



He Hapori Pakari

Strong Communities

Community Wellbeing Strategy 2024 – 2027





Ngā Ihirangi

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Te Kupu Whakataki a te Koromatua

Foreword from the Mayor

Kia ora koutou,

As Mayor of Horowhenua and this incredible community, I am proud to introduce this strategy document focused on one of the most crucial aspects to our people's success: community wellbeing.

In the Horowhenua, we understand that community wellbeing is not just the responsibility of a select few; it is a collective effort that requires the active participation and commitment of each and every one of us. It truly takes a village to nurture and sustain the health, happiness, and success of our community.

We recognise that our community faces its share of challenges, especially in times of economic uncertainty. Yet, it is during these trying times that our collective strength and resilience shine the brightest. By working together in partnership, we can weather any storm and emerge stronger than ever before.

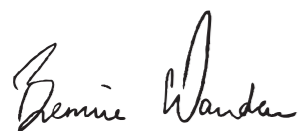
It's important to emphasise that this Strategy is not just a document to be shelved and forgotten. Instead, it serves as a roadmap for action. Every function within our Council has a role to play in championing community wellbeing. We are committed to monitoring and reporting our progress against the Community Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring transparency and accountability in our efforts, which you will be able to see throughout this document.

Monitoring our progress is the Community Wellbeing Committee, a group made up of people from diverse sectors of our community. This Committee serves as a central point for collaboration and partnership, ensuring that every perspective is heard and valued. Alongside the refresh of this strategy, so too was a strategic refresh of our Community Wellbeing Committee, strengthening their connection to collective work that we're all working towards achieving. These two pieces of work, happening alongside one another, only strengthen what we're trying to achieve when it comes to community wellbeing.

As a member of our community, your voice matters too, and through your interactions with our community groups and social sector agencies, your participation in events, visits to our community spaces, comments on social media and direct feedback; you shape the direction of our efforts to enhance community wellbeing.

Ultimately, our goal is simple yet significant: to create a community where every individual feels a sense of belonging in a community that is safe, vibrant, inclusive, and connected. Let's work together to create a community where everyone's wellbeing is a priority, with no one left behind.

He waka eke noa; we are all in this together.



Mayor Bernie Wanden

Te Tūruapō

Community Wellbeing Vision



He Whakatakinga

Introduction

Welcome to the Community Wellbeing Strategy! From 2024 to 2027, we're continuing our journey to shape a brighter future together.

The Strong Communities Te Hapori Pakari, Community Wellbeing Strategy was originally adopted by Horowhenua District Council in 2021. This version of the Strategy underwent a refresh in 2024 as we checked in with the community to ensure the priorities were still relevant and understand what needed changing. This Strategy is a four-year approach to how we work when it comes to community wellbeing.

It's clear that health, happiness, and wellbeing have a big impact on our quality of life. But what does wellbeing look like at a community level, and how do we measure it?

Community wellbeing refers to the overall health, happiness, and prosperity of a community as a whole. It encompasses key measures such as physical health, mental health, social connectedness, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and cultural vitality.

Community wellbeing emphasises the quality of life and satisfaction experienced by individuals within a community, as well as the collective welfare and resilience of the community itself. It involves creating supportive environments, fostering social cohesion, addressing inequities, and promoting inclusive development to enhance the overall wellbeing of all community members.

Research shows that strong networks and relationships within neighbourhoods play a vital role in community wellbeing and resilience which is why you'll read about the importance of sense of place and belonging within our community, for every person. Horowhenua as a collective is committed to building such a community—one with the social infrastructure to overcome challenges and make the most of opportunities. Together, we're creating a place where everyone has the chance to thrive.

But it's not just about good intentions. Achieving the best outcomes requires collaboration. Our goal is to cultivate collective impact, ensuring that we bring together diverse stakeholders from various sectors to achieve a shared vision. Local and central government; iwi and hapū; and community organisations must work hand in hand to tackle local issues together. This collaboration will empower us to face challenges head-on, both now and in the future.

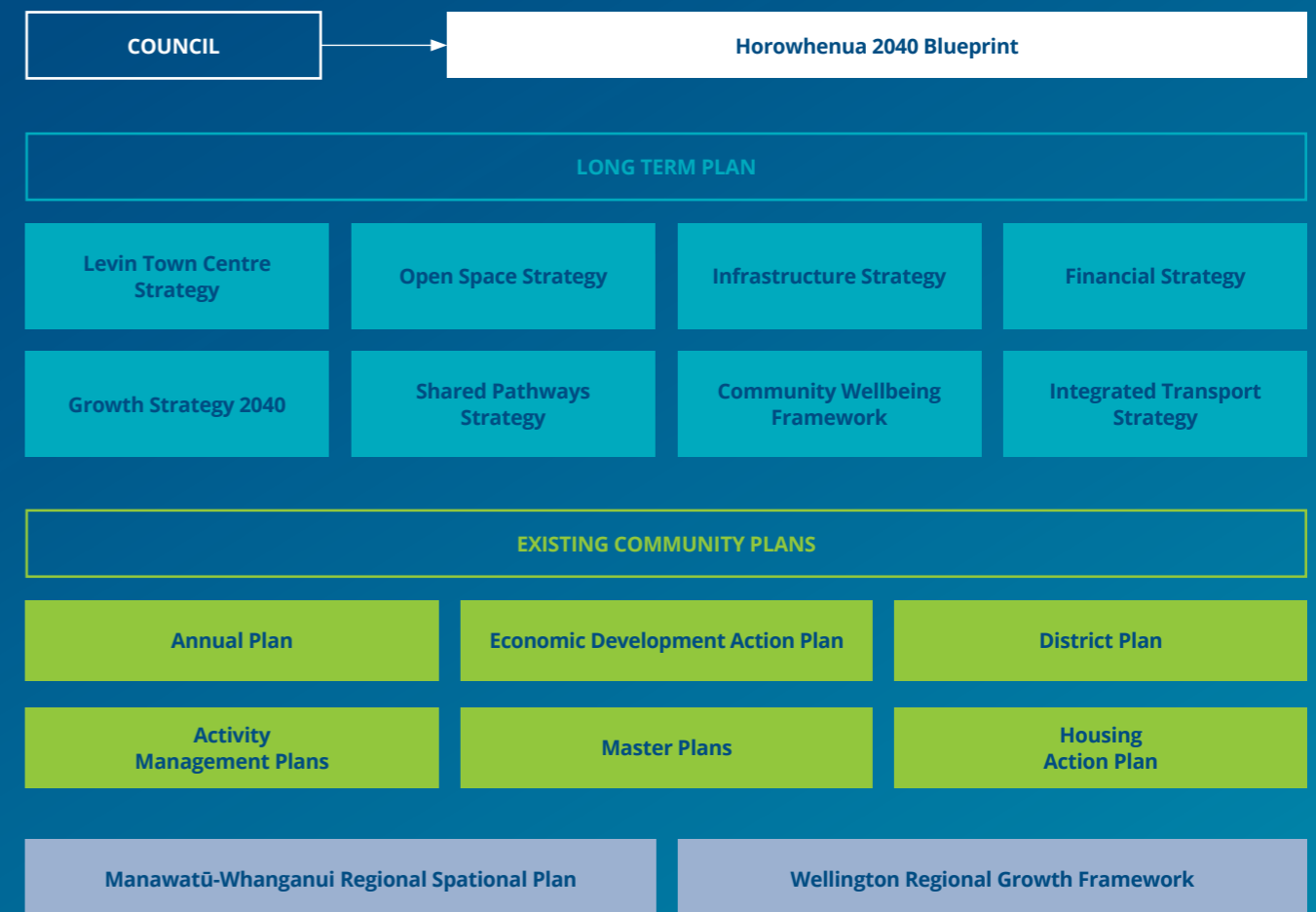
In the following pages, we'll explore the various aspects of our Community Wellbeing Strategy, outlining specific actions and initiatives to bring our shared vision to life. We invite every member of our community to join us on this journey—to lend your voices, expertise, and passion toward building a healthier, happier, and more resilient community for generations to come.

Ngā Tuhinga Āpiti a Te Kaunihera hei Tautoko i te Mahere Nei

Horowhenua District Council documents that contribute to this plan

The implementation of the Community Wellbeing Strategy is guided by the following Council documents, strategies and policies.

The illustration below shows the relationship between the Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint and other Council strategies and plans, including the Community Wellbeing Framework.



Ngā Haepapa a te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Horowhenua me te Oranga Tonutanga o te Hapori

The Role of Horowhenua District Council in Community Wellbeing

Horowhenua District Council plays a crucial role in promoting community wellbeing as mandated by the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act.

Enacted in May 2019, this legislation reinstated the importance of four key aspects of wellbeing: social, economic, environmental, and cultural, within the statutory purpose of local government.

Therefore, before considering any legislative requirements, Horowhenua District Council values community development and wellbeing because of the strong connection to its core functions and activities. This is why we're adamant that this Strategy isn't a road map for a community development department, but for all activities across the whole of Council.

Understanding the Act

The Act empowers local authorities to prioritise community wellbeing through their planning and decision-making processes, guided by community consultation. The four wellbeing areas are:

Social

Involves individuals, their whānau, iwi, hapū, and a range of communities being able to set goals and achieve them. These goals include education, health, the strength of community networks, financial and personal security, equity of opportunity, and rights and freedoms.

Economic

Looks at whether the economy can generate the employment and wealth necessary to provide many of the requirements that make for social wellbeing, such as health, financial security, and equity of opportunity.

Environmental

Considers whether the natural environment can sustainably support the activities that constitute healthy community life, such as air quality, fresh water, uncontaminated land, and control of pollution.

Cultural

Looks at the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through language, stories, visual and performing arts, ceremonies and heritage that make up our communities.



How is Horowhenua District Council contributing to this Act?

Horowhenua District Council is actively contributing to the objectives outlined in the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act through a range of initiatives. Here's how we're making it happen:

Development of Community Wellbeing Strategy

Our Community Wellbeing Strategy addresses all four dimensions of wellbeing: social, economic, environmental, and cultural. This Strategy will serve as a roadmap in informing our decisions and actions to promote community wellbeing across the whole of Council.

Community Engagement

Council is committed to engaging its community and stakeholders in a meaningful way and follows the principles set out in Section 14 of the Local Government Act (Appendix Three). It acknowledges that 'communities' may be 'communities of place' or 'communities of issue' and will use appropriate tools and techniques to enable meaningful and timely connections that encourage feedback and participation in Council processes.

Our aim is to engage with our community to understand their needs, priorities, and aspirations. We aspire to inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower. Depending on the significance of the decision or activity, our approach could include formal submissions and hearings, consultations, workshops, public meetings, roadshows, focus groups, committees, citizen's panels, surveys and polls, information via social media, media releases, public notices, and advertisements, as well as collaborating with local stakeholders and partners to gather valuable input and feedback.

The Significance and Engagement Policy outlines Council's general approach to determining the significance of proposals and decisions. It sets out how Council will engage the community in its decision-making relative to the significance of the decision.

Investment in Social Services

Council invests in social services through a multitude of avenues, including direct financial investment and funding, facilitating networking opportunities to address common goals and initiatives, supporting community-led development, organising events and expos in collaboration with iwi, hapū, social service partners, and our community, and collaborating with central government to deliver social services.

Some of these activities include:

- Community Networks and Steering Groups: Community representatives attend regular meetings focusing on areas such as Access and Inclusion, Education Horowhenua, Older Persons, Youth Services, Youth Voice, Horowhenua Former Refugee Support Committee and Welcoming Communities.
- Council Contracted Services: Funding for community organisations providing safety services within the rohe.
- Capacity Building Programme: Training and development opportunities are provided for the community to enhance their skills and capabilities.
- Grants and Funding Programme: Funds are allocated to individuals, community groups, and organisations to support their projects, programmes, events, and ideas.
- Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Programme: This initiative involves working with rangatahi to support them to find an employment opportunity that suits their interests and skills. We provide opportunities for training and work experience to help them build confidence. Additionally, support is provided to local employers to help them find workers who meet their business needs.
- Events such as the Hauora Expo, Age on the Go, Future Pathways, and Grants and Funding Drop-in Sessions are among those facilitated by the Council.

Economic Development Initiatives

The Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint, details 12 action areas Council is committed to improving, with liveability and prosperity at the core of the work.

These actions encompass various aspects, including enabling more affordable housing choices, supporting and facilitating iwi aspirations, securing jobs in key sectors, enhancing the district's identity to attract more visitors, fostering and promoting a vibrant food culture, and keeping the district moving.

To bolster the Council's efforts in achieving better economic wellbeing outcomes, The Horowhenua Company is contracted to provide economic development services, including:

- Organising networking and learning events for businesses, enterprise, NGOs and community leaders.
- Sourcing and analysing independent data and information to assist Horowhenua District Council in making well-informed decisions on matters crucial to our communities.
- Collaborating with local and out of town enterprises to capitalise on new opportunities for Horowhenua.
- Partnering with local, regional, and national organisations to enhance economic wellbeing outcomes.



Environmental Sustainability

Council's commitment to a thriving environment is weaved throughout our decision-making process. Enabling a sustainable environment ensures our efforts preserve and protect our natural environment. This is achieved through a variety of partnerships and strategic initiatives. These include management of our community's three waters, education around waste minimisation and pollution, and promoting sustainable land use through the District Plan. Ensuring our community have access to a thriving environment and all its benefits, fosters an ongoing relationship in which the resources of future generations are protected.

A component of our Strategy includes the EnviroSchools Programme, which teaches tamariki about different environmental topics. This hands-on approach encourages young people to take active roles in shaping their environment, highlighting the direct link between sustainable practices and enhanced community wellbeing.

Additionally, our Council promotes and enhances waste minimisation. Council Officers are committed to providing resources and educating the community about the benefits of waste minimisation. By understanding and reducing individual environmental impact, we can protect our surroundings and, in turn, achieve community wellbeing.

Council is equally committed to sustainable water usage, demonstrated by the rollout of water meters across the district. Embracing the ethos of "He Taonga te Wai" (water is precious), this project aims to prevent wastage through leaks and encourages the efficient use of our water. By managing water consumption carefully, we reduce the strain on our natural environment, ensuring that water remains a treasured and sustainable resource for all.

Culture, Preservation and Promotion

Horowhenua District Council acknowledges the significant role and special position of Tangata Whenua and Mana Whenua within the district.

Memorandum of Partnerships are increasingly vital as the Council seeks closer and meaningful working relationships with Māori, ensuring meaningful consultation on a wide array of issues impacting both parties' areas of governance.

Māori perspectives of Kaitiakitanga emphasise the close interrelation between people and the environment, sharing a strong interest with us in preserving, protecting, restoring and sustaining the environment while fostering an economic future of the area for generations to come.

In its decision-making processes, the Council upholds the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty) and kaitiakitanga, respecting the relationship of Māori and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water sites, waahi tapu, and taonga.

Council acknowledges the importance of cultural wellbeing and actively endeavour to preserve and promote the cultural diversity of our community. This entails supporting and partnering in cultural events and festivals, protecting heritage buildings, recognising Historic Heritage and Sites of Significance, and nurturing cultural diversity and inclusion.

In summary, the Horowhenua District Council is committed to promoting community wellbeing in alignment with the objectives of the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act, while actively enhancing the wellbeing of our community.

Te Whakamahere I a Horowhenua 2040 - Te Horopaki Whānui

Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint

The Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint (Blueprint) was adopted by Council in May 2022 and details 12 action areas Council is committed to improving, with liveability and prosperity at the heart of the work being prioritised.

The actions are wide-reaching and include enabling more affordable housing choices, supporting and enabling iwi aspirations, securing jobs in key sectors, attracting more visitors with a strong district identity, nurturing and promoting a food culture and keeping the district moving.

The Blueprint is an important Council document that gives effect to the values and aspirations outlined in the Horowhenua 2040 Strategy (H2040) and supporting Council strategies. The Blueprint is, in essence, the implementation strategy for H2040.

The Blueprint has a clear vision when it comes to community wellbeing:

- Horowhenua has resilient neighbourhoods and communities with pathways to skills, jobs, and affordable housing and;
- Horowhenua is a favoured destination for visitors and new residents who wish to add to the district's prosperity and wellbeing.

The Blueprint serves as a direct link to community wellbeing with priority given to the most transformational actions. Through addressing these key areas, the Council aims to enhance the overall quality of life and wellbeing of community members in Horowhenua.

In particular, the Blueprint reinforces the key priorities of the Community Wellbeing Strategy across Council in outlining specific goals and actions to be achieved in these areas.



Te Kōmiti whai Oranga Tonutanga i te Hapori - ā mātou mahi

Our Community Wellbeing Committee – how we work

The purpose of the Community Wellbeing Committee is to provide collective leadership, advocacy and holistic outcomes that enable the population of Horowhenua to be well together.

The Community Wellbeing Committee brings together iwi and hapū representatives; community network representatives; key agencies; and community groups, to plan together and collectively monitor impact.

It includes representatives from various sectors within our community, including:

Iwi

- Ngai Tara o Mua Ūpoko o te ika
- Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga
- Rangitāne o Manawatū

Community Networks

- Access and Inclusion
- Education Horowhenua
- Older Persons
- Youth Services
- Youth Voice (Formerly yEP)
- Horowhenua Former Refugee Support Community and Welcoming Communities

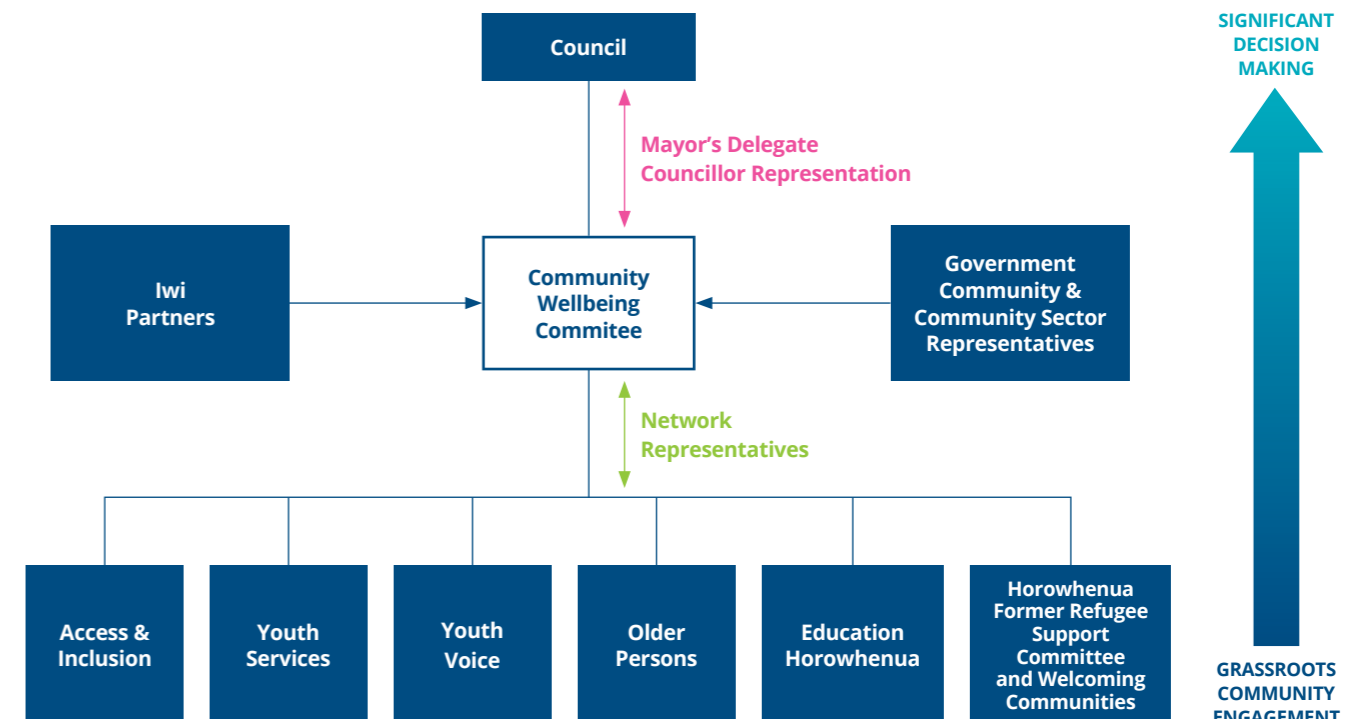
Horowhenua District Council

- Mayor
- Councillors x2

Government and Community Sector Representatives

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Horizons Regional Council
- Kāinga Ora
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples
- Ministry of Social Development (Work and Income)
- Muaūpoko Whānau Ora
- Raukawa Whānau Ora
- New Zealand Police
- Office of Ethnic Communities
- Oranga Tamariki
- Pasifika Health Service
- Sport Manawatū
- THINK Hauora
- Te Whatu Ora / Health NZ

Structure



In 2024, we reviewed the structure of the Community Wellbeing Committee to better channel our community's voice directly to the Council, where key decisions are made. This new setup taps into our vibrant and diverse community networks, where active engagement thrives, bringing grassroots perspectives together — through network representatives, with official input from our iwi and hapū partners, government, and community sector agencies. By integrating these diverse views, ideas and concerns, the Committee ensures they are robustly represented in Council decisions — as Councillors and the Mayor are also part of the Committee. Ultimately, this structure makes sure that the voices from our community are not only heard but are a pivotal part of the decision-making process at the Council. We believe this approach is both significant and impactful, making a real difference in how we serve our community and enable what matters for them.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Community Wellbeing Committee meets quarterly to review and monitor the progress of the Community Wellbeing Strategy and overall community wellbeing. To assist the Committee in doing so, during these meetings, the Committee will receive the following reports:

- Community Wellbeing Network Report: This report outlines the focus and activities of our networks and while prepared by Council Officers, will be

presented by a representative of each network. The purpose of this item is to discuss and highlight any of those grassroots issues, ideas or concerns that are present within the community. The report provides the initial step in the process highlighted above to collectively discuss, share and collaborate.

- Community Wellbeing Dashboard: A visual dashboard presenting data, analysis and tracking of our top priority areas. The aim of this item is to enable the Committee to actively monitor any trends that may require the Committee to pivot or realign their focus. It also provides an opportunity for the Committee to identify future priority discussions and presentations that the Committee may wish to hear and see.
- Community Wellbeing Strategy Monitoring Report: This report highlights the progress made against the Community Wellbeing Action Plan and keeps the Council accountable for the role that it plays when it comes to community wellbeing. Additionally, this report will highlight work happening across all of Council business that is contributing to the success of this Strategy and overall community wellbeing.

The latter two reports are new reports that have been added to the Committee framework following a Committee workshop in March 2024 where Committee members identified their intentions for the Committee and how they can best respond to the needs of the community.

Ngā Whakaarotau Matua o te Oranga Tonutanga i te Hapori

Our Priority Areas for Community Wellbeing

How we got here

Our priority areas for community wellbeing were established by the Community Wellbeing Committee in 2020. During the strategy refresh conducted in 2024, we sense-checked these priorities with our community and we heard that they're still important and relevant which has led them to staying as priority areas. Additionally, we've heard some further ideas and feedback that has allowed us to either update existing or add further priorities.

The Community Wellbeing Strategy priority areas are what our community determines to be significant and critical issues that we need to address as a community. They are the issues that if we can collaboratively tackle, head on, we can work towards enhancing overall community wellbeing. It's a team effort and with Council playing a leading role, holding the hands of the community, we can all take a step forward in fostering community pride, vibrancy, and vision.

Primarily, one of the biggest challenges in the current climate is the increasing cost of living faced by our community. With the entire country, including Horowhenua, grappling with the effects of a recession, this economic backdrop effects all of our priority areas and has a significant impact on our community. So, while this context isn't a standalone priority area, it remains at the forefront of each of our priority areas and has been considered when we have developed our actions for each of these priority areas.



Celebrating and valuing cultural diversity is essential for our community's richness and vibrancy. It begins with honouring and respecting Te Ao Māori, acknowledging the unique perspectives and contributions of iwi and hapū.

Through its decision-making processes, Council recognises the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty) and kaitiakitanga, providing for the relationship of Māori and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

Council is committed to the continuing process of consultation with Māori in the district, and regularly works with iwi on collaborative projects in our rohe. Significant collaboration was undertaken for our prestigious Culture and Community Centres — Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.

Horowhenua is home to a multitude of cultures, each adding their own unique colours and flavours to our community. By celebrating this diversity, we create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all. We believe that communities are happier, healthier and more productive when newcomers are welcomed by the community and enjoy better social outcomes, cohesion, and economic growth.

Let's embrace and cherish the richness of our cultural mosaic, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every ethnicity is valued.



He Hapori Tūhonohono
Connected Community

A connected community ensures the seamless integration of all essential services and infrastructure. This includes efficient transportation systems, coordinated construction projects, upgraded utilities, and the development of new facilities. The goal is to create an environment where residents can easily navigate from one place to another and engage with their desired activities, people, or tasks without unnecessary obstacles. This accessibility fosters community bonds and builds social cohesion, enhancing the overall quality of life for everyone.

With Horowhenua's population expected to surpass 62,000 by 2041¹, the Community Wellbeing Committee and Council prioritise sustainable infrastructure and improved public transport to support growth and wellbeing. Given a projected annual growth rate of 1.8%, community involvement in planning is crucial. The Community Wellbeing Committee will monitor these impacts and inform Council.

Adequate transportation is vital for community health and wellbeing. Currently, limited public transport options hinder connectivity. Council, with Horizons Regional Council, will continue to advocate for better public transport.

The Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) highway project will enhance safety and resilience in the transport network, supporting population growth and improving regional connectivity. The project, led by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and iwi partners, will begin in 2025 and complete in 2029.

Community connection also involves fostering relationships and interactions, boosting happiness, quality of life, and a sense of collective purpose.

Our three principles for enhancing community connection are:

1 Collective Action

Community-led development is how we make Horowhenua safe, vibrant, inclusive, and connected. Council supports this by enabling collaboration among people and organisations. Our communities drive projects for neighbourhood wellbeing.

2 Sense of Community

We foster inclusion, reduce discrimination, and break down barriers to opportunity, especially for disadvantaged groups. This promotes fairness and equity, enhancing overall wellbeing in Horowhenua. We offer free or low-cost community events and activities and fund local groups and programmes. Our communities feel connected and support each other.

3 Social Cohesion

Social cohesion means building shared values and communities where everyone feels connected and can tackle challenges together. Council supports these efforts, and our communities are ready to collaborate.

¹ Sense Partners Horowhenua Socio-Economic Projections Report



Te Hauora Me te Oranga Tonutanga Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing are closely intertwined, with a strong sense of wellbeing contributing to good mental health, while good physical and mental health enhances resilience and overall wellbeing.

To cultivate a healthy community, it is imperative to address fundamental needs such as food, shelter, and education. Promoting healthier lifestyles is essential, along with removing barriers to accessing health services and essential care to create opportunities for individuals to enhance their lives. It's crucial that people are aware of the services available in our community and how to access them.

In our commitment to uplifting the health and wellbeing of everyone in Horowhenua, Council plays a vital role in promoting health and wellness through the services offered in community facilities. We also facilitate connections between community groups and local networks to promote their services. Collaborating closely with community groups and social agencies, we regularly plan events and programmes that support health and wellbeing.

The Horowhenua Takiwā is a hauora alliance led by iwi partners which brings together health organisations in the Horowhenua and is supported by Council. The aim of the Takiwā is to develop a road map to excellence in hauora for the Horowhenua where the whānau voice is elevated and resonates throughout the Strategy. There are many synergies between the Community Wellbeing Strategy and the priorities of the Takiwā which focus on the wellbeing of the person through a hauora lens.

Together, let's work towards building a healthier, happier community for all.



Te Noho Pūmau i Horowhenua Sense of place and belonging

In today's modern world, a sense of place and belonging is important for mental and physical health. Shared experiences, like sports clubs and walking groups, foster community connections. Our district offers abundant green spaces and facilities, enhancing community ties. Open spaces reduce stress and improve mental health, and the Council maintains these areas to support community wellbeing.

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, it is easy to feel disconnected from others. That is why the concept of a sense of place and belonging is essential. This idea can be formed through shared experiences, common interests, or simply by living in the same area or neighbourhood. Your sense of connection might be a local sports club you belong to, a street walking group, or the people that you meet every day at the same time at the dog park to walk your dog. It is through these connections and relationships we are able to gain our sense of ourselves, our identities, our environment. Building strong connections and relationships can have a positive impact on our mental and physical health, as well as on the health of the entire community, providing an overall sense of place and belonging.

We are fortunate to live in a district that has an abundance of green spaces to explore. From numerous bushwalks, parks and gardens, to our scenic rivers and beaches, we have a lot of options for immersing ourselves in nature. While a sense of place and belonging can be cultivated anywhere, we have state of the art facilities that allow us to make connections with each other. This includes Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, our cultural and community centre in Levin, a community heart and hub bringing together library services, as well as facilities for community, business, youth and tourism. Some would call it their second living room.

Another unique community space is Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, our riverside cultural park in Foxton where different strands of cultural expression are woven together seamlessly into one exceptional visitor experience. It services the local community just as well as it entertains travellers from around the motu, creating a significant and lasting sense of belonging. Studies have shown that increasing our exposure to green spaces can lower the risk of depression, stress, and psychological distress, while also enhancing mood, emotional wellbeing, and mental health.

Council recognises the importance of green spaces as places for relaxation, reflection, recreation, and social connection with friends and whānau. To continue providing spaces for community health and wellbeing, it is imperative that we maintain these areas for the enjoyment of all. Our parks have garnered international recognition, with six of our green spaces receiving prestigious awards on the world stage.



Ngā Whare Housing

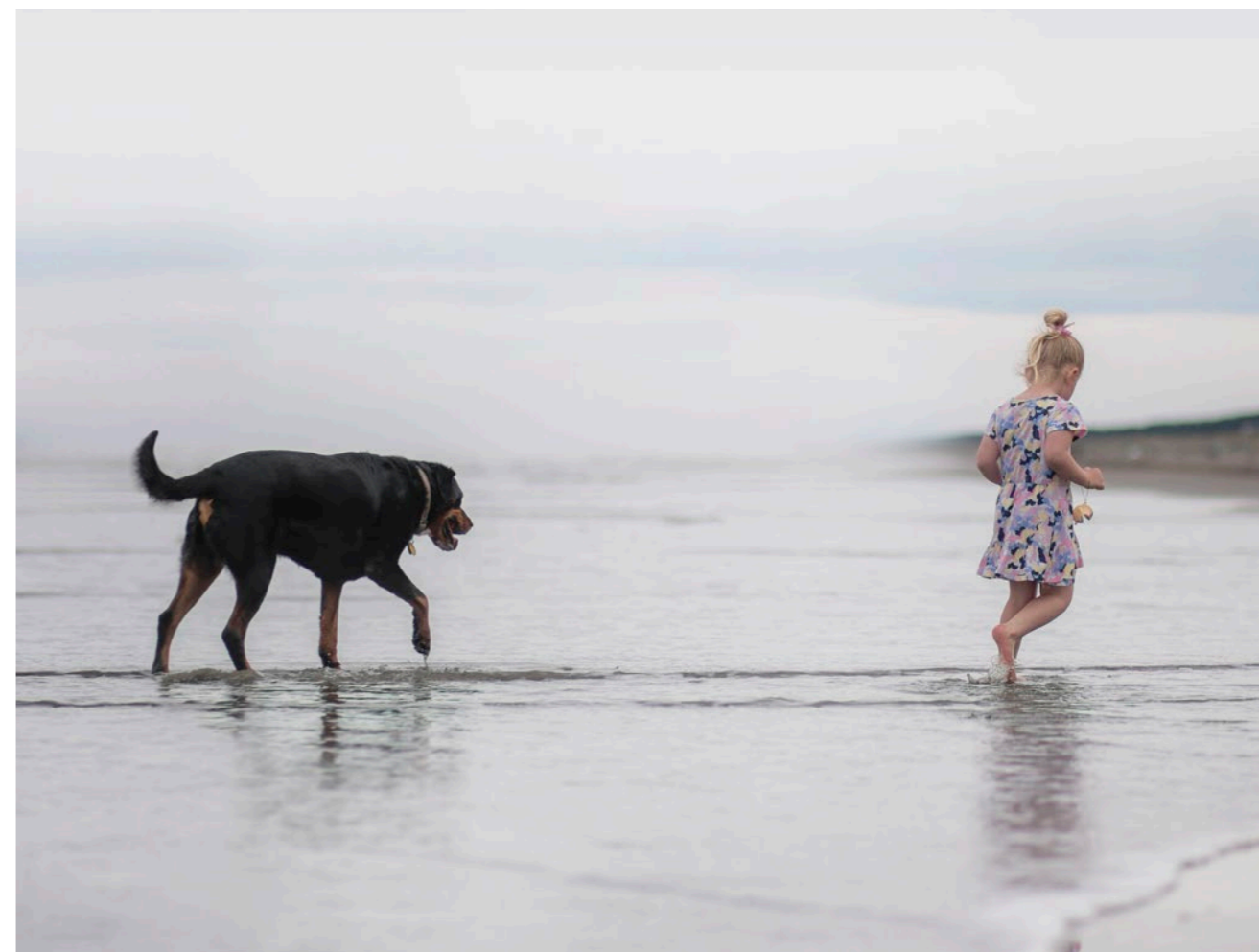
Horowhenua is one of the fastest growing districts in Aotearoa, which has brought increasing pressure on housing and families. It's an exciting and challenging time for our community, as both our population and economy continue to expand.

Housing affordability remains a pressing issue for residents in Horowhenua. While housing may seem relatively affordable compared to neighbouring cities like Wellington, it remains unattainable for many locals, given the disparity between median household incomes and median house prices.

Our strategy for the future, Horowhenua 2040 (see page 9) has the vision 'Homes for All'. At the heart of the vision is a focus on creating communities that our residents can be proud of, where together we grow neighbourhoods that are vibrant and connected places to live, work, learn and play. Ultimately, the vision is to strive to create resilient and liveable communities across our district that deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

To achieve this vision, we will work collectively with agencies and developers to ensure a diverse range of homes are built to meet our community's housing needs. This will create the foundation for individuals and families to thrive and strong communities to be established. We need everyone in our community, including central government, community housing providers, and the private sector, to play their part to build local relationships, connect with each other and help get more homes built. Our Housing Action Plan is focused on achieving that.

One example of a significant and transformational urban development project, is Tara-Ika, a 420 hectare block of land to the east of Levin. The development will create approximately 3,500 new homes, parks, reserves, a local shopping centre, an education facility, stormwater retention areas, and several roads and a shared pathway will connect the development with Levin.





Te Taiao, Te Hapori Te Manawaroa me te Takatūnga Environment, Community Resilience and Preparedness

Horowhenua has numerous opportunities to link the protection of our natural environment with community wellbeing, especially as we prepare for population growth. Our community has experienced and continues to face the impacts of climate change through severe weather events, flooding, erosion, and drought.

It is vital that both the Council and our community are prepared for any civil emergency to ensure that we remain resilient. Preparedness is key to maintaining a strong, adaptable community.

Council, through the Climate Action Plan, has developed a strategy to reduce our district's emissions and ensure a 'just transition' for our community. This Plan aligns with our Community Wellbeing Strategy, advocating for an outstanding environment that safeguards natural resources for current and future generations. Community wellbeing is closely connected to resilience and sustainable development and will continue to guide the implementation of environmental actions.

The Plan embraces both a Māori and Western worldview to address the complex issues our community faces by focusing on environmental protection. For Horowhenua to thrive, Te Taiao (the natural world) must be healthy.

The Climate Action Plan seeks methods to protect the natural environment and its people, integrating the elements of earth, sky, air, and water to maintain a balance across environmental, cultural, social, and economic domains. Acting with kaitiakitanga (guardianship), this plan supports our district's sustainability for present and future generations.

Horowhenua District Council acknowledges the crucial role we play in implementing climate action within our district. Collaborating with all our Māori communities - iwi, hapū, marae - and wider community enables us to support sustainable outcomes for the future.



Te Haumarutanga o te Hapori Community Safety

In Horowhenua, enhancing community safety and wellbeing goes beyond physical safety, addressing inequity and providing robust support to overcome socio-economic challenges. Collaborative efforts among government, community organisations, and networks aim to create an inclusive, supportive environment for all.

Safety is paramount for everyone in our community — whether at home or out and about in the community. However, achieving good health and wellbeing requires addressing inequities, exclusion, and disadvantage experienced by individuals, whānau, and communities.

This means ensuring that children and young people receive the necessary support they need to reach their full potential, thus preventing future disadvantage. Socio-economic disparities and substandard living conditions have far-ranging effects, impacting individuals, households, and society as a whole.

Simply putting social systems in place isn't enough. Active support is crucial, equipping individuals and communities with the skills and resources to make positive changes and seize opportunities when they arise.

We have a number of community organisations that deliver safety services to Horowhenua. These include surf lifesaving patrols at our beaches, wardens and community street patrols, road safety groups, kaitiaki, crime prevention and neighbourhood support services.

To truly enhance the health and wellbeing of everyone in Horowhenua, government agencies, community services and community organisations must collaborate to break down barriers, combat discrimination, and provide meaningful opportunities and choices that are accessible. Together, we can create a safer, healthier, and more inclusive community for all.

He Aronga Atu Anō Our other areas of focus

We also heard from our community that these areas are also top of mind and have been woven into the Community Wellbeing Strategy.

- Communication and connectivity – ensuring that we're connecting with our community in a way that is accessible and mana enhancing.
- Partnership between community agencies – better collective partnership between our community agencies and services.
- Community-led development and engagement – strengthening the work we do by empowering our community to deliver.
- Access to kai through community-led initiatives.



Te Ine i te Angitūtanga

Measures of Success

If we're succeeding, what would Community Wellbeing look like in Horowhenua?
Here's what you, our community have told us...

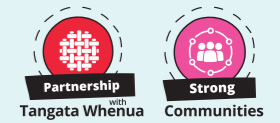
- ✓ Kids having fun with their families
- ✓ Being proud to live, work and play in Horowhenua
- ✓ Thriving not surviving
- ✓ No one is left behind
- ✓ Connected services and organisations working collaboratively
- ✓ Vulnerable people in our community get the help they need from services immediately
- ✓ Equitable access to services and facilities
- ✓ Our community has clean water
- ✓ Community wellbeing becomes the norm
- ✓ Youth engaged across all kōrero, leading the way
- ✓ People/residents feel belonging
- ✓ People supporting other people
- ✓ Connected neighbourhoods
- ✓ Everyone integrating with each other no matter their race, age, socio-economic background, or sexual orientation
- ✓ No homeless people
- ✓ Everyone has somewhere to live and where they live is warm and safe
- ✓ Families have enough to eat
- ✓ People are kind and caring to each other
- ✓ When bad things happen people respond, the community is resilient
- ✓ As you walk down the street, people are smiling and friendly
- ✓ There are plenty of different clubs and groups with lots of members
- ✓ There are enough jobs for everyone who wants one

Where applicable, all terms are as defined in the Human Rights Act 1993.

Te Mahere o te Oranga Tonutanga

i te Hapori

Community Wellbeing Action Plan



Activity/Action	Timeframe
Partner with community groups to establish and hold an annual multicultural event to showcase our diverse and vibrant community.	ANNUALLY
Continue to offer a variety of events and activities that appeal to different age groups and cultural backgrounds and incorporate elements from various cultures into events to celebrate diversity and promote understanding.	ON-GOING
Continue the Matariki Programme to celebrate Matariki.	ANNUALLY
Continue to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori by ensuring that events, activities and programmes are planned and successfully delivered.	ANNUALLY
Establish and deliver an urupā fund to support the maintenance of burial grounds.	YEAR 1
Incorporate te reo Māori when delivering our Aquatics swim school programme.	YEAR 1



Activity/Action	Timeframe
Continue to provide support that helps build the community's capacity and capability by delivering a training programme.	ON-GOING
Develop a centralised directory of services and activities, ensuring regular updates to maintain accuracy.	BI-ANNUAL
We aim to produce communication materials that are inclusive and representative of the diversity within our community. This includes ensuring accessibility for all residents, including those facing digital exclusion.	ON-GOING
Continue to provide opportunities for our older demographic to upskill in their ability to access the digital world.	ON-GOING
Initiate a campaign that highlights our people, telling the story of their connection to our rohe. Visualising that our people are proud to come from Horowhenua.	ANNUALLY
Undertake a review of all community-led initiatives and programmes that are currently being offered with a view of streamlining those opportunities and therefore removes and doubling up of services.	YEAR 1 YEAR 2
Promoting equity and fairness by removing barriers for people to participate by offering training opportunities to our community organisations.	ANNUALLY
Actively promote Neighbours Day and facilitate small community initiatives and events such as 'over the fence cuppa' events.	ANNUALLY
Investigate funding (both capital and operational) opportunities to enable the community to purchase a community bus that would transport children and young people around the region to access greater educational outcomes.	YEAR 1
Develop new ways to keep our community informed and up to date about any roading changes such as road works or road closures with the intention of ensuring that we deliver the message and the related impacts in an accessible way.	ON-GOING
Ō2NL (Ōtaki to North Levin) construction to begin 2025. We will continue to partner with Waka Kotahi to keep our community and affected residents up to date during this significant project and our communication channels will remain open.	ON-GOING
Leverage and advocate for greater community outcomes from the construction Ō2NL.	YEAR 1 YEAR 2
As members of the Horowhenua Transport Services Governance Group, we will continue to be involved in the planning of public transportation options, with Horizons District Council taking a lead role.	ON-GOING

Activity/Action	Timeframe
Investigate what options are available to both the Council and our partners in creating better access to healthy kai for our community.	YEAR 1 YEAR 2
Implement the Community Wellbeing Dashboard that monitors key statistical indicators that support the key priority areas within the Strategy. Presented to the Community Wellbeing Committee at each of their meetings.	YEAR 1 ON-GOING
Refresh the Community Wellbeing section on the Horowhenua District Council website which will provide additional information and be a one-stop shop for all things community wellbeing.	YEAR 1 ON-GOING
Continue to implement and grow the companion card initiative to offer a two-for-one ticketing option for individuals living with disabilities who require a support person.	YEAR 1 ON-GOING
Implement a Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy – aimed and getting more people in our communities moving, active and healthy for life.	YEAR 2
Health care providers and professionals will have access to participate in Easy Read/Easy Write programme.	YEAR 1
Raise awareness of health-related policies and community and national initiatives to increase equitable access to health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Public Places By-law to allow for the inclusion of relevant Smokefree and Vapefree education and provision. Continue the promotion and delivery to further enhance the exposure of health services alongside Takiwā. Be our communities' biggest advocates and when necessary, lobby central government seeking better outcomes for our communities. 	ON-GOING
Deliver the Age on the Go Expo to showcase the services, organisations and activities available to our older persons community.	ON-GOING
Work alongside our community partners to deliver a Hauora, Health and Wellbeing Expo prior to winter in a bid to increase participants physical and mental health.	ANNUALLY
Establish a hui for Non-Government Organisations to convene and collaborate, fostering open communication and shared learning.	BI-ANNUAL

Te Noho Pūmau i Horowhenua Sense of place and belonging



Activity/Action	Timeframe
Maintain Green Flag status for our green spaces to ensuring that our green spaces continue to be well-maintained, clean, safe, secure and welcoming, thus inviting and drawing people to enjoy them.	ON-GOING
Collaborate with communities to develop community-led placemaking projects and identify areas where placemaking initiatives will have a positive impact.	ON-GOING
Implement the Welcoming Communities Strategy.	YEAR 1
Ensure that Council events are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.	ON-GOING
Ensure that programming in the Youth Space reflects what our rangatahi are telling us and meets their interests and needs.	ON-GOING
Ensure that our community facilities offer services and programmes which build on the skills of our community and increases their capability.	ON-GOING
Initiate four new regular programmes that operate out in the community that allow all members of our community to take part in. This could include recreation programming that not only enhances one's wellbeing, but also creates a sense of place and belonging.	YEAR 1

Ngā Whare Housing



Activity/Action	Timeframe
Recognise and enable affordable housing choices for people, through the controls of the District Plan and direction of the Housing Action Plan.	ON-GOING
Through the Horowhenua Operative District Plan, enable opportunities for housing that are accessible to essential services. For example, mixed-use development within the Urban Centre.	ON-GOING
Continue to explore various options for creating affordable homes for all through our Affordable Housing Framework including family flat development.	ON-GOING
Actively monitor Kāinga Ora developments and projects within the community, advocating for greater benefits and outcomes for our people through the Community Wellbeing Committee.	ON-GOING
Create a resource that outlines what social support services are available for those members of our community who are displaced.	ON-GOING
Investigate what options Council has to create a safe space for displaced or homeless members of our community, working alongside our community partners.	YEAR 1

Te Taiao, Te Hapori Te Manawaroa me te Takatūnga Environment, Community Resilience and Preparedness



Activity/Action	Timeframe
Give effect to Horowhenua's Climate Action Plan.	YEAR 2
Work in partnership with Horizons Regional Council on the Joint Climate Action Plan and the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee to understand environmental vulnerability and coordination of response.	ON-GOING
Working with regional partners advocate for the establishment of public transport within urban environments.	YEAR 3
Further incorporate nature-based solutions through green and blue infrastructure, working with the environment to alleviate climate impacts. Through this, monitor the sustainable presence of nature within Horowhenua.	ON-GOING
Promote well insulated homes, green energy and sustainable water use.	ON-GOING
Facilitate at least two community training sessions to educate the community on how to be prepared for an emergency and how they can build their resilience.	ON-GOING
In partnership with our community partners and alongside the Parks and Property Team, host at least four community events that enhance the ecology of our open spaces, such as community planting, rubbish collection etc.	ON-GOING

Te Haumarutanga o te Hapori Community Safety



Activity/Action	Timeframe
Support and enable the delivery of community safety initiatives through Horowhenua District Council's contracted services, (as per the Long-Term Plan 2024-2027) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foxton Surf Lifesaving Club • Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support • Levin Waitāreere Surf Lifesaving Club • Save Our River Trust • The Foxton and Beach Community Patrol • The Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust • The Levin Community Patrol • The Waitāreere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association • Volunteer Central 	ANNUALLY
Maintain and build relationships with key safety agencies by holding a bi-annual community safety forum with the Mayor and Council.	BI-ANNUAL
Build on our Kaitiaki programme within Community Facilities, broadening the scope to allow for more presence within the community.	YEAR 1 YEAR 2
Re-establish the Road Safety Group to advocate for improvements in road safety for the community.	YEAR 1

Glossary of Terms

Community Wellbeing Committee	A group made up of iwi and hapū, community networks, government agencies and council representatives who monitor the Community Wellbeing Strategy.
Community-led Development	Community-led Development is a development approach in which local community members work together to identify goals that are important to them.
Green Flag	Green Flag is an award scheme that recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces around the world.
Hapū	Kinship group, clan, tribe, subtribe - section of a large kinship group and the primary political unit in traditional Māori society. It consisted of a number of whānau sharing descent from a common ancestor, usually being named after the ancestor, but sometimes from an important event in the group's history.*
Hauora	Health, vigour.*
Iwi	Extended kinship group, tribe, nation, people, nationality, race - often refers to a large group of people descended from a common ancestor and associated with a distinct territory.*
Kai	Food, meal.*
Kaitakitanga	Guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship, trustee.*
Kōrero	To tell, say, speak, read, talk, address.*
Mana Whenua	Territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land. The tribe's history and legends are based in the lands they have occupied over generations and the land provides the sustenance for the people and to provide hospitality for guests.*
Ō2NL	Ōtaki to north of Levin (new highway).
Rohe	Boundary, district, region, territory, area, border (of land).*
Tangata Whenua	Local people, hosts, indigenous people - people born of the whenua, i.e. of the placenta and of the land where the people's ancestors have lived and where their placenta are buried.*
Taonga	Property, goods, possession, effects, object. Treasure, anything prized - applied to anything considered to be of value including socially or culturally valuable objects, resources, phenomenon, ideas and techniques.*
Te Ao Māori	Māori world view or, the Māori world.
Waka Kotahi	New Zealand Transport Agency.
Whānau	Extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people - the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society.*

* Translations from Te Aka Māori Dictionary





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