



Summary Annual Report

Te Pūrongo Whakarāpopoto ā-Tau

2023-2024



Mihi

**Ki ngā atua, ngā tūpuna me ngā iwi o te rohe
nei kei te mihi, kei te mihi, kei te mihi**

**Ko te rohe tēnei e hora ai te whenua mai i ngā
pae maunga o Tararua ki Te Tai o Rehua.**

**He kanohi rau o ngā pae maunga o Tararua, arā,
he hukarere, he kāpuapua, te whitinga o te rā
me to rongu hoki i te kō a ngā manu.**

**Kei te take o ngā maunga te wāhi e nōho ai ngā
patupaiarehe i te Riu o Makahika.**

**He maringa nui nō tātou kia whai wāhi ki te
taha uru o Te Tai o Rehua, pēnā i te takutai o
Waitārere, te wāhi takoto o Okatia, te taniwha.**

**Ko ngā moana te wāhi e kitea ai te rātō hei
whakatau i te whatumanawa, ko ngā hua hoki
o te moana hei whāngai i ngā whānau.**

**Toro atu ki ngā tauārai o te rohe, ki te awa o
Ōhau, ki te awa o Manawatū, ki te wahapū o
Manawatū anō, te kohanga o ngā tini manu.**

**Piua ngā mata ki te rangi, ki ngā whetū ārahi
i a tātou, ki te wāhi i topa atu ai te Hōkioi ki
ngā rangi.**

**Hoki mai ki te whenua haumako, ki ngā wai
rērere, kei reira ngā kai hei orange mō tātou.**

**Ko Mangaore te wāhi tākaro, te waioranga me
te tūhonotanga ki te whenua me ngā awa.**

**Mai i Tokomaru ki Te Awahou, ki Levin, ki
Manakau rā anō, e karapotitia ana tātou e ngā
pae maunga o Tararua ki te rāwhiti, ko tēnei
whenua, tōku kāinga.**

**I whakatipu ai tātou i te ahurea rangatira, te
manaakitanga me te ngākau mahana o ngā
tāngata o Horowhenua, koia nei tō tātou rohe.**

**Toitū te marae a Tāne
Toitū te marae a Tangaroa
Toitū te tangata**

Tīhei mauri ora!

To the gods, the ancestors and the people of
the district

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Boasting the shortest distance from mountain to sea,
the land flows all the way from the majestic Tararua
Ranges to the Tasman Sea.

The Tararua Ranges show us many faces, from snow
kissed, to cloud cloaked, to sun drenched, to filled
with bird song.

In the foothills, the Patupaiarehe or fairy people were
said to have inhabited the Makahika Valley.

We are blessed by the spacious sandy west coast of
the Tasman Sea, such as Waitārere Beach where the
mighty taniwha, Okatia is said to rest.

Beaches with stunning sunsets to soothe the soul,
and plentiful kaimoana to feed the whānau.

Bordered by our treasured Ōhau and Manawatū
rivers, the latter of which features the Manawatū
estuary that beckons numerous species of birds
home to its abundant shores.

Wide open spaces to see the stars that guide us, and
where the powerful Hōkioi bird soared to the heavens.

Our unique rich fertile soil, along with our waterways,
boasts a plethora of foods nourishing all.

Mangaore area bestows a range of outdoor
recreational activities, strengthening our wellbeing,
and connection to the whenua and awa.

From Tokomaru, to Foxton, to Levin, to Manakau,
and surrounded by the Tararua Ranges to the east,
ko tēnei whenua, tōku kaingā (this land my home).

Built on the rich culture and natural hospitality
and warmth of the Horowhenua people, this is
our beloved rohe.

If the land is well
And the sea is well
The people will thrive

I sneeze the breath of life



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Introduction from the Mayor and Councillors

He Whakataki nā te Koromatua me ngā Kaikaunihera

Horowhenua District Council had many successes and challenges during the 2023/24 financial year, with the confirmation of funding for Ō2NL, continued strong growth and development of the Long Term Plan 2024-2044: Challenging Times, Challenging Choices reflecting the current environment. We've responded to the pressures the current financial situation brings for us and through us to our community.

Throughout 2023/24 our teams continued to produce impressive results. We've delivered our capital programme, continued our winning ways receiving 6 Green Flags and celebrating the redevelopment of Foxton Pools and the opening of the Waitāreere Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

What you'll see in this Annual Report is a record of delivery and all of it aimed to support our community today and in the future, as our existing residents move through their lives, and as our population grows.

Consulted on in the LTP 2021-41, the refreshed Foxton Pools reopened to the community in January 2024, delivering this significant project. The facility now features a new inbuilt spa pool reception area, improved building and new ventilation systems, with a better-suited design and insulation. The reopening celebration saw over 500 people attending, making a splash and enjoying the new environment. Since opening, over 24,000 people have made their way into Foxton Pools.

We progressed a number of key projects in our capital programme. The Levin Wastewater Discharge Site, known as The Pot, underwent its most significant upgrade in 38 years to meet demands of our growing population. Key achievements were:

- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** Upgrades were completed to meet new consent conditions, enhancing hydraulic and nutrient loading capabilities.
- **Pump Station Upgrade:** A refurbished 110kW pump and motor were installed, improving capacity and energy efficiency to meet increased wastewater demands and weather challenges.
- **Irrigation System Modernisation:** The irrigation system across 42 hectares underwent upgrades to comply with new regulations and improve operational efficiency.

North-East Levin Development made significant strides with Coley Pond. Designed to manage increased stormwater discharge due to residential growth and we saw earthworks, inlet construction, and stormwater pipe installation work

completed. After consulting with Iwi, the final design was confirmed, and a planting plan focusing on native and local species was successfully implemented.

The wetland area around Coley Pond is now fully planted, enhancing its ecological value. Extensive downstream wastewater upgrades have also been delivered to provide capacity for growth and in doing so replaced existing aged pipes.

In March 2024, we began replacing analogue water meters with digital ones in various properties across the district. These new meters detect leaks within 14 days, compared to up to nine months with the old analogue meters. The success of the water meter project has been immediate. By May 2024, 500 smart meters were installed in Shannon and 120 in Foxton, detecting 65 properties with leaks and saving up to 85,000 litres of water daily. The project aims to equip all properties with new meters by the end of 2025.

Prompted by past bursts along the Mangahao Road access track to the plant, we replaced aging AC pipes (from 1985) at the Shannon Water Treatment Plant with new polyethylene pipes. These pipes are known for their durability and resistance to leaks and environmental damage, with an expected lifespan of up to 100 years. The project upgraded the water main supplying the Shannon water treatment plant, ensuring improved reliability and efficiency for the

community. The Team is particularly proud of this work as it required all of Shannon to be without water while it was done – and the work was done overnight to minimise disruption.

For the first stage of Tara-Ika off Queen Street East, we collaborated with the landowner to develop a stormwater management system for the Queen Street Stage 1 Subdivision, which encompasses 200 lots. We constructed a wetland and soakage basin to manage stormwater for the initial stages of development.

The Tara-Ika Stage 2 Wastewater project reached a major milestone with the installation of 770 metres of new wastewater pipe along Tararua Road East, enhancing the infrastructure from the intersection of Tararua Road and Arapaepae Road (State Highway 57). This is a busy intersection which we managed efficiently, ensuring safety was paramount with minimal disruption during the extension of the wastewater pipe.

We've continued preparation for Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL), and also ensuring that in addition to that North-South connection, Levin remains connected from East to West, through design of the East-West Arterial. We've been engaged with NZTA to agree responsibilities and commitments for delivery alongside the Ō2NL project and with Iwi/hapū and landowners, and are doing work on the consents and other material needed for this.

We've supported our community throughout the year, with a common theme being supporting community groups to deliver great outcomes across our district.

Whether it be community clean ups, supporting the development of a walking or biking track or enabling a high-profile sporting event, there are some great activities on offer to our community which assists in positioning Horowhenua as a great place to "Come find yourself".

The Horowhenua Company ran the fifth annual Get-Go Futures Day in March 2024. Futures Day provided 400 Horowhenua Year 10 students and their teachers the opportunity to visit some of nine different local employers involved, to understand more about the world of work and explore future local employment options.

Over the year Council sought to increase engagement and interaction with the community. The Long Term Plan (LTP) was a particular wide-reaching opportunity to try some new things and build on earlier successes. Given the complex topics surrounding this LTP, this provided an excellent chance to explore new methods of reaching out to our community. Of particular focus were youth and other minority groups, whose feedback was under-represented in the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Amendment (LTPA) consultation. Our goal was to remove barriers to community involvement in Local Government processes. All our ways of sharing information were aimed at meeting the community where they are, at times convenient for them, and in ways that fostered active participation and dialogue. We also launched the "Because of you" brand campaign to run concurrently with the LTP discussions, underscoring the community benefits derived from their contributions and reinforcing the importance of participation in these civic discussions. From this we saw a 40% increase in submitters aged 25-35 years compared to the LTPA.

We worked with our community to deliver the refreshed Community Wellbeing Strategy, which Council adopted in June. Community wellbeing is one of the most crucial aspects to our people's success and it requires the active participation and commitment of each and every one of us. The goal is to create a community where every individual feels a sense of belonging in a community that is safe, vibrant, inclusive, and connected.

We'd like to think our record of delivery and working more closely with our community are contributing to increased satisfaction within our community.

At the end of 2023/24 our residents' satisfaction survey results showed our satisfaction rate is significantly higher than national average: 62% vs 27%. Our 62% is up from 49% in 2022 and we also saw a positive shift in almost all survey results. Our residents gave a 75% satisfaction rating when asked if "Horowhenua is a great place to live."

We firmly believe that it is! And we are proud of the efforts of our Councillors and staff that contributed to making our district a great place to live, work and visit. We look forward to building on that next year.



Bernie Wanden
Mayor Bernie Wanden

About this report

Mō tēnei pūrongo

Horowhenua District Council adopted the audited Annual Report 2023/24 on 30 October 2024 and authorised it for issue. The Annual Report 2023/24 tells the story of Horowhenua District Council's performance between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, reporting against year 3 of our Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Amendment (LTPA) and our Annual Plan 2023/24.

This summary provides the key points extracted from the Full Annual Report 2023/24. As a "summary" it does not provide the complete picture of the performance of the Council for the year. If you would like to know more, we encourage you to dive into the full Annual Report document.

The full report received an unqualified audit opinion, meaning that Council has:

- complied with the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report; and
- that Council made the disclosures about performance against benchmarks as required by the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 on pages 206 to 212 (of the full report), which represent a complete list of required disclosures and accurately reflects the information drawn from the District Council and Group's audited information and, where applicable, the District Council's long-term plan and annual plans

Copies of the full Annual Report 2023/24 and the Summary of the Annual Report 2023/24 are available on our website: www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Documents and available to review at our Civic Building and Libraries and Community Centres. (Our contact details are available on the back cover of this document).



Foxtton Pools

Our performance and position at a glance

He tirohanga ki ā tātou mahi me tō mātou tūnga





Our Goals

Planning for growth by delivering robust infrastructure, high-quality drinking water and responding to growth, including looking at funding and how to fairly distribute costs, so that "growth pays for growth".

The effects of these challenges, had Council looking hard at what and how we can deliver, whilst still make it affordable for our communities. Tough decisions had to be made.

What we faced

This period included Covid pandemic lockdowns during the 2021/22 financial year which affected our whole community, created material shortages affecting contractors and our own staff, immediately and in the years following.

- We saw higher inflation and interest rates and increased building materials costs. There have been ongoing Government Reforms for Three Waters/ Local Waters Done Well, Resource Management and Local Government.
- We amended our LTP in 2022/23, bringing spending forward to start some projects earlier and reducing the capital programme which has delayed other work.

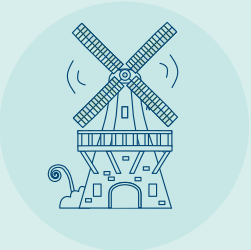
A snapshot of what we delivered



Partnership with tangata whenua

June 2022: Proudly collaborated Muaūpoko and hapū of Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Tonga to organise and host an amazing variety of events for the first recognised Matariki holiday.

Late 2021: After consultation on the Representation Review introduced a Māori Ward with two seats.



Foxton

Foxton Pools upgrade was agreed in LTP 2021-2041: Replacing the building covering the pools, upgrading change rooms, restoring the outdoor area to grass. The redeveloped facility opened with a community party in January 2024.

Council and community created a development plan for Foxton Courthouse Museum.

2023/24 Foxton Transfer Station Renewal works completed.

120 water meters installed by May 2024 to reduce water loss through leaks.



Waitārere Beach Surf Lifesaving Club

Build of new club agreed in LTP 2021-2041 to be closer to beach. Opened in December 2023.

2023/24: 3W Better Off Funding for Waitārere Beach Carpark.

LTP 2024-2044: Waitārere Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Waitārere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association funding continued.

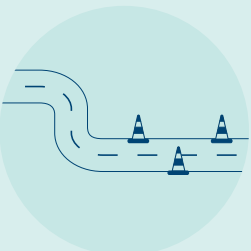


Shannon

2022/23: Te Maire Park received Better Off Funding for shared paths to Shannon town centre, and new recreational spaces.

2023/24: District water meter rollout began in Shannon. 500 installed by May 2024, reducing water lost through leaks.

Shannon Water Treatment Plant: Aging AC pipes (from 1985) replaced with new pipes.

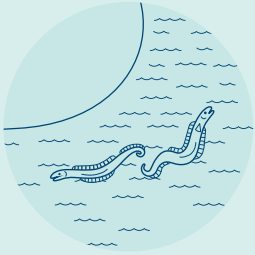


Ō2NL preparation

2021/22: Roading improvement for Ō2NL.

2022/23: Council endorsed the detailed business case for Ō2NL Expressway before it went to cabinet.

June 2024: NZTA approved two alliances to build the road.



Water improvements across the district

Poads Road Water Supply Reservoir: Consent for additional water approved, preliminary design and cost estimates; iwi engagement is ongoing; and in June 2024 got approval to lodge consent application.

Upgraded The Pot, made significant strides Coley Pond to manage stormwater, set up stormwater management systems for stages 1 and 2 of Tara-Ika.

Tokomaru Water Treatment Plant: On-site water storage capacity Expanded; Pipework upgrade completed significantly reducing the need for water tankers.



More housing

The Tara-Ika Plan Change (PC4) progressed and is now live. Council adopted the Master Plan in June 2022 and adopted PC4 in March 2024, enabling up to 3,500 more homes.

Dec 2021: Streamlined Housing Process (SHP) approved to make building new homes simpler.



Parks and Places

LTP 2021: Jubilee Park Splash Pad approved. Opened in December 2023.

2023/24: Playford Park received renewed toilets and a new storage facility, which includes a covered BBQ area.

Youth Space Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō revitalised and opened in June 2023.



Emergency Management

Building our toolkit, now includes a new portable generator.

Starlink satellite internet kits.

Also upgraded VHF radios, replaced vehicle VHF base radios, and replaced analogue radios in CD centres and schools.

Financial performance

OPERATING DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR

\$5.1m

This deficit is \$0.5m higher than budgeted and is mainly due to \$2m of non-cash fair value changes including, a loss on our derivative financial instruments (\$0.5m), and an increase in our landfill provision \$1.5m which represents the future cost of the best practicable option for remedying the old landfill site in Hōkio.

The Council set a savings target of \$1m for the year and we were successfully able to achieve \$1.9m. This target excludes the impact of rates, interest, capital items and fair value adjustments.

66%

66% of our total income comes from rates.

\$2m

Capital projects carried over to 2024/25.

REVENUE FOR THE YEAR

\$79.7m

We received \$7m more revenue compared to budget due to higher rates following higher than planned growth in our rateable properties at the end of 2022/23 (\$1.1m), additional grants and subsidies of \$1.5m, and vested assets which are signed over to Council as part of the development processes (\$1.9m processed for the year). They include roads, pipes and community assets.

7%

Council agreed to a rates increase of 7% for 2023/2024, lower than the 7.9% rates increase Council consulted on.

Targeted capital spend reduced from \$40 million to \$35 million.

EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR

\$84.8m

We did also need to incur \$7.6m more in costs than budgeted. This was largely due to higher interest costs (\$9.1m offset by higher interest income of \$1.6m), we incurred \$1m in asset disposal losses as a result of renewing some assets and selling some land. We also had \$0.7m less staff time being charged to capital projects as a result of vacancies during the year. These additional costs were offset by \$1.3m lower spending in the District Plan and Growth area driven by changes in the timing of the programme.

\$35.5m

Council's capital spending was \$36m compared to budgeted funding level of \$35m set as part of the LTPA. The original capital budget of \$61.7m was further revised to an approved funding envelope of \$40m following Council's direction as part of the long term planning process and further Council meetings. \$1.9m worth of projects currently underway was approved in July by Council to be carried over to 2024/25 financial year with the corresponding grants/subsidies.

Financial position

\$801m

Council's net value as at 30 June 2024.

A+

Credit rating from S & P Global. This was reduced from AA- following increased borrowings and capital spending planned.

\$164m

Net debt at 30 June 2024.

COUNCIL'S ASSETS AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

\$1,033m

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) of \$978m made up 95% of the total asset value. PPE ended the year \$108m higher than budget mainly due to higher than expected increases in the value of Council's roading and three waters assets.

NET DEBT IS

214%

of operating income.

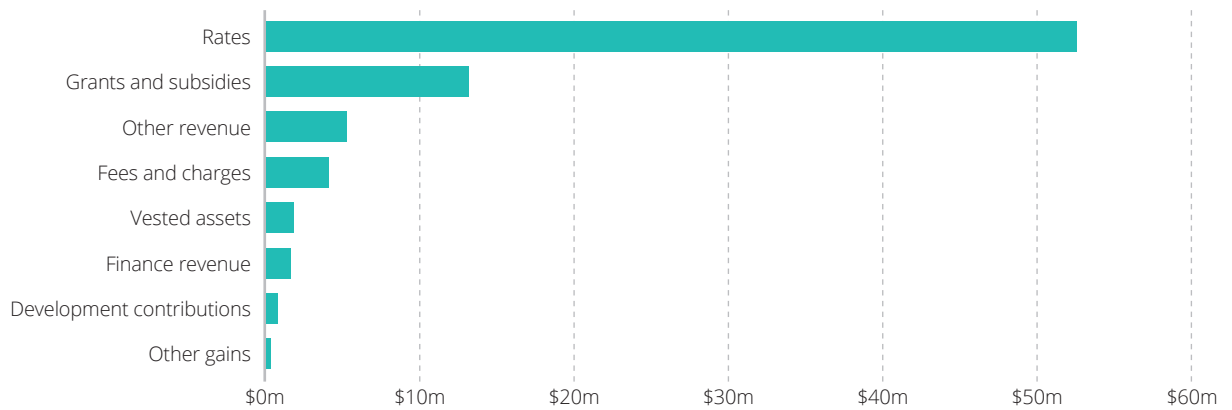
COUNCIL'S LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

\$232m

The majority of our liabilities is \$202m of medium to long-term borrowings from the Local Government Funding Agency, and the remainder mainly trade creditors and accruals.

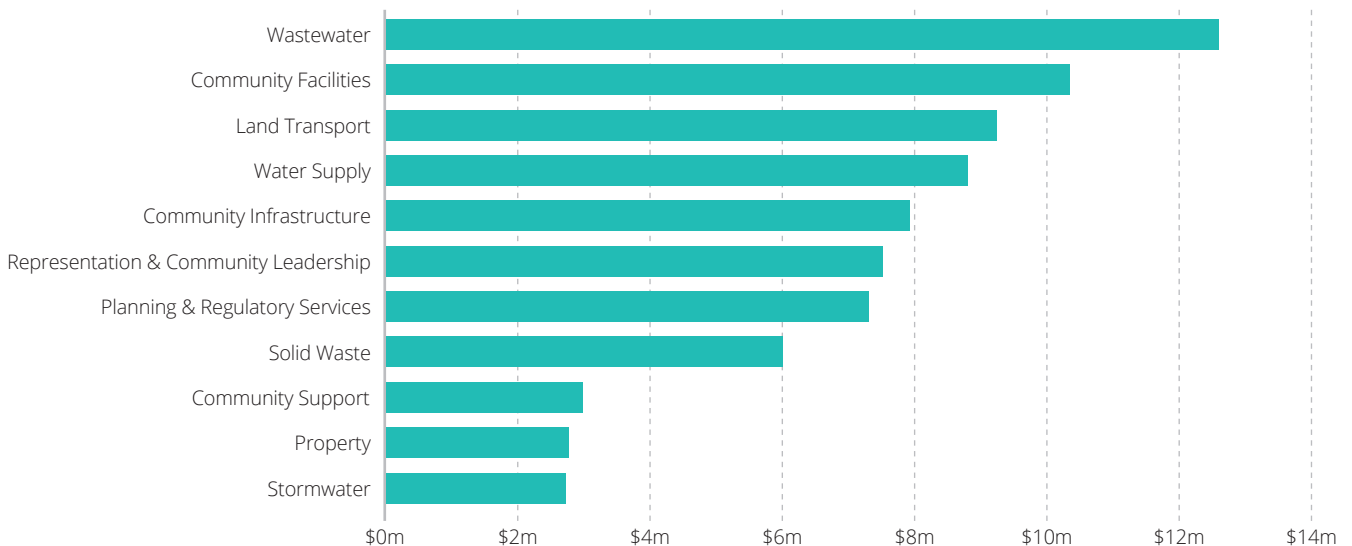
The graph below shows Council's revenue for the 2023/24 financial year.

Revenue

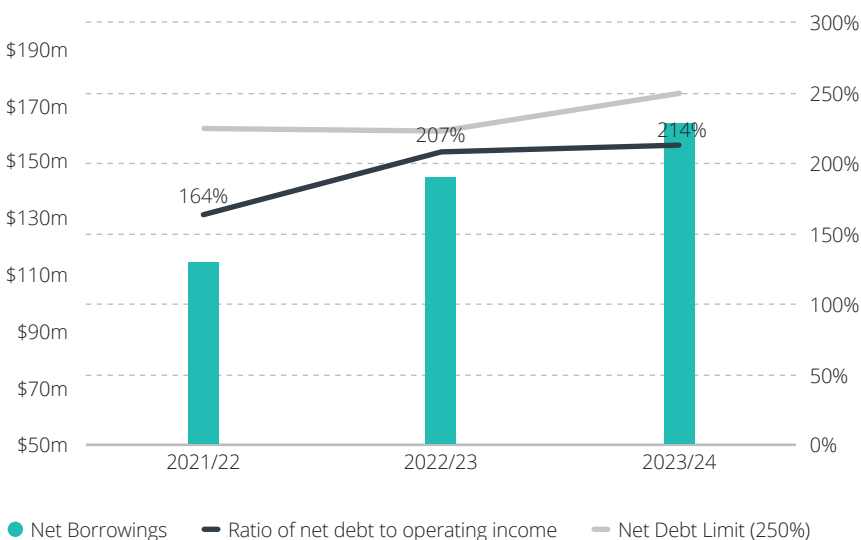


The graph below shows Council's operating expenditure by activity for the 2023/24 financial year.

Operating Expenditure



Net Debt














Net Debt (total borrowings less term deposits, borrower notes and cash) is below the limit of 250% set out in the LTPA 2021-2041 for 2023/24. The increased net debt to operating income ratio is planned for as part of the adoption of the LTPA 2021-2041 due to increased investment in three waters infrastructure.

* 2022/23 Net debt to operating income ratio restated to 207% due to restatement to 2023 Cashflow balance as detailed in Note 39 of the full Annual Report. Prior Period Correction.

We budgeted to borrow an additional \$12m as part of the LTPA 2021-2041 for 2023/24 year. For the year our net borrowings increased by \$25m. This contributed to a higher than planned Net Debt to Operating Revenue ratio of 214% at 30 June 2024. The table below shows the main reasons for the higher net borrowing requirements in 2023/24:

	Increase/ (decrease) in net borrowings
Higher opening net debt (mainly due to less asset sale and capital grants than expected in 2022/23)	\$13.8m
Proceeds from sale of assets (originally budgeted for \$11.874m but reduced by \$5m for borrowing purpose)	\$6.6m
Lower borrower notes than budgeted	\$2.2m
Lower Development Contributions than expected	\$0.7m
Higher than budgeted Capital Spend	\$0.5m
Other movements in debt (Debt funded operation costs)	\$1.3m
Increase in Net Debt for 2023/24	\$25m

Non-Financial Performance Measure Results

Activity	Achieved	Not Achieved	Total
 Water Supply	6 (60%)	4 (40%)	10 (100%)
 Wastewater	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)
 Stormwater	5 (83%)	1 (17%)	6 (100%)
 Land Transport	3 (60%)	2 (40%)	5 (100%)
 Solid Waste	7 (70%)	3 (30%)	10 (100%)
 Community Facilities	8 (62%)	5 (38%)	13 (100%)
 Community Infrastructure	7 (100%)	0 (0%)	7 (100%)
 Property	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	3 (100%)
 Representation and Community Leadership	5 (63%)	3 (37%)	8 (100%)
 Community Support	19 (79%)	5 (21%)	24 (100%)
 Regulatory Services	12 (75%)	4 (25%)	16 (100%)
TOTAL	80 (74%)	28 (26%)	108 (100%)

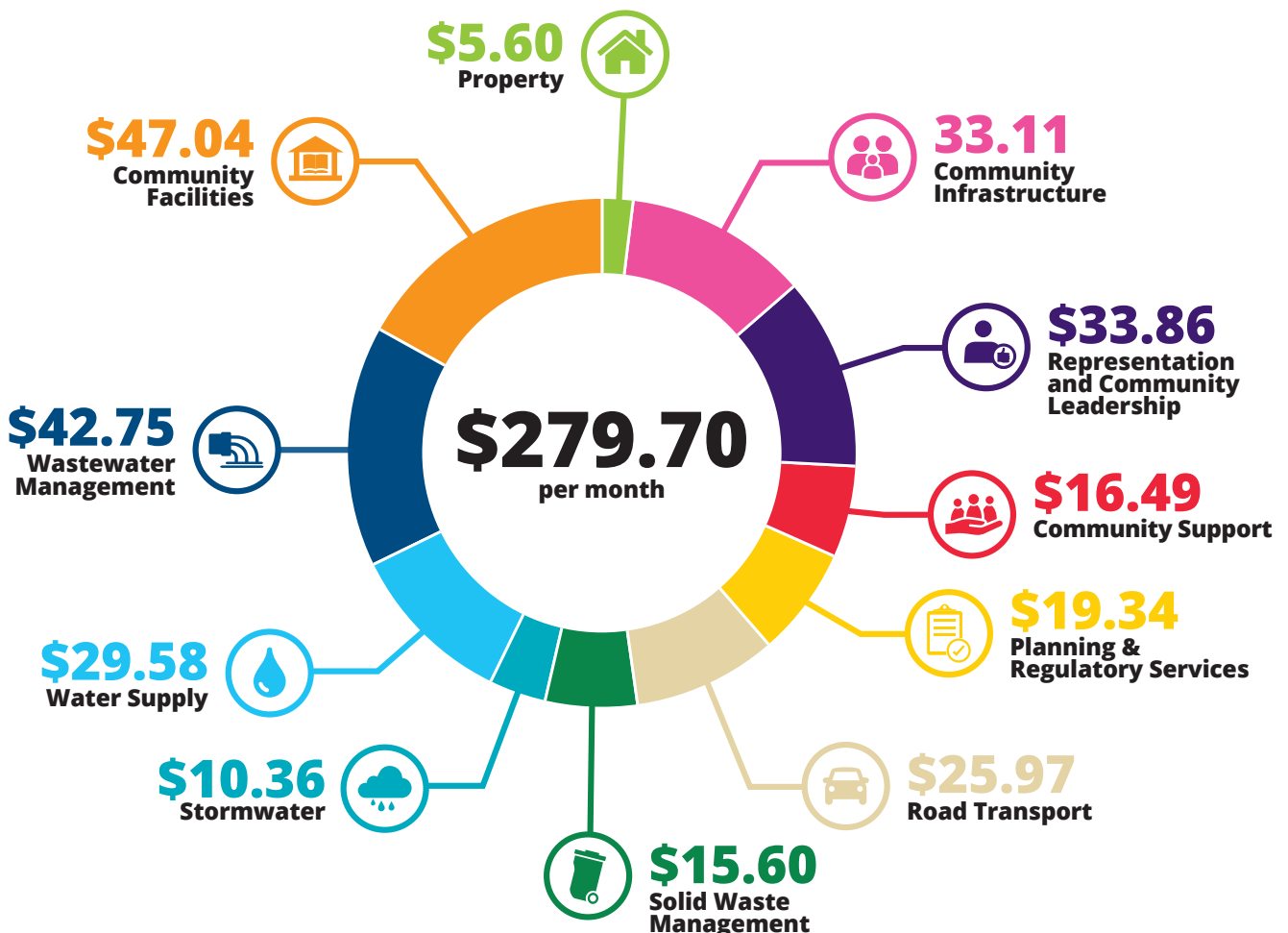
Where my rates are spent

Ngā wāhi i whakapaua ai ngā rēti

Based on a residential property with a Capital Value of \$700k and a Land Value of \$350k.

\$700k CAPITAL VALUE

\$350k LAND VALUE



Council Plan on a Page

Te Mahere Kaunihera i te Whārangī

2023/24 saw Council remain focused on delivering on the Plan on a Page. You'll remember that following the October 2022 election, the newly formed Council took the time to discuss the key issues and opportunities facing Horowhenua District Council and to set its direction.

Council recognised that the platform built by Horowhenua 2040 and the Horowhenua Blueprint has provided building blocks for success. The context of growth, reform and change, means that they wanted to put a focus on the future through tackling the hard issues, lifting organisation performance and ultimately shifting the dial on how the communities we serve see value in Horowhenua District Council.

From these discussions they developed the Plan on a Page which confirmed the general direction Council wishes to take our rohe.

The Plan and its priorities were guided by our Community Outcomes, and it put a deliberate focus on 10 top priorities and 9 other areas that were considered important to focus on.

The Plan also sought to align the organisation's vision, values and pillars with governance to demonstrate a commitment for both the governance and operational parts of Council to work together to achieve the priorities.

Council adopted their Plan on a Page at the February 2023 Council Meeting. Like all priority setting documents the Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Since then both the operational and governance side of Council have been looking at ways it can use the Plan on a Page to provide the focus, prioritisation and resources needed to achieve the best results for our community through the Plan.

As in 2022/23, a large component of the Chief Executive's Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) measures for 2023/24 were structured around the Top Ten Priorities. This was to ensure the organisation has the focus it needs in its strategic direction, organisational planning and prioritisation of work.

To help Elected Members monitor our progress on how we are achieving the priorities of the Plan, the Organisation Performance Report (OPR) highlights how we are tracking.

The Full OPR provides detailed updates from the organisation on how it has progressed both the Top Ten Priorities and Other Areas of Focus. The Interim OPR provides a shorter update on just the Top Ten Priorities until a fuller update is provided in the next Full OPR.

Discussions have started on how to ensure all decision making on both the operational and governance side of the organisation includes consideration of the Plan on a Page.

Plan On A Page

The Outcomes we want to achieve



Partnership
with
Tangata Whenua

We uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles and recognise the role of Mana Whenua as kaitiaki of their rohe. We support them to maintain and enhance tikanga with their ancestral lands and waterways, wāhi tapu and other taonga, and build mutually respectful partnerships with tangata whenua, supporting whanau, marae, hapū and iwi in achieving their aspirations.



Outstanding
Environment

We contribute to improving our natural environment for current and future generations to enjoy, and protect the important natural features in our district. We ensure our built environment supports the wellbeing of our people and manage competing pressures on resources sustainably.



Fit for purpose
Infrastructure

We provide efficient, reliable and affordable infrastructure, developing and maintaining facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future generations. Our community facilities and infrastructure are resilient, helping us to respond to climate change and natural hazards, working with partners to develop infrastructure that enables growth.



Vibrant
Economy

We are business friendly, supporting diversity and resilience in our local economy and work with others to make our economy grow. We aspire for economic security for all of our people and seize growth opportunities for our district.



Strong
Communities

We value the diversity of our people, and how our district's heritage shapes our community's sense of identity and pride. We provide infrastructure, services, facilities and places to build resilient and connected communities where people of all ages and backgrounds feel included and safe. We are building collaborative relationships with service providers to enable all people to live positive and healthy lifestyles, encouraging our people to participate in local decision making.

Our values – what we stand for

Mahi Tahī

We are one team, stronger together as we work with and for our community to deliver outcomes that matter.

#arohatōmahi

We love our work and know that our work matters. That is why we do what we say we will do and apply energy and enthusiasm across our mahi.

Manaakitanga

We put our people first by showing them that they matter, through a focus on whānau needs and aspirations.

Tiakitanga

We proudly and professionally contribute every day to the care of our community and whenua with courage, positivity and mana – leaving a legacy which future generations will embrace.

Our top 10 priorities



Enabling affordable **housing** that meets the needs of a growing population through the implementation of the Housing Action Plan



Get the basics right and support the customer focused delivery of **core services**



Achieve the best outcome for Horowhenua in the face of **Three Waters Reform** Transition



Deliver the **capital infrastructure programme**, and achieve an increase in the percentage of completed works



Enable the **rebuilding** of the Horowhenua District Council organisation, with a focus to empower a culture of excellence, service and continuous improvement



Reset our **engagement and partnership** approach, and work more with and for the community



Complete a **Rates review** as part of the Long Term Plan Amendment, to ensure a rating system that is fair and equitable



Deliver on the Levin **Town Centre Transformation Strategy**



Provide advocacy and leadership to **Ōtaki to North Levin** expressway project



Make a decision on the **Future of the Levin Landfill** and follow through on the review of our WMMP

He rau ringa e pakari ai ngā taura whiri I o tātou hapori – mai te pae maunga o Tararua ki te moana

With many hands the threads which weave our neighbourhood and communities together will be strengthened from the Tararua ranges to the sea.

Our other areas of focus



Undertake a review of Council policies



Undertake a review of Council Bylaws



Monitor the implementation of CouncilMARK recommendations and progress



Review and approve Section 17a Reviews, to ensure we are reviewing the way we deliver services



Implement zero based budgeting across the organisation



Increase resiliency to weather events by dealing with longstanding stormwater issues



Develop a Māori Engagement Framework



Develop the Horowhenua Blueprint Implementation Plan



Continue to foster our community wellbeing networks, preparing ourselves for a new future for Local Government

Our four pillars



'You' Matter



Work Matters



Performance Matters



Partnerships Matter

Our committee structure - how we work



Risk and Assurance Committee

The purpose of the Risk and Assurance Committee is to contribute to improving the governance, performance, and accountability of Horowhenua District Council by ensuring that Council has appropriate financial, health and safety, risk management and internal control systems in place. The committee seek reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of Council's financial and non-financial reporting while providing a communications link between management, Council and the external and internal auditors and ensuring their independence and adequacy.



Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee

The Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee will have responsibility for the effective monitoring of the Chief Executive Officer's performance and has the authority to undertake the annual remuneration review.



Delivery of Capital Projects Steering Group

Monitor the delivery of the Capital Projects Programme, and guide scope and direction of the programme achieving an increase of % of works completed.



Review of District Plan Steering Group

Monitor the delivery of the District Plan project, and guide scope and direction of the project.



Rating and Financing Review Taskforce

Lead and monitor Rates Reviews, and a review of associated Rates and Revenue and Financing Policies as part of the Long Term Plan Amendment and Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034.



Three Waters Transition and Planning Taskforce

Lead and monitor the transition of Three Waters Assets to the new Water Entity, and provide direction to the organisation throughout transition.



Community Funding and Recognition Committee

The Community Funding and Recognition Committee is responsible for the effective allocation and monitoring of Council's grants. In addition, the committee is responsible for considering applications and making recommendations for Civic Honours and Youth Excellence Scholarships.



Community Wellbeing Committee

The Community Wellbeing Committee brings together representatives from Council, government and non-government organisations, and community forums.



Hearings and Regulatory Committee

The Hearings and Regulatory Committee will consider and determine matters under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Dog Control Act 1996.



District Licensing Committee

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act) requires Council to appoint a District Licensing Committee to deal with licensing matters. The District Licensing Committee is appointed to administer Council's alcohol licensing framework, as determined by the Act.



Ō2NL and Town Centre Taskforce

Lead and monitor key inputs required by Council for the Ōtaki to North Levin Project with a key focus on delivering Levin Town Centre Transformation.



Waste and Landfill Taskforce

Lead and monitor the development and implementation of the WMMP and Section 17a Review of Solid Waste for Horowhenua.

Working with Māori

Te Mahi tahi me te Iwi Māori

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Horowhenua/Horowhenua District Council is committed to continually enhancing our relationship with Māori. Council recognises the unique position of Tangata Whenua in our rohe and we are dedicated to fostering the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision making processes of the Council. While it is a requirement in Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council aims to extend beyond the legislative framework, to build and maintain strong and meaningful relationships with the Māori hapori (community). This is acknowledged through Council's community outcomes, specifically the outcome "Partnership with Tangata Whenua"

The Local Government Act 2002 acknowledges the Crown's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi by requiring councils to facilitate Māori participation in decision making. Key obligations include:

- Providing opportunities for Māori to contribute.
- Establishing processes for Māori input.
- Fostering Māori capacity to engage in decision making.
- Sharing relevant information.
- Considering Māori relationships with land, water, and other taonga.

Councils must understand the impact of decisions on Māori wellbeing, considering the unique challenges of both pre- and post-settlement Iwi. The goal is to ensure Māori are actively involved beyond environmental and cultural matters, becoming integral to decision making.

Partnerships

Council continues to foster our partnerships across all Iwi partners and has active Memorandum of Partnerships in place with:

- Muaūpoko Tribal Authority.
- Te Iwi o Ngāti Tukorehe Trust – representing Ngāti Tukorehe, Te Mateawa, Ngāti Te Rangitawhia and Ngāti Kapu (Ngāti Raukawa).
- Te Kotahitanga o Te Iwi o Ngāti Wehi (Ngāti Raukawa).
- Rangitāne o Manawatū.

Whilst an active Memorandum of Partnership is not currently in place with Te Runanga o Raukawa Inc, Council values the partnership and understands the key role they have in the rohe. Council is working closely with Te Tūmatakahuki to navigate a wide range of common interests. Te Tūmatakahuki is made up of membership from 12 of the 13 Raukawa hapū who reside in Horowhenua, and are named as follows – Ngāti Turanga, Ngāti Rakau, Ngāti Te Au, Ngāti Takihiku, Ngāti Ngārongo, Ngāti Whakatere,

Ngāti Pareraukawa, Ngāti Huia ki Poroutawhao, Ngāti Huia ki Matau, Ngāti Kikopiri, Ngāti Hikitunga and Ngāti Wehi Wehi. Additionally, it is important to note that Ngāti Apa have a statutory acknowledgement within Horowhenua and although there is no Memorandum of Partnership, we recognise their standing in the rohe.

The following are examples of some of the more significant engagements with Māori.

Māori Engagement Framework

The Framework, being developed in partnership with Iwi, will guide how Council engages with Iwi, hapū, marae, and the wider Māori community, ensuring fair and consistent processes. A Project Advisory Group, including Councillors, staff, and Iwi representatives, meets monthly to advance this work.

First Rights of Refusal for Mana Whenua

Officers have been asked to do work to present an option to Council to consider including a Right of First Refusal for Mana Whenua in the Property Disposal Strategy. Discussions with Iwi are ongoing. This work is expected to be presented to Council for consideration during the next financial year.

Puanga Matariki Events

Council partnered with Iwi and hapū to co-create the Puanga Matariki events, recognising the importance of this time for Māori. The working group includes Council staff and representatives from Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa.

Marae CDEM Preparedness

Civil Defence training was offered to all Horowhenua Marae, with representatives from several marae attending. Ongoing sessions are planned to build preparedness for natural disasters.

Waitārere Beach Surf Lifesaving Club

Ngāti Huia ki Matau, Ngāti Huia ki Poroutawhao, and Muaūpoko contributed to the development of the new surf lifesaving facility at Waitārere Beach.

Levin Town Centre Project

Cultural representation is a priority in the Town Centre Transformation Programme, with Māori Ward Councillors and Iwi partners involved in governance and project planning.

Looking forward

The examples above are not exhaustive but provide a sample of the types of mahi (work) we complete alongside Māori.

Council is steadily building cultural capacity and supporting Iwi partners. Iwi perspectives were included in our Fast Track Consents submission, and 20 staff are completing the Te Ao Māori for Professionals course. Weekly workshops and a Cultural Proficiency Framework are also in progress.

Council is committed to involving Iwi partners in key processes, from government proposals to the Long Term Plan, guided by values of Tiakitanga, Manaakitanga, Mahi Tahī, and Arohatōmahī. We remain dedicated to strengthening relationships and creating meaningful opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision making.

Mā te kotahitanga e whai kaha ai tātau – In unity, we have strength.

SUMMARY ACTIVITY UPDATES



HE WHAKARĀPOPOTO I NGĀ KAWENGA MAHI



Summary of activity information

The following pages provide you with a summary of activity information contained in the Full Annual Report. For detailed information on the activity please refer to the Full Annual Report.



WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply Activity provides a safe and reliable supply of water to urban (residential, industrial and commercial) and agreed rural properties.



WASTEWATER

The Wastewater Activity aims to protect human health and environment by treating wastewater from residential and industrial properties and discharging treated effluent back into the environment.



STORMWATER

As part of the Stormwater Activity, Council provides and maintains a stormwater system that aims to remove water from the roading corridor, and in some cases residential and commercial properties, to reduce the occurrence of flooding during rainfall events.



LAND TRANSPORT

Through the Land Transport Activity, Council provides and maintains roads, footpaths and shared pathways across our rohe that meet the needs of our hapori.



SOLID WASTE

The Solid Waste Activity aims to collect and safely dispose of residential and commercial rubbish, assist with waste minimisation and aims to deliver continued waste reduction.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Community Facilities Group of Activities includes the following:

- Aquatic Centres and Recreation
- Community Centres and Libraries



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Community Infrastructure Group of Activities is made up of a number of sub-activities, which aim to provide both passive and active amenities for our hapori to use.



PROPERTY

Council owns a substantial number of properties throughout the Horowhenua which support the delivery of Council's activities.

The Property Activity ensures that these assets are managed and maintained effectively.



REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

This Activity relates to how Council meets its responsibility to represent and provide leadership for our hapori including how Council will involve the community in its strategic planning and decision making.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Community Support Group of Activities is made up of a number of sub-activities which aim to provide for the social and economic wellbeing of our hapori. These Activities are:

- Emergency Management
- Community Engagement
- Visitor Information
- Destination Management
- Economic Development



REGULATORY SERVICES

The Regulatory Services Group of Activities provides advice, building and resource consenting services, assessment, education, compliance and enforcement. This Group of Activities aims to protect the health and safety of our hapori and the environment they live within.

Water Supply

Te Whakarato Wai Māori

Description of activity

The Water Supply Activity aims to provide a safe and reliable supply of water to urban (residential, industrial, and commercial) and agreed rural properties, which adjoin urban areas.

Key Insights

The District wide water metering project started in March 2024 in Shannon, with new digital water meters being installed in Shannon, Foxton and Levin. The success of the water meter project has been immediate. The April 2024 meter reading run for Shannon detected 65 properties with leaks which resulted in a saving of up to 85,000 litres of water daily. The project aims to install new smart meters to all properties by the end of 2025.

Water Network Renewal Projects included significant upgrades to the water mains on York Street and Liverpool Street in Levin.

- On York Street, we replaced 421 metres of aging water main pipe.
- The Liverpool Street project involved constructing a 625-metre new water main pipe, replacing a 41-year-old Asbestos Cement pipe that had reached the end of its theoretical life.

In Shannon, we upgraded the watermain supplying the Shannon Water Treatment Plant by replacing aging AC pipes installed in 1985 with new polyethylene pipes.

We completed the expansion of the on-site water storage capacity at the Tokomaru Water Treatment Plant, reducing the need for external water supply during adverse weather conditions. Ongoing upgrades aim to further optimise the plant's ability to handle high turbidity levels.

Managing the fluoridation project for the water supply for Levin and Ōhau has been quite challenging. The directive has been legally challenged several times during the 2023/24 year, with our own work initially paused. However, the directive and the legislation supporting it are still valid. As such, Council is required to comply and the project was expected to restart in early July 2024, with fluoride dosing of water to begin in November 2024.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Ko te wai te ora ngā mea katoa

Water is the life giver of all things.

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



72% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION RATING

Customer Satisfaction rating achieved this year is 72%. An increase of 4% from the previous year

50

50 is the number of key hydrants tested during this financial year

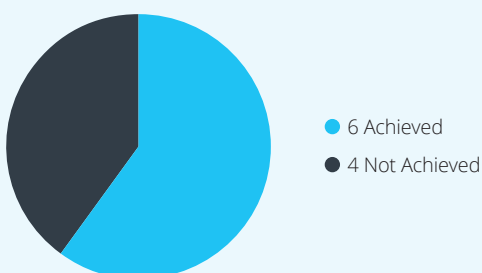
309L /PERSON/ DAY

The average water consumption across the district is 309L/person/day

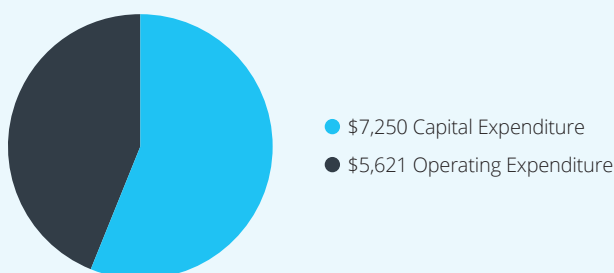
14.8%

14.8% of the district's water connections had a smart meter installed between March and June 2024

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Wastewater Te Wai Para

Description of activity

The Wastewater Treatment Activity aims to protect human health by removing human effluent and trade waste from urban properties and treating it before discharging it back into the environment.

The Council owns and operates several schemes:

- Levin: Screening, sedimentation, biological filtration and oxidation – To land (kanuka and manuka plantation)
- Waitārere: Oxidation ponds – To land (pine plantation)
- Shannon: Oxidation ponds – To land (Velvaleen farm)
- Foxton: Oxidation ponds – To adjacent farm for irrigation
- Foxton Beach: Oxidation ponds – To land (pasture)
- Tokomaru: Oxidation ponds – to land (wetland)

Key Insights

The Levin Wastewater Discharge Site, known as “The Pot” underwent significant upgrades preparing it for future demands.

The Kings Drive and Cambridge Street North Wastewater Renewal projects ensured a reliable network for North East Levin, accommodating future growth and supporting sustainable development and community needs. This project was completed in February 2024.

770m of new Wastewater main was installed on Tararua Road East. This provides wastewater connectivity for the South East of Tara-Ika and a wastewater main close to the treatment plant. This project was completed in August 2024.

Minor renewal and reticulation works on wastewater treatment plants were completed. The capital projects budget was capped at \$40m for 2023/2024 Financial Year. Consequently, Districtwide pump stations - improvement & resilience were not completed.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Tiakina te Wai para kia Ora ai te Whenua

Look after the wastewater so the land is healthy

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



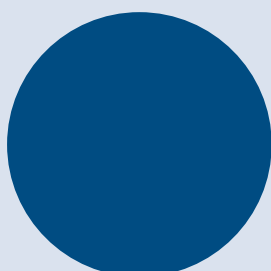
626m

626 metres of new wastewater main replaced as part of the Kings Drive/Cambridge North wastewater renewals

2hrs 42min

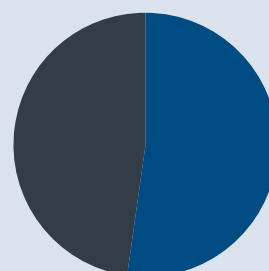
2hrs 42min is the median time to resolve a blockage

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



- 6 Achieved
- 0 Not Achieved

Our investment (\$000)



- \$8,425 Capital Expenditure
- \$7,692 Operating Expenditure

Stormwater Te Wai Ua

Description of activity

As part of the Stormwater Activity, Council provides and maintains a stormwater system that aims to remove water from the roading corridor, and in some cases residential and commercial properties, to reduce the occurrence of flooding during rainfall events.

Key Insights

We achieved significant progress with the Levin Domain and Salisbury Street Stormwater Upgrade Renewal project. The project included trenching, installing new pipes, backfilling, and reinstating the road and grass. We successfully installed 128 metres of Stormwater main along Salisbury Street. The project began in April 2024 and was completed by June 2024.

The North-East Levin Stormwater Scheme made significant strides with Coley Pond. Designed to manage increased stormwater discharge from residential growth, the pond saw the completion of earthworks, inlet construction, and stormwater pipe installation. The wetland area around Coley Pond is now fully planted, enhancing its ecological value.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Matariki tāpuapua

The pooling waters of Matariki. (Relating to Waipunarangi the star that associates with rain).

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



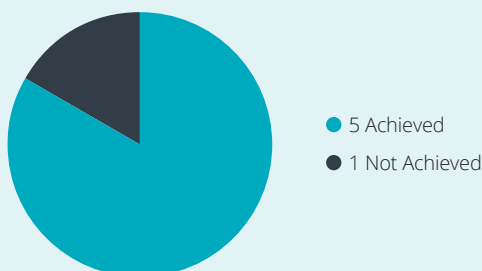
13,415

There are 13,415 stormwater connections as at 1 July 2023

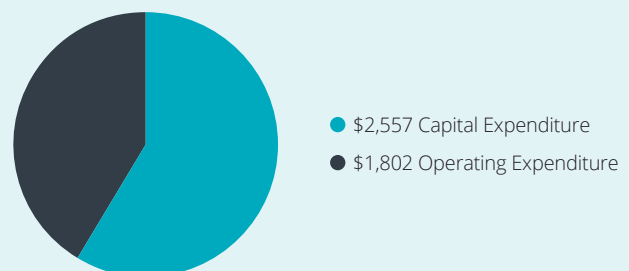
48.6%

48.6% of customer satisfaction with our stormwater service, an increase from 40% the previous year

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Land Transport Ngā Ara Whenua

WHAKATAUKĪ

Manaaki whenua
Manaaki tangata
Haere whakamua

Care for the land
Care for the people
Go forward

Description of activity

The Land Transport Activity aims to provide and maintain roads, footpaths and cycle paths across the district that meet the community's needs.

Key Insights

The new Road Maintenance Contract was awarded to Higgins Contractors Ltd effective from 1 July 2024, to maintain, improve, and renew Horowhenua's transport infrastructure for the next three years.

Several key road safety improvement projects were successfully completed including Bartholomew Road which saw the installation of raised safety platforms outside Levin East School and Waiopēhu College.

All the key projects and milestones of the Land Transport Programme were achieved including:

- The annual reseal work - resurfacing across various district locations, including Waikawa Beach, Levin, and Foxton.
- Significant progress in footpath renewals and improvements. The programme saw 2,567 metres of footpaths replaced across 23 sites and new footpaths on Spring Street and Edinburgh Terrace.
- Pavement rehabilitation efforts included successful completions on Ashlea Road and Bush Street.

New Zealand Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi (NZTA) Funding Uncertainty.

A response to Council's latest application for funding, covering July 2024 to June 2027, was received on 3 September 2024. NZTA approved a total funding allocation of \$14.18m for the 2024 to 2027 financial years, which is 31% less than the \$20.44m what we planned for. The implications of this will be worked through in the 2025/26 Annual Plan process.

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



5.7%

Of sealed local road network resurfaced last year

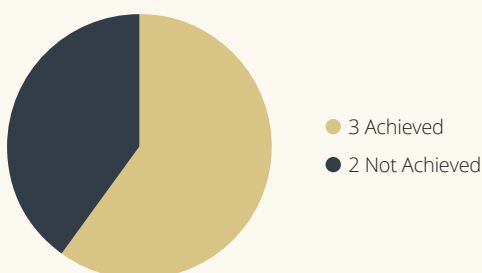
4%

Of the footpaths network poor or very poor condition

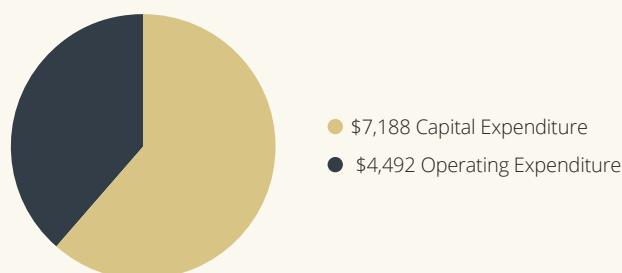
13%

Of the footpath network in excellent condition

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Solid Waste

Te Para Totoka

WHAKATAUKĪ

Toitū te marae a
Tāne Mahuta
Toitū te marae
a Tangaroa
Toitū te tangata

If the land is well
and the sea is well,
the people will thrive

Description of activity

The Solid Waste Activity aims to collect and safely dispose of residential and commercial rubbish. The Council is also the main community lead for most of the waste minimisation activity for the Horowhenua district.

Key Insights

During this financial year, Council provided new blue coloured glass bottle recycling crates to replace the glass bottle recycling crates and introduced identity stickers for Council owned kerbside recycling bins.

LEVIN LANDFILL CAPPING

Through the LTPA Council decided to close the Levin (New) Landfill and to investigate alternative uses for revenue generation. The final clay cap, including topsoil and grass seed, was applied to the closed New Levin Landfill. Most of the work, which aimed to protect the landfill's contents from water ingress and associated excess leachate production, was completed by early March 2024.

ASSESSMENT OF CLOSED FOXTON LANDFILL

Council staff engaged Earthtech Consulting Limited to assess the closed Foxton Landfill and provide specialist opinion on the current condition of the landfill. No signs of leachate seepage were found throughout the site perimeter or across the landfill's surface. There were also no signs of any landfill gas emissions (visible or smell) either across the landfill or within the adjacent Foxton Waste Transfer Station area. Council is currently working with local groups to further enhance the area.

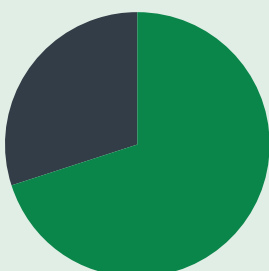
THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



13 EVENTS

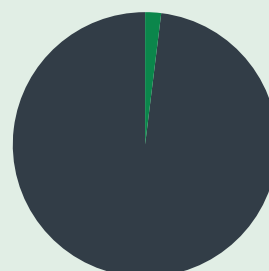
Council attended 13 events to promote waste minimisation

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



- 7 Achieved
- 3 Not Achieved

Our investment (\$000)



- \$91 Capital Expenditure
- \$4,157 Operating Expenditure

Community Facilities

Ngā Taiwhanga ā-Rēhia

WHAKATAUKĪ

Ko ngā pae tawhiti, whaia kia tata. Ko ngā pae tata, whakamaua kia tina

The potential for tomorrow depends on what we do today

Description of activity

The Community Facilities Group of Activities is made up of a number of sub-activities which aim to provide passive and active amenities for the community to utilise.

The Community Facilities and Services Group of Activities includes:

- Aquatic Centres
- Recreation Community Centres and Libraries

Key Insights

Outcomes of key projects undertaken in this activity include:

- **Foxton Pools Redevelopment** – We completed this significant project in January 2024 and since then, the facility has been open year-round, welcoming many users. Additionally, the swim school now also operates year round and we've seen an increase in participants compared to before the redevelopment.
- **Purchase of Library Books** – We reduced our Library Book budget this year in order to find savings from our capital programme. Despite this, we were still able to purchase a number of books, renewing our collection and meeting the needs of our users.
- **Mobile Library** – It was planned that a Mobile Library would be established and deliver Library services to remote and rural suburbs. Given the current financial demands and our ability to continue delivering these services at our facilities, the Mobile Library was deferred in the budget.

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



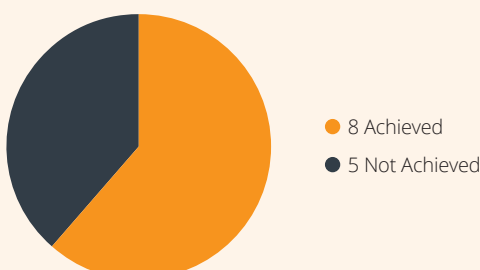
2,270 SWIM SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

Participants in swim school classes

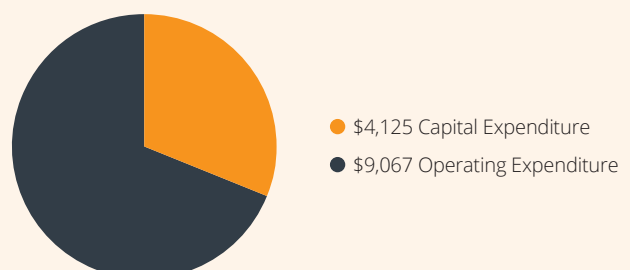
237,828

Items loaned from our libraries

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Tūāhanga Hapori Community Infrastructure

Description of activity

The Community Infrastructure Group of Activities is made up of a number of sub-activities which aim to provide passive and active recreational amenities for the community to utilise.

The Community Infrastructure Group of Activities include:

- Reserves and Beautification
- Urban cleansing
- Public Halls
- Public Toilets
- Sports Grounds
- Cemeteries

Key Insights

Highlights of works undertaken under this activity include:

- **Levin Adventure Park** – The carpark was resealed, linemarked and the safety of the area was improved.
- **Reserve renewals** – renewal of pathways, the replacement of a bridge at Holben Reserve, cricket site screens at Donnelly Park and replacement of safety gates at Kowhai Park.
- **Manakau Domain** – bollards have been installed to separate carpark area from playing fields, training fields have been established, existing floodlights (two poles) were relocated to the training fields
- **Public toilets** - Weraroa Rd and Playford Park toilets were renewed.
- Playford Park – new storage facility was started and a covered BBQ area included.
- **District fencing** – fencing was added at Waikawa Beach to protect properties and the integrity of the sand dunes.
- **Foxton cemetery** - a development was created in conjunction with key stakeholders.
- **Trig Mountain Bike Track** - In 2023/2024 funding was awarded to the Levin Mountain Bike Club to carry out the Trig Mountain Bike Track Improvement works. The Trig Mountain Bike Track Improvements is a two-year project that is due to be completed by April 2025.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te katoa

We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



APPROXIMATELY

12,000 SPINIFEX PLANTS

500 PINGAO PLANTS

Approximately 12,000 spinifex and 500 pingao plants were planted during a number of community planting days at various sites on our coast

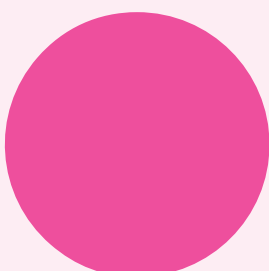
16

16 is the number of uses per fortnight for our Community Halls

6 GREEN FLAG AWARDS

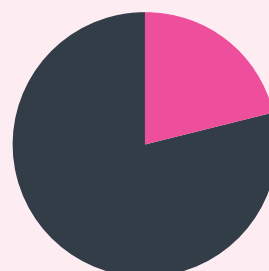
This is the number of green flag awards that Council current holds

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



- 7 Achieved
- 0 Not Achieved

Our investment (\$000)



- \$1,594 Capital Expenditure
- \$5,943 Operating Expenditure

Property Ngā Rawa

Description of activity

The Property activity supports all activities of Council that are dependent on physical land and buildings. Council holds a selection of property assets to support the delivery of Council's activities which also contribute to the wellbeing of the community. Council has developed a Property Strategy which was adopted by Council in 2015. This Strategy identifies and considers all property assets across the wider district by way of determining the relevance to core Council business. This process will inform decision making on future maintenance, investment and/or disposal of current assets. The Strategy looks at ten key criteria in evaluating Council's existing property portfolio that includes whether the property has a strategic or core purpose and the capital cost required to maintain the property including earthquake strengthening amongst other factors.

Key Insights

PROPERTY RENEWALS PROGRAMME

Despite reducing our renewal budget to find savings from our capital programme, we were still able to create safety improvements to a number of our properties to ensure they are retained in a "fit for purpose" state.

WAITĀRERE BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Council partnered with the Levin-Waitāre Beach Surf Life Saving Club and others to construct a new building to support surf life saving patrol and rescue operations and training, as well as providing the community a facility that can host up to 200 people. This was opened in December 2023.

FOXTON COURTHOUSE REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Council worked with the Foxton Historical Society to commission a detailed seismic assessment and development plan.

LEVIN TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

The Levin Town Centre has used the allocated Better Off Funding (\$2m) to acquire four properties this financial year, and identify another two properties to be purchased early in the new financial year, that align with the Town Centre Property Acquisition Strategy.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Hei āwhina i te hapori,
ka ora ai te hapori.

Helping the hapori
to thrive.

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



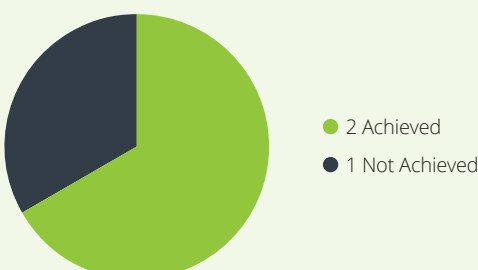
4 PROPERTIES

4 properties acquired this year as part of the Levin Town Centre Development project and another 2 identified to be purchased early in the new financial year

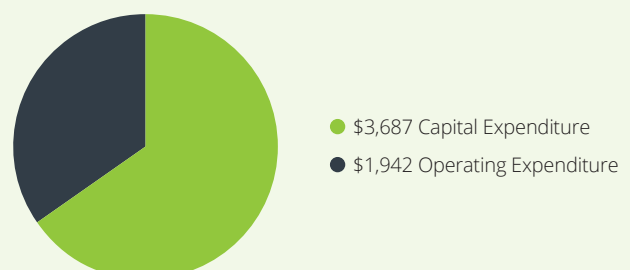
200 PEOPLE

This is the number of people that the Waitāre Beach Surf Life Saving Club's new facility can host

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Representation and Community Leadership

Te Whakakanohi me te Hautū i te Hapori

Description of activity

This group of activities comprises of how Council meets its responsibility to represent the community as well as provide leadership to the community and how Council will involve the community in decision-making processes and long-term strategic planning.

Key Insights

THE LONG TERM PLAN 2024-44

Council completed the Long Term Plan 2024-2044. During the consultation process, we sought to increase engagement and interaction with the community and of particular focus were the previously under-represented youth and other minority groups. To achieve this, we used many ways to share information and ask for feedback. Responses showed a 40% increase in submitters aged 25-35 years compared to the LTPA 2021-2041.

THE LEVIN TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

Priority focus has been on Council acquiring several strategically located properties in the Levin Town Centre to support future development opportunities. These purchases were funded through the Better Off Funding that Council received.

DISTRICT PLAN

- **Plan Change 4** – Tara-Ika became operative. This is one of the most significant and transformational urban development projects in our history. Tara-Ika, a 420 hectare block of land to the east of Levin, enables the development of more than 3,500 homes of different sizes, a commercial area, new parks and reserves and education opportunities.
- **E-plan** – an interactive and user-friendly online version of the District Plan was developed and launched in May 2024. Alongside launching the e-Plan, Council has implemented the mandatory directions of the National Planning Standard.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Mā pango, mā whero ka oti ai te mahi.

If the leaders work together with the community, the job will get done.

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



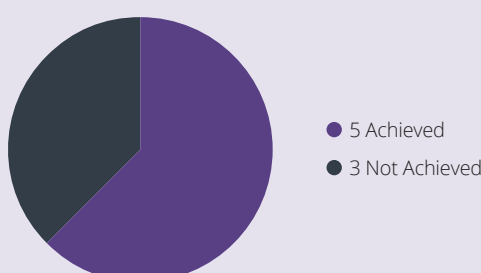
132 LGOIMA REQUESTS

132 LGOIMA requests received and 88.6% processed on time.

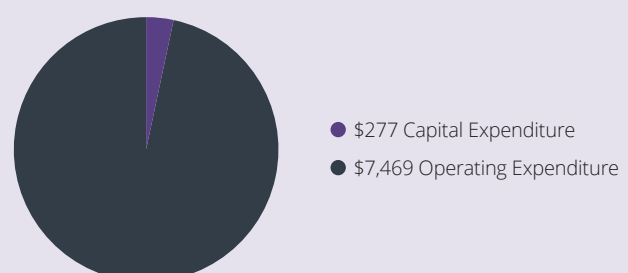
9 POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

9 Policies and Strategies reviewed as part of / alongside the LTP process.

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Community Support Te Tautāwhi i te Hapori

Description of activity

These activities provide for the community's social and economic wellbeing. Combined, they support the community, to drive positive social and economic development outcomes, ensure the community can respond to and recover from an emergency event, access community grants and funding, and visitor information within the district.

The Community Support Group of Activities includes the following Activities:

- Emergency management
- Community Engagement
- Visitor Information
- Destination Management
- Economic Development

Key Insights

Significant changes were made to our grants and funding programme including the establishment of two new funds – Youth Development Grant and Urupā Grant – and the merging of other funds to make the process user friendly and meet the needs of our community.

The Long Term Plan 2024-2044 saw funding allocated to Emergency Management for Starlink satellite internet kits to increase connectivity in remote areas and during power outages.

The Horowhenua Company ran the fifth annual Get-Go Futures Day in March 2024. Futures Day provided 400 Horowhenua Year 10 students and their teachers the opportunity to visit a range of nine different local employers (including Council) to understand more about the world of work and explore future local employment options.

In May 2024 Council established a Major Events Fund, making \$50,000 funding available to support major events in the district. The Fund includes a framework that Major Event organisers can apply to, for support to run their event. The fund also provides for events that may not qualify as a Major Event but have the potential to transition into a major event over time.

WHAKATAUKĪ

Mahia i runga i te rangimārie me te ngākau māhaki

With a peaceful mind and respectful heart, we will always get the best results

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



Strong Communities



Vibrant Economy



Partnership with Tangata Whenua

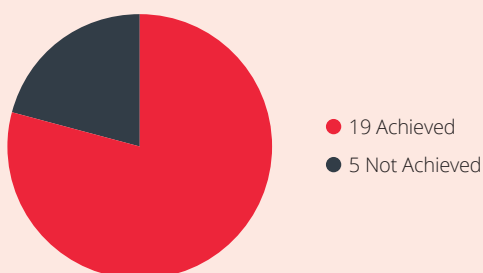
9 BUSINESS AFTER 5 EVENTS

The Horowhenua Company Limited held 9 Business After 5 events last financial year.

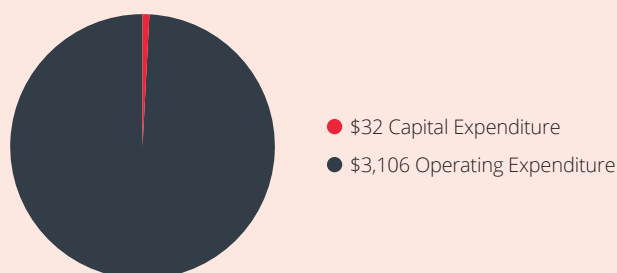
5,602

5,602 collective responses to our annual satisfaction surveys, a 7% decrease in collective responses compared to 2023.

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



Regulatory Services

Ngā Ratonga Whakariterite ā-Ture

Description of activity

The Regulatory Services group of activities provides advice, consenting services, assessment, education, compliance and enforcement. This group of activities aims to protect the health and safety of our community and the environment they live within.

The Regulatory Services group of activities includes the following activities:

- Resource Consenting
- Building Consenting
- Environmental Health
- Food and Alcohol Licensing
- Parking Enforcement
- Building Compliance
- Resource Management Compliance
- Animal Control
- General Regulatory Services

Key Insights

Approximately 65% of all resource consent applications were issued within statutory timeframes, increasing throughout the year from a starting point of 33% in July 2023. Both the building and resource consent processing sub activities are driven by responding to growth. Demand for new dwelling building consents have been dropping in New Zealand and Horowhenua is not immune to this, with demand starting to drop off during the 2023/24 financial year.

Eighteen new food businesses were registered during the financial year, with another two businesses registering an “additional site” to their existing business.

Council installed new animal shelters in the three exercise yards at the Dog Pound. These provide shelter for the dogs from sun and rain when they're out in the exercise yard.

WHAKATAUKĪ

I orea te tuatara ka patu ki waho

A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions.

THIS ACTIVITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



514 BUILDING CONSENTS

514 building consents were granted during this financial year

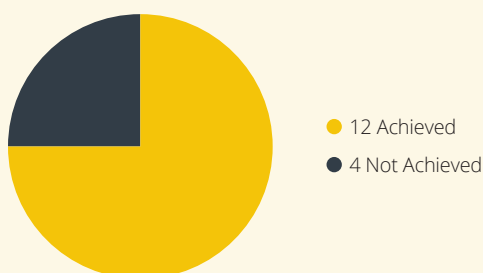
1,191 REPORTS

1,191 reports of dog nuisances were received and responded to by animal control

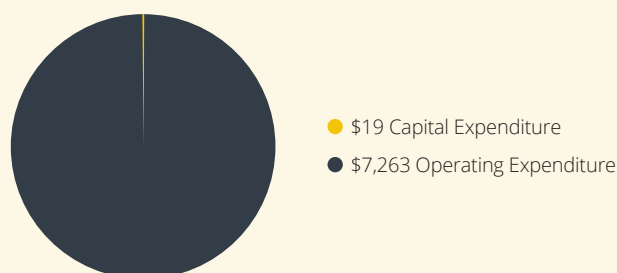
1,529 NOISE COMPLAINTS

1,529 noise complaints were received and responded to by our contractor, 1,350 of them within 60mins

How well did we perform against our Performance measures



Our investment (\$000)



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



NGĀ PĀRONGO PŪTEA



Summary of Financial Statements

These summary statements cover Horowhenua District Council (Council) and the Horowhenua District Council Group comprising Council and the Shannon Community Development Trust (Group).

The primary objective of Horowhenua District Council is to provide local infrastructure and local public service and perform regulatory functions for the community for social benefit rather than making a financial return.

Accordingly, Council has designated itself as a public benefit entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes.

The full financial statements of Council and the Group have been prepared in accordance with and are fully compliant with Tier 1 PBE accounting standards.

Council's summary annual report complies with PBE FRS 43 Summary Financial Statements.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000s).

The summary financial statements of Council are for the year ended 30 June 2024 and do not provide a complete understanding as the financial statements in the Annual Report 2023/24. The full annual report was authorised for issue by Council on 30th October 2024.

Copies are available from Council on request (refer to back page for contact details).

Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

The Income and Expenses for the Year Ending 30 June 2024

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2024	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2023	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2023
Revenue					
Rates revenue	52,533	51,430	47,815	52,533	47,815
Other revenue	27,204	21,261	27,069	27,226	27,083
Total income	79,737	72,691	74,884	79,759	74,898
Expenditure					
Finance costs	9,056	5,082	5,508	9,056	5,508
Other expenses	75,770	72,165	75,654	75,776	75,662
Total expenses	84,826	77,247	81,162	84,832	81,170
Operating Surplus / (deficit) before taxation	(5,089)	(4,556)	(6,278)	(5,073)	(6,273)
Income Tax Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Surplus / (deficit) after taxation	(5,089)	(4,556)	(6,278)	(5,073)	(6,273)
Write back of revaluation losses on land & buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to: Horowhenua District Council	(5,089)	(4,556)	(6,278)	(5,073)	(6,273)
Other Comprehensive Income					
Gain / (loss) on infrastructural assets revaluations	112,925	29,105	(15)	112,925	(15)
Gain / (loss) on operational assets revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Gain / (loss) on restricted assets revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Gain/(loss) on changes in fair value of carbon credits	115	-	(463)	115	(463)
Total other comprehensive revenue and expense for the year	113,040	29,105	(478)	113,040	(478)
Total comprehensive revenue and expense (deficit) for the year	107,951	24,548	(6,756)	107,967	(6,751)
Total comprehensive revenue and expense attributable to Horowhenua District Council	107,951	24,548	(6,756)	107,967	(6,751)

The main variances from budget are discussed in the notes following the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense in the full Annual Report 2023/24.

Summary Statement of Changes in Ratepayers' Equity

The ratepayers' stake in Council's assets for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2024	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2023	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2023
Equity at 1 July	693,653	691,555	704,682	694,035	705,058
Asset revaluation reserve on disposal	(689)	-	(4,404)	(689)	(4,404)
Opening adjustment on adoption of NZ IPSAS 41	-	-	131	-	131
Total Comprehensive Income	107,951	24,548	(6,756)	107,967	(6,750)
Equity at 30 June	800,915	716,103	693,653	801,313	694,035
Equity is represented by:					
Retained Earnings	241,740	287,117	246,484	242,140	246,868
Revaluation Reserve	549,773	418,978	437,423	549,773	437,423
Reserves and Special Funds	9,402	10,008	9,746	9,402	9,746
	800,915	716,103	693,653	801,313	694,035

CHANGES IN NET WORTH

The Council's net worth is represented by equity which is the difference between what the community owns (assets of \$1,033m) and what the community owes (liabilities of \$232m).

The Council's net worth at the end of the year was \$801m, an increase of \$107m from 2022/23. The main reason for the increase was the revaluation of the three waters assets.

Summary Statement of Financial Position

The assets owned by Council and liabilities owned by Council as at 30 June 2024

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2024	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2023	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2023
Assets:					
Current	45,670	15,328	35,358	45,702	35,392
Non-current	987,374	876,297	855,192	987,374	855,192
Total assets	1,033,043	891,625	890,550	1,033,076	890,584
Liabilities and ratepayers' equity:					
Current	63,344	41,344	52,803	62,976	52,453
Non-current	168,784	134,178	144,094	168,784	144,093
Total liabilities	232,128	175,522	196,897	231,760	196,546
Ratepayers' equity	800,915	716,103	693,653	801,316	694,037
	1,033,043	891,625	890,550	1,033,076	890,583

Council's financial position is explained by the following major asset types:

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents is \$7m higher than last year due to prefunding of loans.

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) (including land, buildings, pipes, roads and other infrastructure assets) – \$978m. The increase of \$131 million when compared to 2023 largely reflects the revalued amount for three waters and roading assets.

Our major liabilities include:

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Borrowings (maturing in the next 12 months) – \$43m

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Borrowings (maturing past 12 months) – \$159m

The combined increase for liabilities from the previous year of \$34m is mainly due to increase in gross borrowings of \$34m. Taking on more debt allowed Council to finance large projects and their continued maintenance while ensuring future generations pay for their portion of the costs associated with the new assets.

Summary Statement of Cash flows

The inflows and outflows of cash for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Council Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Council Budget \$000 30 June 2024	Restated Council Actual \$000 30 June 2023	Group Actual \$000 30 June 2024	Restated Group Actual \$000 30 June 2023
Net cash flows from:					
- operating activities	16,731	13,617	4,817	16,731	4,823
- investing activities	(43,514)	(26,384)	(50,550)	(43,514)	(50,550)
- financing activities	34,000	11,869	44,000	34,000	44,000
Net increase in cash and bank	7,217	(898)	(1,733)	7,217	(1,727)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year					
	4,265	7,519	5,998	4,297	6,024
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	11,482	6,621	4,265	11,514	4,297

CHANGES IN CASH HELD

Rates (including water by meter) and user charges are the primary source of our operating activities' cash inflows.

The majority of these net cash inflows, together with new borrowings (financing activities), are used in the purchase and development of assets around the district (investing activities).

More cash from operating activities compared to budget is mainly due to a combination of more revenue received than budgeted and less expenditure spent. The Council set a savings target of \$1m for the year and we were successfully able to achieve \$1.9m. There were more revenue received in grants and subsidies due to the timing of the capital programme changing from what was originally planned. This is largely due to 2022/23 work being completed in the 2023/24 year.

The increase in financing activities compared to budget is mainly due to increase in gross borrowings allowing Council to finance large projects.

PRIOR PERIOD CORRECTION

The Council and group has adjusted its comparative year summary financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 for the correction of a prior period error.

The Council determined that \$3m was incorrectly classified as Other Financial Assets on the Statement of Financial Position and should have been treated as cash and cash equivalents. The Council also determined that \$15m in term deposits and the \$3m cash on call account described above were not appropriately recorded in the Statement of Cash Flows.

The summary financial statements for 2023, which are presented as comparative information in the 30 June 2024 summary financial statements, have been restated to correct the errors mentioned above.

Full disclosure note can be found in note 39 in the full Annual Report on page 203.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of the Horowhenua District Council and Group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages pages 22 to 42:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in ratepayer equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include other explanatory information; and
- the summary of performance information (described as "Summary Activity Updates").

OPINION

In our opinion:

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

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

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

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT AND OUR AUDIT REPORT THEREON

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 in our auditor's report dated 30 October 2024.

COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

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

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have carried out assurance engagements in the areas of 2024-2044 Long-term plan and debenture trust deed, which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clint Ramoo', with a horizontal line underneath.


Clint Ramoo

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

26 November 2024

Horowhenua

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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