pukemoumou i te paemounga o Tararua ki runga i hēnei whenua, ki runga i tēnei kāinga, hei āhuru mōwai ngā iwi.

Te Awa Kairangi is a rallying point for the many people and the many tribal affiliations that have made it their home.

Bind yourself to the many mountains of this place that were born from the lashing tail of Ngake. From Tararua to Remutaka, to Pūrehurehu, to Pōkai Mangumangu, to Pareraho, to Tirohanga, to Tukutuku, to Puke Tirotiro, to Pukeariki, to Te Korokoro o Te Mana which stands atop Te Tatau o Te Pō of Ngāti Te Whiti and Ngāti Tāwhirikura, to Pukeatua, the sacred altar of the Mountain Clan in the time of Māui.

It was here that the two ancient tūpuna, Ngake and Whātaitai, were summoned from the depths of the fresh water lake, tasked with prising open the mouth of the great fish.

It is Pukeatua that stands above the waters of Awamutu and Waiwhetū, the home of Arohanui ki te Tangata of Ngāti Puketapu, Te Matehou, and Ngāti Hāmua, flowing out to the life-giving waters at the mouth of Te Awa Kairangi.

This is the spring that gives life to the people. This spring which will never be diminished, it will continue to flow, it will continue to flourish. Te Awa Kairangi that flows down from its source at Pukemoumou in the Tararua ranges and over these lands as a sheltering haven for the people.

Ngā hua o roto

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The lines woven throughout this document are inspired by the topographic lines of two significant areas around Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt: Pukeatua, the high ridge between Waiwhetū and Wainuiomata and Pukeariki, the highest point in Wellington's Belmont Regional Park (Belmont Trig). The movement of the lines references the form of the land, the coastline's shape, the tides' movement, and the river's flow and symbolises the energy and diversity of the different cultures, communities, and people living and working together in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

He karere nā te Koromatua / Tumu Whakarae

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive



Kia ora,

Welcome to the 2024–2025 Annual Report for Hutt City Council.

This year's delivery of significant infrastructure projects highlights our strong commitment to building a more resilient city that's prepared for the future.

Funding for the \$1.5 billion Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (Riverlink) project was confirmed. This will deliver the new Melling interchange, a pedestrian and cyclist bridge, and improved flood protection stopbanks. It will be the largest infrastructure project underway in the Wellington region since Transmission Gully.

Hutt City Council, along with our neighbouring metropolitan councils, has agreed to form a new jointly owned water services organisation. This new organisation will be able to generate its own income, manage its own debt, and won't be constrained by council debt limits.

Turning around historic underinvestment in water infrastructure will take many years and water bills will still increase under the new organisation to fund the region's ageing network. One thing is certain: based on our projections, it will be more affordable than the current Wellington Water Limited model.

In the meantime, we've repaired more than 2,500 leaks on the public network over the last year. Leaks are now at a manageable level and water shortages over the summer months are no longer expected. In addition, over 9km of water and wastewater pipes have been renewed in the past year.

Our Annual Report shows we landed strong financial results in line with our Financial Strategy. Capital investment of \$146 million was delivered, mostly in water services and transport. Debt levels were below what was planned mainly due to some delays in our capital investment programme. We also achieved operational savings that exceeded budget.

International credit rating agency Standard & Poors lowered our credit rating to A+ with a stable outlook. This was part of a broader review across the local government sector in New Zealand which saw many others also downgraded.

Our investment in community facilities saw the opening of Te Ngaengae, our new aquatic and fitness facility and the new Moerā Neighbourhood Hub which has proved popular with daily visits more than double that of the previous year.

We're pleased that Council delivered on its intended plans despite a challenging economic environment and changing legislative landscape.

Thank you to our community for supporting our mahi.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Campbell Barry'.

Campbell Barry
Koromatua
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo Miller'.

Jo Miller
Tumu Whakarae
Chief Executive

Nga Kīwei o Te Kete

Partnership with Mana Whenua

We have a key partnership with Mana Whenua founded on Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Te Āti Awa Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira hold historic and territorial rights in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. Mana Whenua interests are represented by two marae, Te Tatau o Te Pō and Waiwhetū Marae, as well as five Iwi organisations: Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Port Nicholson Block Settlement) Trust, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Wellington Tenths Trust, Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, and Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui.

We have developed Tākai Here with the organisations representing Mana Whenua and Iwi Māori in our area.

Tākai Here follow a covenant approach, reflect Iwi plans, and align with both Council and Iwi aspirations.

We work to include Te Ao Māori in our policies and practices, respond to Māori needs and aspirations, and meet our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We understand that a strong partnership with Mana Whenua is crucial for a thriving city for our people.





Aratohu pānui pūrongo

How to read this report

The aim of this Annual Report is to assess how we performed against the goals we set for the year.

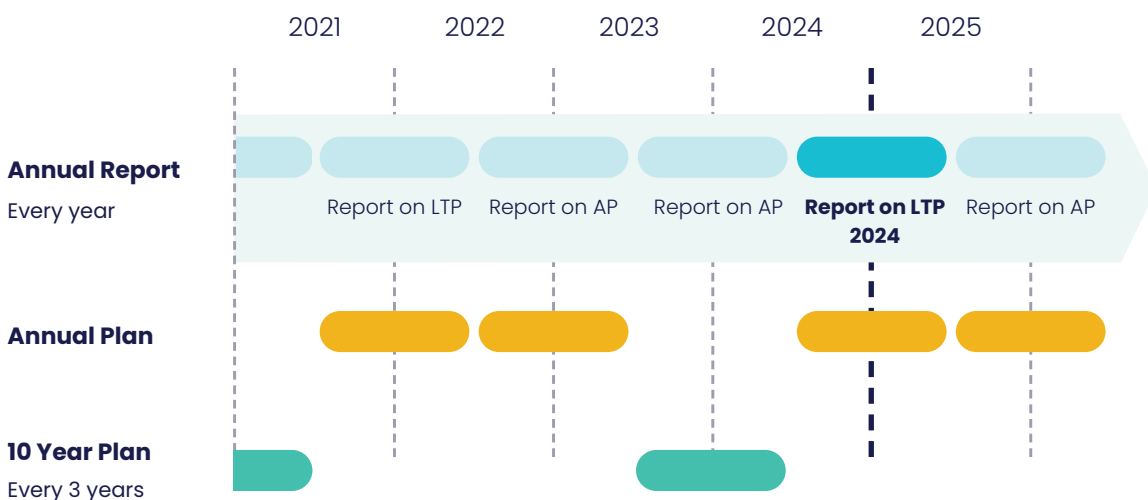
Here is a quick overview of Council's planning and reporting cycle.

- The 10 Year Plan (also known as the Long Term Plan) and the Annual Plan work together as part of an ongoing process. The 10 Year Plan establishes the vision for the city over the next decade and identifies major projects and budgets for that period. The first year of the 10 Year Plan also serves as the Annual Plan for that year.
- For the two years following the adoption of a 10 Year Plan, we produce an Annual Plan each year. You can think of these as the next chapters of the 10 Year Plan, building upon the foundation it sets.
- Both the 10 Year Plan and Annual Plan include specific goals across various work areas to ensure Council is continually improving and effectively serving our community. These goals are then reviewed and assessed in our Annual Report, which includes an audit by the Office of the Auditor-General.

In 2024, we adopted a 10 Year Plan outlining our strategic direction for 2024–34. To achieve this, we identified three key priorities (see page 15 for more details).

- 1** The first section of this Annual Report provides an overview of our performance and key highlights from the year, organised by our priorities so you can see what we're doing in each area to move towards our purpose.
- 2** The second section details our performance in each area of work and compares our actual spending with our budgets.
- 3** The final section offers detailed financial information for the year 2024–2025.

Council planning and performance monitoring cycle



Tō tātou tāone

Our city

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is a growing city with dynamic and diverse communities.

Our city has it all, from our rich cultural heritage and beautiful landscapes to impressive coastlines and vibrant economic sectors. Our city borders Porirua to the north, Upper Hutt to the northeast, South Wairarapa District to the east and Wellington to the southwest and west. It is one of nine territorial authorities in the Wellington region.

A snapshot of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt



Population & housing

Estimated population:

115,500

Source: Stats NZ, 2024 (approximate figure)

Dwellings:

42,300

Source: Census, 2023

Median sale price:

\$682,000

Source: Dot Loves Data, July 2025

Median Rent:

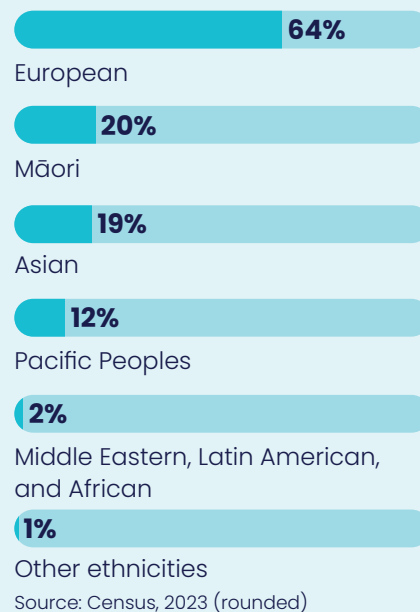
\$580

(March 2024)

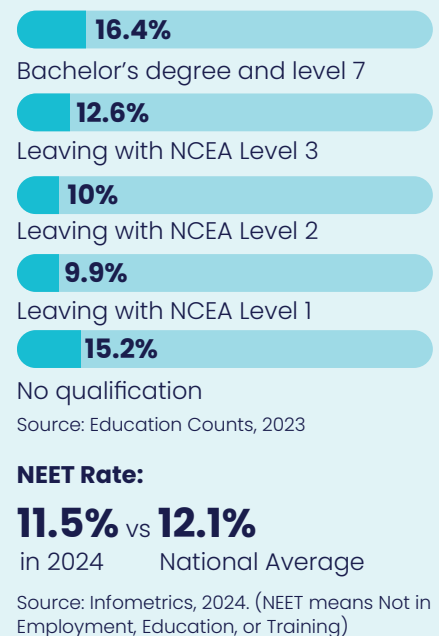
Source: Tenancy Services, 2025

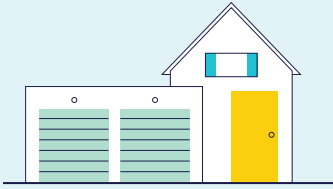


Cultural diversity



Education





Community services

People living in crowded housing:

13,560

Source: Census, 2023

People living in severely deprived housing:

2,094

Source: Census, 2023

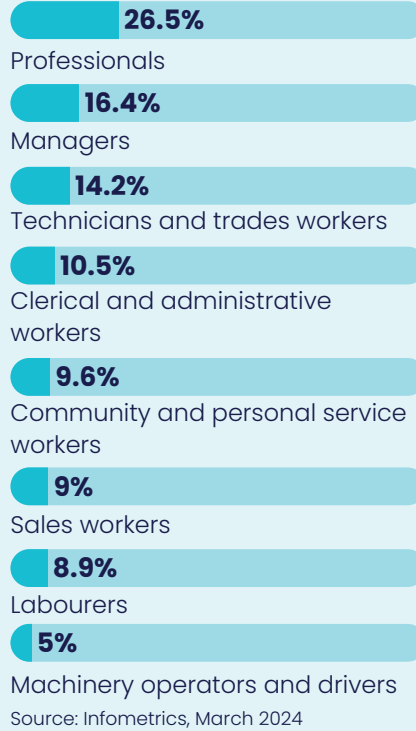
Housing register applicants:

594

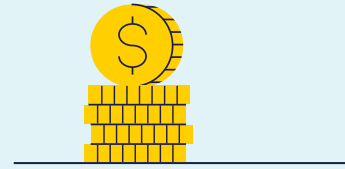
Source: Ministry of Social Development, June 2025



Workforce

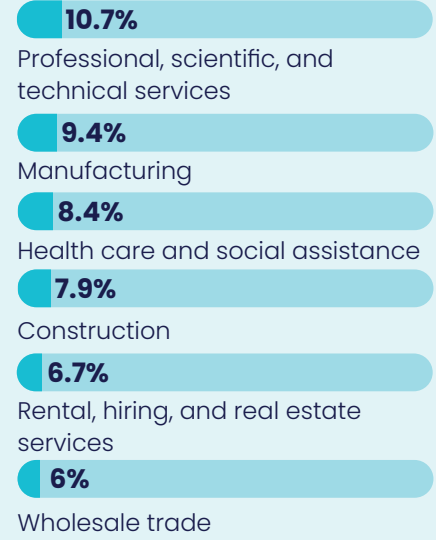


Source: Infometrics, March 2024



Economic landscape

Top sectors:



Source: Infometrics, March 2024

Median household income for Lower Hutt:

\$110,100

Source: Census, 2023



Housing affordability

Median weekly rent accounted for:

24.7%

of median household income, compared to **27.8%** across NZ

Source: Tenancy Services, 2025

Average house value was:

5.5x

average household income

Source: Infometrics, 2025

66.8%

of households own their own home

Source: Census, 2023



Health & wellbeing

Cancer mortality rate:

183 per 100,000

Source: Ministry of Health, 2025

Child mortality rate:

72 per 100,000

aged under 5 years

Source: Ministry of Health, 2022

Gaming machine proceeds, per adult:

\$94.80

Source: Dot Loves Data, 2025

Our assets and work

We are working to create a connected, resilient city where people and communities thrive. We provide services and facilities that support our people every day. This includes public spaces, ie, hubs/libraries, swimming pools, and parks as well as providing services that include kerbside rubbish and recycling collections, public safety, emergency responses, and more.

The Mayor and elected members set the direction of the city, approve budgets that fund the city's services and facilities, and adopt bylaws, policies, and plans to meet the needs of our diverse communities.

We invest in infrastructure and services that support resilience, growth, and climate adaptation, including building and maintaining roads, and managing drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater networks through our subsidiary Wellington Water Limited.

Council also develops strategies and plans to guide the long-term direction of our city. These help us manage growth, protect our environment, and invest in the things that matter most to our community.

To learn more about our work, check out our website at huttcity.govt.nz.

6

Pools

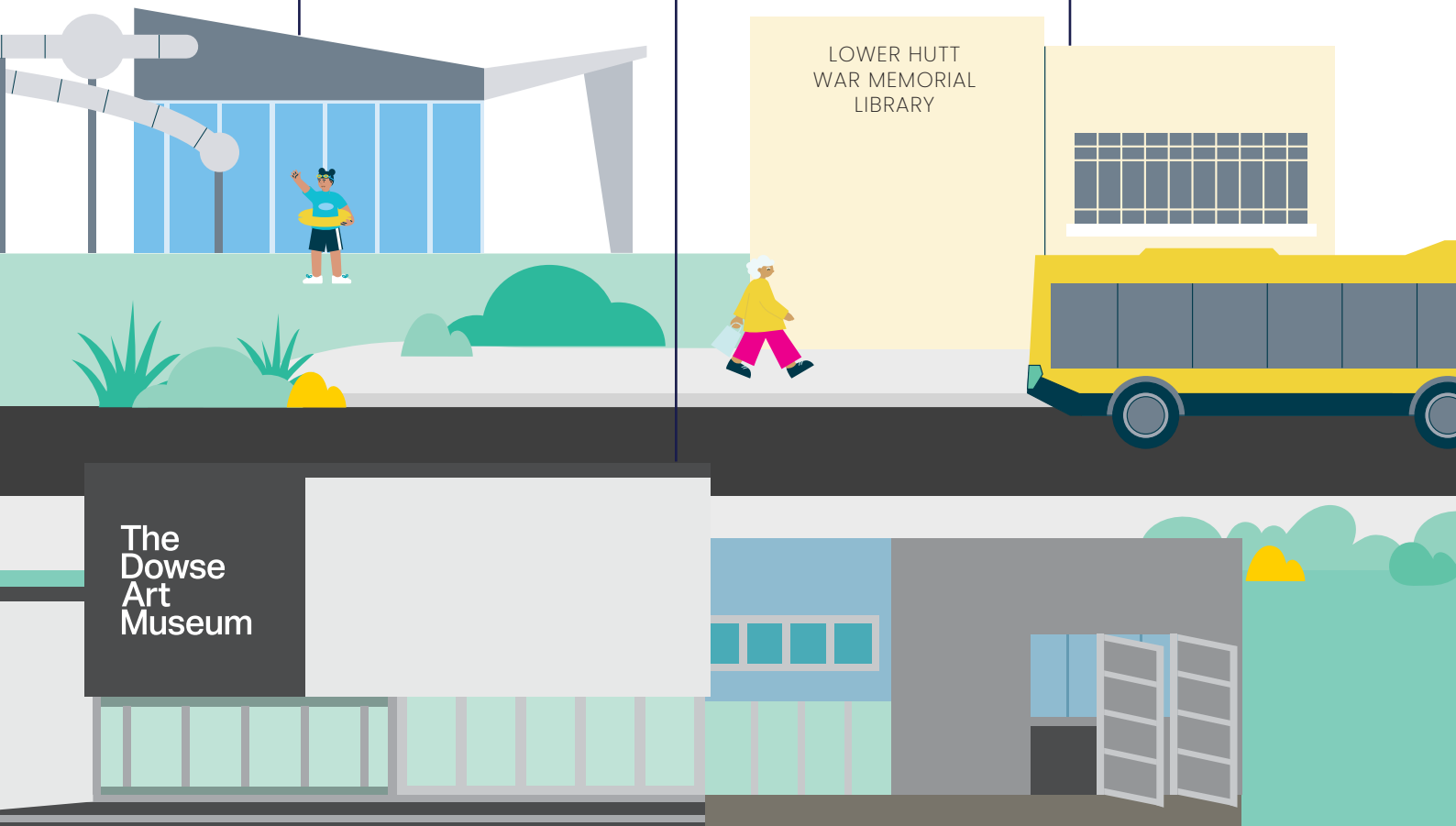
- 3 Pool and fitness centres
- 3 Summer pools

2

Museums

9

Neighbourhood hubs and libraries



693km

Water supply pipes

666km

Wastewater pipes

463km

Stormwater pipes

349

Reserves

2,781

Hectares

These include parks, reserves, sports grounds, playgrounds, gardens, and cemeteries.

57

Playgrounds

10

Community halls

486km

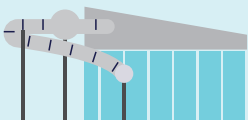
Roads

683km

Footpaths



Resident Satisfaction survey results*



80%

Pools



79%

Playgrounds



92%

Museums



80%

Sports grounds



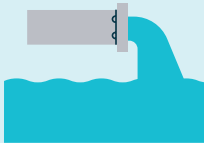
85%

Parks and reserves



87%

Neighbourhood hubs and libraries



76%

Reliable water supply



78%

Rubbish and recycling



77%

of residents say that Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is a great place to live, work, and play.



* Hutt City Council 2025 Resident Satisfaction Survey



Ko wai mātou? He aha hā mātou mahi?

Who we are and what we do

Hutt City Council is responsible for making democratic and effective decisions in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

Our duties are guided by the Local Government Act 2002, which requires us to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of both current and future communities. We achieve this through the services we provide and by working with our community to develop a strategic purpose.

We support our community in various ways. We manage community facilities and offer public services, such as libraries, neighbourhood hubs, parks, sports grounds, swimming pools, and reserves. We also manage rubbish and recycling collection, wastewater treatment, emergency management, and street maintenance.

We are continuing the future-proofing of our city through a focus on water services and infrastructure as well as transport and resilience projects, including Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink), and Tupua Horo Nuku (Eastern Bays shared path).

We also work closely with central government to ensure our local priorities align with national direction. This includes contributing to and responding to evolving legislative frameworks and government reforms, particularly where they affect local government responsibilities.

Changes to water services

In June 2025, Hutt City Council, along with other councils in the Wellington region, confirmed its support for the creation of a new, multi-council-owned water organisation to deliver drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services. This decision followed public consultation in March and April 2025 and is part of the government's Local Water Done Well reforms.

The new entity, owned by Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Porirua City, Wellington City, and Greater Wellington Regional councils, will take effect from 1 July 2026. From that date, all water assets will transfer from councils to the new organisation, which will manage water services and bill water users directly. This means water-related costs will be removed from Council rates bills.

The new organisation will have a greater ability to borrow money than councils currently do. This means that costs to fund assets that typically have very long lives and serve many generations of consumers will be able to be spread over a longer period.

The model is expected to be more affordable and support better long-term planning and more consistent service delivery across the region. However, significant financial pressures remain, and substantial investment in ageing infrastructure is still required.

The new organisation will aim to improve compliance with national environmental and safety standards. Read more on page 41.

Tō tātou rautaki

Our strategy

In our 10 Year Plan 2024–2034, the purpose is to make Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt city a place where everyone thrives. To do this, we need a plan on how to get there. Our plan centres around three key priority areas. We also outlined next steps we would take to support how we deliver against these priorities in a meaningful, sustainable way.

We are working towards

Priority 1

Providing future-fit infrastructure

Priority 2

Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods

Priority 3

Supporting and enhancing the environment

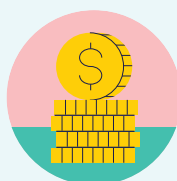


We are taking the next steps

1 In partnership with our communities



2 In a way that is financially sustainable



3 Taking climate change into account



All while promoting the wellbeing of all people.



Ngā mahi o te tau

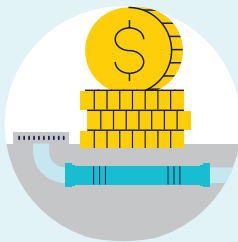
Our year in review

An overview of our performance and key highlights from the year.

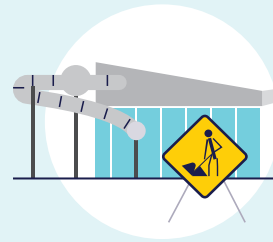
Key highlights



✓ Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) funding confirmed



✓ Delivered real results in water services



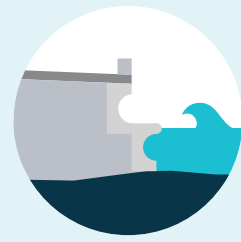
✓ Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness Centre opened in December 2024



✓ Moerā Neighbourhood Hub opened in March 2025



✓ Mouri Tupu - Planting for the Future progressed



✓ Tupua Horo Nuku reached the halfway mark



Tirohanga whānui

Overview



588
consents for new homes



2,538 leaks fixed since
1 July 2024



35% increase



214,977
visits to museums

Awards

Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness was awarded:

- the Environmental Sustainability Award at the New Zealand Sport and Recreation Awards
- an Excellence Award in the Leisure and Tourism category at the New Zealand Property Awards
- the Infrastructure Decarbonisation Award at Infrastructure New Zealand's Building Nations Impact Awards
- a Public Architecture Award at the Wellington Architecture Awards.

Te Mako, Naenae

Community Centre was awarded a Heritage award at the Wellington Architecture Awards.

Motutawa Avalon Park

was awarded Active Park or Sportsground of the Year at the Recreation Aotearoa at the Te Whai Oranga Parks Awards.

Our 10 Year Plan 2024-2034

was awarded Consultation Document of the Year at the Taituarā Awards.

Our finance team was awarded 2024 Best Finance Team of the Year at the Brightstar CFO Awards.

Our Go Digital Team

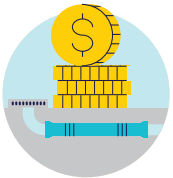
was awarded the ICT Professional Excellence Team of the Year Award at the ALGIM Awards.



Hanganga anamata

Future-fit infrastructure

We are making significant investment in our infrastructure to ensure our community can move freely, access essential services, and fully enjoy our facilities. Over the last year, we have invested in water, road, and resilience projects to ensure the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of our community is sustained and the environment is protected.



Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade

Wellington Water Limited is delivering essential plant renewals and upgrades on behalf of Hutt City and Upper Hutt City councils. The work focuses on reducing odour and discharges, improving environmental performance, and future-proofing the facility.

In 2024-25, the dryer shutdown project remained on track, with robust odour management helping to minimise community impact. The plant has stayed fully compliant with its resource consent since March 2025.

The replacement dryer project has been fast-tracked, with commissioning now expected by late 2027. The new facility will include two dryers to provide greater operational resilience.

Stage 2 of the Odour Control Project begins in July 2025, including ventilation improvements and new odour monitors. These will provide near-live data online and are being installed at locations selected in consultation with the community.

We are committed to listening to community feedback and working hard to mitigate odour issues promptly when concerns are raised.

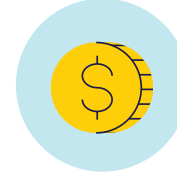


Western Hills Main Sewer rehabilitation – State Highway 2 Melling

The Western Hills Main Sewer rehabilitation project was a critical infrastructure upgrade targeting a deteriorated section of wastewater pipeline along State Highway 2, between Block Road and Pomare Road near Melling Link Bridge. This pipeline is vital to the Hutt Valley wastewater system, and rehabilitation works were essential to prevent failure that could lead to serious environmental discharges and major road disruptions.

Work began on 12 April 2025, timed with the Easter school holidays to minimise traffic impacts, although some disruption was unavoidable.

Crews worked 24/7 over two weeks, completing the project on time and under budget despite technical and weather-related challenges. A total of 589m of pipe were lined, and four new liners were successfully cured.



Infrastructure Acceleration Fund project

Significant funding has been secured for major infrastructure projects, providing vital links and enabling the future growth of our city.

Planning has continued for major water infrastructure upgrades supported by the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund. This funding initiative is designed to help unlock future development opportunities and will pave the way for more than 3,500 new homes in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, while also helping to prevent flooding and improve overall reliability.

A robust assessment process led to the selection of a preferred option. Engagement with landowners and local residents began in February 2025 and will continue as the project moves further into the design, consenting, and construction approvals phase.

Dashboard



**9.35km
pipes
renewed**



**1,578m of road
resurfaced**

(approx. 9,974m²)
2024-25 season



**1,158m of road
rehabilitated**

(approx. 7,712m²)
2024-25 season



Te Tōpūnga Hapori i Daly Street

A vacant site on Daly Street in the city centre was transformed in early 2025 into a vibrant temporary community space. This activation was a consent requirement for Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) before the area is redeveloped following the stopbank upgrade.

Te Tōpūnga Hapori i Daly Street includes a modular pump track, a half basketball court, seating, and planters. The space was designed with flexibility and sustainability in mind; many elements were repurposed from other projects and will go on to be repurposed elsewhere in the city once no longer needed at Daly Street.

Community input into the design was important. Local groups who call the city centre home helped to shape many of the elements including wheelchair accessible planters and picnic tables, a bilingual communications board, and the painted Te Awa ki te Moana Labyrinth.



Akatea Road improvements

Safety upgrades on Akatea Road in Korokoro were completed from May to September 2024, including new footpaths, retaining wall, drainage, crossing improvements, and widening a tight bend. While traffic management was in place, a slip on London Road was also repaired.

Harbourview slip remediation

In August 2024, contractors repaired a slip on Harbourview Road ahead of schedule, despite difficult access and stop/go traffic management.

Wainuiomata landslide stabilisation

Works to repair the 2022 landslide at the top of the Wainuiomata Hill were completed in August 2024, reducing the risk of future slips in this area and ensuring a more resilient road for the Wainuiomata community.



Boulcott Street / High Street Intersection Upgrade

Between June and October 2024, we upgraded the busy Boulcott Street/High Street intersection opposite Hutt Hospital with traffic lights, safer pedestrian crossings, accessibility ramps, lane changes, and a raised safety platform.

Korokoro walkway

An upgrade to the popular walkway between Singers Road and Korokoro Road was completed in May 2025. Work included resurfacing with asphalt, adding retaining walls, and installing or repairing handrails.

Ava pedestrian bridge

In May 2025, the government confirmed it would contribute \$2.4 million, close to half of the total cost, towards the replacement of the Ava Rail pedestrian footbridge, an essential connection across the river for the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt community.



Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink)

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform central Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

In April 2025, the government confirmed funding for the full \$1.5 billion programme, which weaves together flood protection, transport improvements, and urban revitalisation, reconnecting our city with the river. It's delivered through a partnership between NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, and Mana Whenua Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

The programme includes \$180 million from Hutt City Council. A centrepiece of this investment is the new City Link Bridge, a crucial connection between the relocated Melling station and the city centre for pedestrians and cyclists.

Over the 2024–25 financial year, progress continued across multiple fronts, including:

- funding secured for the City Link Bridge
- creating a temporary community space at Daly Street

- bioengineering and rockline work along Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River
- construction and delivery of the new Motutawa Skatepark
- demolition of the old skatepark along Block Road, and buildings on High and Ruthford streets and Queens Drive
- development of a Disruption Management Plan
- refresh of the City Centre Transformation Plan, to create our new City Centre Framework

Work also advanced on local road upgrades, riverbank car park and park design, and streetscaping, laying the foundations for a vibrant, river-facing city centre. Together with our partners, we're also exploring ways to create new opportunities for our Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt businesses and communities.



Delivering real results in water services

The backlog of pipe renewals required continues to grow. That's why we made significant strides in tackling historic underinvestment in water infrastructure, our top priority as per the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034. This plan commits \$1.62 billion, 60% of a \$2.7 billion total budget, towards water services over the next decade.

Hutt City Council is partnering with Wellington, Upper Hutt, and Porirua City councils, as well as Greater Wellington Regional Council, to establish a new water services organisation. This entity will be able to access increased capital to fund the larger acceleration in renewals and new water infrastructure needed to start getting on top of the substantial investment needed.

This year, Council approved additional funding to manage the backlog of leaks, delivering measurable results. One of the most visible improvements is in our response to leaks in the public network. As of June 2025, the backlog of leak repairs in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt had dropped to 57. This is well below target level of 110, and down dramatically from 403 in January 2024. This marks a return to a sustainable level, where water loss is minimised, and repairs are efficient and effective. This is reflected across the wider Wellington region, where the average water loss for 2024–25 was 37%, down from 41% the year before. That 4% drop represents a saving of around 11 million litres of water every day - equivalent to just over four Olympic swimming pools.

Achieving this turnaround has required deliberate and sustained effort. We allocated an additional \$2.8 million in 2024–25 to intensify leak detection and repairs, supported by ongoing work from Wellington Water Limited. New pressure management systems are also being installed at key points in the network to reduce leaks and failures and extend the life of our pipes.

Alongside leak repairs, we continued pipe renewals, replacing 9.4km of ageing drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater pipes. This followed a record-breaking 15.3km renewed in 2023–24. The lower renewal target this year reflects a shift in focus to essential upgrades at Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Other major projects progressed this year include the rehabilitation of the Western Hills sewer main and targeted upgrades to improve resilience and protect the environment.

Water infrastructure also remains a key discussion point with Mana Whenua, with a clear emphasis on ensuring protection of the taiao placed at the forefront of Council's mahi.

While challenges remain across an ageing network, these results demonstrate that focused investment and planning are paying off. As climate pressures grow and our city continues to expand, sustaining this momentum will be vital to safeguarding our water future.

He tāone ora, he hāpori ngangahau

Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods

Over the last year we took the next steps in creating a city that prioritises a high quality of life for everyone. Easy access to green spaces and community places is an important part of this. Our neighbourhood hubs are places to gather and connect and are central to creating vibrant communities.



Investing in our parks: upgrades at Williams Park and Bell Park

Over the past year, we completed significant upgrades across our parks to create more accessible, welcoming spaces for our growing community. Two of the parks we upgraded were Williams Park and Bell Park.

At Williams Park in Ōruamātoro Days Bay, a \$660,000 upgrade delivered a wide range of improvements to the park. This included a bespoke barbecue area, inspired by tohu reflecting nourishment, intergenerational connection, and collective memories, as well as new seating and picnic areas, safer pedestrian access, enhanced disability access, improved open space and views, stormwater upgrades, and new native plantings as part of our Mouri Tupu Planting for the Future initiative.

At Bell Park, Waiwhetū we worked with Mana Whenua and local stakeholders to upgrade pathways connecting all three park entrances, ensuring year-round access while protecting open green space for recreation. Etched pathway artwork by Mana Whenua artists reflects the cultural significance of local waterways and the sustenance they provide. The project was completed in August 2024, marked by a blessing and community gathering.



Motutawa Avalon Skatepark

In December 2024, we opened the state-of-the-art Motutawa Skatepark at Avalon Park, giving our community a safe, modern space to skate, scooter, and bike.

Funded by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi through the Melling transport improvements, part of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink), the project was shaped by strong community input. Through consultation, residents told us they wanted a facility that catered to all skill levels, with safety features, lighting, and shaded areas.

The final design was guided by local expertise, with a specialist advisory group of roller, scooter, BMX, and skateboarding enthusiasts, and built by internationally renowned skatepark designers Convic.

Since opening, Motutawa Skatepark has been widely embraced by the community, quickly becoming a place where young people build confidence, communities connect, and users of all ages feel welcome and safe.



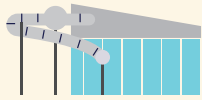
Strengthening safety: CCTV hub, Kia Haumaru, and business safety support fund

In October 2024, an integrated CCTV hub with 387 cameras went live, expanding our ability to monitor public spaces, and prevent and respond to crime. The upgraded system is already contributing to a safer city environment. This includes preventing crime and assisting in arrests, as well as spotting early signs of flooding, and having an extra eye out for vulnerable people in the community.

Two projects supported this work by focusing on supporting local businesses. Kia Haumaru – Safer Centres ran safety workshops for 195 participants, helping build connections between Council, police, and the business community. While focused on business initially, these grew to incorporate the community too.

The Business Safety Support Fund provided \$150,000 for 72 small businesses to invest in physical security, including CCTV systems. One dairy owner said their new system had already made a noticeable difference to their safety and peace of mind. Together, these initiatives reflect a practical, partnership-based approach to creating safer, more resilient communities across Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

Dashboard



637,884 visits to pools



1,979,194 visits to neighbourhood hubs and libraries



730,479 physical library loans



236,045 digital library loans



Delivering better community results through innovation

In 2024-25 we accelerated our transformation into a more adaptive, efficient, and future-ready organisation by embracing innovation and generative AI to improve the way we deliver services for our community.

Council rolled out 300 AI licences to staff, alongside a suite of custom-built AI assistants tailored to our work, streamlining tasks, improving service delivery, and lifting productivity across the organisation. Our adoption of AI has saved tens of thousands of staff hours and increased our impact, all without additional cost to ratepayers.

We also joined the Harvard Bloomberg City Leadership Initiative, with Mayor Barry's acceptance into the 2024 programme. Council staff are now participating in the Innovation Track, gaining world-leading training and tools to apply to our local challenges.

Our leadership in AI has been recognised nationally. We're advising other councils regularly and were named a finalist in the Bloomberg Mayors Challenge, securing US\$50,000 to develop an AI-powered emergency management tool, with potential for up to \$1 million in future funding.



Bringing people together through culture and play

We supported and enabled a vibrant programme of community events and activations that celebrated diversity, built connection, and encouraged participation across our city. Highlights included a Lunar New Year celebration showcasing Vietnamese culture at Te Mako Naenae, a Multicultural Summer Fun Day at Anzac Lawn, and Pasifika Night Market at Dowse Square. We also piloted recreation, sport, & play activations in Wainuiomata and Stokes Valley, and hosted popular activities like Ura HIIT and Xtreme Hip Hop 'Welly Step' in Dowse Square.

This year we also deepened our commitment to embedding Te Ao Māori in our events. Council supported Te Rā o Te Raukura with funding, planning support, and a Council information stall, where attendees could learn about enrolling, standing, and voting in local elections. Te Rā o Te Raukura and Matariki Puanga are both highlighted in our Events Strategy as key opportunities for collaboration with Mana Whenua to grow and celebrate Te Ao Māori in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.



Smarter road technology

AI traffic management camera units at Tupua Horo Nuku and mobile licence plate recognition for parking are helping us improve safety, efficiency, and fair enforcement.

Improved booking systems

New systems, Envibe and Bookable, make it easier for people to manage pool, fitness, and venue bookings, delivering smoother services and better experiences for the community.

Planting harakeke at Hutt Park

We partnered with a group of 30 rangatahi completing their Te Rito Maioha (early childhood education) training course to re-plant harakeke along Waiwhetū stream at Hutt Park.

New era for Ricoh Sports Centre

Since February 2025, Wellington Phoenix has been operating Ricoh Sports Centre, creating a vibrant, self-sustaining hub for sport, events, and community life at Fraser Park.

New homelessness and housing dashboard

In May, we launched the Homelessness and Housing Dashboard, an interactive tool that highlights housing deprivation, rough sleeping trends, and informs community action across Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.



Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness

In December 2024, we celebrated the opening of Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness — a state-of-the-art aquatic centre at the heart of Naenae and a major milestone in the wider Whakatapu Ngaengae town centre revitalisation.

Five years after seismic issues closed the previous pool, the community celebrated in style, with thousands flocking to Te Ngaengae for the opening weekend. Mayor Campbell Barry officially opened the pool with local MPs and Mana Whenua.

Co-designed in close consultation with Mana Whenua and the Naenae community, the \$68 Million project stands as a symbol of authentic collaboration.

Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa gifted the name Te Ngaengae, reflecting the original Māori name of the suburb and the rivers that shaped our land. They also gifted the project a cultural narrative to inform design, which is reflected in the architecture of Te Ngaengae. Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa also led the Tā i te Kawa ceremony to mark the formal opening. More than 600 Mana

Whenua attended the dawn blessing, expressing deep pride in the facility.

Community and connection were at the heart of the project, which guided our extensive three-month engagement period for residents to have their say. The Naenae Community Advisory Group met regularly to provide a voice for the Naenae community on the project, and local schools shaped key design elements reflecting local identity.

As Aotearoa New Zealand's first Green Star Five-rated aquatic centre, Te Ngaengae reduces carbon emissions by more than 50% compared to its predecessor. We were able to recycle over 80% of materials from the old pool, saving 13,000 tonnes of metal and concrete from landfill.

Making swimming facilities more accessible has been a priority, with free entry for under 10s when accompanied by an adult with a Community Services Card. In its first three months, over 100,000 people visited Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness.

Te Pātaka Kōrero o Moerā Moerā Neighbourhood Hub



Moerā Neighbourhood Hub, a community-centred space for the future

In March 2025, we opened the Moerā Neighbourhood Hub, delivering a vibrant, future-ready space for the community. Located on the site of the former Moerā Library, the hub was developed in close partnership with local residents, with connection, sustainability, and adaptability at the heart of its design.

We worked with local firm Niche Modular Construction to deliver the facility using innovative, sustainable construction methods. The building was prefabricated in a controlled environment and designed to evolve with the community. It can be relocated up to 10 times and expanded with additional modules, supporting long-term resilience. The open plan layout was designed to connect seamlessly with the neighbouring reserve and playground, featuring bifold doors and a large deck to support indoor-outdoor flow.

Since opening, daily visits have more than doubled from the previous year, with residents

making use of books, internet, printing services, and hub-facilitated programming. More than 35,000 people came through the doors in the first three months alone, and we supported and enabled 60 days of events, ranging from digital skills workshops to cultural celebrations, and even a visit from some local llamas.

The community has already started to shape the space, with several of the hub's most successful programmes being community-initiated. Regular events such as 'Game's On' began with one community member's interest in board games. 'Discovery Storytime' was created in collaboration with Moerā Kindergarten to support early literacy with stories and music.

Work continues on improvements to Moerā Reserve, further enhancing this important neighbourhood anchor and strengthening the community's access to shared spaces.

Te hāpai me te whakaniko i te taiāo

Supporting and enhancing the environment

We need to look after our environment and manage our natural resources to ensure our city is more sustainable. This includes reducing our emissions and our waste, planting thousands of native species, and managing our green spaces to ensure they support the wellbeing of both people and indigenous plants and creatures.



We supported diversion of waste from city-held events as part of our bylaw implementation

From July 2024 to June 2025, 11 public events across our city collectively generated 1,894kg of waste. Through proactive waste minimisation efforts, 1,344kg (72%) were successfully diverted from landfill, including 680kg composted and 664kg recycled. An estimated 63,500 attendees were engaged in waste minimisation practices, supported by event waste minimisation companies including Nonstop Solutions and Closed Loop, who worked with organisers to implement zero waste systems and circular economy principles.



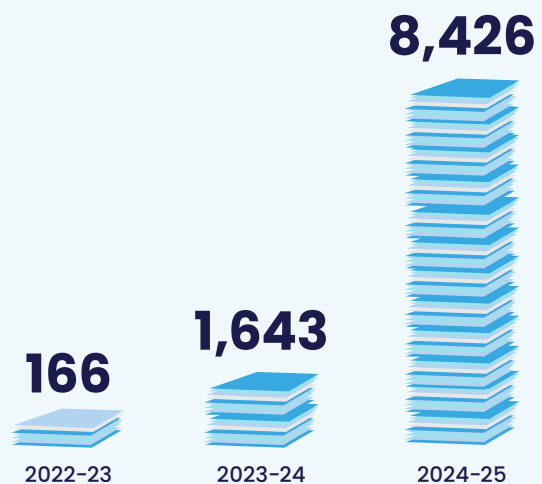
Zero Waste Hub – Silverstream Landfill Transfer Station discount voucher scheme

To encourage greater waste separation and diversion, the Zero Waste Hub at Silverstream Landfill offers a discount voucher scheme. Customers who sort their loads and divert recyclable and/or reusable items receive a voucher that applies a discount on their landfill fees.

During 2024-25, a total of 8,426 vouchers were issued, compared to 1,643 vouchers in 2023-24. This significant increase highlights the benefit from direct engagement with customers and the public's growing participation in resource recovery efforts.



Number of discount vouchers issued through Zero Waste Hub



Regarding the resulting diversion of material, the weighbridge data indicates that diversion is increasing, in particular the material targeted by Earthlink, as shown below on the next page.

Dashboard



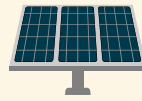
5,171 tonnes of kerbside recycling collected



23,317 tonnes of kerbside waste collected and taken to landfill



73,000 native trees and plants planted

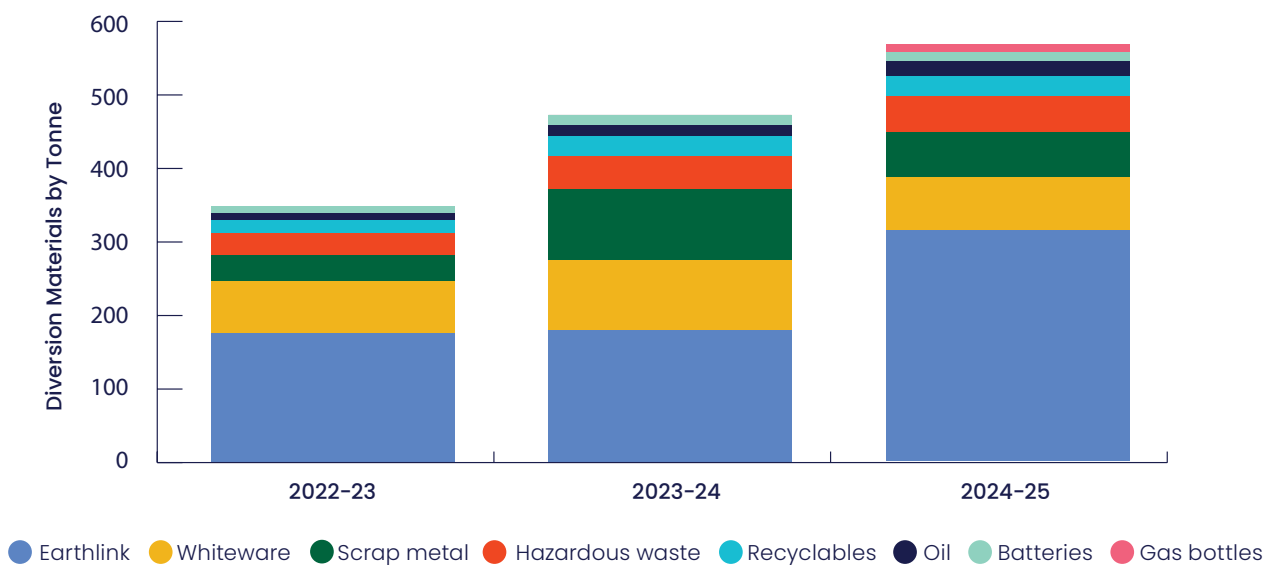


3 organisations supported through the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund



\$117,522 distributed through the Community Climate Action Fund, supporting 20 projects

Silverstream Landfill Transfer Station diversion from financial year 2022-23 - 2024-25



Fleet electrification

Electrification of Council's vehicle fleet has progressed significantly, with electric vehicles accounting for 80% of our fleet (52 out of 65 vehicles), making us a leading council in fleet electrification in New Zealand. The fleet includes 12 plug-in hybrid vehicles (18%), which are included within the scope of the electric vehicle share.

Electric vehicle charging hub

A new charging hub for heavy electric vehicles and machinery was completed at the Silverstream landfill; this will enable the electrification of vehicles and machinery, reducing costs and emissions.

Decarbonising pools

Council is continuing to make progress in reducing emissions from community facilities and infrastructure. Emissions associated with the use of fossil gas have reduced by more than 30% compared to Council's baseline year of 2016-17. Work is underway to switch fuels at Huia Pool, and the pool is scheduled to reopen in December 2025. The McKenzie Summer Pool completed its first season operating with electric heating equipment. This resulted in a savings of 34 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum with a 99% overall reduction in gas use compared to the baseline year.

Battery recycling coming soon

We're launching safe battery disposal bins at three hubs, reducing fire risk and making it easier for residents to do the right thing.

Recycling education continues

We're helping residents recycle right through an ongoing campaign focused on reducing kerbside contamination and improving awareness of what goes where. Contamination in recycling within the 2024-25 year was down to 14%, compared with 17.9% three years earlier.



Mouri Tupu – Planting for the Future

We have continued to grow Mouri Tupu – Planting for the Future at pace this year, and we remain firmly on track to reach our goal of planting 114,000 native trees and plants across Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt by the end of the Mayor's triennium in 2025.

Mouri Tupu is our city's community-led planting campaign, an invitation for everyone to help restore native biodiversity, support climate resilience, and reconnect with te taiao. Grounded in the idea that every living thing holds a life force (mouri) and a potential to grow (tupu), the kaupapa continues to inspire action across Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

As at the end of this financial year, more than 73,000 native trees and plants have been planted across parks, reserves, waterways, and school grounds, a collective effort involving Mana Whenua, local kura, tamariki, community groups, volunteers, and Council.

This campaign is one of the many ways we're bringing our Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy to life, protecting native species and habitats, while making it easier for our community to take part in greening the places they live, learn, and play.

Mouri Tupu is about more than planting; it's about growing a city where people and nature thrive, together.



Tupua Horo Nuku – building resilience

In February 2025, we reached the halfway mark for Tupua Horo Nuku, our transformative project to strengthen the resilience of Marine Drive and create a safer walking and cycling connection around the Eastern Bays.

Work at Sunshine Bay and York Bay wrapped up in early 2025; three of six bays are now open to the public, with over 2km of seawall and shared path complete, and the remaining bays on track to be completed in 2026.

Environmental outcomes continue to be a key focus for the project beyond the main resilience works. Tide pools and ecological tiles have been added to support the marine ecosystem. Two

bird protection areas were completed in 2024, including one at CL Bishop Park, where tamariki from Muritai School helped planting contractors establish 6,100 native plants, contributing to dune restoration and a thriving habitat for kororā (little penguins).

One of the project's major challenges has been managing fast-changing tides and unpredictable weather. At Whiorau Lowry Bay, innovative methods such as large sheet piles (cofferdams) have enabled safe, dry working conditions for the construction teams, allowing work to progress regardless of weather conditions.

Whakauka ahumoni

Financial sustainability

We are committed to managing our finances responsibly so we can deliver the services and infrastructure our community needs today and in the future.

Being accountable to residents and ratepayers for the management of our finances, both in the short and long-term, is a key responsibility of Council. This section explains how we're spending ratepayer money, investing for long-term growth, and managing financial sustainability.

Financial strategy

Council's Financial Strategy is based on important principles that guide our planning and decisions. These principles can be summarised as:

- affordability of rates
- achieving intergenerational equity by spreading the costs between both present and future ratepayers
- maintaining prudent borrowing levels
- achieving a balanced operating budget over time and ensuring that everyday costs are paid for by everyday income
- delivering services effectively and efficiently
- strengthening Council's financial position in the long-term
- maintaining the principle of 'growth pays for growth'

The Financial Strategy focuses on strong fiscal management while addressing growing demands for increased capital investment in core infrastructure assets. The Financial Strategy can be read in full in the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034, available on our website. It includes key strategic financial metrics, such as the limit on the amount of debt we can take on compared to revenue. It also forecasts debt levels and when we will balance our operating budget.

Investment in infrastructure

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is a growing city, and this growth relies on resilient and future-ready infrastructure. Our transport and water networks, libraries, parks, and playgrounds play a vital role in supporting development and maintaining a high quality of life for residents. Many of our assets, including the water services network assets, are ageing and need replacement. Council is focused on striking the right balance in its capital investments to support sustainable growth, manage community needs, and maintain affordability. This year, we have made progress in improving the transport network,

upgrading and future-proofing water services, protecting parks and reserves and renewing community facilities.

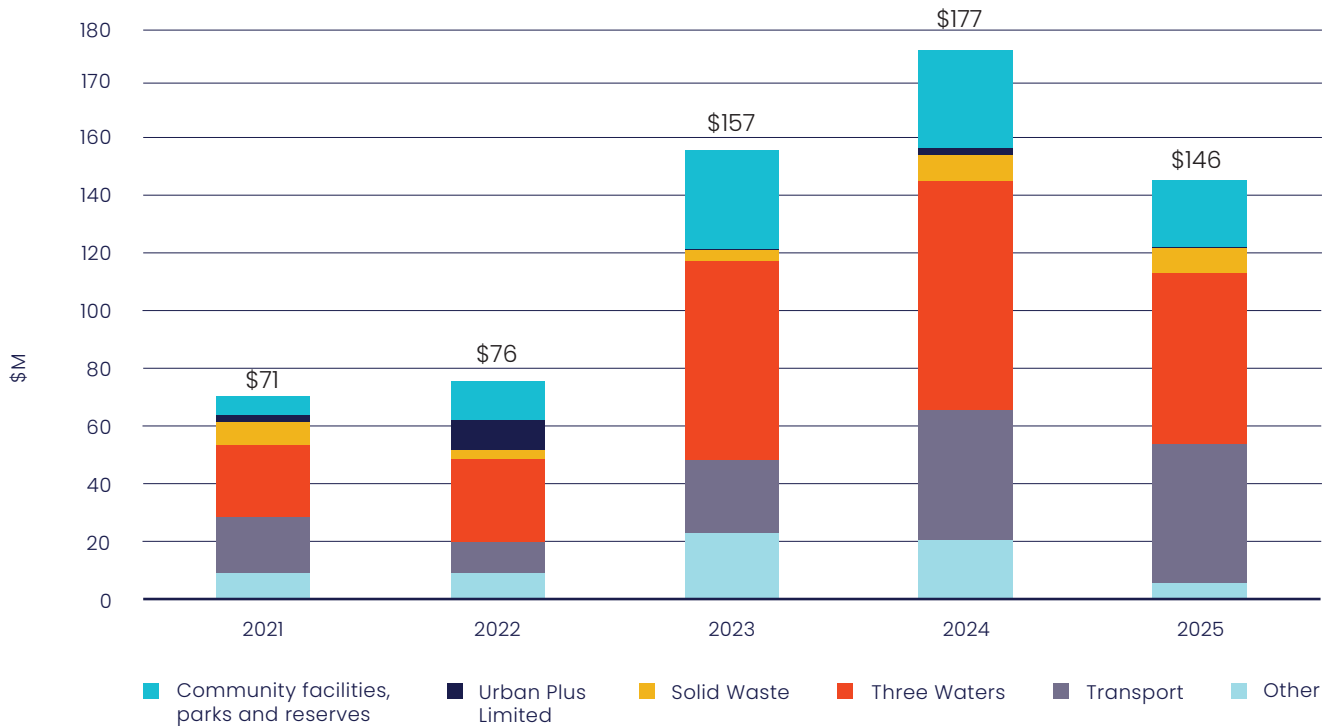
In 2024–25, Council invested \$145 million in capital projects, compared with a budget of \$248 million in the Annual Plan. Including investment by Urban Plus Ltd (UPL), the total capital spend was \$146 million, a lower level from the \$177 million in 2023–24. This lower spend (\$31 million) largely reflects decisions by Council to delay or defer projects. While the 10 Year Plan anticipated a continued ramp-up in investment, delivery in 2024–25* was impacted by changes in government priorities and associated funding impacts, in particular, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi funding. Underspend in Wellington Water Limited (WWL) delivered projects is consistent with the revised work programme approved by Council in February 2025 and included some deferrals of projects linked to project reviews, including changes to the procurement approach. Council-delivered wastewater and stormwater valley floor Infrastructure projects have also been delayed due to changes in the delivery plan.

Some of our key highlights and spend for the year were:

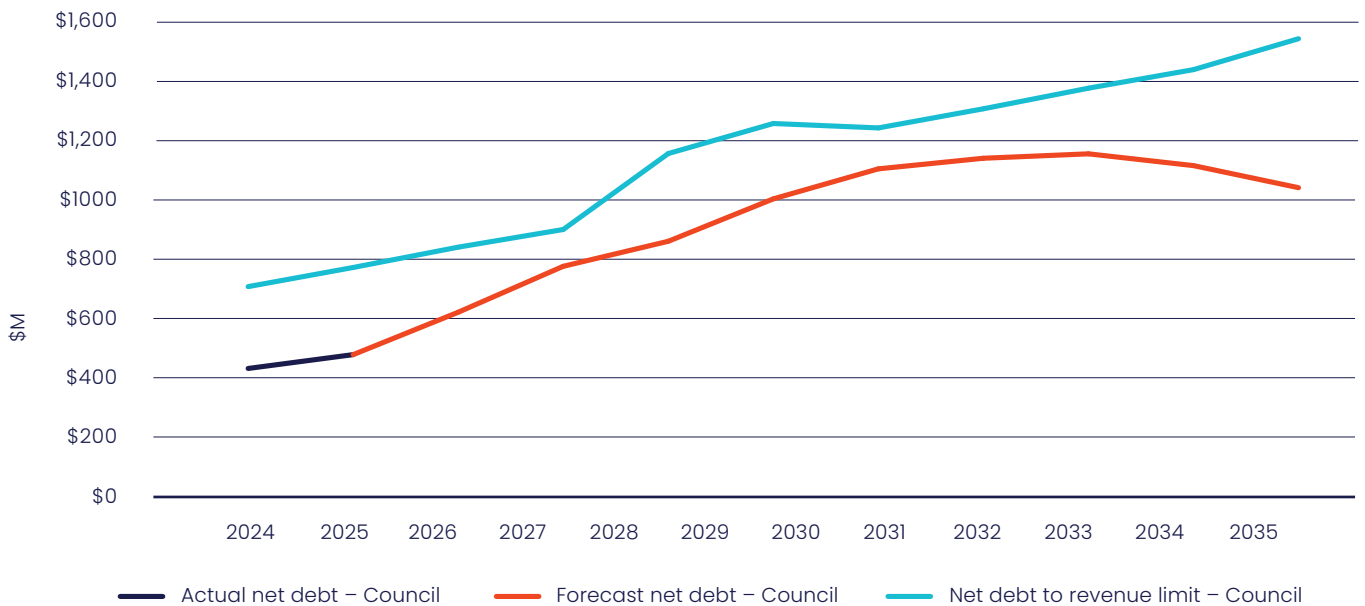
- \$59 million on three waters infrastructure against a budget of \$97 million. This included \$48 million for a range of renewal projects.
- \$48 million on transport projects, which included \$13 million for transport renewals and \$35 million for capital improvement and growth projects. These will enhance connectivity and promote sustainable transport options, with projects such as the Tupua Horo Nuku (Eastern Bays shared path), traffic safety and road network improvements, slip remediation works and the micromobility programme.
- \$7.8 million to complete the Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness Centre Rebuild, which is a significant community facility.
- \$7.3 million for construction of the next phase of the Silverstream landfill.
- \$7.7 million on parks and reserves projects includes reserve development projects, drainage improvements, and various park building renewals.
- \$2 million on Naenae town centre improvements and \$1.3 million on Moerā Library, which are investments in the development of important community assets.

* Refer to the activity statements under Section 2 of this report for detailed spend and budgets for these projects.

Graph 1: Group capital investment five-year trend



Graph 2: Council net debt



Prudent management of debt

Council takes a responsible and strategic approach to managing debt. We use debt to fund long-term capital investments, allowing the cost of major infrastructure to be spread across the generations who will benefit from those assets. This approach ensures fairness and supports intergenerational equity. Our debt management is guided by a strict financial policy, which limits net debt to no more than 250% of annual revenue. In 2024–25, our net debt rose by \$48 million to \$480 million, which is 154% of revenue. This was lower

than the planned debt, mainly due to delayed capital investment.

Our debt is expected to peak at around 222% of revenue in the next five years as we continue major infrastructure investments, as outlined in our most recent Annual Plan 2025–2026. Transfer of water services to the new regional water services organisation will reduce this debt forecast significantly, and details of what that looks like are expected to be finalised in late 2025–26.

Credit rating

In March 2025, Standard and Poor’s Credit Rating Agency (S&P) lowered our long-term credit rating one notch from AA- to A+, with a ‘stable’ outlook. This was part of a broader review across the local government sector, which saw 18 other councils also downgraded. This was driven by a range of concerns by S&P, like the sector being heavily indebted due to increasing capital investment, changes to borrowing protocols by New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Ltd, and a policy environment which is considered more volatile than in the past by S&P.

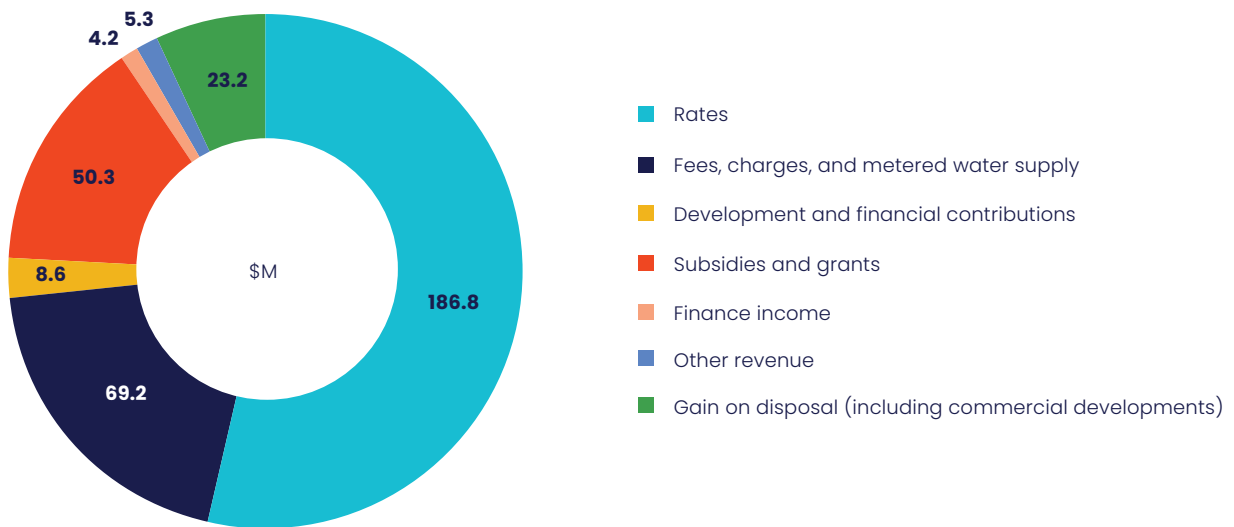
We have a significant capital investment programme, which is largely funded by debt. A lower S&P credit rating means higher borrowing costs for debt, which in turn means higher costs for ratepayers. Through the next Annual Plan process, there will be an opportunity to review and update investment plans and priorities, while considering the impacts for ratepayers.

Revenue

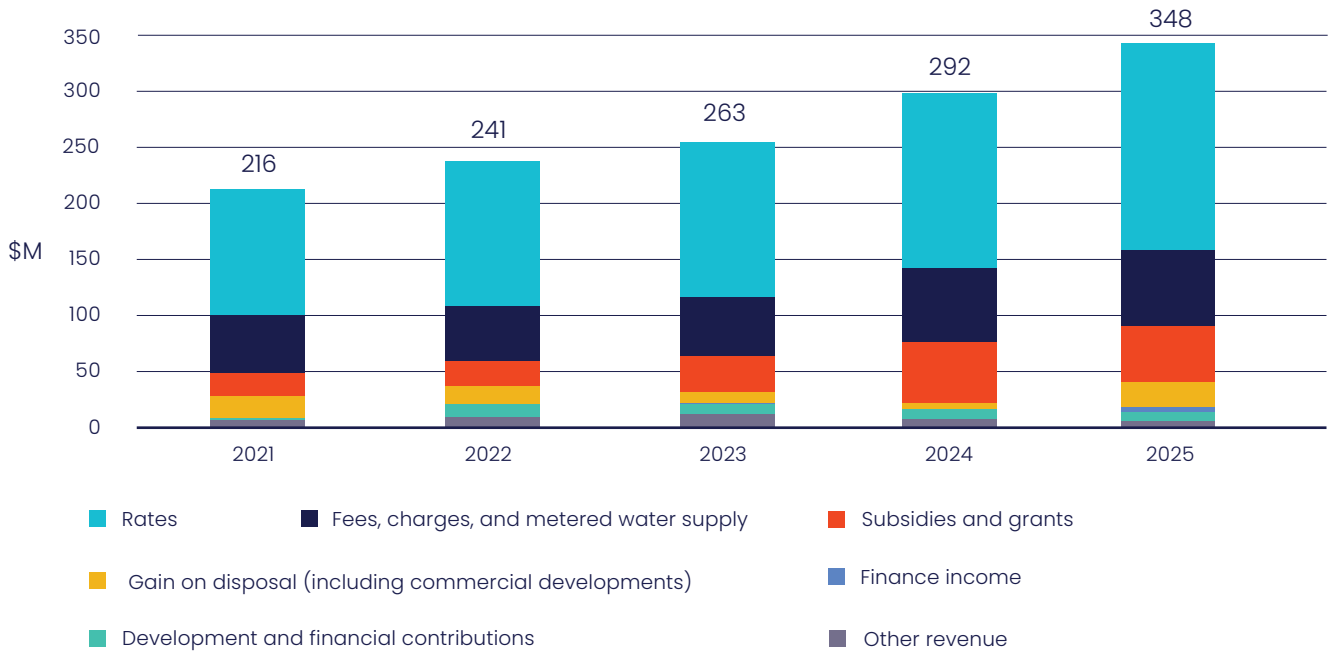
We fund our services and operations through a mix of rates and non-rates revenue. Like most councils, rates are our main source of funding (see Graph 3).

In 2024–25, total group revenue was \$348 million (excluding revenue from the revaluation of financial instruments) and is continuing to trend upwards (see Graph 4). Rates revenue made up \$187 million (including rates penalties income), or just over half of our total revenue. This reflects an increase of \$29 million from the previous year, following the rates increase approved by Council to help fund services and infrastructure investment. Subsidies and grants revenue was \$36 million lower than the budget, mainly due to reprioritisation and delays in capital investment, resulting in decreased subsidy and grant revenue. Fees, charges, and other revenue were \$7.6 million lower than budget, largely reflecting lower activity volumes than assumed in areas such as pools, consents, and landfill.

Graph 3: Group revenue by source in 2024–25



Graph 4: Group five-year revenue trend (excluding gains on the revaluation of financial instruments)

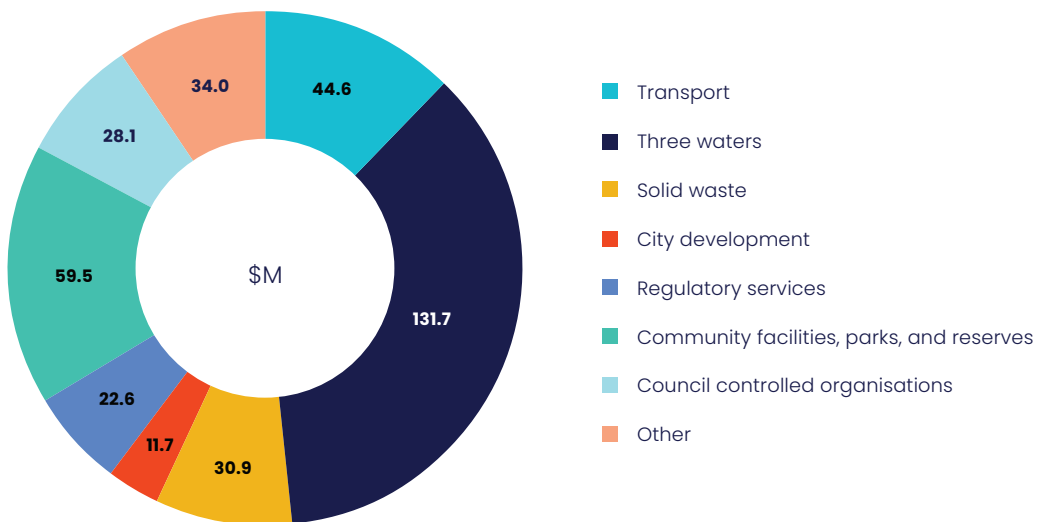


Expenditure

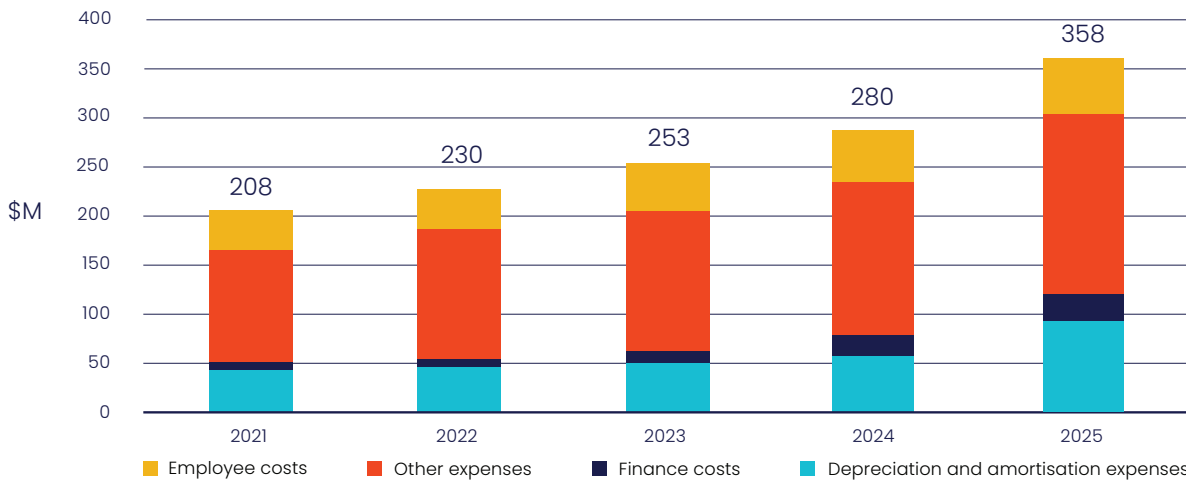
Our operating expenditure (excluding losses on revaluation of financial instruments) covers the costs of delivering our day-to-day services, including paying our staff, maintaining our assets, and providing a wide range of community services and support. For 2024-25, total group costs were \$358 million. Graphs 5 and 6 illustrate how spending is

distributed across different services and the spending trend over the past five years. Council’s operating costs exceeded the budget by \$5.9 million. This overspend is primarily due to higher depreciation costs of \$22 million driven by the revaluation of assets in 2023-24, offset by reductions in other operating costs.

Graph 5: Group expenditure by activity in 2024-25



Graph 6: Group five-year expenditure trend (excluding losses on revaluation of financial instruments)



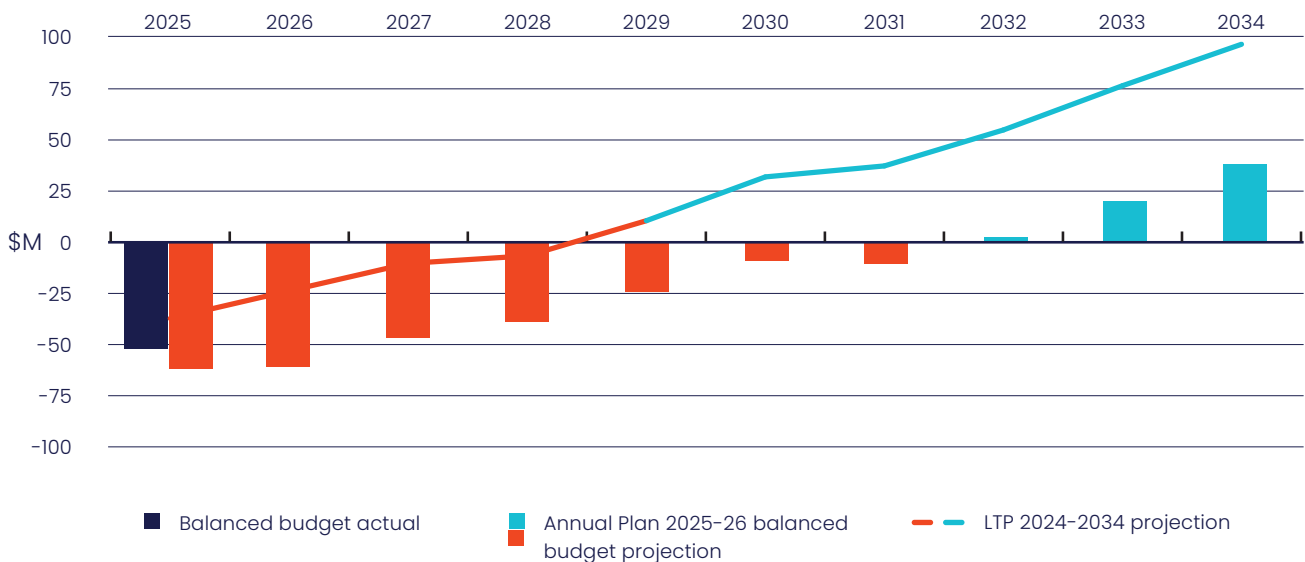
Balanced operating budget

An important part of our Financial Strategy is maintaining a balanced operating budget. This means that our everyday costs are covered by our everyday income, ensuring that operating expenses are paid for by operating revenue. We want to avoid taking on debt to cover everyday expenses and reserve it for long-term infrastructure investments instead. Our 10 Year Plan 2024-2034 outlines our method for assessing whether we achieve a balanced operating budget. Achieving a balanced operating budget is essential for the long-term sustainability of Council services, but it must be balanced against the significant capital investment

requirements. To support affordability for ratepayers, Council has agreed to gradually move towards a balanced operating budget over several years. According to the latest Annual Plan 2025-26, we are forecasting to achieve a balanced operating budget by 2031-32. In 2024-25, our balanced operating budget result (or net operating result) was a deficit of \$52.2 million, which was \$14.3 million worse than the budgeted deficit of \$37.8 million. This is driven largely by the higher depreciation costs.

The overall variance against budget, excluding depreciation impacts, is \$8 million favourable to budget. Graph 7 illustrates the actual trend to date and the future forecast.

Graph 7: Council actual and projected balanced budget outlook



Council does not meet the legislative balanced budget requirement as defined in s100 of the Local Government Act 2002 and is not expecting to do so until 2028. The legislative calculation includes capital grants and subsidies which can only be applied to capital projects and cannot be used to fund everyday operational costs over the period. As Council receives significant capital grants and subsidies, the legislative calculation makes it appear that there is more income available to meet everyday operational costs than there actually is. Therefore, we have excluded capital improvement subsidies and capital grants from the graph to only show the projected operating balanced budget for everyday operational income and costs.



Ki hea tohaina ai hāku rēti

Where will my rates be spent

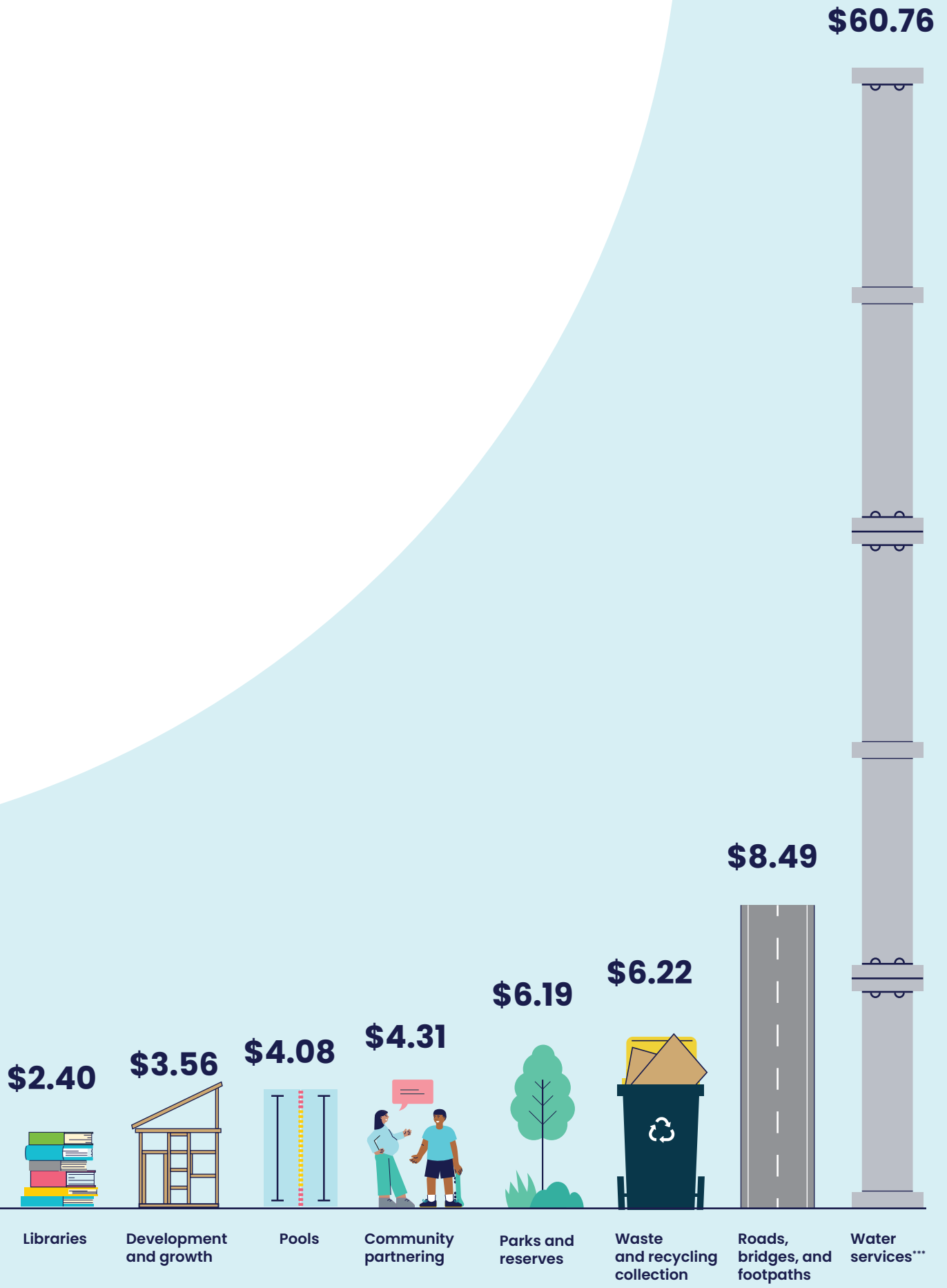
This is how we plan to spend every \$100 of rates over the next nine years*

In June 2025, with financial sustainability and affordability front of mind, Council agreed to reduce the planned rates revenue increase of 13.4% for 2025-26 to 12.6% (both after growth). This graph is based on the Annual Plan 2025-2026.



* We expect to receive \$5.58 of credit from the landfill. This will help to offset costs and is reflected in the figures for all these other services shown on these pages.

**Sustainability engagement represents spending on community activities, along with facilitation of projects across council activities, including investment in decarbonisation of council facilities, healthy urban waterways, etc.



*** Water services is made up of water supply, wastewater, and stormwater investment.

Whakarāpopoto tātaritanga

Our performance at a glance

49 were achieved

27 did not achieve the targets

3 measures were reported, and targets will be set for 2025–26

Water management

Council complied with most of the new drinking water standards, with one water treatment plant, managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council, partially meeting those standards. Resident satisfaction with water supply improved to 76%, partly as a result of significant improvements to response times for urgent and non-urgent call outs. The complaint rate was at 26.2 per 1,000 connections due to ageing infrastructure.

In wastewater, dry weather overflows remained low at 2.3 per 1,000 connections, and complaints were within target. Satisfaction with wastewater services increased to 69% following improvements at the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant, but consent non-compliance persisted with three enforcement actions. Response and resolution times improved but remain affected by ageing assets.

Stormwater performance met all water quality and flooding targets, with no flooding events affecting habitable floors this year. Resident satisfaction improved to 58%, though feedback highlighted concerns about blocked drains, local flooding, and the need for better climate resilience.

Sustainability and resilience

Emissions from Council-owned facilities were 2,362 tCO₂-e, above the target of 1,987t CO₂-e. Notably, while emissions associated with the use of fossil gas decreased compared to the previous year in line with the phase-out of fossil gas for heating purposes, emissions associated with electricity increased, as a result of an increase in electricity consumption (e.g. Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness opening) and changes and assumptions regarding the carbon intensity of New Zealand's electricity production for the 2024-25 financial year. Overall emissions are about 17% lower than the baseline year in 2016-17. With regard to the fleet, emissions from fossil fuel powered vehicles were at 67 tCO₂-e, above the target of 61 tCO₂-e. However, the fleet continues to transition to electric vehicles, and emissions are now over 70% lower than the baseline year in 2016-17.

Waste management

Council maintained full compliance with resource consents at Silverstream landfill. The number of

illegal dumping complaints reduced to 214. Kerbside waste to landfill increased to 0.193 tonnes per person. Kerbside recycling volumes increased marginally to 5,171 tonnes, and while contamination has reduced to 14%, lower than the previous year (15%), it remained above the target level of 10%. Resident satisfaction with rubbish and recycling services was 78%, reflecting some dissatisfaction regarding the frequency of Council's green waste collection service, and some service inefficiencies, such as missed collections.

Regulatory services

Building consent and code compliance performance improved significantly, reaching 82% and 94% respectively. Non-notified resource consents achieved 96%, an improvement from 77% in the previous year. Environmental health targets were met or exceeded, including 100% verification of food premises and 111% inspection of high-risk liquor sites. Noise complaint response rates held steady at 93%, and animal services undertook 150 community educational activities, continuing to support a safer and more informed community.

Transport

The road condition index improved slightly to 4.1, meeting our target. Resurfacing covered 2.3% of the sealed road network, meeting the target, and 95% of footpaths met the service standard. Customer service responsiveness for road and footpath requests was low at 19%, reflecting a need for improved priority of requests. Work is underway to enhance reporting and technology, alongside ongoing investment in shared pathways and footpath renewals to support a safe and accessible transport network.

Infrastructure and active modes

Audit results for infrastructure contracts were strong, with all 12 contracts audited and 90% meeting specifications. Resident satisfaction with footpaths was 48%, on-road cycleways 36%, and shared paths 58%, reflecting ongoing concerns about safety, maintenance, and connectivity. While some improvements were noted where repairs and new cycle lanes were delivered, feedback highlighted issues such as uneven surfaces, debris, and conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians.

Parking and facilities

Resident satisfaction with parking availability declined to 45%, remaining well below the 75% target. Feedback highlighted ongoing difficulties finding car parks in central Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt and Petone, dissatisfaction with paid parking and time limits, and frustration with the removal of some parking to support other transport priorities.

Community services

Council partnered with community groups in a homelessness prevention programme to successfully assist 50 households into more settled accommodation, facilitate legal housing advice for 194 households, and support another 103 households. Seven of nine neighbourhood hubs met their visitor targets, with total visits exceeding the target by 5%, and resident satisfaction remained high at 87%. Neighbourhoods and communities supported and enabled 7,141 wellbeing activities, 966,524 library loans, and expanded digital and early years literacy programmes, strengthening community engagement and support.

Recreation and culture

Grass sports fields were closed for only 15 days and artificial turf fields for two days, meeting availability targets. This is in large part because the drainage improvement programme agreed for the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 has kicked in and is currently on target in terms of cost and delivery. Satisfaction with sports fields and parks remained strong at 80% and 85% respectively, while playground satisfaction was slightly below target at 79%. Our programme of playground renewals and improvements continues.

With major work underway on the pool network, visitor numbers were slightly down, but overall pool satisfaction was 80% and fitness suite membership increased to 2,469. Museums performed strongly, meeting visitor targets, delivering 344 arts and culture programmes, and maintaining 92% resident satisfaction.

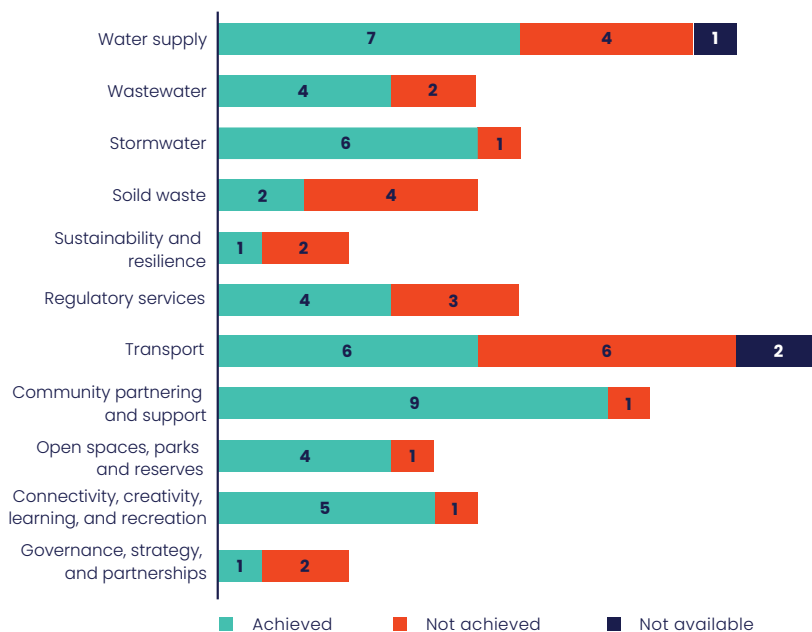
City governance

The Council met its target of 100% for making meeting and committee agendas publicly available on time. However, resident satisfaction with access to decision-making and the perceived effectiveness of public participation fell short of the 80% target, with satisfaction at 39% and feelings of being well-informed at 48%. Feedback indicates concerns about the Council’s responsiveness to public input.

Conclusion

In 2024–25, Council delivered strong progress across core services while addressing areas of ongoing challenge. Water management showed significant improvements in response times and compliance, though ageing infrastructure continues to drive higher complaint volumes and water loss. Waste management maintained compliance and reduced illegal dumping, but landfill volumes and recycling targets remain areas for focus. Satisfaction with community facilities, recreation, and cultural services stayed high, reflecting strong engagement across neighbourhood hubs and libraries, and museums. Looking ahead, Council will continue to invest in infrastructure, improve communication and engagement, and focus on sustainability initiatives to meet the city’s growing needs.

KPI measure achievement by activity areas:



Pūrongo pūtea

Summary financial statements

Summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses

For the year ended 30 June 2025	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2025 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000
Total revenue	321,021	358,056	288,566	347,599	292,433
Finance costs	(28,023)	(27,453)	(21,663)	(28,023)	(21,666)
Loss on revaluation of financial instruments	(5,277)	-	(1,586)	(5,277)	(1,586)
Other operating expenditures	(301,726)	(296,247)	(252,074)	(329,775)	(258,423)
Share of associate's surplus / (deficit)	-	-	-	(83)	807
Surplus / (deficit) before tax	(14,005)	34,356	13,243	(15,559)	11,565
Income Tax expense	(90)	-	97	(148)	548
Surplus / (deficit) after tax	(13,915)	34,356	13,146	(15,411)	11,017
Gain/(losses) on property revaluations	-	-	1,421,624	-	1,423,554
Impairment gain/(losses) on revalued property	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred tax on revaluation	-	-	-	-	(1,753)
Total other comprehensive revenue and expenses	-	-	1,421,624	-	1,421,801
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses attributable to Hutt City Council	(13,915)	34,356	1,434,770	(15,411)	1,432,818

Summary statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2025	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2025 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000
Equity at the beginning of the year	3,039,527	1,801,273	1,604,757	3,097,136	1,664,318
Total comprehensive income	(13,915)	34,356	1,434,770	(15,411)	1,432,818
Equity at the end of the year	3,025,611	1,835,629	3,039,527	3,081,724	3,097,136

Summary statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2025	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2025 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000
Current assets	83,226	46,548	88,067	127,991	123,555
Non-current assets	3,578,526	2,453,629	3,523,750	3,594,298	3,550,522
Total Assets	3,661,752	2,500,177	3,611,817	3,722,289	3,674,077
Current liabilities	131,368	100,198	90,675	132,134	91,612
Non-current liabilities	504,772	564,350	481,616	508,430	485,329
Total liabilities	636,140	664,548	572,291	640,564	576,941
Net assets	3,025,612	1,835,629	3,039,526	3,081,725	3,097,136
Total equity	3,025,611	1,835,629	3,039,527	3,081,724	3,097,136

Summary statement of cash flows

For the year
ended 30 June 2025

	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2025 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000	2025 \$000	2024 \$000
Net cash flow from operating activities	91,307	97,669	47,951	94,201	34,277
Net cash flow from investing activities	(151,644)	(213,210)	(167,740)	(142,321)	(170,561)
Net cash flow from financing activities	61,000	112,504	140,000	61,000	140,000
Net cash flow for the year	663	(3,037)	20,211	12,880	3,716

Notes:

1. This Summary Annual Report has been extracted from the full Annual Report and is designed to give an overview for the year to 30 June 2025 of the Council's operations as a legal entity and also those for its "group", including its subsidiary and Council controlled organisations. The Annual Report contains detailed information about our finances and service performance and was adopted by Council and approved for issue on 7 October 2025.
2. This summary report has been prepared in accordance with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements. It cannot be expected to provide as complete understanding as provided by the full financial report of the financial and service performance, financial position and cash flow of the Council.
3. The full financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP. They comply with NZ PBE IPSAS Tier 1, and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities. The functional and presentation currency of Hutt City Council is New Zealand dollars with all values rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. The Council of Hutt City confirms that all other statutory requirements relating to the Annual Report have been complied with.
4. Audit New Zealand has audited the full financial statements and issued an unmodified on the audited information, excluding the statement of service provision. A qualified opinion was issued relating to the statement of service provision with respect verifying the number of complaints relating to the wastewater system, drinking water supply, and performance of the stormwater system. This Summary has been examined by Audit New Zealand for consistency with the full Annual Report.
5. Explanations for major variations from council's budgeted figures in the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 are as follows:

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses

Council's total revenues were \$42.6 million lower than budget. This was mainly because of reduced subsidies and grants, with a number of capital projects delayed or deferred, and lower fees and charges, including water supply volumes. Total expenses were close to the budget overall. Spending was lower than planned for some initiatives, such as the Go Digital programme and community funding, but this was offset by higher depreciation costs from the revaluation of three water assets, and an unbudgeted accounting loss on financial instruments. Together, these factors resulted in a net deficit after tax of \$13.9 million, compared with a budgeted surplus of \$34.4 million.

Statement of financial position

Council's total assets were \$1.176 billion above budget, mainly because of the revaluation of three water assets. Higher cash balances, receivables, and prepayments also contributed, while assets under construction were lower than planned due to project deferrals. Borrowings were \$45.4 million lower than budget as less borrowing was needed for the capital programme. Creditors and payables were slightly higher due to the timing of payments. Overall, Council's net assets and equity were \$1.190 billion above budget.

Statement of cash flows

Cash outflows from operations were \$6.1 million lower than budget due to reduced supplier payments. Cash outflows from investing were \$6.4 million lower than budget, mainly because of deferred capital projects. Cash inflows from financing were \$51.5 million lower than budget, reflecting reduced borrowing requirements.

A more detailed explanation of variances is provided in the full Annual Report.

6. The full Annual Report can be obtained from our website hutt.city/annualreport

Tauāki Puakanga

Disclosures

The total number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater, and stormwater

The following note relates to the performance measures outlined on pages 46, 51, and 55 of the full Annual Report.

We outsource the management of our three waters infrastructure to Wellington Water Limited (WWL). This includes gathering information to support the reporting of Council's performance measures in these areas.

Council is required to report against the performance measures set out in the Non-Financial Performance Measure Rules 2013 issued by the Secretary for Local Government. These include mandatory measures on the total number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater, and stormwater.

WWL manages water assets and services on behalf of six councils, with performance oversight provided by a committee comprising representatives from each council. Issues were identified in the reporting of performance measures related to total complaints received across water supply, wastewater, and stormwater services. Specifically, the records of complaints were incomplete, and some complaints made directly to WWL could not be reconciled with council records.

As a result, the reported results for the number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater, and stormwater may be understated.

The audit opinion was that the work was limited, and there were no practicable audit procedures that could be applied to obtain assurance over the reported results for these performance measures.

Transport performance measures

The following note relates to the performance measures outlined on pages 73 and 74 of the full Annual Report.

Audit New Zealand issued a qualified opinion on two transport performance measures: the average quality of ride on the sealed local road network (measured by smooth travel exposure), and the percentage of customer service requests relating to roads and footpaths responded to within the specified timeframe.

The average quality of ride on the sealed local road network, as measured by smooth travel exposure, is based on surveys of road roughness and estimated traffic volumes. These estimates rely on actual traffic counts from selected roads, which are then used to model volumes across the wider network. This is primarily due to the limited recency of the underlying

traffic count data, only a small portion of the network has been surveyed within the past four years. There were identified anomalies in its traffic volume estimations that remain unresolved.

The performance measure relating to the percentage of customer service requests for roads and footpaths responded to within a seven-day timeframe is subject to a limitation of scope due to insufficient audit evidence. This is due to system limitations.

Inherent uncertainties in the measurement of Greenhouse Gas emissions

The following note relates to the performance information outlined on pages 64–65 of the full Annual Report.

In the Annual Report 2023–2024, the Council included a measure of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its performance information, with disclosure of the inherent uncertainties in the reported results. Quantifying GHG emissions is subject to uncertainty because the scientific knowledge and methodologies used to determine emissions factors and to calculate or estimate quantities of GHG sources are still evolving, as are GHG reporting and assurance standards.

To address this, the 2024–25 performance information has been updated to provide more detailed explanations of how emissions are measured and the key assumptions applied. However, quantifying GHG emissions remains subject to inherent uncertainty.

Significant uncertainty around unit rates and on cost

The following note relates to the financial disclosures on pages 157 and 158 of the full Annual Report.

The June 2024 valuation identified a significant increase in the fair value of three water assets. During the revaluation process, uncertainty was raised regarding the long-term sustainability of the high unit rate costs currently reflected in contracts procured by Wellington Water Limited (WWL).

In 2024–25, a fair value assessment of three waters assets was completed by WSP New Zealand. Since the 2024 valuation, WWL commissioned two independent reviews and began organisational improvements. However, a significant degree of uncertainty remains in relation to the valuation assumptions and cost structures associated with WWL contracts. As a result, it was not possible to accurately quantify the potential impact of these changes on unit rates and on-costs as at 30 June 2025.

The assessment concluded that the unit rates applied in the previous year's revaluation remain appropriate,

and no adjustments have been made to the closing book values. Additionally, the potential impact of future changes to the region's water services delivery model as a result of the Government's Local Water Done Well reform continues to place uncertainty over the fair value of three waters assets as at 30 June 2025.

Three Waters Reform/ Local Water Done Well

In December 2023, the New Zealand Government announced a new direction for water services (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services) policy and legislation, which it has called Local Water Done Well. This is being implemented in three stages:

stage 1 – repealing the previous affordable water reforms (completed in February 2024);

stage 2 – enacting the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Preliminary Arrangements Act), which received Royal Assent on 2 September 2024; and

stage 3 – establishing enduring settings through the Local Government (Water Services) Act and Local Government (Water Services) (Repeals and Amendments) Act, which received Royal Assent on 26 August 2025

The Preliminary Arrangements Act requires the Council to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the Secretary of Local Government by 3 September 2025. In broad terms, a WSDP must identify the current state of the Council's water services and show how the Council will deliver those services in a way that:

- meets relevant regulatory quality standards for stormwater, wastewater, and water supply networks
- is financially sustainable
- ensures compliance with drinking water quality standards
- supports the council's housing growth and urban development objectives

Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council have developed a joint plan for delivering water services to metropolitan Wellington residents and businesses through a new organisation with new funding and governance arrangements. The Metropolitan Wellington Water Services Delivery Plan has been approved by the five councils in August 2025 and was submitted to the Government prior to the deadline of September 2025. The Secretary for Local Government (SLG) accepted the Council's water services delivery plan on the 3 October 2025.

The plan is based on establishing a new multi-council-owned water organisation in partnership with Mana Whenua Iwi Ngāti Toa Rangitira and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika. The new organisation,

with the interim name Metro Water, is expected to take over from Wellington Water Limited on 1 July 2026. Councils' drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater operations, and related assets and liabilities are anticipated to transfer to Metro Water from this date.

The rights and responsibilities of shareholding councils and Mana Whenua partners will be documented in Metro Water's Constitution and Partners' Agreement. These documents are expected to be finalised and presented to councils for ratification in late 2025.

Since the agreement to transfer water services, related assets and liabilities is yet to be finalised, there is uncertainty over the impact on future financial statements. However, the more significant impacts are expected to include:

- a transfer between revaluation reserves and retained earnings will result from the derecognition of water assets
- recognition of the Council's investment in Metro Water and derecognition of the Council's existing investment in Wellington Water Limited
- disclosure of discontinued water operations in the 2026–27 reporting period. Due to the nature of the transfer, water infrastructure assets are not expected to be classified as non-current assets held for sale since their carrying value will not be principally recovered through a sale transaction
- a reduction in rates revenue and a similar level of cost savings

The Council has also considered the impact of the expected transfer on the going concern basis of preparation. While there will be a significant decrease in the future revenue stream of the Council (since approximately 40% of current rates revenue relates to water services, which will form part of Metro Water after the transfer), this will be offset by an approximately equivalent saving in the associated costs of providing water services. The Council, therefore, considers the going concern basis of preparation to still be appropriate.

Hutt City Council continues to recognise its three waters assets at 30 June 2025 in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 14 on pages 158 – 171 of the full Annual Report. There has been no adjustment in these financial statements to reflect the expected future transfer of assets to the new water entity. It is expected central government will develop details around the mechanism for the transfer of the water assets. As further details are established, this may require adjustments to Council's three water assets either in respect of disclosure or measurement.

Pūrongo Kaitātari Kaute

Independent Auditor's report

To the readers of Hutt City Council Group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Hutt City Council (the Council) and its subsidiaries and controlled entities (the Group), for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 37 to 42:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service provision (referred to as "Our Performance at a Glance").

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43, *Summary Financial Statements*.

However, the summary statement of service provision information includes a limitation in scope to the equivalent extent as the full audited statement of service provision. This limitation is explained below in "*The full annual report and our audit report thereon*" section.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the statement of service provision (referred to as "Our Performance"), and an unmodified audit opinion on the other

audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, in our auditor's report dated 7 October 2025. The basis for our qualified opinion on the statement of service provision in the full audit report is explained below.

Statement of service provision: Our work was limited with respect to several performance measures as described below

The Council is required to report against the performance measures set out in the Non-Financial Performance Measure Rules 2024 (the Rules) made by the Secretary for Local Government. These include mandatory performance measures relating to:

- the total number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater, and stormwater;
- the average quality of ride on the sealed local road network, measured by smooth travel exposure; and
- the percentage of customer service requests relating to roads and footpaths which are responded to within a specified timeframe.

These performance measures are important as they are indicative of the quality of service provided to the community.

We identified significant issues with these performance measures as described below. As a result of these issues, our work was limited and there were no practicable audit procedures we could apply to obtain assurance over the reported results for these performance measures.

The total number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater, and stormwater

The Department of Internal Affairs has issued guidance to assist local authorities in applying the Rules, including how to count complaints. The Council has not been counting complaints in accordance with this guidance and the method of recording was likely to have understated the actual number of complaints received for these performance measures.

Our opinion on these performance measures was also qualified in the 2024 performance year.

The average quality of ride on the sealed local road network, measured by smooth travel exposure

Reported performance of this performance measure is based on surveys of road roughness and traffic volumes. The traffic volumes are based on actual counts of certain roads, and the use of these counts to estimate traffic volumes on the rest of the sealed local road network.

We were unable to obtain assurance over the reliability of estimated traffic volumes used in the calculation of this performance measure. This was because the actual traffic counts used as an input to estimated traffic volumes are not sufficiently up to date, with only a small portion of the road network having counts in the last four years.

In addition, as described on page 41 of the summary of the annual report, the Council identified certain anomalies in its estimations of traffic volumes, which are yet to be resolved.

Therefore, the Council does not have sufficiently reliable data to calculate the average quality of ride on the sealed local road network measured by smooth travel exposure. The actual quality of ride on the sealed local road network may differ materially from the result reported.

The percentage of customer service requests relating to roads and footpaths which are responded to within a seven-day timeframe

The Council did not maintain sufficient appropriate evidence to support the time taken to respond to customer service requests relating to roads and footpaths.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes emphasis of matter paragraphs drawing attention to following disclosures.

Uncertainty over the fair value of three waters assets

Note 14 on pages 157 to 158 of the full financial statements outlines the significant uncertainties over the fair value of three waters assets as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025. The fair value of these assets has been affected by increased costs of construction over the last few years. The review of procurement arrangements and changes to the region's water services delivery model could lead to future changes in construction costs, which increases the uncertainty over the estimated fair value of these assets.

Inherent uncertainties in the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions

The Group has chosen to include a measure of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its performance information. In considering the public interest in climate change related information, we draw attention to page 64 of the full annual report, which outlines the inherent uncertainties in the reported GHG emissions. Quantifying GHG emissions is subject to inherent uncertainties because the scientific knowledge and methodologies to determine the emissions factors and processes used to calculate or estimate quantities of GHG sources are still evolving, as are GHG reporting and assurance standards.

Future of water delivery

Note 1 Critical judgements in applying accounting policies, and note 31 of the full financial statements, outline that in response to the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms, the Council has decided to establish a multi-owned water organisation with Porirua City, Upper Hutt City, Wellington City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils to deliver water, wastewater and stormwater services from 1 July 2026. The financial impact of this decision is unknown because details of the exact arrangements are still to be considered.

Information about these matters are also disclosed on pages 41 to 42 of the summary of the annual report.

The Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report, which includes preparing summary statements in accordance with PBE FRS 43.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to the audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have performed a limited assurance engagement related to the Council's debenture trust deed, which is compatible with those independence requirements.

Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Group.



Debbie Bradfield

Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand



