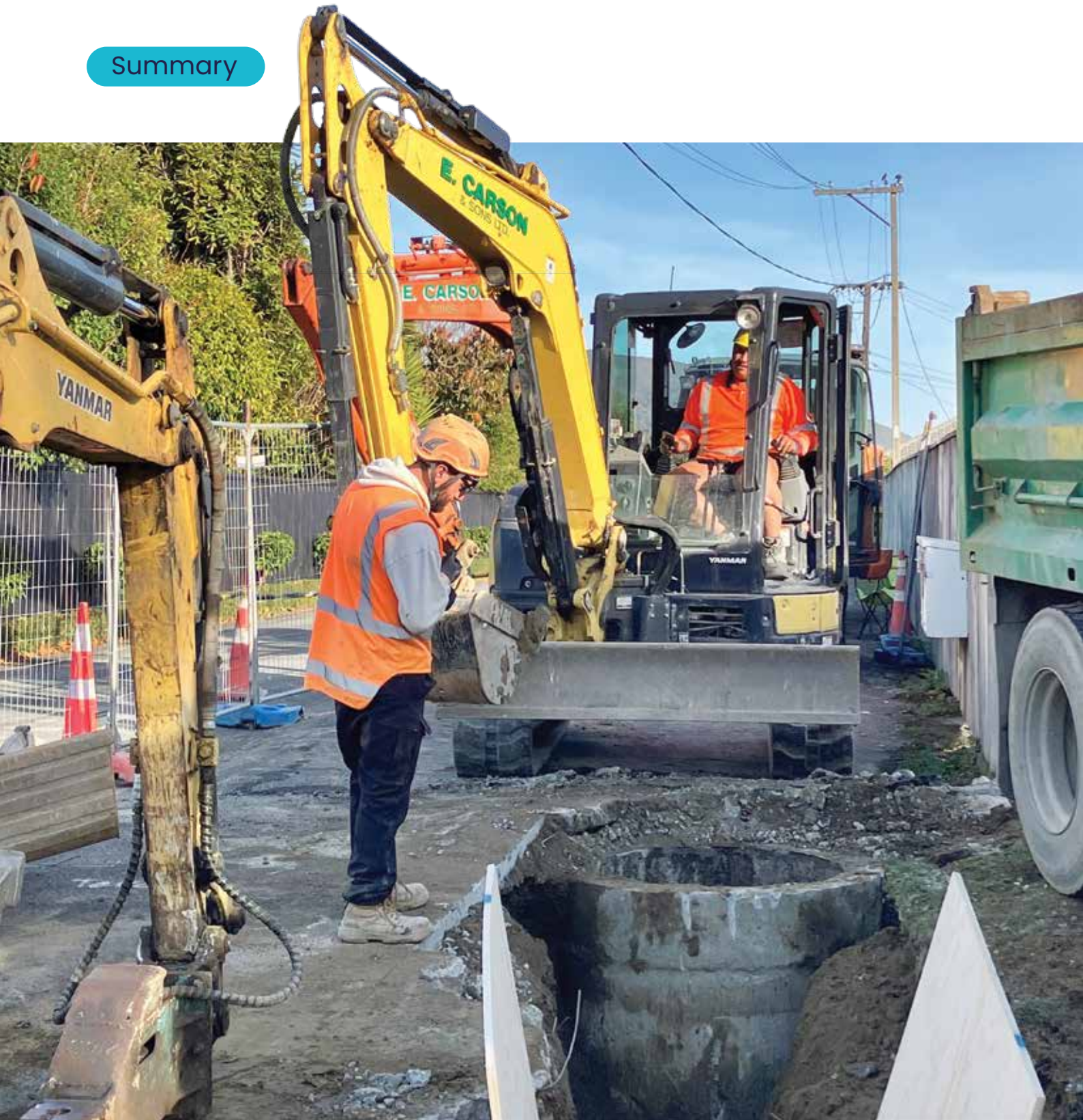


2023–24

Pūrongo ā-Tau Annual Report

Summary



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 Whātaimai. Ka timu ngā tai o Te Wai Mānga, ka parzi mai 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 Whātaimai, 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 2023–24 Annual Report for Hutt City Council.

The past year has seen significant progress for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, as we've seen the return of our community to our hubs, libraries and facilities, and a marked increase in investment in our city and services, despite the challenges we all face.

Rising inflation, escalating contract and construction costs, and the pressure of servicing debt has weighed heavily on households. In this tough environment we've remained steadfast in our commitment to invest in core services and addressing critical infrastructure.

Amidst financial and economic pressures and new government policy settings, we adapted quickly. We delivered key projects outlined in our Annual Plan and adopted a new 10 Year Plan (LTP) that sets our priorities for the next decade, with a strong focus on upgrading ageing infrastructure, especially our water assets.

Council delivered \$175M of its capital investment programme, \$19M more than the previous year. Key areas of spending included \$74M for water services, \$42M for transport, and \$22M for Te Ngaengae, our new Naenae pool and fitness centre.

In partnership with Wellington Water, we renewed 15.8 km of pipes – the highest renewal rate in the region. We've started improvement works at Seaview

Wastewater Treatment Plant, including replacing biofilters to improve odour management. We know more work is needed which is why we've planned further upgrades to the plant over the coming years. There's also more to do in restoring our streams and waterways, and we are proud to be leading this important mahi.

We reopened Eastern Hutt Road following the 2022 landslips, completing 65,000 hours of work that will make this transport route more resilient. We also made progress on repairs to other roads affected by landslips and we delivered 13 new or upgraded pedestrian crossings, with significant works underway on Boulcott and High Streets, and Akatea Road.

In November 2023, we opened the first section of Tupua Horo Nuku, a shared pathway that improves resilience for the Eastern Bays while providing safe walking and cycling along Marine Drive. This will also help protect the road from climate change impacts.

Construction on Te Ngaengae, our new aquatic and fitness facility, is almost complete, and opens in December 2024. Environmentally responsible design has been a priority, with 80% of surplus construction waste recycled. The opening will also mark the introduction of free swimming at our pools for under-10s when accompanied by an adult with a Community Services Card.

With strong financial oversight our year-end underlying net operating result was favourable to budget. Hutt City Council, like most councils, continued to experience cost escalations and rising debt. Affordability of rates, and limited funding solutions constrained our ability to increase revenue and offset these costs. This, along with uncertainty related to government policy settings especially in relation to water services, led to a Standard & Poor's Credit Rating Agency downgrade by one notch to a long-term credit rating from AA to AA- in August 2024.

Our community embraced environmental initiatives like Mouri Tupu - Planting for the Future which aligns with our Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy and fosters a deeper connection between residents and nature.

Despite financial challenges, we are proud of the progress we've made in creating a connected, resilient, and inclusive city. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming year.

Campbell Barry
**Te Koromatua o Te Awa Kairangi
ki Tai**

Mayor of Lower Hutt

Jo Miller
Tumu Whakarae
Chief Executive Hutt City Council

Nga Kīwei o Te Kete

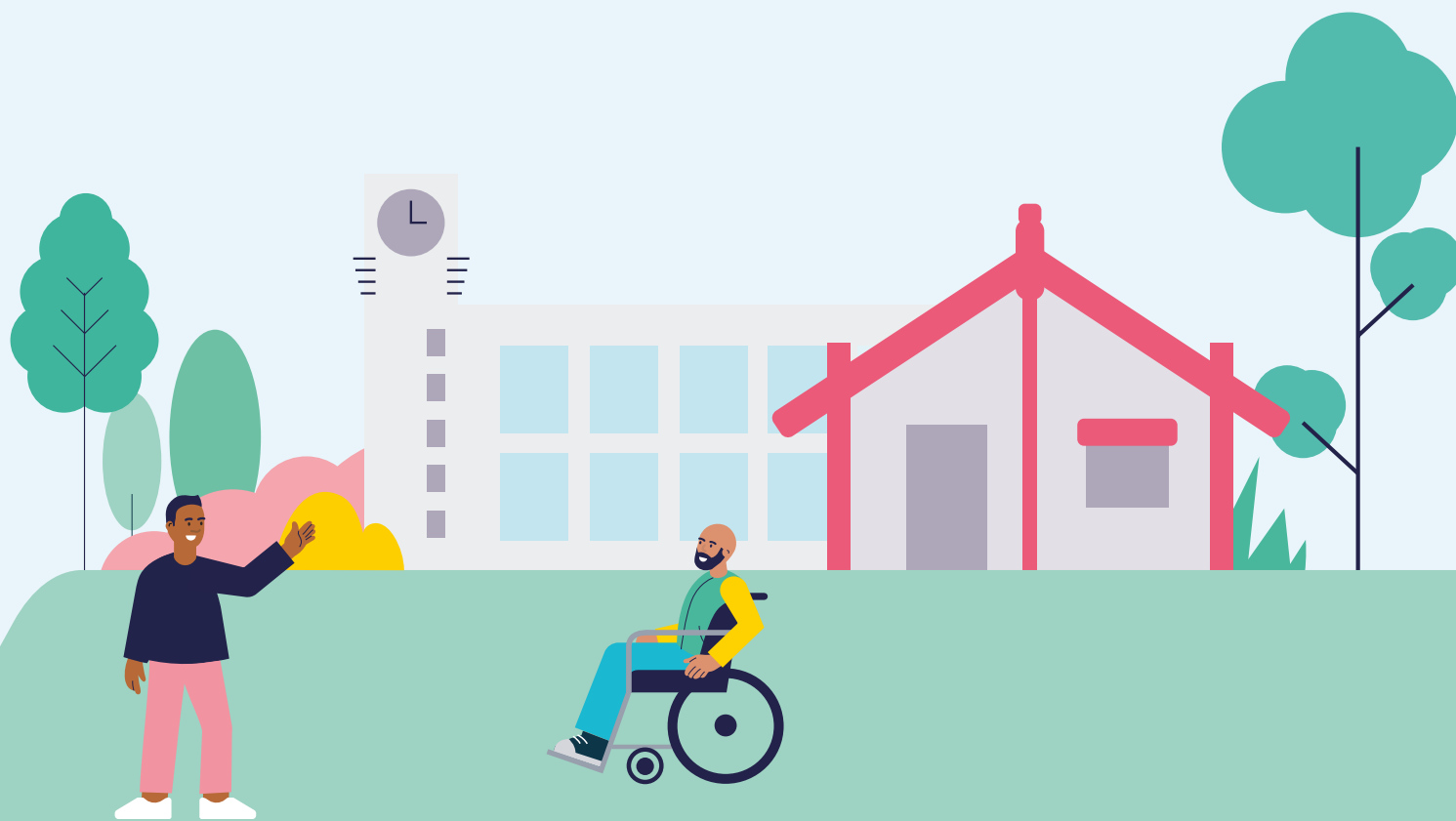
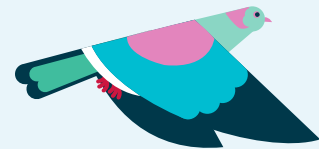
Partnership with Mana Whenua

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 did against the goals we set for the year.

Here's a quick summary of the Council's planning and reporting cycle:

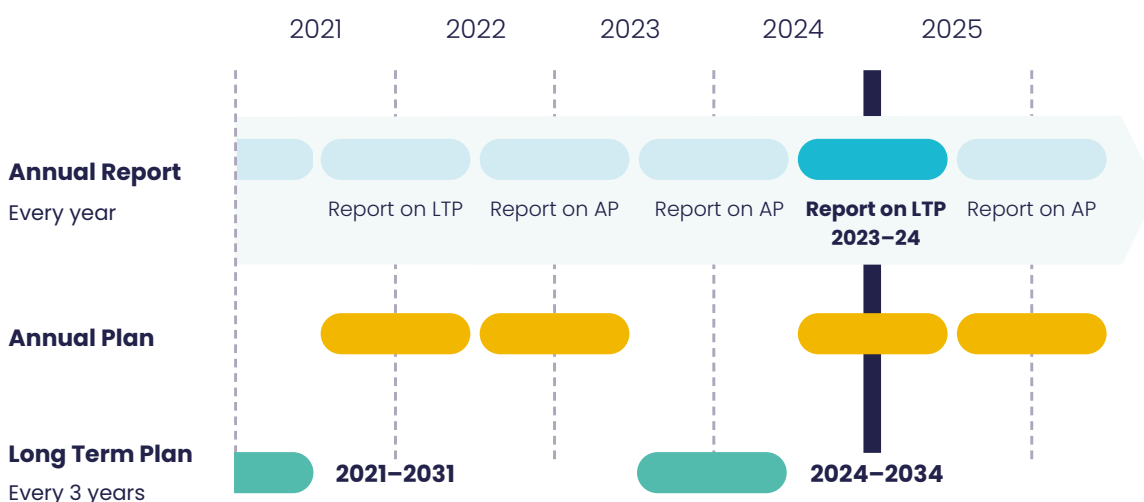
- 10 Year Plan (or Long Term Plan) and Annual Plan work together. The 10 Year Plan outlines our purpose for the city over the next decade and details key projects and budgets for that period. The first year of the 10 Year Plan also acts as the Annual Plan for that year.
- For the two years following a 10 Year Plan, we produce a new Annual Plan each year. Think of these as chapters two and three of the 10 Year Plan.
- In both our 10 Year Plan and Annual Plan, we set goals across different areas to ensure the Council is always improving and serving our community. In the Annual Report, we compare our set goals with what we actually achieved during the year. This report is then audited by the Office of the Auditor-General.

In 2021, we released our Long Term Plan for 2021–31, aiming to create a city where everyone can thrive. To achieve this, we identified six key priorities (see page 11 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 these six 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 2023–24.

Example of Council planning and performance monitoring cycle.

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.

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 north-east, South Wairarapa to the east and Wellington to the south-west and west. It is one of nine territorial authorities in the Wellington Region.

Explore Lower Hutt: A snapshot of our vibrant city



Population & housing

Population:

114,006

(Mar 2024) Source: Sense Partners

Census Usually Resident Population
(number of people):

107,562

(2023) Source: Census 2023, Stats NZ

Dwellings:

42,504

(2023) Source: Census 2023, Stats NZ

Average House Value:

\$769,254

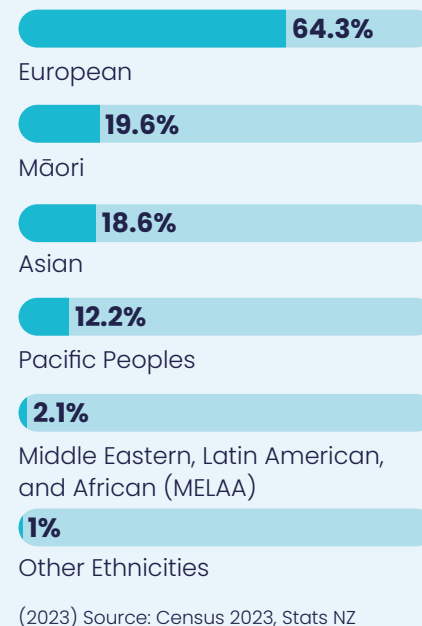
(Mar 2024) Source: Infometrics

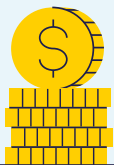
Median Rent Price:

\$573

(Mar 2024) Source: Infometrics

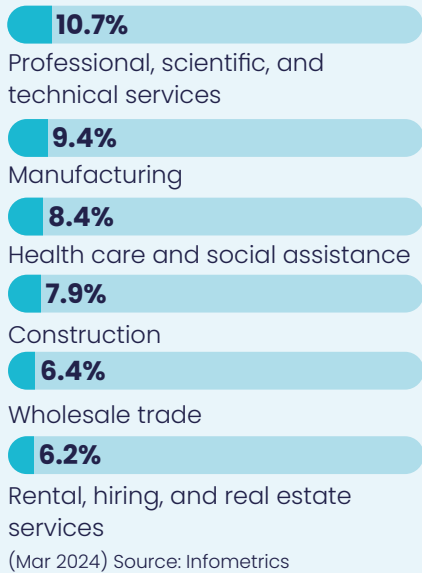
Cultural diversity





Economic landscape

Top Sectors:



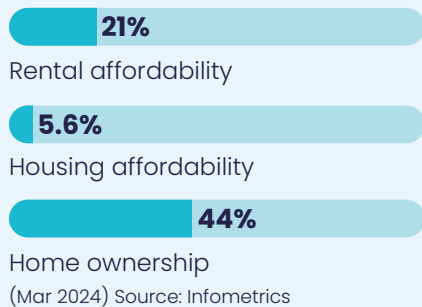
Median personal income for Lower Hutt:

\$47,800

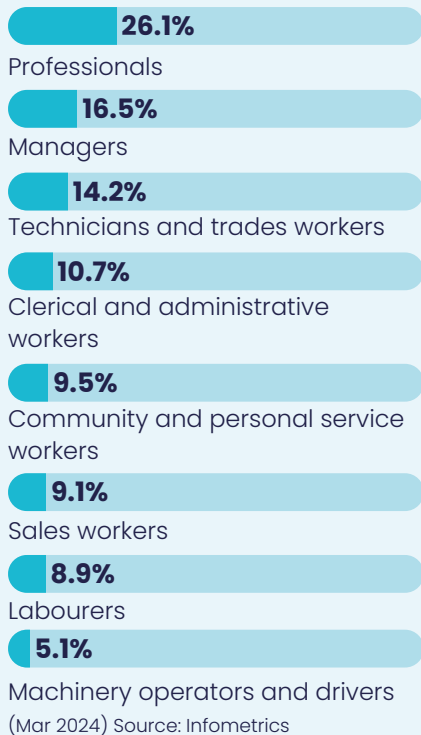
(2023) Source: Census 2023, Stats NZ



Housing affordability



Workforce

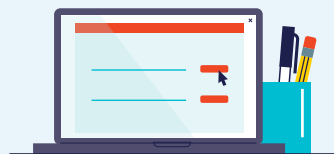


Health & wellbeing

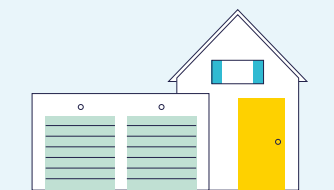
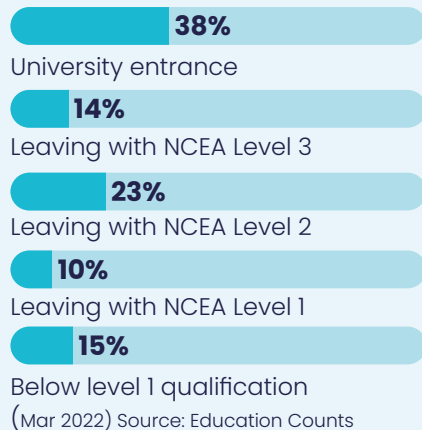
Cancer mortality rate:
135 per 100,000
(Mar 2024) Source: Infometrics

Child mortality rate:
226 per 100,000
(Ministry of Health 2018)

Gaming machine proceeds:
\$87.17 per person per quarter
is the average amount lost to gaming machines (pokies)
(Mar 2024) Source: Dot Loves Data



Education



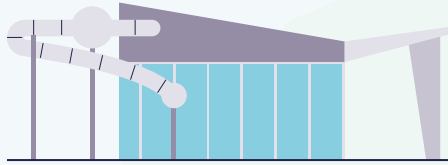
Community services

Public housing stock:
3,593
(Dec 2024) Source: Infometrics

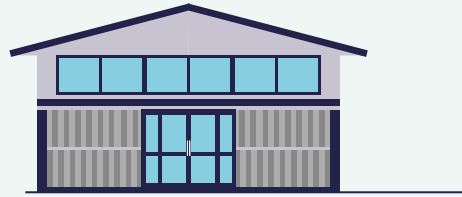
Households in emergency housing:
79
(Mar 2024) Source: Infometrics

Housing register applicants:
579
(Mar 2024) Source: Infometrics

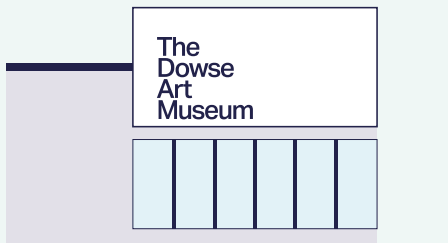
Council assets



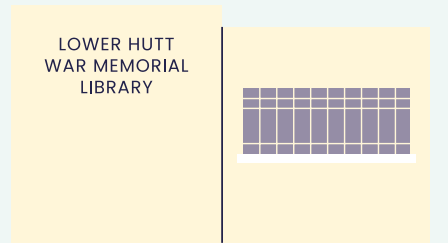
5
pools



8
community
halls



2
museums



9
neighbourhood
hubs and libraries



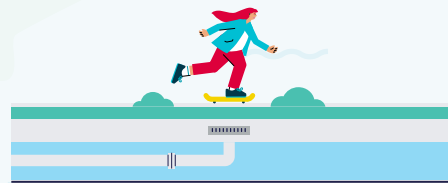
281
reserves



55
playgrounds



2,918 hectares
of public green space (these include parks, reserves, sports grounds, playgrounds, gardens, and cemeteries)



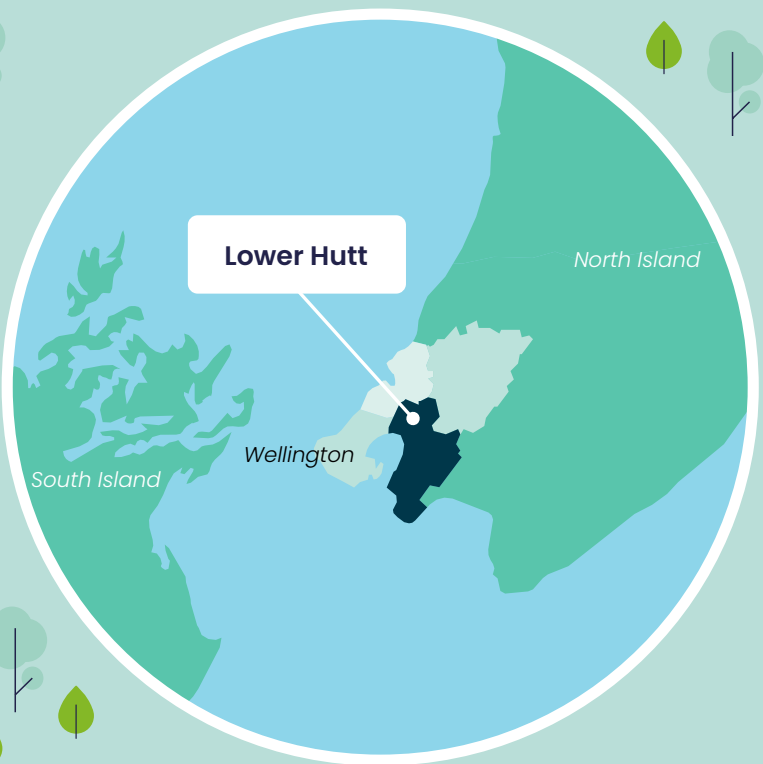
1,846km
of pipes (drinking, waste
and storm water)



Belmont
Kelson
Taitā
Stokes Valley
Avalon
Naenae
Normandale
Waiwhetū
Petone
Moera
Gracefield
Seaview
Te Awa Kairangi
Hutt River

Wainuiomata

Days Bay
Eastern bays
Eastbourne



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 other 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 transport and resilience projects, including Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (formerly RiverLink), Eastern Hutt Road, and Tupua Horo Nuku (Eastern Bays shared path).

Update on Local Water Done Well implementation and regional collaboration

In December 2023, the Government announced a new plan for managing water services – drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater – called Local Water Done Well.

The Government has passed new laws to establish the Local Water Done Well framework and begin the transition to a new water services system. This new approach aims to create sustainable and regulated water services.

Local Water Done Well is proposed to be rolled out in three stages, each with its own legislation. It is currently in the second stage, with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill having been introduced to Parliament on 30 May.

Regional response

One key requirement is for councils to develop plans for delivering water services. Along with other councils, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a plan to meet the Government's Local Water Done Well policy. This MoU includes

the four Wellington metropolitan councils, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and the Kāpiti Coast, Horowhenua, Carterton, South Wairarapa, and Masterton District Councils.

An Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) has been formed to oversee this regional approach. Led by Dame Kerry Prendergast, the group includes elected members from the 10 councils in the Wellington region and Horowhenua district, along with Iwi representatives. Our council is represented on the AOG by Mayor Campbell Barry.

Various options are being explored, including continuing with the current service delivery or establishing a new water services organisation with other councils in the Wellington region.

Consultation is expected to take place in 2025 once more detailed options have been developed.

Hō mātou whakaarotau

Our priorities

We want Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt to be a city where everyone thrives.

As a community, we're continuing to face significant challenges. In our 10 Year Plan 2021-31 we identified six key priorities alongside our community to help us tackle these challenges and achieve our purpose as a city where everyone thrives.



1 Whakangao i ngā poupou hapori

Investing in infrastructure

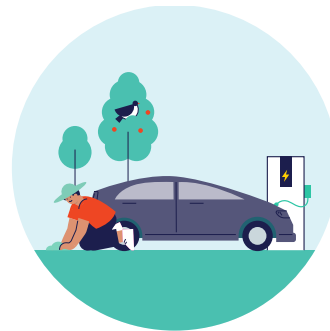
Investing in high-quality infrastructure that supports our people to move around, receive basic services (like water), and enjoy our community facilities.



2 Hei Āhuru Mōwai mō te Katoa

Increasing housing supply

Effectively planning for growth in our city, ensuring an increase in housing supply, and working with organisations to ensure our people have warm, safe, dry homes to live in.



3 Tiaki Taiao

Caring for and protecting our environment

Working with our communities to meet the challenges of climate change and our goal to become carbon zero by 2050.



4 Taunaki Ōhanga Auaha, Tāone Whakapoapoa

Supporting an innovative, agile economy and attractive city

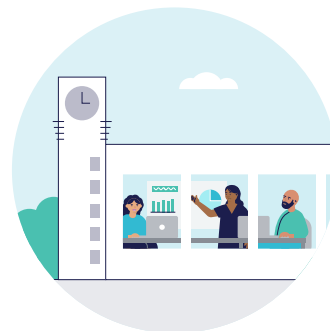
Investing to drive economic growth, and harnessing the talents of business, education, research, and science communities in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai ower Hutt to make our city an attractive place to work and invest.



5 Tūhono Hapori

Connecting communities

Investing to connect and empower neighbourhoods and communities so they can thrive and remain safe, connected, healthy, inclusive, and resilient.



6 Whakauka Ahumoni

Financial sustainability

Investing in a financially sustainable and prudent way that ensures we are carefully managing our finances to deliver on our community's expectations.

These have now been updated as part of our 10 Year Plan 2024-34.

Ngā mahi o te tau

Our year in review

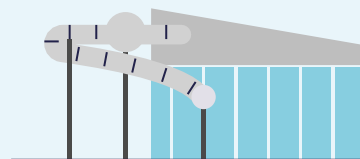
An overview of our performance and key highlights from the year.



537
consents for new homes



69%
of the Council vehicle
fleet is electric



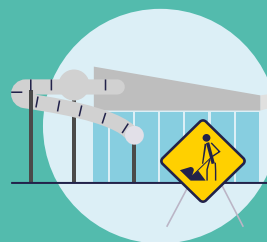
7.35% increase
694,128
visits to pools



Key highlights



✓ Completed phase one of Tupua Horo Nuku (Eastern Bays shared path) and received an extra \$15 million in government funding for the project



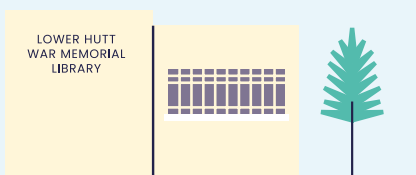
✓ Main construction phase of new Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness Centre was undertaken and the opening of Te Mako Naenae Community Centre



✓ Launched the new Low Carbon Acceleration Fund that will result in a permanent step change in emissions reduction



✓ Kicked off Mouri Tupu Planting for the Future, our campaign to plant 114,000 native trees and plants. We planted 33,112 plants during this financial year



18.13% increase

2,067,441
visits to neighbourhood hubs and libraries

11.21% increase

159,412
visits to museums

724,981
physical library loans

204,409
electronic library loans



✓ Re-opened Eastern Hutt Road, completing the first phases of a \$27.5 million remediation project by March 2024, with continued efforts to enhance corridor resilience

✓ Housing provider CCO Urban Plus Ltd (UPL) delivered five accessible houses and handed them over to their first Lower Hutt residents

✓ Continued our significant investment in three waters infrastructure and invested in upgrade work at the Seaview wastewater treatment plant



✓ Announced a new resilient and sustainable neighbourhood hub building for the Moera community

✓ Four Council projects were listed as finalists for the Association of Local Government Information Management (ALGIM) Project of the Year 2023 award

✓ Won local Government Website of the Year award for 2023

Whakangao i ngā poupu hāpori

Investing in infrastructure

We are making a significant investment in infrastructure to ensure our community can move freely, access essential services, and fully enjoy our facilities. This includes critical road and water projects designed to secure the long-term health and wellbeing of our city. These efforts are all about future-proofing our community and enhancing the quality of life for everyone.



We continued with construction of Tupua Horo Nuku in the Eastern Bays

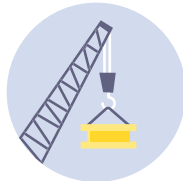
In November 2023 we opened the first completed section of Tupua Horo Nuku at Ma-koromiko between Oruamotoro (Days Bay) and Eastbourne.

In the same month we were pleased to receive confirmation of additional government funding of \$15 million for the new seawall and shared pathway project, which stretches 4.4km along Marine Drive between Ngau Matau (Point Howard) and Eastbourne.

When fully completed, Tupua Horo Nuku is set to provide a safe walking and cycling connection along Marine Drive from Eastbourne to Ngau Matau (Point Howard) and provide greater protection for the road which has already been undermined in some sections by the ocean and extreme weather.

As well as providing this key transport route for our communities in the Eastern Bays, it will help safeguard important infrastructure under the road.

In May design plans for Whiorau (Lowry) Bay were also certified and in June 2024 construction began in Whiorau (Lowry) Bay and the Whiorau Bird Protection Area.



We played host to the regional construction and infrastructure workforce collaboration workshop

In October 2023 we hosted a workforce workshop with over 60 construction and infrastructure employers, educators, and regional colleagues.

This was an opportunity to bring together and create closer collaboration between major contractors and infrastructure partners. Important discussions were held around collective milestones and creating leadership together in programming, and clustering work across our cities, agencies, and employers.



We started work on safety improvements on Akatea Road in Korokoro

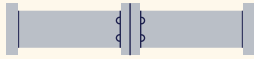
The work will improve the sections of the road with narrow bends and poor or non-existent footpaths, kerbing, and drainage channels, making it safer for all road users and pedestrians.



Other highlights:

- We agreed to continue to upgrade our city's infrastructure. This will remain a key focus, in particular for water services and transport.
- We replaced the Biofilters at the Seaview wastewater treatment plant, the first step to improve odour management. More work in this area will be done following planned upgrades and improvements, due to take place in 2025.
- We started work to upgrade the intersection of Boulcott Street and High Street. The improvements will improve traffic flow and safety for all road users in the area.
- We rolled out 13 new or improved pedestrian crossings across the city. This will enhance the overall safety and convenience for all users to encourage walking, cycling, and scootering.
- We worked with the community to improve safety and accessibility in Wainuiomata, using funding from Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency Streets for People fund. The improvements make it feel safer, more inviting, and accessible for residents to walk, skate, scooter, or bike through the area and to spend time in public spaces.

Dashboard



1,845km pipes



15.8km pipes renewed



1,158m of road replaced

(approx. 7,314m²)
2023–24 season



1,834m of road resurfaced

(approx. 25,793m²)
2023–24 season

Case study



Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (formerly RiverLink)

Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (formerly RiverLink) is a transformational programme for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. It includes crucial flood protection work, the Melling transport improvements, the new Melling City Link Bridge, and Lower Hutt city centre urban revitalisation.

During the 2023–24 financial year, we worked on this programme with our partners, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the delivery alliance, and local Mana Whenua, Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. We also set up a new in-house delivery unit (City Delivery Unit) to lead the delivery of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi programme.

The scope of works undertaken in 2023–24 included:

- Upgrade works to the Mills Street stopbank between Melling city link bridge and north of Mills Street.
- Detailed design and appointment of contractor for the new Avalon Skatepark.
- Announcing the revised design for the new Melling interchange.

- Gravel extraction from Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River, as planned management of the riverbed.
- Removal and demolition of key sites on Daly, Pharazyn, Marsden, and Mills Streets.
- Utility and pavement investigations, including CCTV investigations into water assets.
- Geotechnical investigations across the Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi site.

We are working to deliver local road and intersection improvements and streetscaping itself, as well as the riverbank car park and park aspects of the programme, which will assist in revitalising the area, turning the city to face the river, and help promote the river as a key asset to deliver our purpose for the city. We'll also work with Te Awa Kairangi alliance to deliver the Melling city link bridge linking the city and the relocated Melling train station.



Eastern Hutt Road stabilisation project

The Eastern Hutt Road stabilisation project followed several landslides on the hillside above Eastern Hutt Road in July 2022. The slips resulted in the partial closure of this major road, and significant disruption was experienced by residents, businesses, and others in the area. This project became one of our biggest infrastructure projects during 2023 and into 2024 providing extra resilience to this area.

Immediately after the slips, temporary measures were put in place to protect the road from further slips. The comprehensive remediation works that followed included fixing three major slip sites above the road and future-proofing them against any future slips.

Physical work on the project to improve the resilience of the Eastern Hutt Road corridor began in July 2023. The programme of work across three sites included the installation of catching fencing and anchors, as well as laying erosion control matting and applying anchored shotcrete to reinforce the slope.

All parties worked during an intensive period of work to complete the project on time – 65,000 hours of work was recorded during the main programme. The bulk of the work took place between March and May 2024. Many teams were

involved in this huge project which included engineers, geotech specialists, abseiling specialists, crane operators, traffic management, and many more.

The Eastern Hutt Road was fully reopened in March 2024, marking the completion of this part of the stabilisation project. The work carried out so far provides ongoing resilience to the area and future-proofing against future slips. This crucial transport corridor is more resilient as a result of this project.

By numbers:

- More than 1,500 metres were drilled into the slip face, allowing for the installation of 532 anchors in total to stabilise the area.
- 26 truckloads of shotcrete were installed over an area of 260m³
- 1,950m³ of erosion control matting were installed
- 68.5m of 3m-high catch fence were installed beside the road

Weather-related challenges are not going away and we are dedicated to providing a more resilient city. Investing and enhancing our infrastructure resilience is a core priority.



Hei āhuru mōwai mō te katoa

Increasing our housing supply

The Council is committed to proactively planning for the city's growth, increasing the housing supply, and working with organisations to ensure every resident has a warm, safe, and dry home. We also work closely with UPL to expand housing options on offer to our residents.



We were able to move forward with housing intensification

In August 2023 Hutt City Council voted unanimously for government-mandated changes to allow higher and denser housing, particularly around transport hubs.

Following a public hearing earlier in 2023, an independent panel delivered recommended decisions to Hutt City Council for Plan Change 56, enabling intensification in residential and commercial areas.

The changes mean that as a city we can adapt to a growing population and develop and build good-quality housing that we need for our communities.



We released a draft of our District Plan in late 2023

The District Plan is our rulebook for land use and development across the city, and this is the first top-to-bottom review since 2004. Public feedback on the draft is being incorporated into a proposed plan for a future consultation.



We were part of the new Hutt Central Regeneration City Steering Group

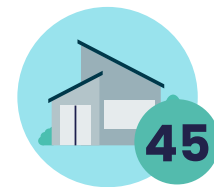
A new steering group was established, with the aim of facilitating favourable housing outcomes within Lower Hutt. Its purpose was to provide a unified approach among central and local government bodies, as well as key partners. Representatives on the steering group include those from Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, Mana Whenua, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, Wellington Water, Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC), and Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce (HVCC).

Our progress on housing delivery in the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) area, central city, and valley floor has been noted at the steering group's discussions. Through our IAF housing outcomes agreement with the Crown, Council must facilitate the delivery of 3,520 additional dwellings in the valley floor by the end of 2035. Our progress of 654 dwellings in less than two years means that we are already nearly 20% towards the target.



We issued building consents for 537 new homes over the past year

Our city continues to change, with higher-density housing and more complex multi-unit developments being built. This will produce more housing and increased options for our residents, which is positive for the community. Higher-density consent applications are complicated and require more time, input, and expertise which has made for a busy year for the consenting team.



We noted 45 apprentices worked on Urban Plus housing projects

Our housing CCO Urban Plus Limited (UPL), the social housing development arm of Hutt City Council, has overseen the completion of housing projects across the city. This boosts the city's housing stock and apprenticeship opportunities are also created. In May 2024 it was announced that 45 apprentices were working on UPL projects whom are undertaking apprenticeships in a range of occupations including electricians, plumbers, builders, painters, and plasterers. Apprentices are sourced to work on projects through a variety of ways including an established relationship with Petone-based tertiary institution WelTec.

Dashboard



537 new homes issued with a building consent



45 apprentices worked on UPL housing projects



5 new accessible units were added to the UPL portfolio

Case study



Urban Plus Ltd (UPL) adds five accessible units to its portfolio

At Hutt City Council we aim to deliver good-quality housing through UPL.

Through UPL more inclusive options are delivered for our community. We were pleased to have five accessible design units in Petone completed on time and under budget in June 2024.

The high-quality units at 17 Britannia Street are all part of a carefully considered infill project that is situated at the rear of an existing apartment block. UPL has built these units to NZGBC Homestar 6 Design & Built accreditation standards as well as 5-Star Lifemark Standards. The Homestar rating ensures a healthier, warmer, drier, and more comfortable home that uses less power and water than a similar home built to the minimum standard of the New Zealand Building Code.

All units were tenanted on completion and are all specifically designed to meet the requirements of wheelchair users. Each unit has level entry doorways, wheelchair access under the kitchen benches and bathrooms, which also have fold-down shower seats and grab rails.

This development is a good start in terms of adding new accessibility options for our community. UPL aims to continue its growth as well as provide and deliver these housing options to other like-minded organisations such as community housing providers.

Tiaki taiao

Caring for and protecting our environment

Working with our communities to meet the challenges of a changing climate and our goal to become carbon zero by 2050.



We kicked off Mouri Tupu: Planting for the Future

Mouri Tupu is a community campaign to plant 114,000 native trees and plants across Lower Hutt and inspire citizens to pick up a spade and join in with the initiative.

The Mayor has set a goal to plant one native tree or plant for every citizen of Te Awa Kairangī ki Tai Lower Hutt.

Council, along with community organisations, have planted 33,112 plants at the end of this financial year.

The campaign was launched with a planting event at East Harbour Kindergarten in April. We formed a partnership with Mitre 10 Wellington who supplied gardening gloves, trowels, gift cards, and BBQ supplies for our planting events and giveaways.

During the planting season in July, we gave 10,000 plants to community organisations to plant in places like Waiwhetū Stream and Petone Beach. We also planted another 10,000 in reserves and sports grounds in Moera, Kōraunui/Stokes Valley, and Wainuiomata, and were joined by Arakura Primary School students at Arakura Park.

Mouri Tupu is one way we are delivering on our Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, in particular the goals of protecting and restoring indigenous species and their habitats and connecting our community with nature.



We invited the community to nominate significant trees deserving protection

As part of the District Plan review, we asked residents to identify special trees in their neighbourhood to be assessed for protection with the landowner's agreement. An arborist is assessing trees to add to the 140 significant trees already on record that make a distinctive contribution to a community's identity or history.



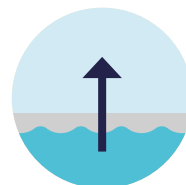
We diverted waste from city events as part of our waste minimisation programme

From July 2023 to June 2024, out of 10,605kg of waste generated from five events across our city, 8,586.80kg was successfully diverted through composting or recycling. This was achieved with the assistance of external waste management providers, including Nonstop Solutions and Closed Loop.



We introduced a new voucher for the Silverstream landfill transfer station

We encouraged people visiting the landfill transfer station to separate their load out and receive a discount on recyclable or reusable items weighing over 20kg. In June 2024, the first month of use, 450 people took up the offer and diverted 27 tonnes from going to landfill.



Other highlights

- We refreshed the Too Good to Waste website by adding more recycling tips and tricks, collection calendars, free resources, and activities just for tamariki.
- We continued our education campaign on kerbside recycling contamination.
- We increased the emergency stored water capacity in the city to 130,600L through the sale of 200L water tanks at our neighbourhood hubs.
- We designed a Waste Minimisation Plan to help identify likely waste and how it can be reduced, with the goal of less waste going to landfill.

Dashboard



69 electric vehicle charging points across the city



5,134 tonnes of recycling collected



22,543 tonnes of kerbside waste collected and taken to landfill



5 organisations supported through the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund

Case study



We green-lit the new Low Carbon Acceleration Fund

The Low Carbon Acceleration Fund offers up to 50% co-funding for eligible projects that will reduce carbon emissions in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, as we progress towards a 50% emissions reduction by 2030, and the city becoming net zero by 2050.

In May 2024 five organisations with a keen eye for reducing their emissions were given the green light on their reduction initiatives. The Low Carbon Acceleration Fund was available to any eligible legal entity such as a business, charity, incorporated society, or trust, provided that the project is being implemented in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

In the first round, \$160,000 was available, with a maximum of \$40,000 for each applicant. This is the first round of a new fund established by Council to help deliver on its climate change commitments and support our city to decarbonise. This round was open between 15 February and 14 March 2024.

The five successful applicants were Y Central, Wesley Rātā Village Naenae, He Puāwai Trust, Rudolf Steiner School Trust and Youth Inspire.

At Council we are proud to support organisations like these who are clearly aware of their carbon footprint and want to really engage with emissions reduction in a meaningful way.

Funding organisations in such a way enables positive change for both the climate and the community.

The fund is set to run every year and the community is encouraged to look out for future rounds in 2025 and beyond.

Hutt City Council earns carbon credits under the Emissions Trading Scheme for forests in some of its reserves. The units can be sold, and the revenue can be used to invest in carbon reduction opportunities. To ensure that the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund is cost neutral to Council, the financial envelope of the Low Carbon Acceleration Fund for each round is based on the number of credits earned in the previous year.

Taunaki ōhanga auaha, tāone whakapoapoa

Supporting an innovative, agile economy and attractive city

Investing to drive economic growth, and harnessing the talents of business, education, research, and science communities in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt to make our city an attractive place to work and invest.



We supported local businesses to connect, collaborate, and innovate

During the year we supported several events that champion local industry and business opportunities, including ones run by Love Wainuiomata and Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce.

We also co-funded a Future of Hutt Valley Business project. The project looked at a 10-year business vision for the Hutt Valley and actions that Council, the business community, and agencies can take together to achieve it. Council also supported the creation of 10 vibrant community events, each celebrating the spirit of Matariki Puanga.



We had 5.3 million unique users see our digital tourism promotions

We grew our audience by 40%, reaching a combined 5.3 million unique users through the promotion of local businesses and experiences on our HuttValleyNZ social media channels and digital advertising, helping to showcase local businesses and their products and services.



We won the 2023 Local Government Website of the Year award

We came out on top following an annual audit by the Association of Local Government Information Management (ALGIM) of websites from 78 councils (11 regional councils and 67 territorial authorities) across the country and two council-controlled organisations.

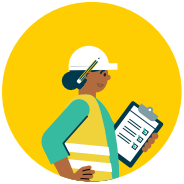
Websites are assessed and rated based on accessibility, content quality assurance, searchability, performance, response time, and availability.



5.3 million unique users – digital tourism promotion



10 community events through the Matariki Event Fund



We appointed an independent panel to assist with our representation review

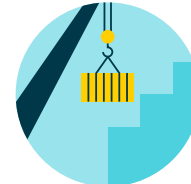
We've been reviewing how our communities are represented locally. This is called a representation review, and under the law we're required to do this at least once every six years.

In July 2023 we appointed an independent panel to engage with communities of interest in the city to review representation arrangements to ensure that communities are fairly and effectively represented by Council. The independent panel undertook a broad engagement and, using this, made recommendations to Council about how our community could be best represented by Council.



We decided to establish a Māori ward

On 21 November 2023, Council resolved, in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001, that at least one Māori ward is to be established for the 2025 elections. This decision is not appealable to the Local Government Commission. This meant that the representation review needs to determine how many Māori wards there will be, the number of members for these wards, the ward boundaries, and the ward names.



We worked with Wellington Water to reinstall the region's biggest sculpture

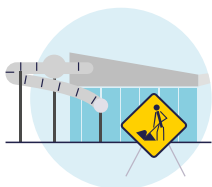
After a temporary absence of about 16 months, the iconic Lightwing sculpture by Andrew Thomas was reinstalled at the Seaview roundabout in September 2023 by Wellington Water on behalf of Hutt City Council.

The sculpture was part of the main wastewater pipe replacement for Barber Grove to Seaview. It was dismantled and moved to enable the duplication of a new wastewater pipeline. The region's biggest sculpture is a graceful steel artwork originally built and installed by local firms in 2018.

Tūhono hāpori

Connecting communities

We're investing to connect neighbourhoods and communities so they can thrive and remain safe, connected, healthy, inclusive, and resilient. Here are some of our key community achievements over the past year.



We celebrated the progress of Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness construction

Over the course of the year, we completed the structural frame and roof, enclosed the frame with wall panels and blockwork, and installed mechanical and electrical equipment. Additionally, the main pool tanks have been installed and lined. A moveable pool floor will enable us to operate one end of variable depths, and our two bulkheads can create different zones for multiple activities. We've also installed two zoom tubes with an access tower.

The project is on schedule to open later in 2024, on budget, and with a target of five Green Star rating. 80% of surplus construction waste that would normally go to fill has been recycled.

Making swimming facilities more accessible has been a priority. When Te Ngaengae Pool opens in the next financial year it will also mark the start of free pool entry for under 10s when accompanied by an adult with a Community Services Card.

New designs for the Walter Mildenhall Park were also released, designed in collaboration with the Whakatapu Ngaengae Community Advisory Group and wider community. The park is situated by the new pool and is an important part of the wider project enhancing the surrounding urban environment. There was support for activities such as play spaces, BBQ areas, picnic spots, wheeled activities, gardens, and artistic displays.



We finalised Te Herenga Kairangi, our Māori strategy

Following consultation with Mana Whenua and Hāpori Māori (Māori communities), we approved Te Herenga Kairangi. This strategy aspires to bring together all our work that has both direct or broader outcomes for Māori. Te Herenga Kairangi – meaning “interwoven ambition to thrive” – expands on our commitment to partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Te Herenga Kairangi brings together principles, outcomes, and actions to focus on. We are committed to working together on shared goals to improve the wellbeing of Whānau, anchored in connection between people, place, and environment.

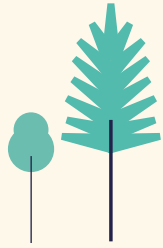


We confirmed plans for the new Moerā Neighbourhood Hub

In May 2024 we were pleased to announce that locally owned and operated Niche Modular Construction Ltd had been awarded the contract to build the new Moerā Neighbourhood Hub.

Located on the existing Moerā Library site, the hub will provide a vibrant community space for our community to connect, learn, and play. The facility is set to be a sustainable, relocatable, purpose-built community building, featuring an open plan space with access to vital library services.

Dashboard



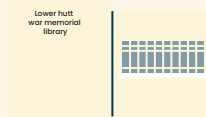
**281 reserves
totalling 2,918ha**



**694,128 visits
to pools**



**204,409 digital
library loans**



**2,081,503 visits to
neighbourhood hubs
and libraries**



**724,981 physical
library loans**



**159,412 visits
to museums**



**55 playgrounds
(5 had safety
upgrades)**



We approved a Rangatahi Action Plan

Rangatahi / young people have a big role to play in making our city better. We are committed to engaging rangatahi in Council matters, to make sure that their voice informs decision-making. In particular, our focus is on the period between childhood and adult age 12-24 years old.

Signed off in April 2024, the new Rangatahi Action Plan shows our commitment to educating and engaging with young people, setting clear goals and actions. The actions will enable rangatahi to share their ideas and opinions more easily, so they can better influence what happens in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.



We ran our annual resident satisfaction Survey 2023-24

The resident satisfaction survey is an annual survey undertaken by our research and evaluation team. The survey asks a sample of Lower Hutt residents about their engagement and satisfaction with the Council's provision and delivery of services and Council-maintained facilities and spaces. It is a snapshot of residents' perceptions at one point in time. The survey was conducted from 12 February to 15 March 2024, with 1,912 valid responses received. The information is useful in Council's future planning and priority setting.



We managed the long- standing summer reading challenge

Alongside Upper Hutt City Council, we ran our long-standing summer reading challenge designed to support young readers. The programme encourages literacy and a love of reading among our community.

Across all age groups covering The Little Read, The Big Read, and The Even Bigger Read, 1,092 entries were submitted, with 3,759 books read and 4,873 activities completed, across our Hutt City libraries.

The challenge has been running in Lower Hutt for over 10 years and has been popular for families to engage with during the summer break. In addition, more than 104 tamariki took part in a special lego launch event at the start of the initiative – The Big Build – at seven of our Hutt City neighbourhood hubs.

Connecting communities continued

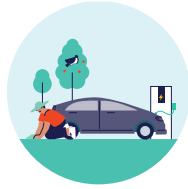


We worked on our 10 Year Plan 2024–2034 – Taking the next steps

The 10 Year Plan, also known as the Long Term Plan, is council's key strategic document. It sets out our priorities for the next 10 years, including what we will do, how much it will cost, and how we will fund it. It's reviewed every three years to make sure it is still relevant and accurate.

The last year saw us work on preparing all the information and documentation for our 10 Year Plan.

This project had one of our most successful community engagements of this type to date, with more than 1,700 people taking the time to provide a submission. We had more than 100 people speak in our Council Chambers for the hearings. The final 10 Year Plan was signed off in June 2024.



We ran many road safety initiatives across our city

We ran two Road Code courses for people whose first language is not English. Reaching 31 people who were supported to get a driver's license and enhancing their confidence in driving our local roads. We supported Free Ride with 227 bike fix-ups. Creating better access and awareness of cycling.

We also ran bike fix-ups with 11 other schools across our community, enabling 368 kids to have safe bikes and scooters. In addition, we continued to run Road Patrol training with schools. This year we reached 44 schools and 905 tamariki. Improving road safety confidence and leadership and encouraging our kids to share the road safety message with the whānau and community.

12 driver licensing courses were also held for rangatahi with Youth Inspire. 179 people earned their learner's licenses, and several also passed their restricted licenses through Youth Inspire, enhancing their independence and confidence, through road safety and responsible driving education.



Other highlights

- We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Eastbourne Library at Eastbourne Neighbourhood Hub on 20 March 2024, with staff and the community present.
- We created a one-stop digital shop where people can find out about events and programmes happening across Council spaces.
- We made postal services available from the Petone Neighbourhood Hub, filling a gap for a much-needed community service.
- We ran 12 car seat clinics from our neighbourhood hubs, ensuring more than 100 people have correctly fitted seats for their tamariki by reducing installation errors and creating long-term safety benefits through education.



Te Mako Naenae Community Centre opens

We celebrated the opening of Te Mako, the new Naenae Community Centre, on 29 June 2024. This marked a key milestone in the Whakatupu Ngaengae project to reinvigorate the town centre.

Te Mako will become a key place for the community to work, play, learn, and belong. It's the first of three major projects being developed to revitalise Naenae.

The construction of Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness Centre is progressing smoothly and is set to open later in 2024. Once completed, attention will shift to remodelling Walter Mildenhall Park. These projects represent a transformation for Naenae, promising to rejuvenate the area and enhance its recreational and community facilities.

Council has partnered with TEAM Naenae Trust who will run the facility for the community.

The building, with its distinctive clock tower, opened in 1959 and has been earthquake strengthened and remodelled for its new use as a community centre.

It features the recreation of a mural designed by artist Guy Ngan for the original Hillary Court Post Office, as well as carved timber pieces of local artist Tiaki Dahm (Te Āti Awa) and tukutuku inspired metal panels by Kereama Taepa (Te Āti Awa and Te Arawa).

The community has already started to embrace this new facility which includes a community kitchen, flexible open-plan spaces, and shared office-style meeting rooms.

Te Mako was designed in consultation with community and will be a place where people can gather, connect, access services, and take part in programmes and events.

Whakauka ahumoni

Financial sustainability

We're investing in a financially sustainable and prudent way that ensures we are carefully managing our finances to deliver on our community's expectations.

Being accountable to residents and ratepayers for the management of our finances, both in the short term and the long term, is a key responsibility of Council. This section aims to provide a brief overview to help you understand our finances. In particular, it shows where we have spent the money that we have received and how we have invested for the future of our city.

Our Financial Strategy

Council's Financial Strategy is based on important principles that provide the foundation for prudent sustainable financial management. These principles can be summarised as:

- Affordability of rates
- Maintaining prudent borrowing levels
- Achieving a balanced operating budget and ensuring that everyday costs are paid for from everyday income
- Delivering services effectively and efficiently
- Strengthening council's financial position in the long term.

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 Long Term Plan 2024–34, available on our website. It sets limits on the amount of debt we can take on compared to revenue (the net debt to revenue ratio). It also forecasts net debt (the money we owe lenders, less cash), and when we will balance the budget. The council budgets are balanced when everyday revenue pays for everyday expenses.

Investment in infrastructure

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is projected to continue growing, demanding robust infrastructure to support this expansion. Our transport and water services network, libraries, and playgrounds are all crucial to this development. Additionally, many of our three waters network assets are ageing and require replacement. By striking the right balance in our investments, we aim to ensure sustainable growth and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

This year, we have made progress in improving the transport network, expanding and future-proofing our water services system, and protecting and

restoring parks and reserves. We also made progress in renewing Council facilities for residents to enjoy. In 2023–24, Council's total capital investment was \$175 million, compared to a budget of \$226 million in the Annual Plan. Including investments by UPL, the total capital investment was \$177 million, an increase from \$157 million in 2022–23. This \$20 million increase reflects a continued ramp-up in our capital investment program to meet the objectives of the 10 Year Plan (see Graph 1).

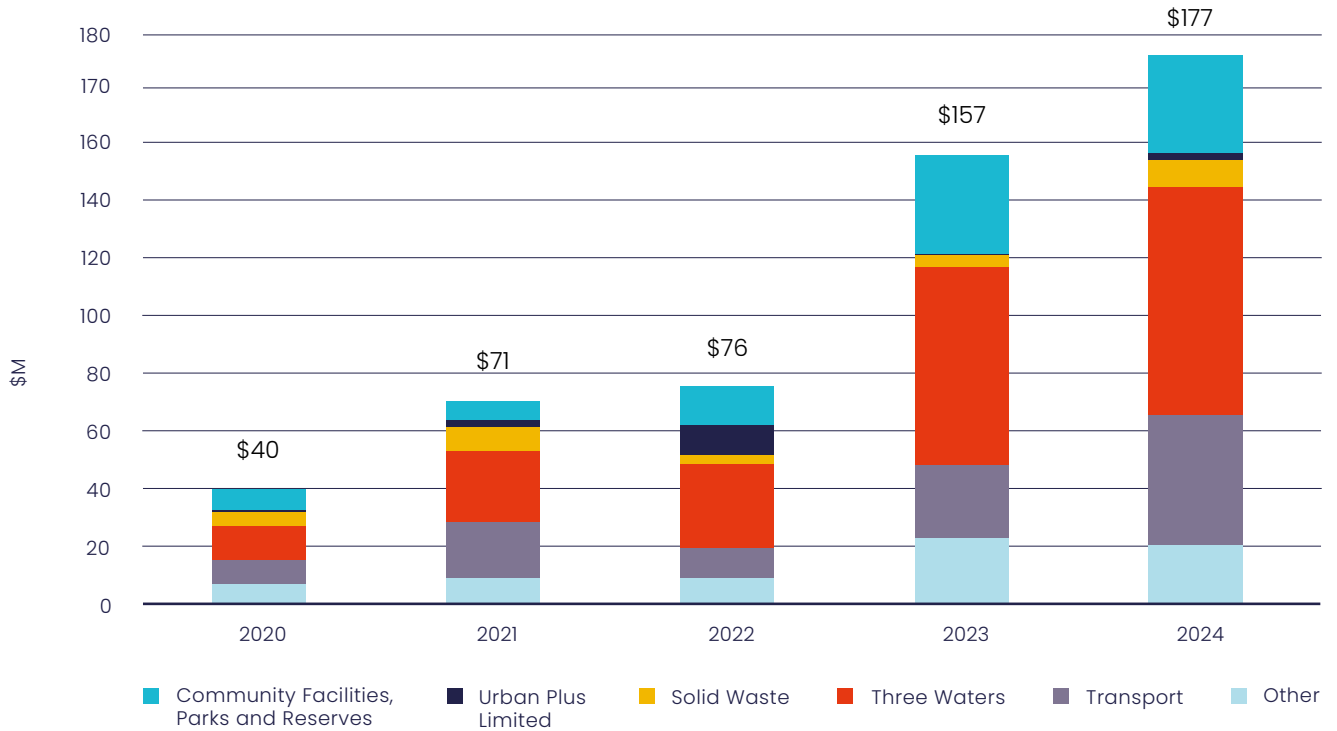
Some of our key highlights and spend for the year were:

- \$74 million on three waters infrastructure against a budget of \$77 million. This includes \$61 million for a range of renewal projects.
- \$22 million on the new Naenae Pool and Fitness Centre which is a continuation of work on a significant community facility.
- \$42 million on transport projects includes \$9 million for transport renewals and \$33 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), Eastern Hutt Road resilience, and the Micromobility programme.
- \$12 million on Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) which is progressing with our partners.
- \$9 million for design and construction of the next phase of the Silverstream landfill.
- \$6 million on parks and reserves projects includes the new cemetery development in Akatarawa Road, reserve development projects, playgrounds, and various park building renewals.
- \$3.8 million on Naenae town centre improvements which is an investment in the development of an important community hub.

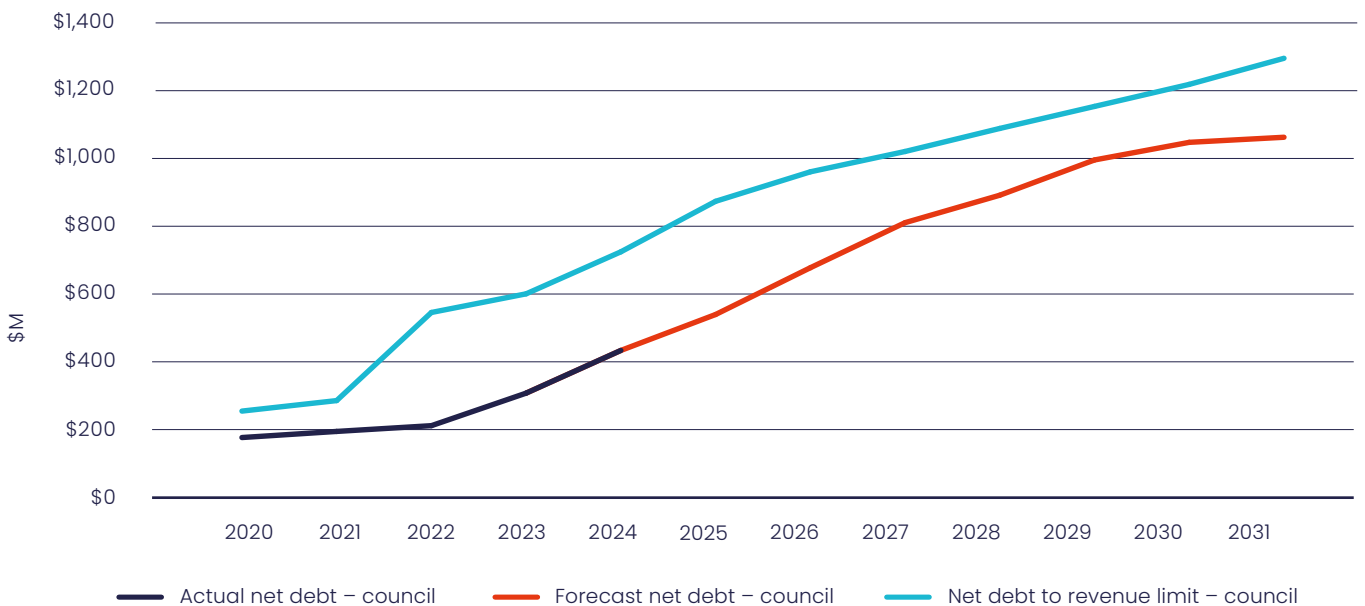
* Refer to the activity statements under Section 2 of this report for detailed spend and budgets for these projects.

Our investment plans have faced challenges due to the timing of decisions around the changing government priorities. Key areas of underspend in 2023–24* mainly relate to the slow-down of a range of transport projects. We are also progressing decisions around Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) with our Alliance partners.

Graph 1: Group capital investment five-year trend



Graph 2: Council net debt



Prudent debt management

We strategically use debt to finance long-term capital investments, spreading the cost across the generations that will benefit from these assets. Our borrowing is guided by a strict limit, maintaining a net debt to revenue ratio of 250%. This ensures that our debt remains manageable and affordable.

In 2023-24, Council's net debt increased by \$126 million, reaching \$433 million (refer to Graph 2), which is 152% of our revenue. This increase is higher than our planned net debt of \$391 million in the Annual Plan, mainly due to capital delivery being higher than the assumed 75% level, together with timing and cashflow differences across a range of areas such as subsidies and grants not received in line with the plan. Over the next five years, we anticipate our net debt to revenue ratio will rise to a peak of approximately 216% as we significantly invest in essential infrastructure, including water services.

Credit rating

In August 2024, Standard and Poor's Credit Rating Agency (S&P) lowered Hutt City Council's long term credit rating one notch from AA to AA-, with the rating outlook maintained at a 'negative' outlook. This follows similar credit rating downgrades for other councils across New Zealand. The S&P report outlined challenges faced by councils, which included limited revenue streams, high infrastructure responsibilities, and increasing debt levels. The downgrade in our credit rating will increase our cost of borrowings going forward.

Revenue

We fund our services and operations through a mix of rates and non-rates revenue. Like all councils, we rely heavily on rates as a primary income stream (see Graph 3). For the 2023-24 fiscal year, total group revenue was \$292 million (excluding revenue from the revaluation of financial instruments) and is trending upwards (see Graph 4). Rates revenue, amounting to \$156 million, represents just over half of our total revenue at the group level. This reflects a \$16.2 million increase from the previous year, following the rates revenue increase approved by Council to fund our services.

Subsidy and grant revenue was \$25.1 million lower than budgeted. This shortfall is primarily due to timing differences in the achievement of the Council's capital programme, resulting in decreased subsidy and grant revenue. Fees and charges recovery was higher than budget by \$1.7 million due to fee changes implemented through the Annual Plan 2023-24 across a range of activity areas with activity volumes being higher than anticipated.

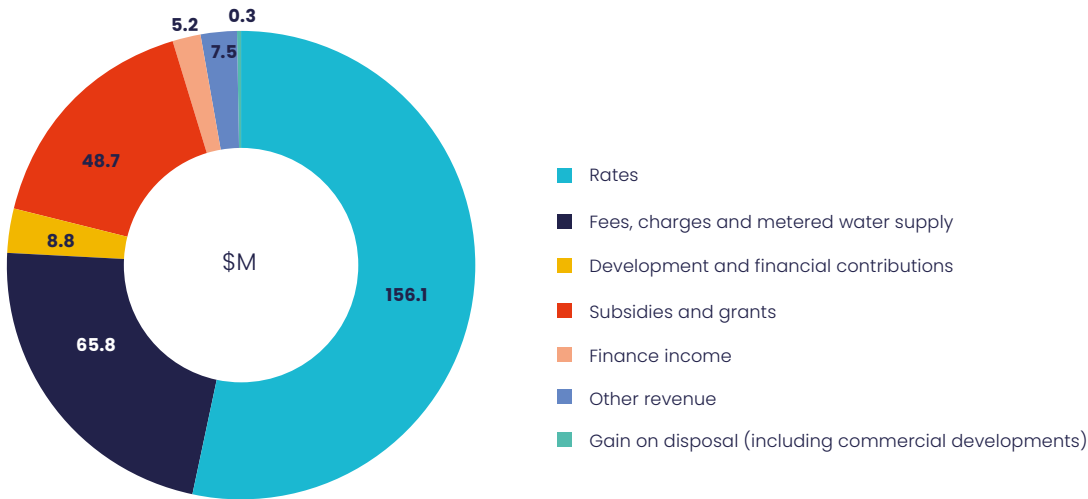
Expenditure

Our operating expenditure 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 2023-24, total group costs were \$280 million (excluding losses on revaluation of financial instruments). Graphs 5 and 6 illustrate how spending is distributed across different services and the spending trend over the past five years.

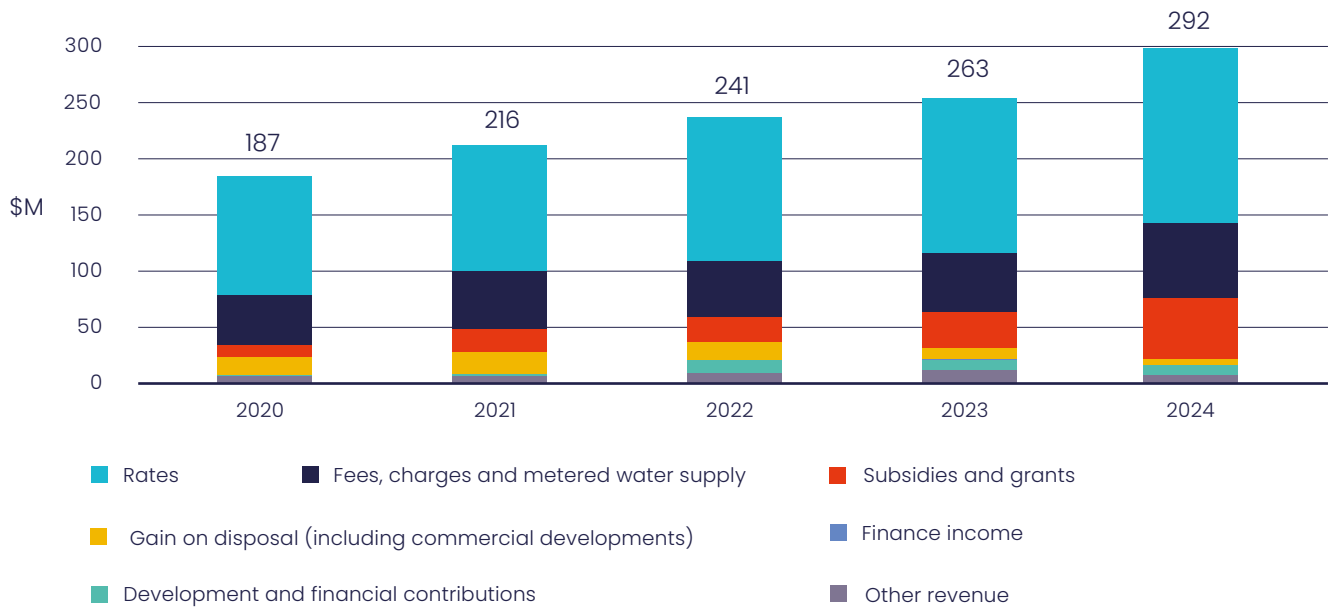
Council's operating costs exceeded the budget by \$5.8 million. This overspend is primarily due to:

- Higher resourcing and compliance costs to process consent applications and maintain our International Accreditation New Zealand accreditation.
- Roading repairs and maintenance costs were higher due to contract renewals with a number of contracts being re-tendered.
- Higher cost of interest which is partially offset by interest income.

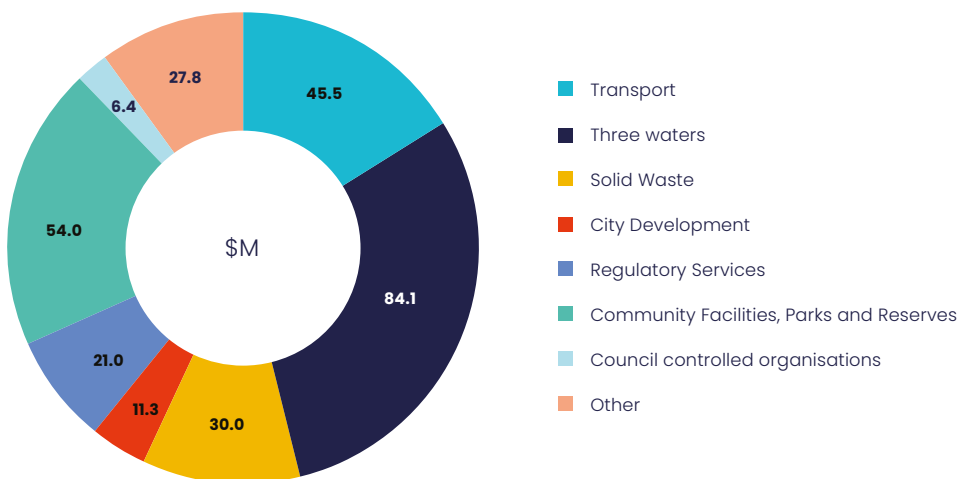
Graph 3: Group revenue by source in 2023–24



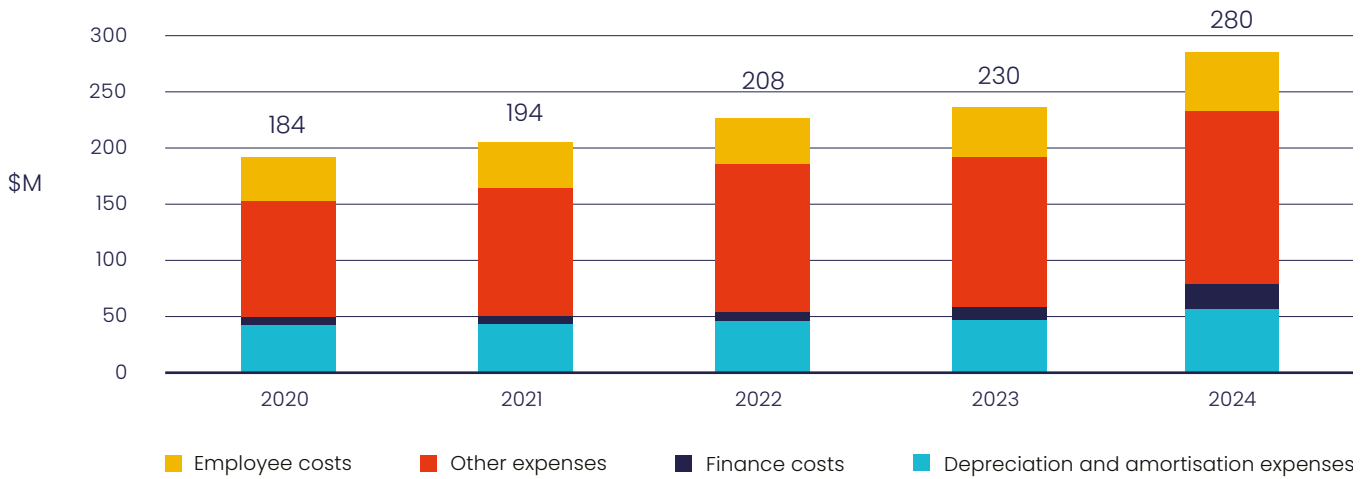
Graph 4: Group five-year revenue trend (excluding gains on the revaluation of financial instruments)



Graph 5: Group expenditure by activity in 2023–24



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



Balanced operating budget

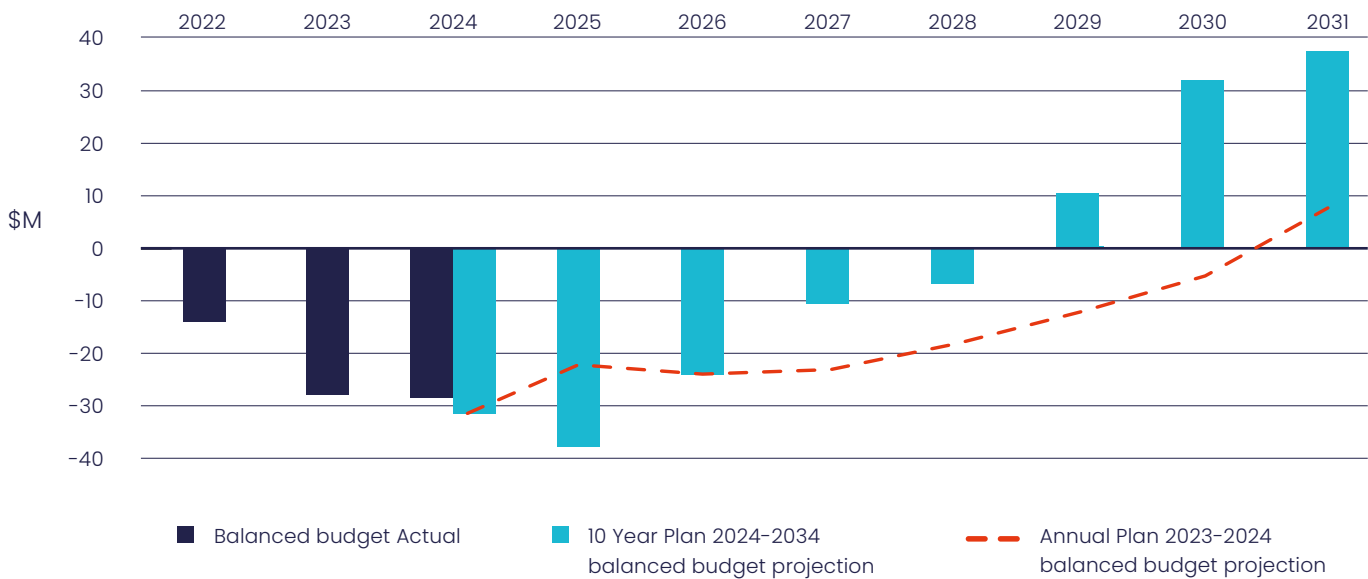
An important part of our Financial Strategy is maintaining a balanced operating budget. This means that our everyday costs are covered by our everyday income, ensuring that operating expenses are paid for by operating revenue. We want to avoid taking on debt to cover everyday expenses, and reserve borrowings for infrastructure investments instead.

Our 10 Year Plan outlines our method for assessing whether we achieve a balanced operating budget, which has been reviewed and updated through the Long Term Plan 2024-34. 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 ensure affordability for ratepayers, Council has agreed to gradually move towards a balanced operating budget over several years. According to the latest Long Term Plan 2024-34, we are forecasting to achieve a balanced operating budget by 2028-29.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, our balanced operating budget result (or net underlying operating result) was a deficit of \$28.6 million, which was \$3 million better than the budgeted deficit of \$31.6 million. Graph 7 illustrates the actual trend to date and the future forecast.

Graph 7: Council actual and projected balanced budget outlook



*Council meets the legislative balanced budget requirement as defined in s100 of the Local Government Act 2002. 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?

Two factors are central to our planning:

- 1 Ensuring our long-term financial sustainability, and
- 2 Carefully considering rates charges that are as affordable as possible for our community.

Here is where your rates will be spent over the next 10 years:

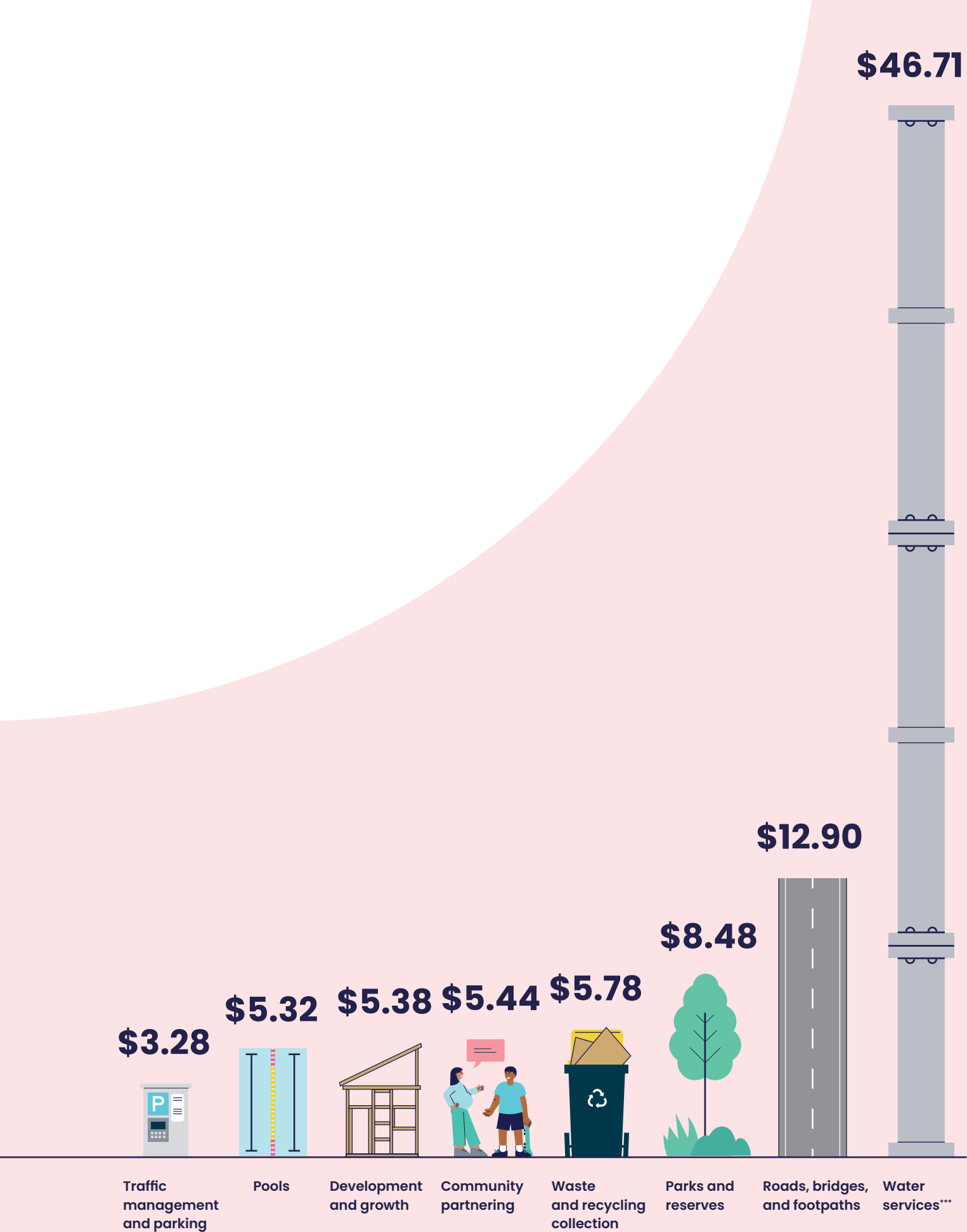
For every \$100 you spend in rates, we plan to spend*



* The average costs over the ten-year period of the Long term Plan 2024-2034 is presented here.

** Sustainability engagement represents spending on community activities, along with facilitation of projects across council activities, including investment in:

- decarbonisation of council facilities
- cycleways
- RiverLink
- healthy urban waterways.



We expect to receive -\$6.10 of credit from the landfill. This will help to offset costs and is reflected in the figures for all these other services shown on this page.

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

Pūrongo pūtea

Summary financial statements

Summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses

For the year ended 30 June 2024	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2024 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Total revenue	288,566	303,443	252,500	292,433	266,592
Finance costs	(21,663)	(17,069)	(11,197)	(21,666)	(11,197)
Loss on revaluation of financial instruments	(1,586)	-	-	(1,586)	-
Other operating expenditures	(252,074)	(250,873)	(229,444)	(258,423)	(242,749)
Share of associate's surplus / (deficit)	-	-	-	807	(300)
Surplus / (deficit) before tax	13,243	35,501	11,859	11,565	12,346
Income Tax expense	97	-	68	548	348
Surplus / (deficit) after tax	13,146	35,501	11,791	11,017	11,998
Gain/(losses) on property revaluations	1,421,624	-	-	1,423,554	(3,729)
Deferred tax on revaluation	-	-	-	(1,753)	844
Total other comprehensive revenue and expenses	1,421,624	-	-	1,421,801	(2,885)
Total comprehensive revenue and expenses attributable to Hutt City Council	1,434,770	35,501	11,791	1,432,818	9,113

Summary statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2024 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Equity at the beginning of the year	1,604,757	1,592,828	1,592,966	1,664,318	1,655,205
Total comprehensive income	1,434,770	35,501	11,791	1,432,818	9,113
Equity at the end of the year	3,039,527	1,628,329	1,604,757	3,097,136	1,664,318

Summary statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2024	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2024 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Current assets	88,067	55,506	61,710	123,555	100,859
Non-current assets	3,523,750	2,107,218	1,979,898	3,550,522	2,002,827
Total Assets	3,611,817	2,162,724	2,041,608	3,674,077	2,103,686
Current liabilities	90,675	89,805	125,236	91,612	126,245
Non-current liabilities	481,616	444,590	311,615	485,329	313,122
Total liabilities	572,291	534,395	436,851	576,942	439,368
Net assets	3,039,527	1,628,329	1,604,757	3,097,136	1,664,318
Total equity	3,039,527	1,628,329	1,604,757	3,097,136	1,664,318

Summary statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2024 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Net cash flow from operating activities	47,951	89,867	39,907	34,277	45,736
Net cash flow from investing activities	(167,740)	(208,360)	(168,494)	(170,561)	(149,874)
Net cash flow from financing activities	140,000	118,493	115,000	140,000	115,000
Net cash flow for the year	20,211	-	(13,587)	3,716	10,862

Group results at a glance

For the year ended 30 June 2024	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2024 \$M	2023 \$M	2022 \$M	2021 \$M	2020 \$M
	Net Surplus / (Deficit)	11.0	12.0	30.9	19.8
Total assets	3,674.1	2,103.7	1,966.2	1,717.1	1,718.2
Total liabilities	576.9	439.4	311.0	290.9	313.6
Total equity	3,097.1	1,664.3	1,655.2	1,426.2	1,404.6

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 2024 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 29 October 2024.
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 2024 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. The full Annual Report can be obtained from our website hutt.city

Whakarāpopoto tātaritanga

Our performance at a glance

47 were achieved

36 did not achieve the targets set

3 measures were not reported, and the baseline year is to be determined

Water Management

The Council aimed for 100% compliance with bacteria standards but fell short due to new regulations affecting the Waterloo Treatment Plant. Protozoal compliance, however, was fully achieved. Complaints about the water supply rose to 31.7 per 1,000 connections, surpassing the target of 20. Resident satisfaction dropped to 57% due to poor communication during water outages. Urgent callout attendance averaged 101 minutes, exceeding the 90-minute target due to aging infrastructure, though urgent issues were resolved within 4.6 hours. Non-urgent callout times were 191 hours, meeting the target by resolving within 16 working days.

In wastewater management, the Council maintained a low rate of dry weather overflows at 1.7 per 1,000 connections, well below the target of 20. Complaints were also low at 24.1 per 1,000 connections. Despite this, resident satisfaction fell to 61% due to odour issues at the Seaview treatment plant. Sewerage overflow response times averaged 159 minutes, and resolution times were 12.4 hours, both exceeding targets due to infrastructure challenges. The Council faced 13 enforcement actions for wastewater consents, exceeding the target of zero.

For stormwater, the Council achieved 100% water quality at recreational beaches and had no flooding events affecting habitable floors. Complaints about stormwater were low at 8.5 per 1,000 connections, but satisfaction remained at 51% due to ongoing concerns about flooding and blocked drains.

Waste Management

The Council maintained full compliance with resource consent regulations and reduced litter complaints to 239. Satisfaction with refuse collection increased to 84%, though issues like early collection times and bin placement affected the 90% target. Recycling services showed mixed results: contamination rates remained high, but recycling amounts slightly increased. Satisfaction with recycling and green waste services improved to 83% and 79%, respectively, but both missed the 90% target.

Sustainability and Resilience

Facility emissions decreased to 2,076 tCO₂-e, a 30% reduction from 2021-22. The electric vehicle fleet grew to 69%, and fossil fuel vehicle emissions are on track for zero by 2031. Community Resilience Plans older than 24 months dropped to 51%, missing the target due to resource limitations and the need for better community engagement.

Regulatory Services

Building consent and code compliance processing times fell short of targets due to high demand and resource constraints. Non-notified resource consents improved to 77% within statutory timeframes. Food premises verification reached 98%, and inspections for high-risk liquor premises and noise complaints were effectively managed. Animal control saw a significant rise in community education programs.

Transport

The Council faced challenges in improving travel times on key routes due to limited resources for necessary measurements. The road condition index and ride quality ratings declined slightly, influenced by increased traffic and adverse weather. The percentage of road resurfacing fell short of the target, while footpath conditions and satisfaction improved to 51%. Overall satisfaction with local roads rose to 44% but remained below the 80% target. Fatalities and serious injury crashes increased to 35, higher than the previous year's target, with a high personal risk rating of 3.00%.

Infrastructure and Active Modes

Audit results for infrastructure contracts were positive, with 100% meeting standards. The total length of cycleways and shared paths has increased. Resident satisfaction with cycleways improved to 44% and shared paths to 51%, reflecting ongoing concerns about management and safety.

Parking and Facilities

Parking warnings issued increased to 8,508. Satisfaction with parking availability remained low at 49%, highlighting issues with parking space shortages, high fees, and enforcement practices.

Community Services

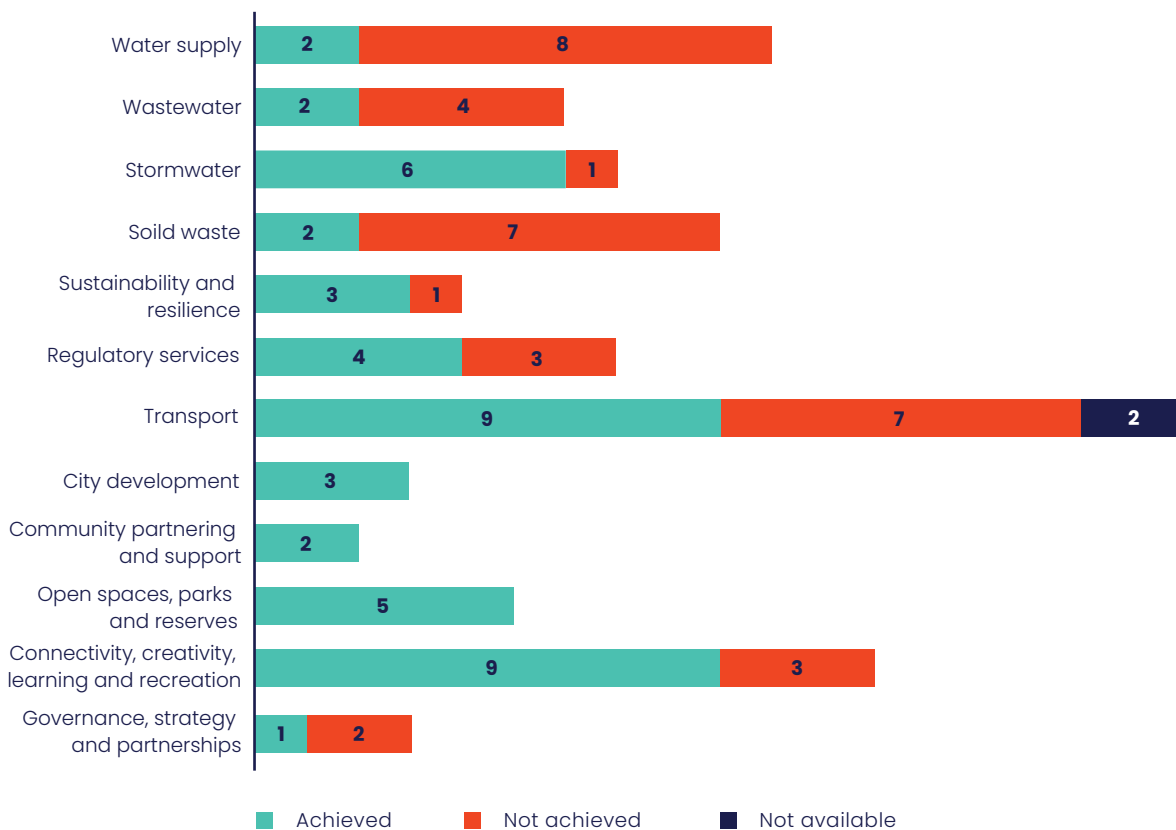
The Council successfully assisted 50 households into stable accommodation, meeting its target. Legal advice and advocacy services were provided to 99 households. The homelessness prevention program significantly exceeded its target, helping 191 households compared to the 75 aimed for. All nine community hubs met their visitor targets, with satisfaction remaining high at 88%.

Recreation and Culture

The Council managed grass sportsfield closures within the target of 20 days, while artificial turf sportsfields were closed for zero days. Satisfaction with sportsfields, parks, and playgrounds was close to or above the 80% target. Libraries saw a significant increase in physical loans to 724,981, with high satisfaction at 88%. Three out of five pools met their visitor targets, and fitness suite memberships rose to 1,806. Resident satisfaction with pools remained steady at 81%. Museums saw increased visits and high satisfaction at 92%.

City Governance

KPI measure achievement by activity areas:



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 2023-2024, our performance showed both successes and areas needing improvement. Stormwater management met targets for water quality and flood responses, though satisfaction with the service remained a concern. Waste management saw a reduction in litter complaints but struggled with recycling targets. On the sustainability front, we made notable progress, reducing emissions and expanding our electric vehicle fleet. Looking ahead, the KPIs outlined in the LTP 24-34 are designed to further improve our accountability, transparency, and overall performance, addressing the areas where we need to do better.

Te Whakahoutanga o Ngā Wai e Toru

Three Waters Reform

Three Waters Reform/ Local Water Done Well

In December 2023 the Government announced a new direction for water services, (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services) called Local Water Done Well.

The Government has introduced legislation that establishes the Local Water Done Well framework and the preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. It lays the foundation for a new approach to water services management and financially sustainable delivery models that meet regulatory standards.

Local Water Done Well is being implemented in three stages, each with its own piece of legislation. The second stage is underway, with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill introduced to Parliament on 30 May and the final legislation enacted in late August 2024. A further Bill providing more detail is expected to be introduced in December 2024.

A regional response

One of the legislative requirements is for councils to develop water services delivery plans. With other councils, we have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together on a plan in response to the Government's Local Water Done Well policy. This MoU was signed by the four

Wellington metropolitan councils, GWRC and Kāpiti Coast, Horowhenua, Carterton, South Wairarapa and Masterton District Councils.

An Advisory Oversight Group (AOG) for this regional approach has been established. This is led by Dame Kerry Prendergast and made up of elected members from the 10 councils in the Wellington region and Horowhenua District along with iwi representatives. Our council is represented on the AOG by Mayor Campbell Barry.

AOG Chair Dame Kerry Prendergast says the councils, representing more than half a million people, are committed to the process and are working at pace to ensure the right approach to water management is reached.

Work is at an early stage to examine reasonably practicable options, including continuing the status quo service delivery option and establishing a new water services organisation with other Wellington region councils.

Consultation is likely to be undertaken in 2025 once we have further developed options for consideration.



Pūrongo Kaitātari Kaute

Independent Auditor's report

To the readers of Hutt City Council's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Hutt City Council (the City Council) and Group for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 36 to 40:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024;
- 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 2024;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary of statement of service provision ('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 includes a limitation in scope to the equivalent extent as the full audited statement of service provision in the full audit report. 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 and an unmodified opinion on the other audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 in our auditor's report dated 29 October 2024. 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 in respect of the total number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater, and stormwater

The City Council is required to report against the performance measures set out in the Non-Financial Performance Measure Rules 2013 (the Rules) made by the Secretary for Local Government. These include mandatory performance measures relating to the total number of complaints received for 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 City Council and its afterhours call centre provider have not been classifying 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.

As a result, our audit work was limited and there were no practicable audit procedures we could apply to obtain assurance over the reported results for these performance measures.

Our opinion on these performance measures was also qualified for the 2023 performance year.

Additionally, our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes emphasis of matter paragraphs drawing attention to the following matters in the full annual report:

Uncertainty over the fair value of three waters assets

Note 14 on pages 170 and 171 of the financial statements, which outlines the significant uncertainties over the fair value of three waters assets as at 30 June 2024. The fair value of these assets has been affected by increased costs of construction over the last few years. The future

review of procurement arrangements and changes to the region's water services delivery model could lead to 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 City Council 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 statement of service provision in 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 to calculate or estimate quantities of GHG sources are still evolving, as are GHG reporting and assurance standards.

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: Summary Financial Statements.

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: Summary Financial Statements.

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 our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have performed an audit of the City Council's Long-term plan 2024-34 and a limited assurance engagement related to the City Council's debenture trust deed, which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the City Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.



John Whittal

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

29 October 2024

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

