

PŌTI
2025

NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

VOTE
2025

LOCAL ELECTIONS

*Te Pūrongo o Mua i
te Pōtitanga 2025*

Pre-Election Report 2025

**Information for
voters and potential
candidates**



MŌ TĒNEI PŪRONGO ABOUT THIS REPORT

The purpose of this Pre-Election Report is to provide information to promote public discussion in the upcoming local election on the issues facing the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC or Regional Council).

This document informs both potential candidates and the voting community. It briefs potential candidates and helps voters choose the best candidate for the job of Regional Councillor.

The preparation and timing of the report is required under section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). It is an apolitical document therefore it is the responsibility of the Chief Executive rather than the elected members of the Regional Council.

The information in this report is sourced from existing sources, including financial information taken directly from audited annual reports.

Te whakapakari
tahi i tō tātau
taiao

Enhancing our
environment
together



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HE KUPU NĀ TE TUMU WHAKARAE MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

*E ngā mana, e ngā reo,
tēnā koutou katoa*

.....”
**As a regional council
we play a core role in the
management of natural
resources including land, air,
and water, including marine
areas that sustain us all.**



.....
Prior to Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023, we had accelerated our environmental work on behalf of the community with stronger responses to address degraded freshwater, threatened biodiversity, and other increasing climate risks such as flooding and droughts.

After the cyclone we had to pivot and focus on the initial response, rapid rebuild, and recovery phases which incurred more than \$67 million in costs. Staff continue to work through the labour-intensive process to recover as much money as possible through insurance and the National Emergency Management Agency.

Flood resilience is a critical part of Council’s priorities. We are now working to deliver an ambitious multi-year \$256 million flood resilience programme. We’re working with communities across the region from Wairoa to Pōrangahau to build new and improve current flood infrastructure. This will enable Category 2 properties to be reclassified as Category 1, the lowest risk, and will give people more certainty in building back.

We need to complete this work at pace to secure the Crown’s co-funding of around \$209 million, and there are challenging conversations and decisions for impacted communities.

Hawke’s Bay is a wonderful place to live, work, and play, but the same things that make it so great – our hills, rivers, fertile plains, and our coastline – make it prone to flood risk.

Flooding is one of the biggest climate challenges we face. It’s not only caused by rivers overtopping, but also surface flooding and coastal inundation. And as we experienced in Cyclone Gabrielle, all three can happen at once.

As well as building resilience for too much water, we are preparing for not enough water. Based on what we now understand about water use, supply, and demand, Hawke’s Bay is facing a significant water shortfall. If we don’t substantially change how we manage water, we will all feel the impacts.

As a region our challenge is to balance reducing climate-related risks with affordability. We know further investment is going to be needed to manage the threat of flooding and for water security. We also know many people are facing rising costs of living.

Our elected members will be guided by our communities but will need to make bold decisions. These decisions will impact many generations to come.



This Pre-Election Report outlines these, and other key issues and challenges facing Hawke's Bay Regional Council and outlines our work to address them.

We are also navigating change and uncertainty from government reforms. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is a key piece of legislation for regional councils with new legislation to replace it expected to be passed into law in 2026. The Regional Council will have a key role with partners in developing a Regional Spatial Plan.

Our financial landscape has changed significantly since our last Pre-Election Report (2022) with increased operating expenditure and debt levels. We are focused on financial discipline in all our work and reducing the burden on our ratepayers. We are undergoing an efficiency and effectiveness review to ensure we are doing the right things at the right level, to deliver the best value for money to ratepayers.

This report includes a full picture of how the Regional Council is performing financially with information on our past, current, and forecast financial position. It brings together information from other published documents including our Three-Year Plan 2024-2027, this year's Annual Plan, and relevant Annual Reports.

For election-related information, please contact our Electoral Officer, Warwick Lampp at wlampp@electionz.com

You can also get a good understanding of our role and work by visiting hbrc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Nic Peet
Chief Executive
Hawke's Bay Regional Council



NGĀ RĀ MATUA MŌ TE PŌTITANGA O 2025 KEY DATES FOR THE 2025 ELECTION

Local government elections are held every three years to elect members of city, district, and regional councils.

The next local election is from
**9 September 2025 to
11 October 2025**

Here are the key dates:

1 August at 12 noon
Candidate nominations close
and electoral roll closes

6 August
Candidates announced

9 September
Voting opens

9-22 September
Voting papers sent to enrolled voters

11 October
Election day - voting closes at 12 noon

16 October
Official results announced

Māori constituencies

We are also required to hold a poll at the 2025 election to ask voters if they want to keep or remove our Māori constituencies - Māui ki te Raki and Māui ke te Tonga - as part of HBRC's representation structure.

See page 23 for more information.

Part 1:
Ngā take matua
Key issues

NGĀ TAKE ME NGĀ WERO MATUA, ME TĀ MĀTAU E MAHI NEI HEI WHAKATIKA KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES, AND WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT THEM

As a regional council we are primarily responsible for the integrated management of the natural and physical resources for Hawke's Bay. This includes land, water, air, soil, biodiversity, and built structures such as stopbanks. We also provide regional transport planning and public transport.

Much of what we do is prescribed in legislation through numerous acts, regulations, and national directives. Resource management reform underway by this Government will impact the roles and responsibilities of regional councils.

We plan, budget, and report on our work in groups of activities. Our six groups of activities are shown in the next column.



GROUPS OF ACTIVITIES

Governance & Partnerships

We support our elected members and tāngata whenua representatives in their governance roles and promote community sustainability through climate action, environmental education, and corporate sustainability. We also support regional development.

Policy & Regulation

We carry out policy planning and implementation, compliance monitoring, pollution response, and issue consents. We are also responsible for maritime safety.

Integrated Catchment Management

We provide science and environmental information, sustainable land management and rural partnerships, and biodiversity and biosecurity work.

Asset Management

We carry out flood protection and control works, and flood assessment and warning. We also manage the Regional Water Security Programme and coastal hazards work.

We own and manage various regional parks and maintain cycle ways that are on our stopbanks. Some of these form part of the Hawke's Bay Trails.

Emergency Management

We are the administering authority for the Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (HBCDEM) on behalf of the region's councils. We also maintain emergency response capability to support the CDEM Group. Additionally, we operate a 24-hour CDEM and HBRC duty management service to respond to urgent public enquiries and complaints.

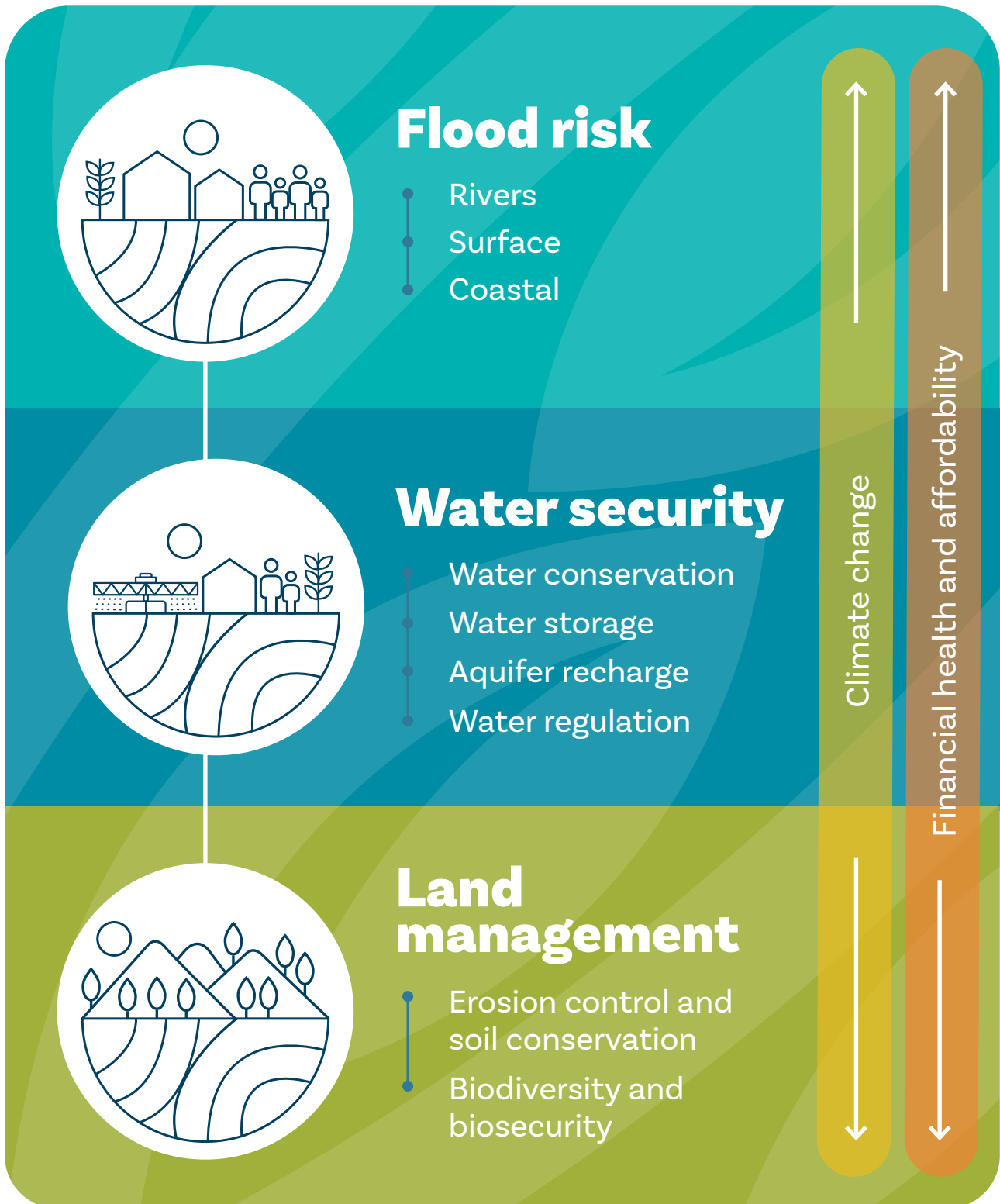
Transport

We undertake regional transport planning and coordinate road safety education across Hawke's Bay. We also contract public bus and Total Mobility taxi services.

The issues we face as a regional council tend to be long-term, intergenerational, and complex. Many require behaviour change – we don't have full control, but we have a clear statutory role. We have a range of possible interventions, from education and awareness, providing goods and services directly, to regulation and enforcement.

Our key issues are described more fully under the following headings:

1. Climate change
2. Flood risk
3. Water security
4. Land management
5. Financial health and affordability





1.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The issue

We are already living with a changing climate and Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 showed us the kind of widespread and long-lasting impact a catastrophic, severe weather event can have for our region. In the coming decades climate change is projected to substantially alter weather patterns and environmental conditions in Hawke's Bay. This poses significant and increasing risk to communities and to built and natural environments.

Ex-tropical cyclones will likely become more intense with heavier rainfall and greater windspeeds, while longer fire seasons will bring increased risks of wildfires. Droughts will become more common, putting additional stress on the primary sector and water resources. There will be more hot days and fewer overnight frosts. These changes will affect everything from farming and horticultural activities to our urban environments.

Responding to a changing climate is at the heart of everything we do at the Regional Council.

What we're doing

Accelerating our climate response

Our climate adaptation and mitigation work spans most of our work programmes including flood risk reduction, land-use and resource management, transport, coastal hazards, water security, and emergency management. More detail on key projects can be found on the following pages.

To walk the talk, we have a corporate emissions reduction programme for our own organisation and integrate climate risk considerations into council decision-making at all levels.

Collaborating to drive regional progress

Over the 2022-2025 triennium we took a regional leadership role as the administering authority of the Climate Action Joint Committee, collaborating with the four other councils in Hawke's Bay on climate action. In 2025, the region's first Climate Change Risk Assessment was released – our first shared evidence base of what the impacts of climate change could mean for our region.

We're also helping drive regional progress towards the national goal of net zero greenhouse gases by 2050. The Regional Council leads ongoing work to collect data for our regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and produce community carbon footprints for our region, with the first footprint published in 2023.

For more information on climate projections, climate risks, and potential impacts for the region, see the [Hawke's Bay Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment](#).

2.

FLOOD RISK (AND RECOVERY)

The issue

Ambitious infrastructure programme

Hawke's Bay was one of the worst affected regions by Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. Another major flooding event occurred in Wairoa in June 2024. The following pages highlight some of the key recovery achievements and key projects underway.

As part of our recovery journey, we're working on our biggest-ever construction programme (see page 12 for more details on the NIWE programme) to strengthen our flood defences across the region. Once all projects in the programme are completed, 917 properties are expected to be recategorised to Category 1. This is the lowest risk category and means property and landowners have greater certainty in rebuilding and communities can remain where they are.

We need to complete the work at pace to secure Crown co-funding and deliver within budget. Some of these projects are requiring challenging conversations about land access. Delays in land acquisition or access agreements could impact project deadlines, and even the viability of a project.

Big decisions ahead for all of us

Flooding is one of the biggest climate challenges we face in Hawke's Bay. The same things that make the region a great place to live, work, and play – our hills, rivers, fertile plains, and our coastline – make it prone to flood risk.

Flooding can be river, surface, or coastal flooding, and all three can happen at the same time, as we experienced in Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Regional Council has an important role in helping communities feel safer and more resilient to flooding. We own and are responsible for 27 flood control, drainage and river maintenance schemes, including river mouth openings; some urban waterway assets that contribute to stormwater networks; and beach renourishment to respond to coastal erosion.

With climate change, the intensity and frequency of severe weather events will increase, and we know the levels of protection that we've had in the past won't be enough. This means there are choices we all need to make, and these choices will affect everyone, including generations to come.

Between now and our 2027 Long Term Plan, we want to have conversations with our communities about what further flood defences to invest in. Decisions in the end will come down to how much we are all prepared to pay.



What we've done

Regional Council has undertaken significant recovery work since Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. This page highlights some of that work.



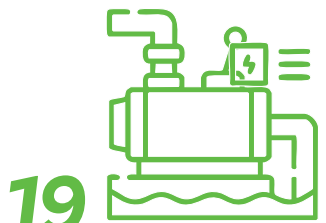
32 km

of the 248 km stopbank network damaged by the cyclone was repaired within six months.



105 km

of the 1,500 km drain network restored with tonnes of mud and silt removed.



19 pump stations

returned to full operation complete with capacity for back-up power supplies.

51 telemetry reporting stations

(rainfall and river level) – some repaired and restored, some added – with back-up power supplies and multiple redundancies built in.



27 camera sites

to install across the region by the end of 2025 monitoring river flows and river mouths – up from four sites pre-cyclone.



46 of the 52 recommendations

from post-cyclone reviews specific to HBRC have been progressed – with 41 underway and five complete.



We distributed \$8.8 million

to 5,773 applicants through the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust.



2.5 million m³ of silt

collected through the Silt Recovery Taskforce.



45 properties

in Waiohiki reclassified as Category 1, following work starting on a new stopbank.

We have been allocated \$209 million

in Crown funding as part of the region's cost-share agreement.



What we're doing

KEY PROJECT

Resilient River Communities Programme

Prior to Cyclone Gabrielle we had already begun this significant programme of work to accelerate flood resilience. We secured \$19.2 million of co-funding through Kānoa (the Government's Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit).

As part of this we upgraded the Taradale stopbank (completed in December 2022) and the stopbank in Ngatarawa (completed in November 2023).

Also as part of this work, we've been able to undertake five tranches of gravel extraction in the Upper Tukituki catchment in the past four years. The last tranche through this funding will take place this summer. This is expected to take our total gravel removal to around 1.2 million m³ - far more the initially planned 800,000 m³.

KEY PROJECT

Implementing recommendations from independent reviews

We are taking action on recommendations from four independent reviews, three related to Cyclone Gabrielle and one on the June 2024 Wairoa flood event.

We have made strong progress, with 41 of the 52 recommendations underway and five completed. In December 2024, the Regional Council approved six priority projects addressing public safety relating to monitoring, reporting, and communication. It allocated \$1.7 million for new flood resilience work through the Annual Plan 2025-26. The priority projects are:

- Extreme weather hub
- Major flood schemes review (see the following page)
- Trigger level alerts
- Flood forecasting system improvements
- Hazard Portal upgrade business case
- Bylaws to protect flood infrastructure.

KEY PROJECT

NIWE (North Island Weather Event) Flood Resilience Programme

This is a comprehensive multi-year \$256 million programme that includes seven major construction projects:

- Wairoa - \$70 million
- Whirinaki - \$23.05 million
- Waiohiki - \$9.42 million
- Pākōwhai - \$50 million
- Ōhiti Road, Ōmahu - \$10 million
- Pōrangahau - \$14.59 million
- Havelock North - \$10 million (delivered by Hastings District Council).

The programme also includes:

- upgrades to pumpstations to improve capacity and resilience - \$30 million
- level of service upgrades to existing schemes - \$30 million
- installing more resilient telemetry - \$5 million
- accelerated scheme reviews - \$3.99 million.

The programme is funded through the region's cost-sharing cyclone recovery agreement with the Crown. Regional Council is contributing around \$47 million to be collected through rates, and the Crown has allocated the remaining \$209 million.

Together, the planned works will lift the overall standard of protection. They won't remove the risk of flooding - no system can - but they will buy critical time in a severe event, helping people get out safely and reducing the risk to homes, livelihoods, and lives.

KEY PROJECT

Small scheme reviews

We are reviewing our smaller flood control, drainage, and river management schemes that serve communities that don't fall under the larger flood mitigation schemes.

The reviews aim to assess how well these schemes are functioning, engage with local landowners, review the funding of the scheme, and plan for the future.

What we're doing

KEY PROJECT

Major flood schemes review

The Regional Council is reimagining the long-term approach to flood management of our two major flood control schemes – the Heretaunga Plains and the Upper Tukituki. This project known as the Reimagining Project will work with the most affected parties and then with all regional ratepayers on what extra engineering solutions to invest in, alongside other nature-based solutions, where, when and who should pay.

This will require healthy and challenging debate with communities on protection levels versus affordability and residual risk.

Principles guiding the project include:

- making room for rivers – designing secondary systems like spillways and storage areas to minimise community impact during extreme floods.
- community collaboration – engaging mana whenua, local stakeholders, and residents in flood risk solutions.
- local knowledge – integrating community insights into flood management planning.

KEY PROJECT

Wairoa River Bar management

A new plan for Wairoa River mouth openings has been developed in response to the June 2024 flood event, where more than 400 properties in the area adjacent to Kopu Road were affected.

The Intermediate Management Plan, a collaborative effort between us, Wairoa District Council, and Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa, outlines a proactive approach to managing flood risks. Part of the plan has been implemented with the lowering of a section of the beach crest between Rangī-houa (Pilot Hill) and the old pier. Longer-term, consideration is being given to relocating the river mouth.

KEY PROJECT

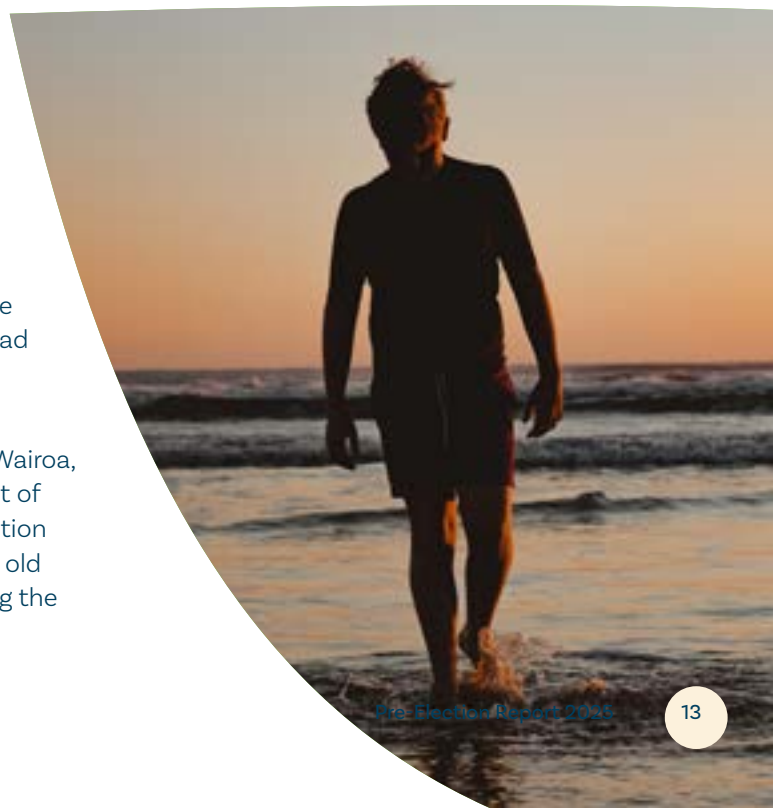
Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy 2120

The Regional Council has a Memorandum of Transition with Napier City and Hastings District Councils to transfer management of existing assets, and build and manage future infrastructure assets to respond to coastal hazards risks between Clifton and Tangoio, identified in the Coastal Hazards Strategy 2120.

The Strategy is a proposed long-term, adaptive response to coastal hazards on the coast between Clifton and Tangoio. It recommends urgent physical works in Te Awanga, Haumoana, Westshore, and Bay View.

The Regional Council is currently engaging with these communities to get feedback on the recommended responses, and how they should be funded. This is to ensure they're both what the community wants and can afford. This input will help develop options for formal consultation. As implementing the Strategy is a significant new activity for the Regional Council it needs to be consulted on and included in our Long Term Plan before we can collect rates to pay for the work.

Development of the Strategy has been a collaboration between local councils, communities, and tāngata whenua. The process has been nationally recognised for collaborative adaptive planning.





3.

WATER SECURITY

The issue

Freshwater is Hawke's Bay's most precious and valuable natural resource. We need a secure supply of freshwater to maintain and protect our natural environment; the wellbeing of our people and communities depends on it; as do the region's businesses, farms, industry, and world-class horticulture and viticulture.

Water security is one of our region's most pressing challenges, particularly with a changing climate and increasing demand. Hawke's Bay is vulnerable to drought which exacerbates wildfire risk.

Based on what we now understand about water use, supply, and demand, we know Hawke's Bay is facing a significant shortfall. If we don't substantially change how we manage water, we will all feel the impacts on the environment, our communities, and on our economy.

The challenges are complex and no one solution will be sufficient. Our approach must be integrated and multi-faceted – we will need smarter water use, better allocation policies, new technologies, and if possible, new infrastructure.

What we've done

The Regional Council established our Regional Water Security Programme in 2020 after securing \$30.6 million in co-funding from the Government's Provincial Growth Fund.

Regional Water Assessment

The first piece of work in our Regional Water Security Programme was the Regional Water Assessment. Publicly released in June 2023, the report was the first of its kind completed in New Zealand. It provides a regional stock take of our freshwater resources and analysis of future supply and demand trends. It provides baseline data and options to inform decisions about how to manage water and make our region more resilient – both with not enough water and too much water.

Getting a better understanding of our aquifers

We completed a multi-year 3D mapping project in 2024 to improve our understanding of how our aquifers work and to help improve the management of water resources. The project used cutting-edge technology to conduct aerial surveys to map our groundwater systems focusing on the Heretaunga, Ruataniwha, and Poukawa/Ōtāne basins.

The Regional Council co-funded the project with Kānoa (the Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit of MBIE), and GNS Science.

Two other key pieces of work in the Regional Water Security Programme are the Heretaunga Water Storage project and the Managed Aquifer Recharge pilot project – both are outlined on the following page.

What we're doing

KEY PROJECT

Investigating water storage in the Heretaunga Plains

We've been exploring the potential for a medium-scale water storage facility in the Ngaruroro catchment on behalf of the Heretaunga community (including the cities of Napier and Hastings).

We're now supporting a full feasibility assessment to build a water storage reservoir on a tributary to the Ngaruroro River at Whanawhana. The Regional Council confirmed this preferred site in January 2025.

The reservoir would take peak winter flows and store them for release into Heretaunga's waterways and aquifer during periods of peak summer water demand. It would be able to hold 27 million cubic metres of water.

With pre-feasibility work complete, the Regional Council is transitioning the project (governance and delivery) to a community model that represents major water users on the Heretaunga Plains and mana whenua.

We've approved \$3.2 million for the feasibility assessment. This is expected to be completed by mid-2026. At the point that a commitment to consenting and the construction of the project is made, development funding would need to be secured by major water users.

KEY PROJECT

Piloting water storage in Central Hawke's Bay

We're continuing to test the effectiveness of managed aquifer recharge (MAR) in Central Hawke's Bay as a viable water storage option to help improve water security in the area.

The plan is to use excess flows from the Waipawa River in the wetter months to replenish the Ruataniwha aquifer and provide additional water supply in the drier seasons.

Water use regulation and conservation

Our water management work is guided by legislation, national policy statements, and regulations.

Our Regional Resource Management Plan sets minimum flows and allocation limits for most of the region's waterbodies. We issue consents for water takes, monitor water use, and ensure compliance with consent conditions.

We have proposed an approach through our TANK Plan change for land and water use in the Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) catchments. This remains under appeal to the Environment Court. Preparations are underway for a hearing likely to be held in the first half of 2026.

We also know that water conservation is just as important to improve water security and can be a cost effective way to help meet the growing needs in a changing climate.

We work with water user groups to promote both irrigation water-use efficiency and training opportunities to improve practices. We have developed an education programme, He Taonga te Wai – Water is Precious, for school students to understand Hawke's Bay's water resources. It explores how everyone plays a role in caring for water in the environment and responsible water use.



4.

LAND MANAGEMENT



EROSION CONTROL AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Sediment is our region’s foremost water quality stressor. It also impacts habitats and the biodiversity – both aquatic and terrestrial – and productivity on farms.

The issue

Approximately 252,000 hectares of Hawke’s Bay hill country has been identified as being high risk of erosion. It is estimated that this puts an average of 3.27 million tonnes of sediment into our region’s waterways each year. That’s around 136,000 truck and trailer loads of sediment.

During extreme weather events huge quantities of erosion-generated sediment can be also deposited on land. This predominantly impacts low-lying land, not hill country.

What we're doing

KEY PROJECT

Sustainable Land Management

In addition to regulatory requirements, Regional Council has a Sustainable Land Management programme, with four interrelated work streams:

Erosion Control scheme – We provide grants to support farmers and landowners with non-commercial tree planting and other erosion control works (such as fencing and silt traps) on highly erodible land in Hawke's Bay. The scheme has an operational budget of \$30 million over ten years and leverages funding from landowners and other funding partners.

Hill Country Erosion Funding programme – This boosts our work with the farming community. It funds on-the-ground erosion control works, employs staff, and provides soil conservation training and resources for landowners and staff. We have secured \$3.6 million for 2023-27 through this partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Nursey expansion – We're expanding our nursery to meet anticipated regional demand of poplar and willow poles, and potentially service other North Island regions. We sell poplar and willow poles to landowners, subsidised through our Erosion Control Scheme.

Land for Life – We're developing this pilot programme from 12 farms to another 88 farms in 2025 and 2026 onwards.

The project is a public/private partnership that aims to develop, demonstrate, and then help pastoral farmers implement a holistic farming approach that is both environmentally and financially sustainable for the long term.





BIOSECURITY & BIODIVERSITY

In Hawke's Bay, most of the terrestrial indigenous ecosystems that covered the region before human settlement have been lost or degraded.

Ecosystems such as lowland indigenous forests have experienced the highest levels of loss. Outside of public conservation land, remnant indigenous vegetation in Hawke's Bay is often fragmented, lacking formal protection, and highly vulnerable to continual pressures and the effects from surrounding land use.

The issue

Remaining indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems are under ongoing pressure from invasive species and continue to be degraded or lost. Climate change will also impact the region's indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems. The degradation and loss of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems has impacted on mana whenua and their ability to exercise kaitiakitanga.

Slowing down or reversing biodiversity loss is a huge challenge, and we can't do it alone.

Climate change is likely to exacerbate biodiversity challenges posed by invasive species, for example new weeds will spread more readily.

The Regional Council needs to be vigilant and able to respond to pest plants and pest animal break outs. Recent examples are Alligator Weed and Senegal Tea, and the threat of bird flu.



What we're doing

We undertake a range of work across Hawke's Bay to protect and enhance the region's unique biodiversity. Our two programmes include our Priority Ecosystem Programme and our Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme.

Priority Ecosystem Programme

We work with landowners and local groups to help protect remaining high value biodiversity remnants in Hawke's Bay from extinction. In total, 675 sites representing the region's ecosystems are prioritised for protection. The main work undertaken is deer fencing, and pest plant and animal control. Our investment has been able to leverage external funding enabling more protection work to be done, however some of these funding sources are coming to an end. So far, we have undertaken work at 64 sites, helping protect around 2,215 hectares.

We also have monitoring programmes to assess the impact of our work and help understand the state and trend of freshwater wetlands across Hawke's Bay.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme

Targeted Catchment Work Fund – We provide funding to support landowners and communities to undertake environmental projects that have benefits at a catchment and sub-catchment scale and do not meet criteria for our other funding programmes. This includes improved water quality, riparian protection, biodiversity enhancement, and wetland development.

Partnership funding for Hawke's Bay Biodiversity

– Initiated in 2023, we provide \$50,000 each year for Hawke's Bay Biodiversity's Environmental Contestable Community Fund. The fund supports individuals and organisations with projects to improve biodiversity in the region. We know from experience that investing in community-led projects builds on existing momentum to deliver enduring biodiversity gains. Without this investment many of these projects would not get off the ground. Earlier this year the Eastern & Central Community Trust committed an additional \$60,000 annually to the fund for three years.

Marine Protection and Enhancement

– We undertake research to help understand and protect our marine and coastal environment.

Biosecurity

We provide animal, plant, horticultural, and marine pest management through information and advice, research, surveillance, monitoring and inspections, direct control, pathway management, and working within catchments with landowners and community groups. We set objectives, methods, and rules through the Regional Pest Management Plan.

5.

FINANCIAL HEALTH AND AFFORDABILITY

The issue

Our organisation's financial landscape has changed significantly since our last Pre-Election Report (2022) with increased operating expenditure and debt levels.

Inflation and global events have pushed costs up, we have started repaying rates smoothing loans, and the impacts from Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather events since 2023 have been significant.

Our Financial Strategy included in the Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 details how our focus has shifted to adapt to this changed landscape and our commitment to the North Island Weather Event (NIWE) Flood Resilience Programme.

Repaying borrowing

Over the last four years we have borrowed \$22.7 million to help cover a step-change in activities in the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 and cover a Covid-related, zero-rate increase the Regional Council adopted in 2020-21. Repayments for this will continue for 20 years.

Impact of Cyclone Gabrielle

The Regional Council continues to feel the significant financial impacts from Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. The initial response, rapid rebuild, and recovery phases incurred more than \$67 million in costs. We continue to work to recover these as much as possible through insurance and the National Emergency Management Agency, but there will still be a balance to be covered by ratepayers.

To support impacted communities, in particular Category 2 areas, the Regional Council agreed to a cost-share agreement with the Crown enabling around \$256 million of work across our rohi. Around \$47 million of this will be paid for by ratepayers. Contractually this work is required to be completed by June 2027.

The Regional Council is limited to a debt headroom of 250% of total revenue as required under our Treasury Policy. By 2027, because of NIWE commitments, we expect to come close to full debt capacity. We need to be disciplined in what we chose to commit future funds to and ensure they align with core priorities of this Council. This may lead to some hard choices in the future.

Climate change

With a changing climate we know extreme weather events are going to happen more often. The cost of recovery, as we've experienced with Cyclone Gabrielle, is significant and there are no guarantees of any similar cost-share arrangements with the Crown following future adverse events.

There are engineering solutions such as spillways and seawalls to manage growing climate-related risks. For flood risk alone, if we delivered today all identified engineering solutions an early estimate is \$600 million. The size and scale of this proactive investment would need central government support to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

Low ratepayer base

The Regional Council has a relatively low ratepayer base but still needs to do similar levels of activity as more populated regional councils. To keep rate increases affordable we need to maximise our non-rate funding through well managed and structured investment portfolios, and our ability to leverage income from alternative avenues.

What we've done

In 2023 the Regional Council undertook a full review of its Revenue and Financing Policy to ensure rates are fair, transparent, and simple to administer.

We have reviewed our Investment Strategy and given guidance to our investment company HBRIC (Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company) to actively grow our investment portfolio while meeting the minimum cash returns to offset rates and protect our long-term capital.

Last year we applied for and received our first ever credit rating, AA, from Fitch Ratings. This reduces our interest rate charge by the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) and, along with using green sustainable loans as much as we can, we are reducing our borrowing costs.

We reduced our forecast Annual Plan 2025-26 budget by \$4 million through cutting operational costs and staff numbers.

What we're doing

The Regional Council is currently undergoing an efficiency and effectiveness review to ensure that we are doing the right things at the right level, to deliver the best value for money to the ratepayer.

This includes making comparisons with other similar regional councils and engaging with a wide range of staff and stakeholders. The results of this review will help ensure we are fit for the future.

We will also continue to seek to maximise investment returns and minimise borrowing costs as mentioned earlier.



Part 2:

Te urutau i ngā panonitanga

Navigating change

NGĀ PANONITANGA KI NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE KĀWANATANGA Ā-ROHE ME ŌNA PĀNGA CHANGES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Resource Management reform

The Government's resource management reform programme is underway, with interim changes being made to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and national direction planning instruments.

Some of this will be new national direction, such as the management of natural hazard risks. Other changes will be updates to existing national direction such as the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

New legislation to replace the RMA is expected to be passed into law in 2026. Regional councils will have responsibilities under the proposed Natural Environment Act and the Planning Act. This is likely to include developing a Regional Spatial Plan, in collaboration with central government, infrastructure providers, and mana whenua.

These reforms will also mean changes for our planning and regulatory functions and decision-making, including how we work with others to protect and enhance our natural environment now and in the future. Until new legislation is passed, there is uncertainty about what these changes will mean for our current work programmes.

Māori constituencies

In 2024, the Government amended legislation requiring councils that had established Māori wards or constituencies¹ since 2021 without a binding poll, to now hold one at the 2025 elections.

This reversed previous legislative changes in 2021 to the Local Electoral Act 2001 which removed the requirement for binding polls.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council established two Māori constituencies in 2021 for the 2022 and 2025 local elections following community consultation.

Māori wards and constituencies are the equivalent of Māori electorates, or seats, in central government. The dedicated seats ensure Māori are guaranteed proportional representation on the Regional Council and add to existing methods to engage with Māori. Only those on the Māori electoral roll can vote for candidates standing in the Māori wards and constituencies.

The poll at the upcoming election will ask voters whether or not they support keeping our Māori constituencies.

The poll will be determined by a majority vote and the results will come into force at the 2028 elections. If the poll favours removing the Māori constituencies, there would not be an electoral contest for them in 2028. If the poll favours keeping them there will be an electoral contest for them at the local elections in 2028 and 2031.

¹Regional councils can have Māori constituencies. City and district councils can have Māori wards.

Working together in Hawke's Bay and back to basics

The Regional Council will need to continue working closely with territorial authorities (district and city councils) and other regional delivery agencies, including the Hawke's Bay Regional Recovery Agency, for a stronger regional voice with central government.

Effective collaboration between councils will be critical to delivering on the Government's renewed focus on 'back to basics' for local government, including the delivery of essential services, core infrastructure, and responsible spending. Upcoming changes may include legislative amendments to the purpose of local government and a cap on rates increases.

National reform of the emergency management system is also likely to change our local approach to emergency management. It may also have implications for the implementation of our regional Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Transformation Strategy.

Our partnerships with tāngata whenua remain key to the work of the Regional Council. See page 38 for more information about our partnerships with tāngata whenua, and our regional and national collaborations.



Part 2: Navigating change



Part 3:
Ā mātau pūtea
Our finances



NGĀ KŌRERO PŪTEA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This section includes the Financial Strategy and key financial statements for Hawke’s Bay Regional Council.

Financial Strategy and performance

Our Financial Strategy adopted in our Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 shows that our focus has shifted from growth and increasing the scale of our services as outlined in the previous long-term plan (LTP 2021-2031), to one of recovering post-cyclone and repaying lending taken out for operational purposes to smooth rate increases after that LTP and Covid-19.

Our Financial Strategy demonstrates the Regional Council is focusing on building long-term financial resilience.

In our Annual Plan 2025-26 there is further focus on efficiency and effectiveness, and affordability for our ratepayers. This resulted in a \$4 million reduction in costs.

In the short term, continued costs as a result of the cyclone, such as repairs to minor infrastructure assets, will be funded by borrowing with the intention to recover these costs through our insurance cover or via the National Emergency Management Authority. Any shortfalls in cyclone cost recovery will need to be repaid over a period of time aligning with the term of the borrowing taken.

The Financial Strategy includes factors that we expect to have a significant impact on our finances during the three-year period:

- Recovery from the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle given that costs for restoration are still occurring.
- Changes to our expected investment cash returns in line with the current financial outlook. Expected returns have been forecasted lower than previous LTP expectations and in line with the Statement of Expectation with our

- investment company, Hawke’s Bay Regional Investment Company (HBRIC).
- Increased capital costs for the Flood Resilience Programme with up to \$44.15 million borrowing committed over the next four years.
- Balancing the risk of reducing core programmes of work such as biosecurity, biodiversity, and erosion control, with the environmental needs to ensure risks of a lower level of service will not be detrimental over time.
- Increased risk of severe weather events such that any impacts will incur financial costs of remediation, and resource intensive programmes of work to respond.
- The likelihood of further financial hardship challenges for our ratepayers and likely remissions applied for, given costs of living pressures in our community.
- Increasing staffing costs incurred with recruitment and attracting talent to the Regional Council in a tight labour market with a high-risk delivery programme such as Category 2 flood mitigation.
- Uncertain economic forecasts.
- Population growth and its impact on land use.

Many of these factors are very uncertain and have long-term impacts, therefore, we need to build our financial resilience to be able to respond as required. The Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 looked to address these factors by:

- focusing on maximising group investment returns through appropriate asset allocation and growing both cash and long-term capital returns
- reducing reliance on debt funding for operating costs
- increasing our ability to borrow for the Flood Resilience Programme and Cyclone Gabrielle recovery activities
- focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.

Rates

Our recent actual rate increases and the forecast rates for 2026-27 in our Three-Year Plan are shown below

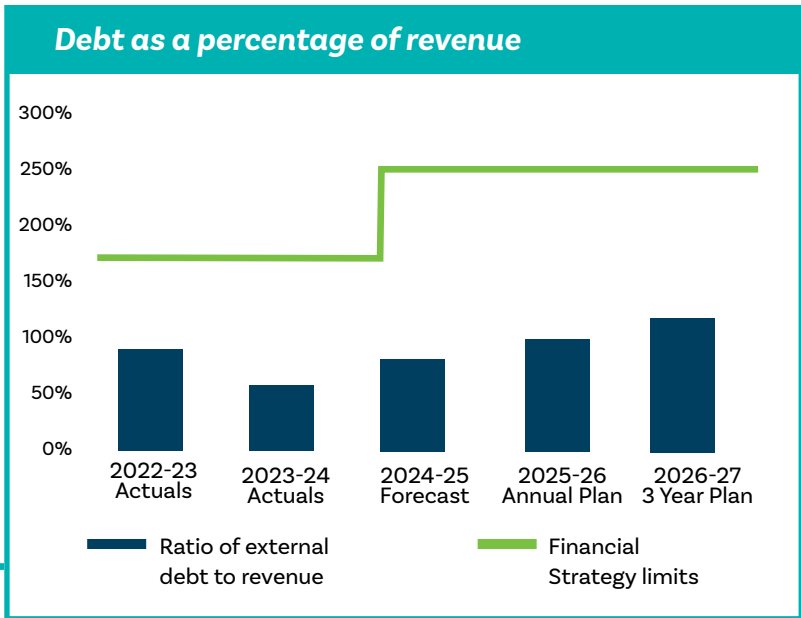
Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2024-25	Actual 2025-26	LTP Year 3 2026-27
15.6%	18.0%	16.0%	9.9%	8.5%



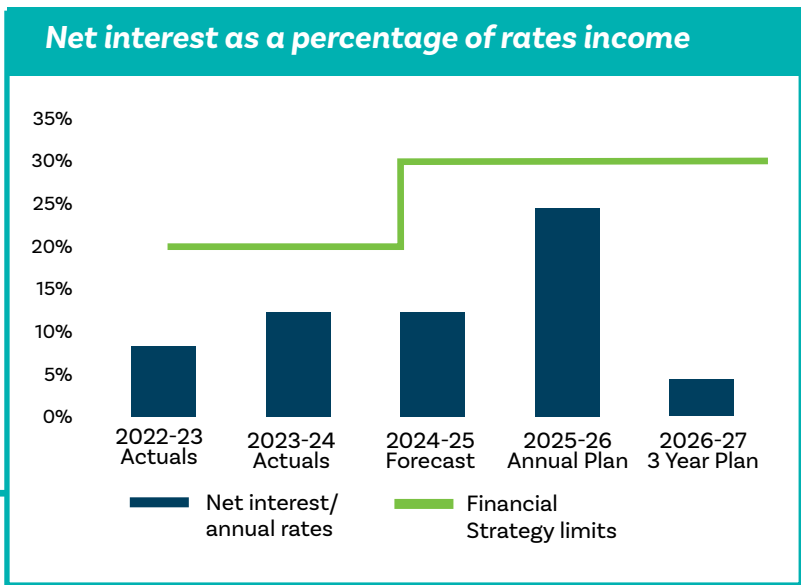
Debt

Our Financial Strategy sets out two quantified limits on debt, which must be complied with. They are:

a) Net external debt as a percentage of total revenue must be less than 250%. This is an increase from the previous LTP limit of 175%.



b) Net interest on external debt as a percentage of annual rates income must be less than 30%. This is an increase from the previous LTP benchmark of 20%



TE RAUTAKI HAUMI INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Our Investment Strategy aims to ensure financial resilience and intergenerational benefits to all ratepayers. Leading up to our Three-Year Plan 2024-2027, the impacts of inflation at over 6% per annum and Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the importance of building resilience in our assets and the value of deriving a growing income stream from those.

Regional Council assets

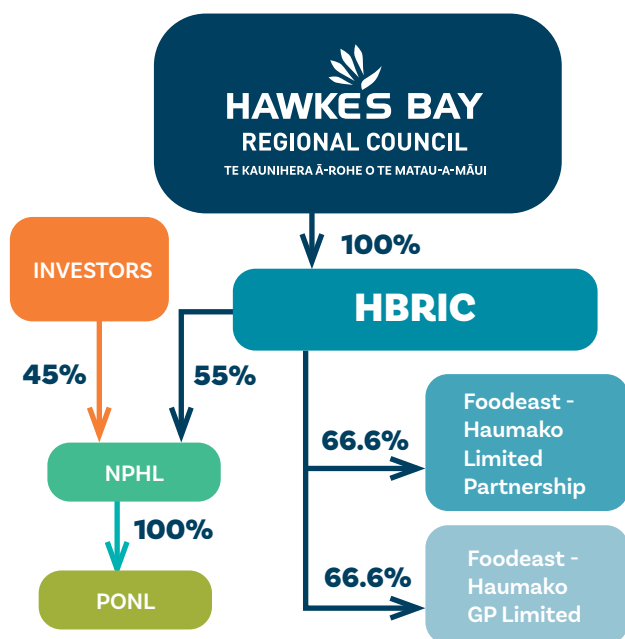
The Regional Council's assets include leasehold properties (in Napier and Wellington), forestry, and managed funds.

Previous returns from Regional Council's investment asset base are shown below. This is from interest, rent, forestry harvesting, dividends, and asset valuation growth.

Actual 2021-22	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24
2.21%	2.73%	4.84%

Investment company assets and role

We also have an investment company, Hawkes Bay Regional Investment Company (HBRIC). A significant portion of our investment income is derived from HBRIC, which has a majority shareholding in Napier Port Holdings Limited (NPHL).



In 2023-24, HBRIC was mandated to manage and grow the Regional Council's investment assets in addition to HBRIC's assets (together known as Group Investment Assets). To facilitate this, HBRIC's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) has been updated.

A key objective of HBRIC is to maximise the cash returns of the Group Investment Assets over time to provide benefits back to the regional community by offsetting general rates.

Dividends payable to the Regional Council are determined each year by the HBRIC directors after considering the group investment income and cash returns in the period, HBRIC's profitability, future investment and cash flow requirements, and requirements to meet the solvency test under provisions of the Companies Act 1993.

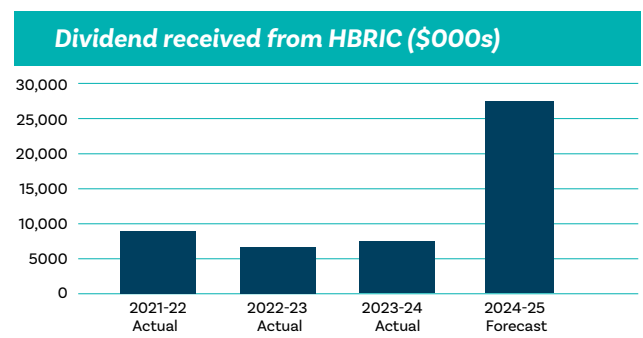
Investment income

Our Financial Strategy sets out an investment income expectation from the Group Investment Assets of a cash contribution to the Regional Council, including special dividends. This is:

2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
\$15,050,000	\$13,300,000	\$13,500,000

Any investment income above what is expected is to go toward building resilience for future years where investment returns may be lower than expected.

Dividends received from HBRIC for the past four years are shown below. An extraordinary dividend of \$16.7 million was received in 2024-25. This was a loan repayment between the two organisations.



FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENTS

This table contains HBRC's sources of funding and how we plan to apply them.

	Actual 2022-23 ('(\$000))	Actual 2023-24 ('(\$000))	Forecast* 2024-25 ('(\$000))	Annual Plan 2025-26 ('(\$000))	LTP year 3 2026-27 ('(\$000))
Sources of operating funding					
General rates & uniform annual general charges	14,354	13,110	26,048	29,005	36,202
Targeted rates	20,391	27,872	22,706	24,117	24,796
Subsidies & grants for operating purposes	37,212	138,448	43,923	8,758	8,296
Fees & charges	10,502	10,235	5,926	9,369	9,784
Interest & dividends from investments	10,159	13,749	16,267	12,940	13,205
Fines, infringement fees & other receipts	3,689	2,944	9,397	2,720	2,510
Total operating funding	96,306	206,358	124,267	86,908	94,793
Applications of operating funding					
Payments to staff & suppliers	110,989	210,871	125,498	81,309	84,876
Finance costs	2,845	5,071	5,806	6,348	6,797
Other operating funding applications	-	181	-	(3,454)	(3,675)
Total applications of operating funding	113,834	216,123	131,304	84,203	87,998
Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding	(17,528)	(9,765)	(7,037)	2,705	6,795
Sources of capital funding					
Subsidies & grants for capital expenditure	3,320	12,220	27,715	42,851	45,746
Increase/(decrease) in debt	37,475	28,670	14,189	81,905	4,362
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	513	808	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	4,000	-	-	-	-
Total sources of capital funding	45,308	41,698	41,904	124,757	50,108
Applications of capital funding					
Capital expenditure:					
- to improve the level of service	6,699	25,167	37,249	128,768	56,043
- to replace existing assets	16,904	2,603	-	4,742	2,860
Increase/(decrease) in reserves	23,604	27,770	37,249	133,510	58,903
Increase/(decrease) in investments	(2,483)	6,519	(2,382)	(1976)	(63)
Total application of capital funding	6,659	(2,356)	-	(4072)	(1,937)
Surplus/(deficit) capital funding	27,780	31,933	34,867	127,462	56,903
Surplus/(deficit) of capital funding	17,528	9,765	7,037	(2,705)	(6,795)
Funding balance	-	-	-	-	-

* Differences between current estimates and the final year-end results are expected.

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

This table shows HBRC's actual and forecast total assets, liabilities, and equity at balance date (30 June) every year.

	Actual 2022-23 ('S000)	Actual 2023-24 ('S000)	Forecast* 2024-25 ('S000)	Annual Plan 2025-26 ('S000)	LTP year 3 2026-27 ('S000)
Non current assets					
Property, plant & equipment	37,558	37,967	36,988	43,274	35,370
Infrastructure assets	198,554	435,885	474,845	558,017	452,273
Investment property	67,194	66,697	68,078	69,385	68,918
Intangible assets	9,443	10,868	14,272	13,207	11,243
Forestry assets	11,745	11,318	9,926	10,259	12,745
Prepayments	168	168	168	168	168
Other financial assets	129,683	140,026	148,380	148,380	145,818
Investment in CCOs	349,197	351,869	372,987	374,211	338,426
Total non current assets	803,542	1,054,798	1,125,643	1,216,900	1,064,961
Current assets					
Inventories	337	777	574	574	821
Trade & other receivables	25,062	23,961	19,224	62,543	18,997
Derivative financial instruments	2,071	1,909	2,234	2,234	2,238
Other financial assets	3,142	2,083	3,029	318	2,983
Cash and cash equivalents	94,171	62,276	11,220	9,244	19,248
Total current assets	124,783	91,006	36,281	74,914	44,287
Total assets	928,325	1,145,804	1,161,924	1,291,814	1,109,248
Net assets/equity					
Accumulated funds	269,477	271,287	323,984	369,777	439,963
Fair value reserves	285,035	506,415	507,289	508,513	298,471
Other reserves	128,150	129,794	129,692	130,538	120,550
Total net assets/equity	682,662	907,496	960,965	1,008,828	858,984
Liabilities					
Non current liabilities					
Borrowings	71,563	99,600	122,908	182,213	148,237
ACC Leasehold financing liabilities	29,283	29,574	29,279	29,279	29,285
Provisions for other liabilities & charges	19	19	-	-	-
Employee benefit liabilities	414	433	433	433	437
Total non current liabilities	101,279	129,627	152,621	211,926	177,959
Current liabilities					
Borrowings	29,930	30,563	16,663	39,263	28,167
ACC Leasehold financing liabilities	1,416	3,421	1,630	1,752	1,764
Employee benefit liabilities	2,401	2,505	2,014	2,014	2,607
Trade & other payables	90,017	55,736	27,531	27,531	29,647
Funds held on behalf	19,620	16,456	500	500	10,120
Total current liabilities	143,384	108,682	48,338	71,059	72,305
Total liabilities	244,663	238,308	200,959	282,986	250,264
Total net assets/equity & liability	927,325	1,145,804	1,161,924	1,291,814	1,109,248

*The 2024-25 forecast is a best estimate on information available at the time these statements were prepared.

This Pre-Election Report is not separately audited, although much of the information has already been audited. The actual figures used for 2022-23 and 2023-24 are taken directly from the audited Annual Reports and the 2026-27 are taken from the Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 which was not been audited under the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislations Act 2023. Adopting a three-year plan (instead of a 10-year plan) means that the additional two years that would normally be included in this report are not available.

Part 4:

**Mō Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o
Te Matau-a-Māui
About Hawke's Bay
Regional Council**

MŌ TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI
ABOUT HAWKE’S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Hawke’s Bay Regional Council was established by the Local Government (Hawke’s Bay Region) Reorganisation Order 1989. The purpose of local government is:

- to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities, and
- to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

What’s the difference between different types of councils?

Hawke’s Bay Regional Council is one of **11 regional councils** in Aotearoa New Zealand. There are also **62 territorial authorities** (city and district councils) and **five unitary councils**.

UNITARY COUNCILS

Unitary councils are responsible for **both the regional and territorial authority** functions in the same geographical area.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

Regional councils play a core role in the management of natural resources including land, air, and water; supporting biodiversity and biosecurity; providing regional transport services and building more resilient communities in the face of climate change and natural hazards.

Regional councils serve a large geographical area based on water catchments.

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES

Territorial authorities (known as city and district councils) are responsible for a wide range of local services including roads, three waters – drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, refuse collection, libraries, parks, recreation services, local regulations, community and economic development, and town planning.

City councils (like Napier) serve urban areas. **District councils** (like Hastings, Central Hawke’s Bay, and Wairoa) service a mix of rural and urban areas.

TE HANGANGA WHAKAHAERE OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

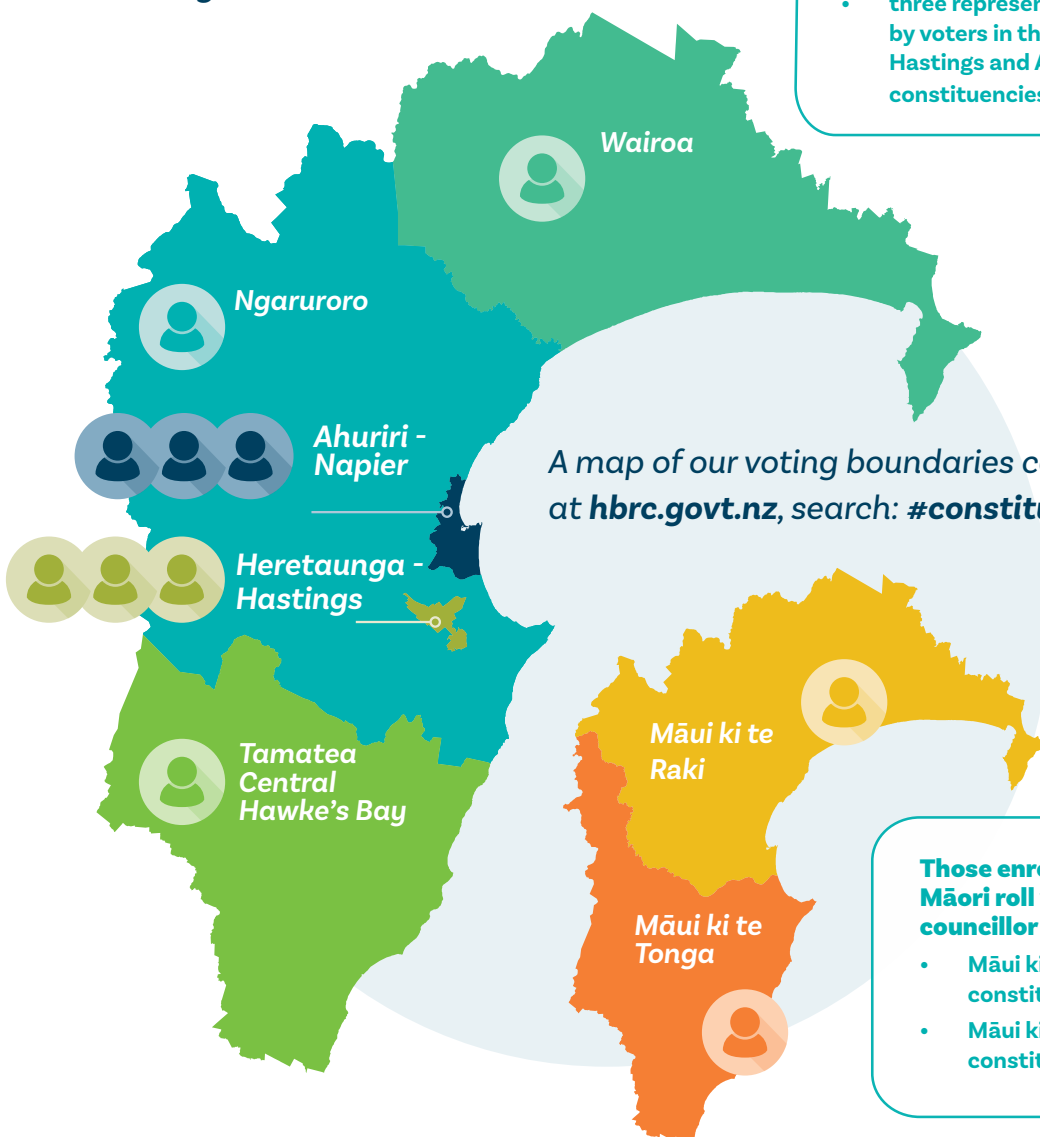
Elected members - known as councillors - govern the Hawke's Bay region, collectively exercise the powers, duties, authorities, and responsibilities vested in HBRC by various pieces of legislation.

While councillors are elected from their respective constituencies, the purpose of their role is to represent the interests of all communities in the Hawke's Bay region. They are elected for a three-year term.

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council is currently made up of 11 councillors, elected from seven constituencies, shown by the different coloured areas on the map below. Of those seven, we have five general constituencies, represented by nine councillors, and two Māori constituencies, each represented by one councillor. The chair and deputy chairperson are elected by the councillors.

Those enrolled on the general roll will elect councillors as follows:

- one representative each, elected by voters in the Tamatea/Central Hawke's Bay, Ngaruroro, and Wairoa constituencies
- three representatives each, elected by voters in the Heretaunga/Hastings and Ahuriri/Napier constituencies



Those enrolled on the Māori roll will elect one councillor in either the:

- Māui ki te Raki constituency
- Māui ki te Tonga constituency

The role of councillors

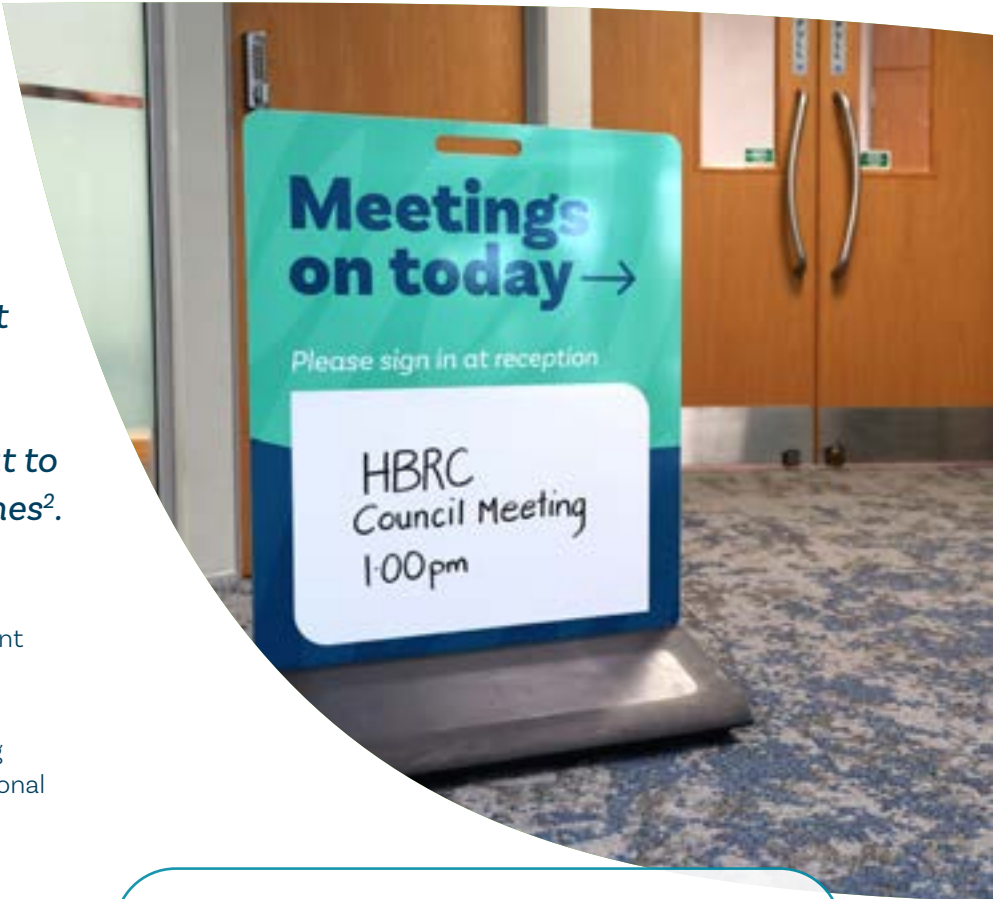
Elected members set the direction of the Regional Council by adopting plans, policies, and strategies. Through these documents it decides what services and activities, and what level of service should be carried out to achieve community outcomes².

These decisions are made within a framework of competing priorities, timeframes, past decisions, government reform, as well as resource and affordability constraints.

Staff are responsible for implementing plans, policies, and strategies the Regional Council adopts. The Regional Council is then responsible for monitoring and evaluating the cost-effectiveness of implementation including financial responsibility. The Regional Council also sets the budget and rates every year.

Council committees

Following the last election in 2022, the Council put in place the following committee structure to manage the business of council. The committee structure is a decision of the new council³.



Regional Council meetings and workshops are open to the public, except where items exclude the public for specific reasons. Meeting dates and times are published in *Hawke's Bay Today* and on our website hbrc.govt.nz, search: #meetings

- #### Joint committees
- Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee
 - Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy Joint Committee
 - Climate Action Joint Committee
 - Napier-Hastings Future Development Strategy Joint Committee
 - Ahuriri Regional Park Joint Committee

- #### Committees
- Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee
 - Corporate and Strategic Committee
 - Risk and Audit Committee
 - Regional Planning Committee
 - Māori Committee
 - Regional Transport Committee
 - Tenders Committee

²Outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in order to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of its district or region in the present and for the future.

³The Regional Planning Committee is established under legislation so is permanent.

TE HANGANGA O TE WHAKAHAERE ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

Hawke’s Bay Regional Council is supported by a professional corporate organisation, led by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive and staff are responsible for managing day-to-day issues and implementing the decisions and policies of the elected members of the Regional Council.

The Executive Team considers organisation-wide issues and provides a key linkage between councillors and staff. They ensure what is undertaken within the groups is consistent with the goals and objectives in the strategic, long term, and annual plans.



Chief Executive

Dr Nic Peet

Executive Assistant to Chief Executive & Chair

Executive Advisory Group:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management
- Strategy & Governance



Māori Partnerships Group

Te Wairama Munro
Te Pou Whakarae



Policy and Regulation Group

Katrina Brunton
Group Manager



Integrated Catchment Management Group

Richard Wakelin
Group Manager



Asset Management Group

Chris Dolley
Group Manager



Corporate Services Group

Pip O'Connor
Interim Group Manager

**TŌ MĀTAU WHAKAKITENGA,
ARONGA, ME NGĀ UARA
OUR VISION, PURPOSE, AND VALUES**

Our vision

We want a healthy environment, and a resilient and prosperous community.

Our purpose

We work with our community to protect and manage the region’s precious taonga of rivers, lakes, soils, air, coast, and biodiversity for health, wellbeing, and connectivity.

Our values

- Manaakitanga** - Care
- Māramatanga** - Clarity
- Whanaungatanga** - Connection
- Kotahitanga** - Collective drive
- Ngākau Pono** - Commitment

Community outcomes

Our community outcomes guide the long-term direction of our work to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our region now and into the future. Our outcomes match our vision statement, as above.

Healthy environment

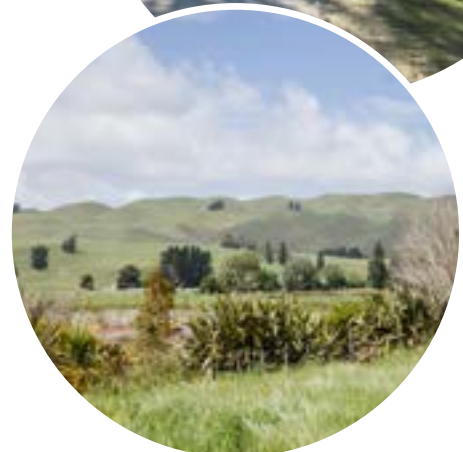
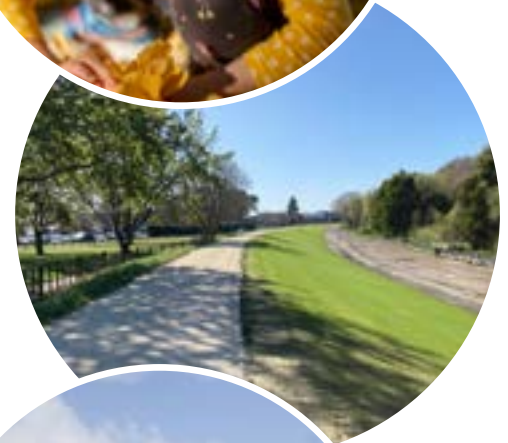
Our communities benefit from healthy and functioning ecosystems, in which our air, land, freshwater, marine and coast, and biodiversity are protected and enhanced.

Resilient community

Our communities are prepared for natural hazards, supported by planning and infrastructure, partnerships and knowledge-sharing on the increasing effects of climate change.

Prosperous community

Our communities thrive from high-performing regional infrastructure that enables the region’s natural and human resources to deliver goods and services that underpin prosperity and wellbeing.



TE MAHI NGĀTAHI WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Working in collaboration with others is essential in everything we do. All our key strategic priorities require partnerships and collaboration. A joined-up and coordinated approach will ensure that our efforts are greater than the sum of the parts and we can do more, faster.

Partnerships with tāngata whenua

Hawke's Bay Regional Council recognises and is committed to a Treaty-based partnership approach to engagement and decision making with tāngata whenua/mana whenua as a critical part of our core business. Within Hawke's Bay there are 11 iwi groups and 79 marae.

Opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making include:

- Māori constituencies
- Māori Committee
- Regional Planning Committee
- Chair/s of the Māori Committee and Regional Planning Committee sit in the meetings of the Regional Council as non-voting participating members
- Tāngata whenua representatives from each of the Regional Planning Committee and Māori Committee sit on the following Regional Council committees with full voting rights:
 - Corporate and Strategic Committee
 - Environment and Integrated Catchments Committee
- Post Settlement Governance Entities and/or the Māori Committee are invited to appoint representatives on Joint Committees administered by the Regional Council including:
 - Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
 - Climate Action Joint Committee
 - Regional Transport Committee
 - Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Hazards Strategy Joint Committee

Regional collaboration

After every election, all local authorities/councils, within the Hawke's Bay region must enter into a Triennial Agreement for the term. In practice, this sets the context for the Mayors, HBRC Chair, and Chief Executives of the five Hawke's Bay councils to meet regularly and work closely in a coordinated manner on agreed priorities.

A recent example of regional collaboration was the joint negotiation with the Crown following Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. We worked alongside the four other councils and tāngata whenua in Hawke's Bay to secure a significant integrated funding package totalling \$556 million. This fund makes ratepayer funding go substantially further.

We also work closely with Napier City Council to share services where possible to reduce costs passed on to ratepayers, avoid duplication of services, and leverage skills and expertise across both organisations to ensure functions are delivered efficiently and effectively.

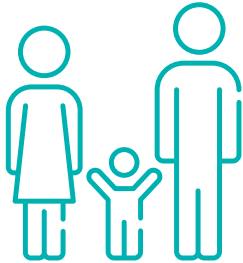
National collaboration

As one of 16 unitary and regional councils in New Zealand, staff collaborate through a network of special interest groups through Te Uru Kahika - Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa. The interest groups cover the full range of councils' work and aims to share knowledge and leverage the collective capabilities for efficiency and greater impact. As part of this we are a shareholder of the shared services company RSHL (Regional Software Holdings Limited). RSHL supports the procurement or development of shared services and products to provide greater consistency in how councils operate their core processes and provides a more cost effective alternative than individual councils can achieve on their own. RSHL is a not-for-profit Council Controlled Organisation (CCO).



OUR REGION

Around **185,300 people**



30.6% of our population is of Māori descent



11 iwi groups
79 marae

1.42 million hectares of land



186,272 hectares of highly productive soils

2 main groundwater resources



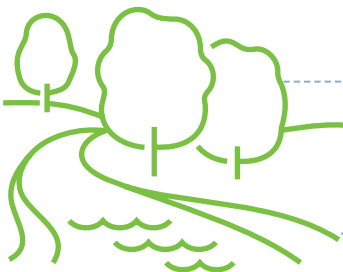
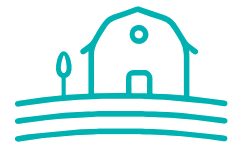
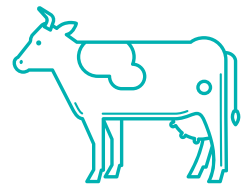
74,000 rateable properties

8 major river catchments

Wairoa, Mohaka, Esk, Tūtaekurī, Ngaruroro, Tukituki, Maraetotara and Pōrangahau

Land use is

- 2%** dairy
- 2%** horticulture
- 2%** residential
- 4%** other
- 13%** forestry
- 32%** native cover
- 46%** sheep and beef



1,600 kms of rivers and streams

7,700 km² of coastal marine area



353 km of coastline



HAWKES BAY

REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

hbrc.govt.nz

