



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau

TAONGA O TE WHENUA - TREASURE OF THE LAND

**The Ordinary Meeting of the
Kawerau District Council will be held
on Wednesday 30 April 2025
in the Council Chambers
commencing at 9.00am**

A G E N D A

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC FORUM AT MEETINGS

1. A period of thirty minutes is set aside for a public forum at the start of each Ordinary Council or Standing Committee meeting, which is open to the public. This period may be extended on by a vote by members.
2. Speakers may address meetings on any subject. However, issues raised must not include those subject to legal consideration, or be issues, which are confidential, personal, or the subject of a formal hearing.
3. Each speaker during the public forum is permitted to speak for a maximum of three minutes. However, the Chairperson has the discretion to extend the speaking time.
4. Standing Orders are suspended for the duration of the public forum.
5. Council and Committees, at the conclusion of the public forum, may decide to take appropriate action on any of the issues raised.
6. With the permission of the Chairperson, members may ask questions of speakers during the period reserved for public forum. Questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

**The Ordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council
will be held on Wednesday 30 April 2025
in the Council Chambers commencing at 9.00am**

A G E N D A

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Leave of Absence

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Any member having a “conflict of interest” with an item on the Agenda should declare it, and when that item is being considered, abstain from any discussion or voting. The member may wish to remove themselves from the meeting while the item is being considered.

5 Meeting Notices

6 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements

7 Public Forum

8 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

8.1 Ordinary Council – 26 March 2025

Pgs. 1 - 8

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

8.2 Extraordinary Council – 9 April 2025

Pgs. 9 - 12

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

9 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

9.1 Iwi Liaison Committee Meeting – 17 February 2025

Pgs. 13 - 14

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee meeting held on 17 February 2025 be received.

9.2 Iwi Liaison Committee Meeting – 24 March 2025

Pgs. 15 - 17

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee meeting held on 24 March 2025 be received.

9.3 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 7 April 2025

Pgs. 18 - 21

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 7 April 2025 be received.

9.4 Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting – 16 April 2025

Pgs. 22 - 24

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Regulatory and Services Committee meeting held on 16 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

9.5 Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs 2024 – 2025: March 2025 Report

Pgs. 25 - 32

Recommendation

That the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs 2024 – 2025: March 2025 Report be received.

10 RECEIPT OF REGIONAL MINUTES

10.1 BOP Mayoral Forum – 6 March 2025

Pgs. 33 - 37

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the BOP Mayoral Forum meeting held on 6 March 2025 be received.

10.2 BOP Civil Defence Emergency Management – 28 March 2025

Pgs. 38 - 46

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the BOP Civil Defence Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 28 March 2025 be received.

11 Her Worship the Mayor's Report (101400)

Pgs. 47 - 49

Recommendation

That Her Worship the Mayor's report for the period Thursday 20 March 2025 to Wednesday 23 April 2025, be received.

12 Action Schedule (101120)

Pgs. 50 - 55

Recommendation

That the updated Action Schedule of resolutions/actions requested by Council be received.

13 Dog Registration Fees 2025/26 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (213100)

Pgs. 56 - 60

Attached is a report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Dog Registration Fees 2025/26.

Recommendations

1. *That the report “Dog Registration Fees 2025/26” be received.*
2. *That Council sets the Dog Registration fees for 2025/26 as follows (2.5%):*

<i>Neutered Dog</i>	<i>\$43.00</i>
<i>Entire Dog</i>	<i>\$86.00</i>
<i>Late payment penalty-applied 2 August 2025 50% addition to the fee charged</i>	
<i>Seizure Fee (at the Dog Control Officer’s discretion)</i>	<i>\$97.00</i>
<i>Fee for first impounding</i>	<i>\$97.00</i>
<i>Fee for second impounding</i>	<i>\$133.00</i>
<i>Third and subsequent impounding</i>	<i>\$172.00</i>
<i>Sustenance Fee (Daily)</i>	<i>\$13.50</i>
<i>Microchipping Fee</i>	<i>\$18.50</i>
<i>Replacement Tag Fee</i>	<i>\$7.00</i>
<i>Rehoming Fee</i>	<i>\$13.50</i>

14 Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic and Development Strategy Refresh (Economic and Community Development Manager) (309101)

Pgs. 61 - 98

Attached is a report from the Economic and Community Development Manager covering Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic and Development Strategy Refresh.

Recommendations

1. *That the report “Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy Refresh” be received.*
2. *That delegation be granted to the Chief Executive Officer to enact editorial amendments to the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) to reflect changes identified by Elected Members during the adoption discussion.*
3. *That the adopted REDS be provided to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to supersede the draft REDS submitted as part of the Regional Deals Light-Touch proposal.*
4. *That the adopted REDS be circulated with Kawerau-based stakeholders.*
5. *That Council authorises the development of a local Kawerau-based Economic Development Strategy.*

15 S17A – Activity Review for the Aquatic Centre Service (Group Manager, Operations and Services) (408600)

Pgs. 99 - 106

Attached is a report from the Group Manager Operations and Services covering S17A – Activity Review for the Aquatic Centre Service.

Recommendations

1. *That the report “S17A - Activity Review for the Maurie Kjar Memorial Aquatic Centre Service” be received.*
2. *That Council adopts the Maurie Kjar Memorial Aquatic Centre S17A review as proposed in the report and Appendix A*
3. *That Council confirms that during the 2025/26 financial year a review will be undertaken of the following:*
 - a) *fees and charges, including potential entry fees: and*
 - b) *the opening hours for delivering aquatic centre services, both of which will be reported back to Council.*

16 Confirming Alternative Tap Arrangements (Group Manager, Operations and Services) (404000)

Pgs. 107 - 110

Attached is a report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services covering Confirming Alternative Tap Arrangements.

Recommendations

1. *That the report “Confirming alternative tap arrangements” be received.*
2. *That Council approves either:*
 - a) *Option 1 – Reconfirm the Pumphouse Taps as fluoride-free AND upgrade the New World car park filtration system to supply chlorine- and fluoride-free water. This option includes the approval of \$ 28,000 capital expenditure and increasing the annual operational budget by \$2,500.*
 - b) *Option 2 – Reconfirm the Pumphouse Taps as fluoride-free AND reinstall chlorine removal filters only for unchlorinated water.*

17 Exclusion of the Public

Recommendation

That the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. **Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 26 March 2025**

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded; the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Information & Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General Subject of the matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
1. Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 26 March 2025.	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48 (1) (a) (i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 7 (2) (b) (i) of that Act.

18 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

M Godfery

Chief Executive Officer

Z:\kdccv\Working\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Agenda's\Council Agenda 2025.04.30.docx

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council
held on Wednesday 26 March 2025
in the Council Chamber commencing at 9.00am**

Present: Her Worship the Mayor F K N Tunui
Deputy Mayor A Rangihika
Councillor C J Ion
Councillor W Godfery
Councillor B Julian
Councillor S Kingi
Councillor J Ross
Councillor R G K Savage

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (M Godfery)
Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)
Group Manager, Operations and Services (R Nel)
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)
Communications & Engagement Manager (T Humberstone)
Economic and Development Manager (L Barton)
Administration Officer (L Kerei)

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

Pastor Mark Kingi opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrews.

**Councillors Kingi / Ross
CARREID**

3 Leave of Absence

No Leave of Absence were received.

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Councillor Ion and Ross Declared a Conflict of Interest with item 18 – Adoption of Draft Rate Remissions and Postponement Policies for Consultation.

Councillor Ion and Julian Declared a Conflict of Interest with item 15 – Receipt of Submissions, Deliberations and Adoption of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy.

5 Meeting Notices

Chief Executive Officer gave a reminder of the special occasion at 12.00pm today. This will cause the meeting to adjourn.

6 **Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements**

Her Worship the Mayor sends her aroha | love to all in the community that have lost loved ones and gives her well wishes to all on behalf of Council.

7 **Public Forum**

Andre van Schalkwyk raised the following concern:

- Andre spoke of how he joined the previous Council Meeting in February to convey his continuous issues with the dogs next door to his business/motel. Since this meeting he has met with Chief Executive Officer Godfery and gave thanks to him for meeting at the motel to hear the barking himself. Andre is still facing the same challenges and no resolution. Mr van Schalkwyk advised Elected Members that due to the barking he has had to close the motel until 28 March 2025.

Elected Members acknowledged Andre for coming back into the Chambers and speaking in Public Forum again. His frustrations are heard by Elected Members and will hold a discussion with the Chief Executive Officer outside the Council Meeting to discuss excessive barking and the number of dogs on site. Deputy Mayor Rangihika advised he did stop outside the gate of the compound and sighted more than 3 dogs on the property.

Action items:

- Chief Executive Officer to advise Elected Members if the 23 recordings of Mr van Schalkwyk complaints were received.
- Staff to have continuous communication with Andre with regards to this matter.

8 **CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

8.1 **Ordinary Council – 26 February 2025**

Elected Members have requested if there are action items for staff to complete that are raised from Public Forum these are to be included in the action schedule moving forward.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 February 2025 is confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Councillors Kingi/Savage
CARRIED**

9 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

9.1 Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting – 12 March 2025

Elected Members have requested if there are Action Items for staff to complete that are raised from Public Forum these are to be included in the action schedule moving forward.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting held on 12 March 2025 is confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Councillors Ion / Ross
CARRIED**

10 Her Worship the Mayor's Report

Resolved

That Her Worship the Mayor's report for the period Thursday 20 February 2025 to Wednesday 19 March 2025 is received.

**Councillor Kingi / Her Worship the Mayor
CARRIED**

11 Action Schedule (Chief Executive) (101120)

Action item:

- Economic and Development Manager to obtain historic designs that were created by the Youth Council of the day for the skatepark and basketball area. This is to be added and developed on instead of starting a new designs.
- Elected Members would like to know how/who does Tent Board benefit or work with the Community.

Resolved

That the updated Action Schedule of resolutions/actions as updated and amended requested by Council is received.

**Councillors Ross / Ion
CARRIED**

12 Raising a \$4.0 million renewal loan (2025) from Local Government Funding Agency (Financial Accountant) (206700)

Council discussed the report on the Raising a \$4.0 million renewal loan (2025) from Local Government Funding Agency.

10.18am **Chief Executive Officer** departed the meeting.
 10.20am **Chief Executive Officer** returned to the meeting.

Resolved

1. *That the report "Raising a \$4.0 million renewal loan (2025) from Local Government Funding Agency" be received.*
2. *That Council approves the raising of \$4.0 million renewal loan for a fixed term for a period to 20 April 2029.*
3. *That Council delegates the CE authority to execute all the necessary documents for the raising of this \$4.0 million renewal loan.*

Councillors Julian / Godfery
CARRIED

13 Overview of Elections and Order of Candidates' Names (Communications and Engagement Manager) (101287)

Council discussed the report on the Overview of Elections and Order of Candidates' Names.

Resolved

1. *That the report "Overview of Elections and Order of Candidates' Names" be received.*

Councillors Ross / Savage
CARRIED

Resolved

2. *That Council resolves for the 2025 triennial election, to adopt the alphabetical order of candidates' names.*

Councillors Ross / Kingi
CARRIED

14 Adoption of Council's Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (201300)

Council discussed the report on the Adoption of Council's Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment.

Resolved

1. *That the report "Adoption of Council's Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment" be received.*

2. *That Council adopt the “Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment” as proposed in Appendix A.*

Councillors Ion / Savage
CARRIED

10.43am **Councillors Ion and Julian** departed the meeting.

15 Receipt of Submissions, Deliberations and Adoption of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (110800)

Council discussed the report on the Receipt of Submissions, Deliberations and Adoption of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy.

Resolved

1. *That the report “Receipt of Submissions, Deliberations and Adoption of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy” be received.*
2. *That Council receive the submissions.*
3. *That Council deliberations on the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy; and*
4. *That Council resolves to adopt the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy 2025 effective from 31 March 2025; and*
5. *That Council authorises the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning to make any necessary minor edits or changes to reflect decisions made by Council at the meeting.*

Deputy Mayor Rangihika / Councillor Kingi
CARRIED

10.56am **Councillors Ion and Julian** returned to the meeting.

16 Adoption of the Freedom Camping Bylaw and Amendments to the Reserve Management Plan (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (320400)

Council discussed the report on the Adoption of the Freedom Camping Bylaw and Amendments to the Reserve Management Plan.

11.21am **Councillor Ross** departed the meeting.

11.23am **Councillor Ross** returned to the meeting.

Resolved

1. *That the report “Adoption of the Freedom Camping Bylaw and Amendments to the Reserve Management Plan” be received.*
2. *That Council confirms the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw is the most appropriate way to manage freedom camping in Kawerau.*

3. *That Council confirms the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw as attached*
 - i) *Is in the most appropriate form of the Bylaw; and*
 - ii) *Does not give rise to any implications under, and is not inconsistent with, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.*
4. *That Council resolves to adopt the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 pursuant to section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.*
5. *That Council authorises the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning to make any necessary minor drafting or presentation amendments to the Freedom Camping Bylaw to correct errors or omissions, or to reflect decisions made by Council during the meeting to adopt the Freedom Camping Bylaw.*
6. *That Council approves the commencement date for the Freedom Camping Bylaw to be 1 April 2025.*
7. *That Council resolves to adopt the proposed changes to the Reserves Management Plan for consistency with the Freedom Camping Bylaw.*
8. *That Council adopts the fees and charges as proposed, or as determined by Council, for prior consent applications.*

Councillors Kingi / Savage
CARRIED

17 Proposed Budget Overview and Rates for Long Term Plan 2025-2034 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (201600)

Council discussed the report on the Proposed Budget Overview and Rates for Long Term Plan 2025-2034.

11.53am **Councillor Godfery** departed the meeting.

11.56am **Councillor Godfery** returned to the meeting.

Resolved

1. *That the report "Proposed Budget Overview and Rates for Long Term Plan 2025-2034" be received.*
2. *That Council adopt the draft budget 2025/26 and the proposed rates for inclusion in the preparation of the Long Term Plan Consultation Document which will be adopted by Council on 9 April 2025.*

Councillor Ion / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED

12.06pm Her Worship the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

1.07pm Her Worship the Mayor resumed the meeting.

1.07pm Councillors Ion and Ross departed the meeting.

18 Adoption of Draft Rate Remissions and Postponement Policies for Consultation (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110551)

Council discussed the report on the Adoption of Draft Rate Remissions and Postponement Policies for Consultation.

Resolved

1. *That the report "Adoption of Draft Rate Remissions and Postponement Policies for Consultation" be received.*

**Councillors Kingi / Savage
CARRIED**

Resolved

2. *That Council adopts the following Draft Rate Remissions and Postponement policies for public consultation as part of the Long Term Plan Consultation process:*
 - *Rates relief for farm properties*
 - *Rates relief for developments*
 - *Rates remission and postponement policy for Māori freehold land*
 - *Rates penalty remission policy*
 - *Rates remission for Sport, Recreation and Community Organisations Leasing Council Land*
 - *Rates remission for Boundary Reorganisation Properties*

**Councillors Godfery / Savage
CARRIED**

3. *That Council confirm the removal of the remission policy for High Value Properties which will no longer apply from 1 July 2025.*

**Councillor Kingi / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

1.30pm **Councillors Ion and Ross** returned to the meeting.

19 Exclusion of the Public – 1.30pm

Resolved

That the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. **Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 26 February 2025**
2. **Zone 5 and 6 Renewal**

**Councillors Ross / Savage
CARRIED**

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded; the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Information & Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General Subject of the matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
1. Minutes for Confidential Meeting held on 18 December 2024. 2. Zone 5 and 6 Renewal	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48 (1) (a) (i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 7 (2) (b) (i) of that Act.

20 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

Pastor Mark Kingi closed the meeting with a Karakia at 1.58pm

F K N Tunui

Mayor

\\kdccv\working\kdc taxonomy\governance\democratic services\meetings\council\minutes\draft\minutes council - draft 2025.03.26.docx

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council
held on Wednesday 9 April 2025
commencing at 9.02 am**

Present: Her Worship the Mayor F K N Tunui
Deputy Mayor A Rangihika
Councillor R Andrews
Councillor W Godfery
Councillor B Julian
Councillor S Kingi
Councillor J Ross
Councillor R G K Savage

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (M Godfery)
Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)
Group Manager, Operations and Services (R Nel)
Communications and Engagement Manager (T Humberstone)
Economic and Community Development Manager (L Barton)
Administration Officer (L Kerei)

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

Her Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with a karakia | prayer.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Ion.

**Councillors Kingi / Ross
CARRIED**

3 Leave of Absence

No Leave of Absence were received.

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No Declarations of Conflict of Interest were received.

5 Meeting Notices

Chief Executive Officer advised that there are updated handouts of the Local Water Done Well, Long Term Plan Document and the shortened Long Term Plan Document.

6 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements

Her Worship the Mayor sends thoughts and aroha | love to all in the Community that have lost loved ones and celebration to those that have new additions to their families.

7 **Public Forum**

No Public Forum

8 **Balanced Budget Requirement for Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (201100)**

Council discussed the report on the Balanced Budget Requirement for Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034.

Correction:

- Page 3 – Paragraph 1 – Remove “surpluses” and add “deficits”.

Resolved

1. *That the report “Balanced Budget Requirement for Long Term Plan 2025 - 2034” be received.*
2. *That Council confirms the decision to continue the policy of not funding depreciation on the portion of Roding assets subject to Waka Kotahi (NZTA) subsidies for the Long Term Plan 2025-2034, as Council believes the reasons for doing so remain unchanged and that this policy is appropriate for the Kawerau District.*
3. *That Council confirms the decision to continue the policy of not funding depreciation on non-critical and non-strategic assets for Long Term Plan 2025-2034, as this policy is appropriate for the Kawerau District.*
4. *That Council confirms the decision and reasons for not fully funding depreciation, is in the best interests of the Community due to rates affordability and it is financially prudent to do so, which will result in unbalanced budgets for the Long Term Plan 2025 - 2034.*

**Councillor Kingi / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

9 **Significance and Engagement Policy Review 2025 (Communications and Engagement Manager) (103015)**

Council discussed the report on the Significance and Engagement Policy Review 2025.

Corrections:

- Page 10 – 3. Whānuitanga | Scope – Bullet point three – Correct the spelling for “Act”.
- Page 11 – 5. He Whakamārama | Definitions – Row 2, Detail – Correct the spelling for “characteristics”.
- Page 15 – 6.2.3 and 6.2.4 – Change the word “comms” to “communications”.
- Page 20 – Last row at the bottom of the page – Add the “F” to actors, so it spells “Factors”.

Resolved

1. *That the report “Significance and Engagement Policy Review 2025” be received.*
2. *That following any amendments and feedback from Elected Members and Council’s Iwi Liaison Cultural Advisor, Council adopts the draft Significance and Engagement Policy 2025 for consultation with the Long Term Plan 2025-2034.*

Councillor Kingi / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED

10 Adoption of Long Term Plan Consultation Document 2025 – 2034 and Supporting Documents (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110553)

Council discussed the report on the Adoption of Long Term Plan Consultation Document 2025 – 2034 and Supporting Documents.

Resolved

1. *That the report “Adoption of Long Term Plan Consultation Document 2025 - 2034 and Supporting Documents” be received; and*
2. *That Council adopts the proposed Performance Framework for 2025 - 2034; and*
3. *That, pursuant to sections 101A and 101B of the Local Government Act 2002, Council adopts the Financial Strategy (2025 - 2034) and the Infrastructure Strategy (2025 - 2034) as presented; and*
4. *That, pursuant to section 102(1) - (4) of the Local Government Act 2002, Council adopts the following funding and financial policies, as presented, for consultation:*
 - i) *Draft Revenue and Financing Policy;*
 - ii) *Draft Financial Contributions Policy;*
5. *That all of the above documents are made available during the special consultation period and on request to members of the public; and*
6. *That, pursuant to section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council adopts the Long Term Plan Consultation Document 2025 – 2034 for commencement of the special consultative procedure, with submissions closing at 5 pm on 12 May 2025; and*
7. *That Council hears and considers any submissions to the Consultation Document at the Ordinary Council meeting on 28 May 2025; and*
8. *That Council delegates to the Group Manager Finance and Corporate Services the authority to make technical and editorial amendments to the Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034 Consultation Document if required (such as grammar or punctuation) before public consultation begins.*

Councillors Ross / Andrews
CARRIED

11 Adoption of draft Gambling Venues Policy and Statement of Proposal for Consultation (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (110800)

Council discussed the report on the Adoption of draft Gambling Venues Policy and Statement of Proposal for Consultation.

10.20am Chief Executive Officer departed from the meeting.

10.21am Chief Executive Officer returned to the meeting.

Chief Executive Officer advised Elected Members that on Wednesday 14 May 2025 the funders will be available to meet with Elected Members

Resolved

1. *That the report “Adoption of draft Gambling Venues Policy and Statement of Proposal for Consultation” be received.*

**Councillors Ross / Kingi
CARRIED**

2. *That Council approves Option 1 – Adopt the draft policy as proposed.*

**Councillor Julian / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

3. *Given Council approves option 1, Council resolves to adopt a draft Gambling Venues Policy and Statement of Proposal, with any amendments, for public consultation.*

**Deputy Mayor Rangihika / Councillor Godfery
CARRIED**

4. *That Council authorises the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning to make any necessary minor drafting amendments to the Draft Policy and/or the Statement of Proposal to correct errors or omissions, or to reflect decisions made by Council.*

**Councillors Kingi / Godfery
CARRIED**

12 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

Her Worship the Mayor closed the meeting with a karakia | prayer at 10.45am

F K N Tunui

Mayor

\\kdccv\working\kdc taxonomy\governance\democratic services\meetings\extraordinary council\minutes\draft\minutes- draft 25.04.09.docx

**Minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee
Held on Monday 17 February 2025
Commencing at 10.30am
In the Kawerau District Council Mayor's Office**

Present: Kahika | Mayor Faylene Tunui
Iwi Liaison Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa (Boycie) Te Rire
Tumu Whakarae | CEO Morgan Godfery
Administration Officer Liana Kerei

1. Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

Te Haukakawa Te Rire opened the meeting with a Karakia | Prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Koromatua Waha Tuara | Deputy Mayor Rangihika and Kaiawhina, Kaiawhina | PA to Mayor and CEO Pari Maxwell.

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 16 December 2024

That the Minutes of the hui | meeting held on Monday, 16 December 2024 be received.

4. Verbal Update on Council Mahi

4.1 Verbal Submission on the Treaty Principles Bill

- Mayor Tunui has been invited to give an oral submission to the Justice Select Committee in Parliament about the Treaty Principles Bill, on Thursday 27 February 2025. She will have 10 minutes to speak.
- Mayor Tunui will be working closely with CEO Morgan Godfery to prepare for the verbal submission.

4.2 Whakatane DC to Kawerau DC Boundary Change

- Council is looking to organise a celebration on Tuesday, 1 April 2025 to recognise the reorganisation boundary change. This date was picked because Kawerau District Council was established on this date in 1954.

ACTION: Staff to check if landowners (Tuwharetoa Otarahanga, Putauaki Trust, Manukorihi, Te Kori Ngaheue, Ruby Wetini, Tohia of te Rangi Marae and A8D Trustees) have been advised from Local Government Commission about the change.

4.3 Kawerau Cemetery

- The Name Board and Shelter have been installed, and are ready to be blessed.
- A date in March will be selected for the blessing of the new Name Board and Shelter.

ACTION: Staff to find out the date of when the Cemetery was established.

4.4 Tiwhatiwha and Piripiri Street Information Signs

The Unveiling of the Information Signs will be held on Wednesday, 19 February at 9am.

Tumu Whakarae | CEO Morgan Godfery left the meeting at 11.04am

4.5 Te Marukaa – proposed change of Reserve name

- A report will go to Council to consider naming the area of Reserve where the plaque has been relocated to, after the chief, Te Marukaa.
- The Kaiawhina | PA to Mayor and CEO will work with Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor about the whakapapa | genealogy of Te Marukaa.

- The Committee suggested a QR Code on the plaque like on the street signs for Tiwhatiwha and Piripiri Crescent with the whakapapa and history of the name Te Marukaa.

4.6 Te Reo, Waiata, Powhiri, Poroporoaki and Cultural Awareness lessons

- The Committee suggested getting external help from organisations, groups or kapa haka roopu in the Community to do some waiata lessons with staff.

4.7 Local Body Elections – Information Days and Nights

- Communications & Engagement Manager will be working with Dale Ofoske from Election Services, to speak about the process of Māori Wards and how it works.
- Mayor Tunui clarified that any group can host a “Meet the Candidates” evening and suggested that if groups would like to host, they should contact the CEO.

4.8 Stoneham Park Housing Development Name

- The name ‘Tuwharetoa Park’ was recommended to Council by the Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor. Due to Tangata Whenua wanting to keep the name for Iwi Housing Development, the process may now go out to the community for suggestions of a Development Name, pending other suggested names from Tangata Whenua.
- Mayor Tunui suggested to do this by the end of the triennium

4.9 Civil Defence Bay-8 Powhiri and Korero

ACTION: Staff to provide the date of the Civil Defence Bay-8 whakatau and korero as well as a list of participants.

4.10 Tarawera River Walkway Repair

ACTION: Staff to provide an update.

4.11 Mayoral Portrait - Ceremony and Blessing

- A Ceremony and Blessing of the Mayor’s Portrait will be held on Wednesday, 26 February 2025 at 2pm.
- The artist of the portrait provided detailed instructions on how to hang the portrait.

4.12 Citizenship Ceremony

- A Citizenship Ceremony has been confirmed for Wednesday, 26 February 2025 at 3pm in the Kawerau Council Chambers. There will be 5 people sworn in.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Te Haukakawa closed the meeting with a Karakia | Prayer at 12.13pm

F K N Tunui

Kahika | Mayor

**Minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee
Held on Monday 24 March 2025
Commencing at 10.30am
In the Kawerau District Council Mayor's Office**

Present: Kahika | Mayor Faylene Tunui
 Koromatua Waha Tuara | Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika
 Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa (Boychie) Te Rire
 Tumu Whakarae | CEO Morgan Godfery
 Roopu Whakarae, Nga mahi me nga Ratonga | GM Operations & Services
 Riaan Nel
 Kaiawhina | PA to Mayor and CEO Pari Maxwell

1. Site Visit – Tarawera Awa

- Roopu Whakarae, Nga Mahi me nga Ratonga | GM Operations & Services Riaan Nel took the Iwi Liaison Committee to Tarawera Awa, near Waterhouse Street to show the Committee the erosion of the riverbank, and walkway and where the repairs will need to take place to protect it from further erosion.
- Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor, Te Haukakawa conveyed his support to repair the riverbank and walkway, on the condition that there was no change to the natural river flow.

ACTION: A letter of support will be drafted with Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor.

The Committee returned to the Mayor's Office at 11.25am and continued with the remainder of the hui | meeting.

Tumu Whakarae | CEO Morgan Godfery left the meeting

2. Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

Te Haukakawa Te Rire opened the meeting with a Karakia | Prayer.

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 19 February 2025

That the Minutes of the hui | meeting held on Monday, 19 February 2025 be received.

4. Verbal Update on Council Mahi

4.1 Animal Crematorium at the Animal Shelter and Rehoming Facility

- Manager Nel was seeking support from the Committee to include an Animal Crematorium as part of the proposed Animal Shelter and Rehoming Facility.
- Manager Nel explained the current process for disposing unwanted animals at their end of life i.e. euthanased, placed in a freezer at the Depot until they can be taken to the landfill. Cremation was considered best practice across the country and ashes would be added to the RIBs, which would provide nutrients to the land.

The Committee were in favour of an animal crematorium which was an improved, sensitive way to dispose of unwanted animals at their end of life.

ACTION: The Committee to visit the current Dog Pound and RIBs to better understand where the ashes will go.

4.2 Kawerau Cemetery

- A date was confirmed for Tuesday, 1 April at 9am at the Cemetery.

ACTION: Staff to invite Dawn Hill, Tomai Fox, Kaumatua Group and other community members that have been part of the discussions.

4.3 Whakatane DC to Kawerau DC Boundary Change

Council has received RSVPs from majority of landowners, and are awaiting to hear from Otarahanga trustees.

4.4 Hui | Meeting with Ngati Tuwharetoa BoP Settlement Trust (NTBOPST)

- Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor was invited to join Kahika | Mayor Tunui, Tumu Whakarae CEO Morgan Godfery and staff for an urgent hui invited by Chair Karilyn Te Riini and Pou Whakarae Shaneen Simpson to discuss the signing of the MOU between NTBOPST and Council, as well as the Trust's Housing Development, held on Tuesday, 25 March at 9am at the NTBOPST Office.

4.5 Te Marukaa – proposed change of Reserve name

- A report will go to Council on August 2025 to consider naming the area of Reserve where the plaque has been relocated to, after the chief, Te Marukaa.
- Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor provided korero on Te Marukaa which will be drafted and returned to the Committee for approval.
- Once the korero is approved, a QR Code with the korero will be created and placed on the Marukaa plaque.

4.6 Te Reo, Waiata, Powhiri, Poroporoaki, Cultural Awareness and Organisation Karakia

- Waiata Lessons - Kahika | Mayor Tunui informed that Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora holds waiata lessons in the mornings and suggested that this might be a great relationship build between Council and Hauora, with Kaimahi joining their waiata lessons, as well as holding internal waiata lessons.
- Manawatia a Matariki - It was agreed that the Matariki Community Awards will be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025.

ACTION: Staff to reach out to organisations and Kura | schools to enquire if they will be hosting any Matariki events.

4.7 Local Body Elections – Information Days and Nights

- The Information meetings are an opportunity to share with the Community what Maori Wards are and what they are not.
- Communications & Engagement Manager was working with neighbouring councils to best arrange information meetings while Dale Ofsoske from Election Services, is in the Bay of Plenty.

4.8 Stoneham Park Housing Development Name

ACTION: Staff to report to Council to formalise consultation with the Community on a Development Name, pending other suggested names from Tangata Whenua.

4.9 Civil Defence Bay-8 Powhiri and Korero

- Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor provided positive feedback on the Bay-8 whakatau, training and exercise, gaining more of an understanding of what is required from an Iwi perspective.
- Deputy Mayor Rangihika congratulated the Bay-8 team as well as Council staff for the weeklong training as well as the Civil Defence Exercise held on Friday 21 March.

4.10 Engagement and Significance Policy

- A copy of the Policy was tabled with Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor to provide feedback on bilingual headings and definition.

4.11 Interview with Pukaea

- A request was received from Pukaea to interview Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire following the Beacon's writeup on Tiwhatiwha and Piripiri Information Signs that was posted by the Herald and 1 News on social media.
- Te Haukakawa agreed to the interview as long as it included the local Pukaea kaimahi, Kahurangi Gage.

ACTION: Staff to inform Pukaea and arrange an interview date for Te Haukakawa

4.12 LGNZ Te Maruata Whanui Hui – 3 and 4 April

- Council was invited to attend Te Maruata Whanui Hui at Wairakei Resort, Taupo on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 April.
- Kahika | Mayor Tunui invited Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire to attend. Te Haukakawa was available to attend on Thursday 3 April.

ACTION: Staff to provide a copy of the Program.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Te Haukakawa closed the meeting with a Karakia | Prayer at 2pm

F K N Tunui

Kahika | Mayor

**Kawerau District Council Minutes of an
Audit and Risk Committee held on 7 April 2025
commencing at 1.00pm**

Present: Philip Jones – P J Associates (Chair)
Her Worship the Mayor – F K N Tunui
Deputy Mayor – A Rangihika
Councillor C Ion
Councillor B J Julian

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (M Godfery) – via Zoom
Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)
Group Manager, Operations and Services (R Nel)
Administration Officer (L Kerei)
Renè van Zyl (Audit Director from Audit New Zealand)

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

Her Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 Apologies

No Apologies were received.

3 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No Conflicts of Interest were received.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee – 10 February 2025

Resolved

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Chair Jones / Her Worship the Mayor
CARRIED**

**5 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 February 2025 to 31 March 2025
(Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (509500)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 February 2025 to 31 March 2025.

Key Points:

- Staff are currently in the process of drafting plans for the car park at the Maurie Kjar Aquatics Centre to bring to Council.
- There have been bollards added to the Skatepark parking area to avoid vehicles driving through the car park from Plunket Street to Glasgow.

Resolved

That the report “Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 February 2025 to 31 March 2025” be received.

**Her Worship the Mayor / Councillor Ion
CARRIED**

6 Treasury Report to 31 January 2025 and 28 February 2025 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110551)

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Treasury Report to 31 January 2025 and 28 February 2025

Resolved

That the report “Treasury Report to 31 January 2025 and 28 February 2025” be received.

**Councillor Julian / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

7 Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034 Update (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110555)

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034 Update.

Audit Director Renè van Zyl provided an update on the audit of the Long Term Plan consultation document.

Resolved

That the report “Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034 Update” be received.

**Councillors Julian / Ion
CARRIED**

8 Audit and Risk Review Timetable from April 2025 to February 2026 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (101300)

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Audit and Risk Review Timetable from April 2025 to February 2026

The committee suggested to have the “Update on LTP Risks & issues” moved to the August 2025 meeting and renamed to “LTP Risks and Management Letter Debrief” .

Resolved

That the report “Audit and Risk Review Timetable from April 2025 to February 2026” be received as amended.

**Her Worship the Mayor / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

9 Update on Audit Management for the year ended 30 June 2024 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (201000)

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Update on Audit Management for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Action items:

- Page 26 – Add “ or Chief Executive Officer” as someone that can approve all Ozone access forms.
- Page 27 – Add that the disposal of assets are approved by the Chief Executive Officer and Group Manager Operations and Services.

Resolved

That the report “Update on Audit Management for the year ended 30 June 2024” be received.

**Her Worship the Mayor / Chair Jones
CARRIED**

10 Local Water Done Well – risk profile for 2025 (Chief Executive Officer) (404000)

Committee discussed the report from the Chief Executive Officer covering Local Water Done Well – risk profile for 2025.

Action items:

- Add “A loss of Community Trust with our water services delivery” as a risk.
- Add “Explaining something to Kawerau that was not of this Council’s making” as a risk.
- Another risk is, between the Department of Internal Affairs and Commerce Commission, we can be forced into a multi model.

Resolved

That the report “Local Water Done Well – risk profile for 2025” be received.

**Councillors Julian / Ion
CARRIED**

11 Review of Council's Asset Management Plans (Group Manager, Operations and Services) (110551)

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services covering Review of Council's Asset Management Plans.

Resolved

1. *That the report "Review of Council's Asset Management Plans" be received.*
2. *That the Audit & Risk Committee thank the Chief Executive Officer and his team, particularly the asset team on producing a comprehensive asset management plans.*

**Her Worship the Mayor / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

12 Key Underlying Documents for Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110553)

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Key Underlying Documents for Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034.

Corrections:

- Page 224 – Add a "0" to the "Borrowing (\$)" for the year 2026/27, to read \$10,000,000.
- Page 224 – Remove a "0" from the "Sensitivity in interest expense to a 1% change in interest rates (external)" for the year 2025/26, to read \$80,000.

Resolved

That the report "Key Underlying Documents for Long Term Plan 2025 – 2034" be received.

**Councillors Ion / Julian
CARRIED**

13 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

Her Worship the Mayor closed the meeting with a karakia | prayer at 2.38pm

P Jones

Chairperson

\\kdccv\Working\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Audit and Risk\Minutes\Drafts\Audit and Risk Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES 2025.04.07.docx

**Minutes of the Regulatory & Services Committee
held on Wednesday 16 April 2025
commencing at 9.00am**

Present: Councillor C J Ion (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor F K N Tunui
Deputy Mayor A Rangihika
Councillor W Godfrey
Councillor B Julian
Councillor S Kingi
Councillor J Ross
Councillor R G K Savage

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (M Godfery)
Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)
Group Manager, Operations and Services (R Nel)
Economic and Community Development Manager (L Barton)
Administration Officer (L Kerei)

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

Pastor Mark Kingi opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 Apologies

Apologies from Councillors Andrews were received.

**Councillors Ross / Kingi
CARRIED**

3 Leave of Absence

No Leave of Absence were received.

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No Declarations of Conflict of Interest were received.

5 Public Forum

No Public Forum were received.

PART A – REGULATORY

6 Monthly Report - Regulatory and Planning Services (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (340000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering activities for the month of March 2025.

Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning Update:

- A discussion document was released on the Tuesday 15 April 2025 around Emergency Management and feedback is required by the Tuesday 13 May 2025. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group will be preparing a joint submission and if Council would like to add to the joint submission, a response is needed by 28 April 2025.

Action items:

- Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning to check if the Emergency Management Bill is open to the public for submissions.

Elected Members acknowledged Raiha Andrews and Courtney Cox for their participation in the Emergency Management Bay 8 training programme.

Resolved

That the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning for the month of March 2025 is received.

**Councillors Savage / Kingi
CARRIED**

7 Monthly Report – Finance and Corporate Services (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (211000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering activities for the month of March 2025.

Action item:

- Communications to go out to the community to call the afterhours number for all dog related complaints and queries instead of using Antenno.

Resolved

That the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services for the month of March 2025 is received.

**Councillor Julian / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

8 Monthly Report - Operations and Services (Group Manager, Operations and Services) (440000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services covering activities for the month of March 2025.

Action item:

- Group Manager, Operations and Services to include in the May Regulatory and Services report the capital costs for the works that took place on the Umukaraka Springs that was fully developed.

Resolved

That the report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services for the month of March 2025 is received.

**Her Worship the Mayor / Councillor Savage
CARRIED**

9 Monthly Report - Economic and Community Development (Economic and Community Development Manager) (309005)

The Committee discussed a report from the Economic and Community Development Manager covering activities for the month of March 2025.

Economic and Community Development Manager Update:

- Confirmed the Regional Economic Development Strategy will be presented to Council on Wednesday, 30 April 2025.
- Māori Investments Limited have decided to close McKee Road during the Easter weekend for safety reasons due to the incoming weather. They are currently reviewing if Tarawera Road will also be closed during the weekend.

Resolved

That the report from the Economic and Community Development Manager for the month of March 2025 is received.

**Councillors Kingi / Godfery
CARRIED**

10 Monthly Report – Communications and Engagement (Communications and Engagement Manager) (340100)

The Committee discussed a report from the Communications and Engagement Manager covering activities for the month of March 2025.

Resolved

That the report from the Communications and Engagement Manager for the month of March 2025 is received.

**Councillor Kingi / Deputy Mayor Rangihika
CARRIED**

The Chair took the time to wish everyone a safe and good Easter weekend.

11 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

Pastor Mark Kingi closed the meeting with a prayer at 10.36am

C J Ion
Chairperson

Kawerau Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs 2024 - 2025: March 2025 report

Reporting Parameter	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	March 25	April 25	May 25	June 25	Total	Target
Number of Referrals This Month	14	13	4	4	1	2	0	11	6				55	
Number of Enrolments This Month	4	5	12	5	1	2	0	5	3				37	
Number of Withdrawals This Month	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	1	1				8	
Number Passed This Month	25													
. Learners Licence	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	1				11	
- Restricted	2	1	0	4	2	0	0	1	2				12	
. Full Licence	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	1				7	
Total This Month	2	4	5	6	3	1	0	5	4				30	60

Note: This month, four referrals successfully obtained their licenses, while one referral was withdrawn due to being uncontactable. Additionally, three referrals have been placed on hold as they are ineligible to sit for their license until after May.

Currently, Eastbay REAP has seven active referrals. Although engagement has been slower than anticipated, we are taking proactive steps to address this. These include following up with referrals who have not responded to emails or texts, self-referring eligible clients, and reaching out to Tarawera High as part of the licensing collective. Through this collaboration, we aim to secure 15 new referrals that meet the criteria, which will help improve overall outcomes.



Success stories March 2025



Hikurangi Andrew-Natana, is a 17-year-old young man who has casual worker at Sequal Lumber in Kawerau. He reached out to Eastbay REAP for help to obtain his restricted licence. The driving lessons boosted his confidence and prepared him for the test. Having been successful he is please to commute independently. He aims to get his full licence and secure full-time work. Hikurangi has requested Eastbay REAP's support when eligible, as the lessons and support helped reduce his test anxiety.

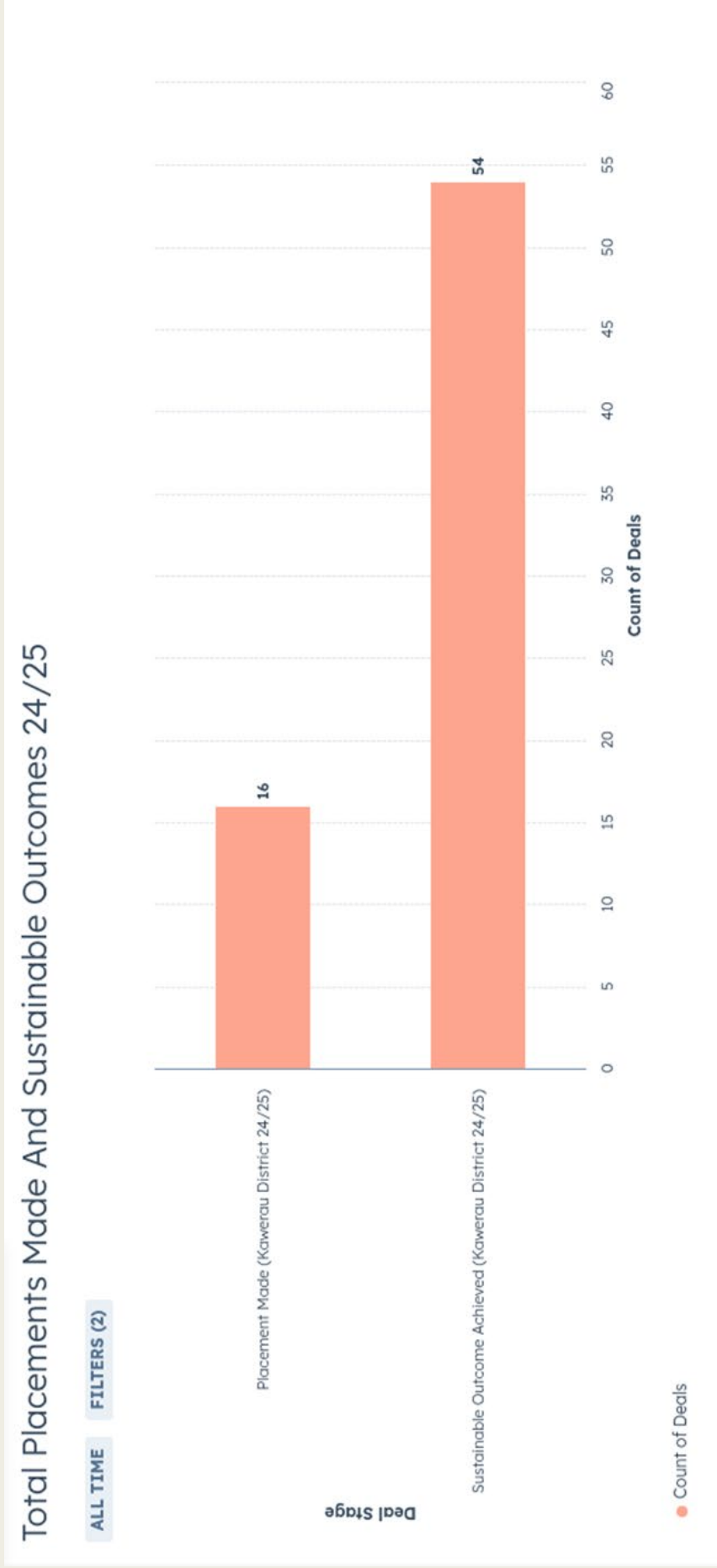


Lucas Cousins was referred to Eastbay REAP in December 2024. However, he wasn't eligible to take the test until March 2025. The drive team reached out to Lucas in the new year to help him prepare for his restricted licence test. He attended driving sessions consistently and successfully obtained his licence. Lucas works on a farm and is thrilled to now have his licence, allowing him to drive legally to work. He is now focused on getting his full licence so he can drive without any restrictions.

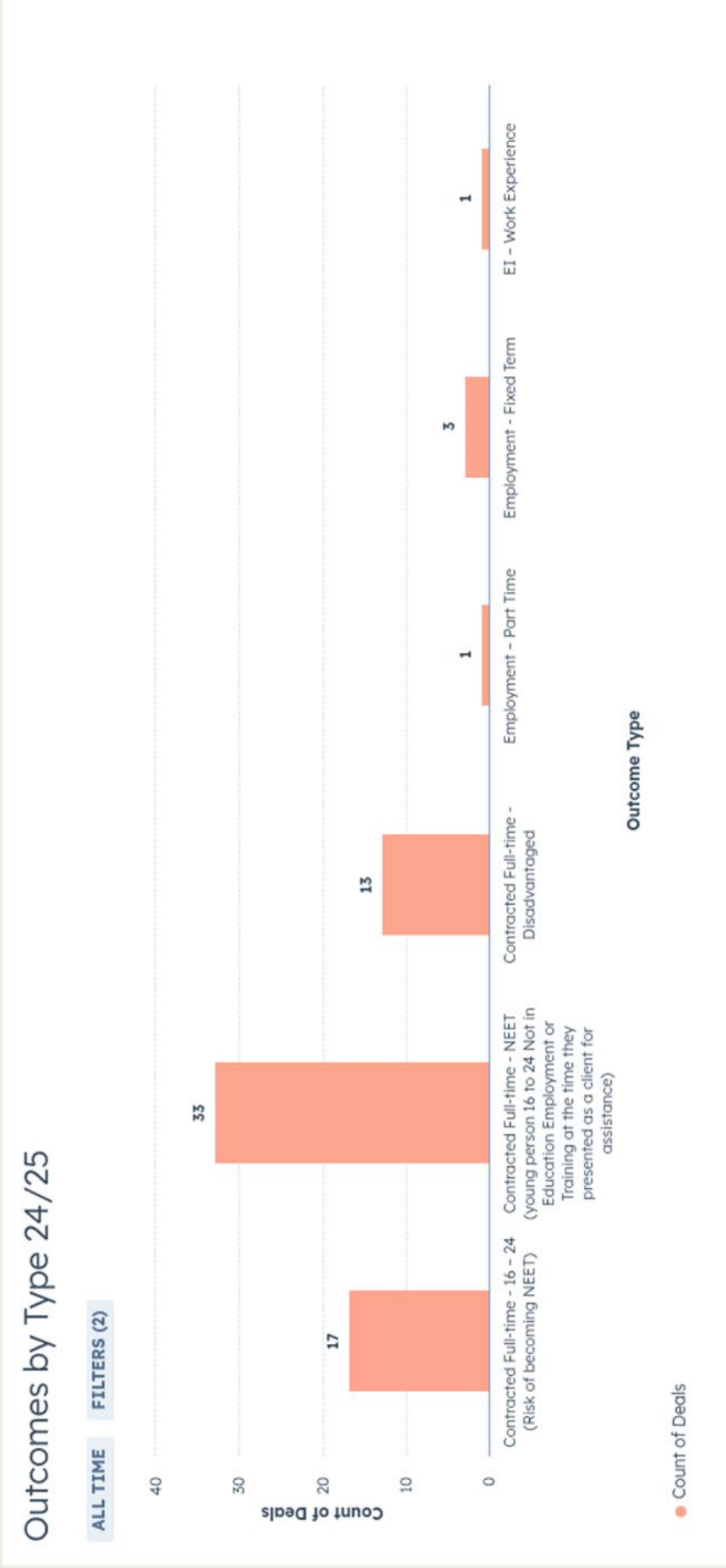
MTFJ KAWERAU

Third Quarter Report
1 July 2024 – 31 March 2025

Placements

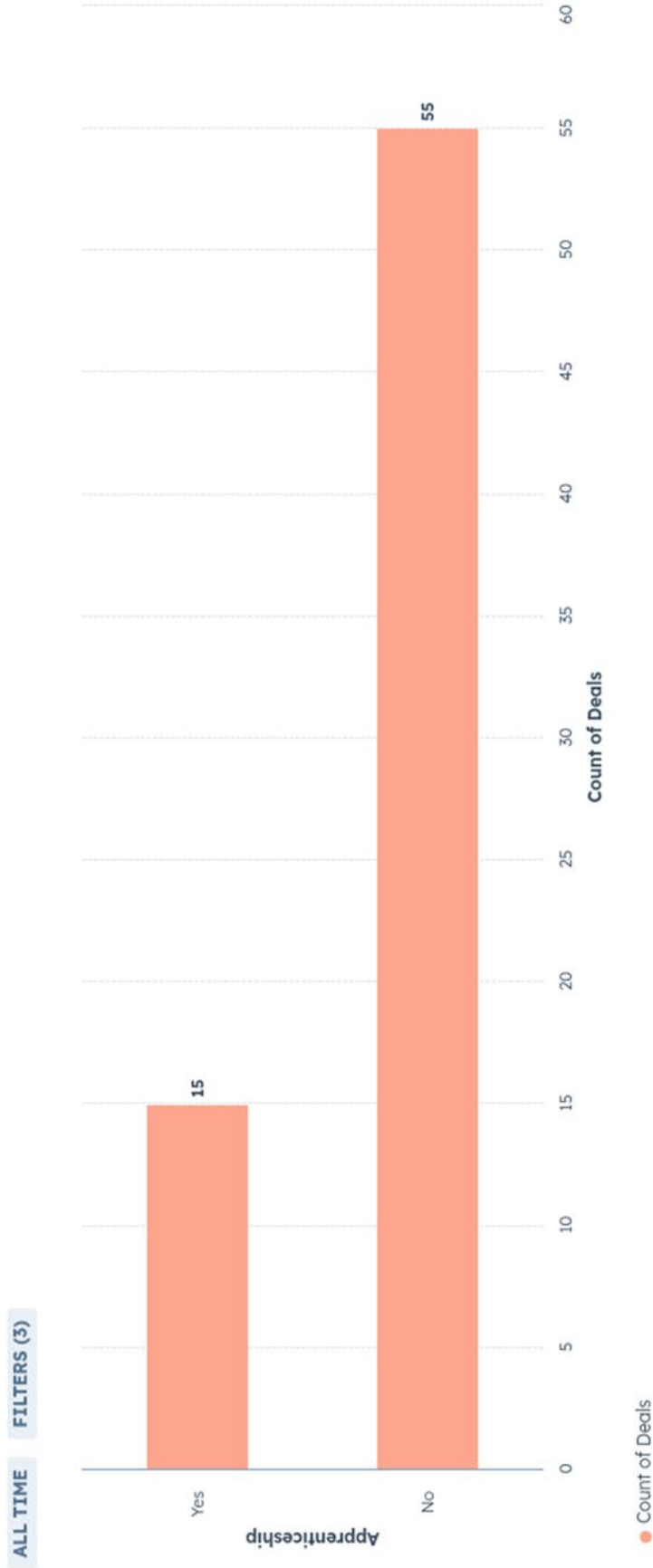


Outcomes



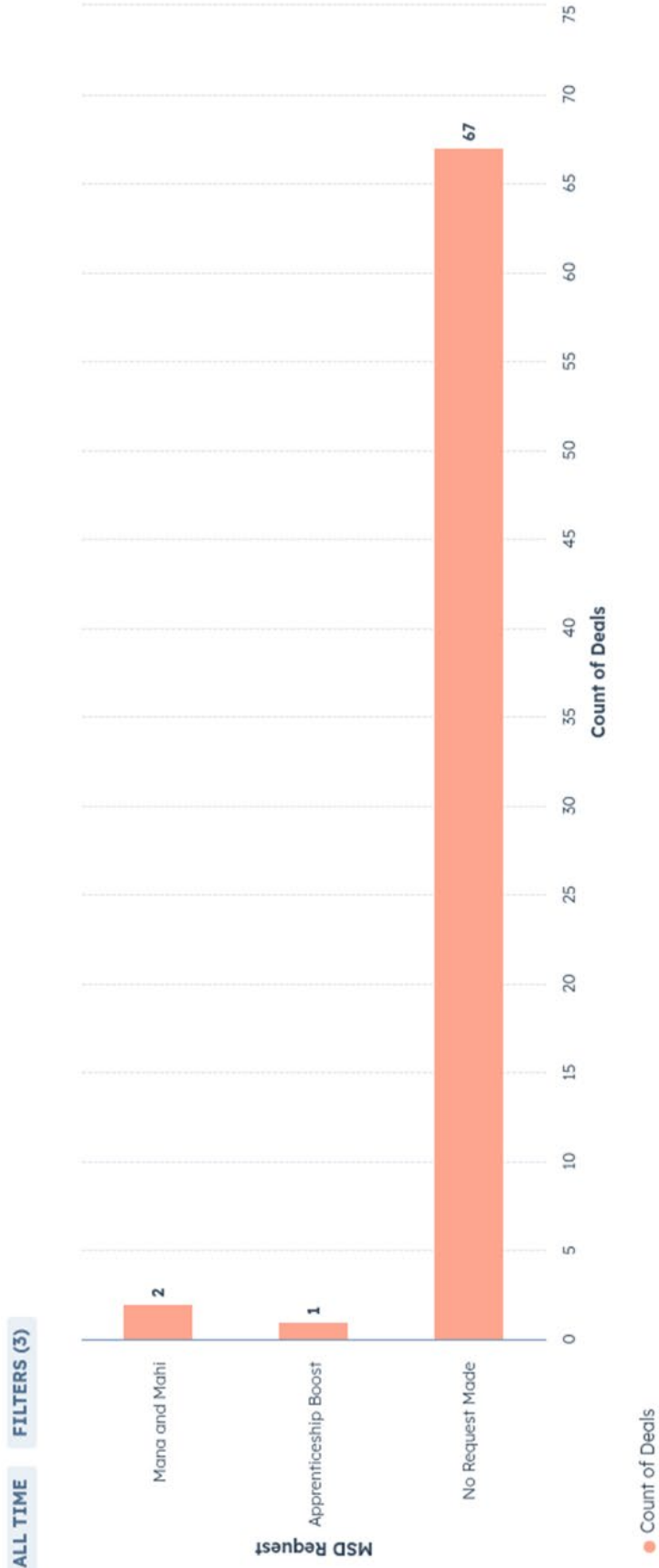
Apprenticeships

No. of apprenticeship placements 24/25



MSD Support

What request for MSD support for a placement was made 24/25



Placements by Industry

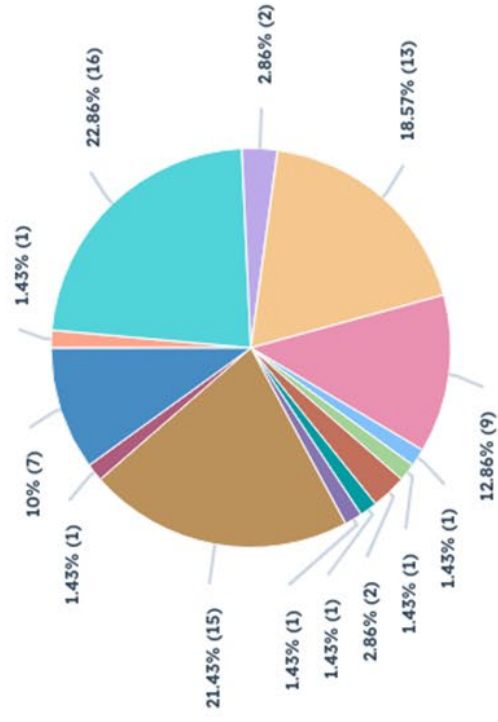
No. of all job placements by industry 24/25

ALL TIME FILTERS (3)

- Administration, Business Support
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery
- Primary Industries, Farming
- Conservation
- Construction
- Government

1/3

Total Count of Deals: 70



Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

Open Minutes

Commencing:	Thursday 6 March 2025, 9:30 AM
Venue:	Rotorua Lakes Council, Council Chambers, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua and via Zoom (Audio Visual Meeting)
Chairperson:	Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) - Mayor Tania Tapsell
Deputy Chairperson:	Whakatāne District Council (WDC) - Mayor Victor Luca
Members:	Kawerau District Council (KDC) - Mayor Faylene Tunui Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC) - Mayor David Moore Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) - Mayor James Denyer
In Attendance:	<p><u>Stand-in for Members:</u> Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) – Deputy Chair Jane Nees, Tauranga City Council (TCC) – Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular</p> <p><u>Councillors:</u> RLC - Cr Conan O'Brien, TCC – Cr Glen Crowther</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> Stace Lewer - ŌDC Chief Executive; Andrew Moraes - RLC Chief Executive; Steven Perdia - WDC Chief Executive; Chris Ingle - BOPRC General Manager Integrated Catchments; Nic Johansson - TCC General Manager Infrastructure, BOPRC: Nic Newman - Climate Change Programme Manager (via Zoom), Dean Howie- Programme Manager Regional Economic Development, Tone Nerdrum Smith - Committee Advisor, TCC: Cayley McLean - Team Leader: Waste Planning and Projects</p>
Apologies:	BOPRC - Chairman Doug Leeder, TCC - Mayor Mahé Drysdale, TDC - Mayor David Trewavas, BOPRC Fiona McTavish -BOPRC Chief Executive; Julie Gardyne - TDC Chief Executive; Morgan Godfery - KDC Chief Executive; Marty Grenfell - TCC Chief Executive; John Holyoake - WBOPDC Chief Executive

Mayor Tania Tapsell reminded those present that this hui was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council website [Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Public Meeting - 6 March 2025](#).

1. Opening Karakia

A karakia was provided by Mayor Tania Tapsell.

2. Apologies

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Chairman Doug Leeder, Tauranga City Council - Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Taupo District Council - Mayor David Trewavas, Fiona McTavish - Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chief Executive; Julie Gardyne - Taupo District Council Chief Executive; Morgan Godfery - Kawerau District Council Chief Executive tendered at the meeting.

Tunui/Scoular
CARRIED

3. Minutes

Minutes to be Confirmed

3.1 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 12 December 2024

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 12 December 2024 as a true and correct record.

Tapsell/Moore
CARRIED

4. Reports

Information Only

4.1 Report to Mayoral Forum - Regional Climate Change Update - 6 March 2025

Chris Ingle – General Manager Integrated Catchments briefly introduced the report, which was then presented by Nic Newman - Climate Change Programme Manager (via Zoom).

Key Points:

- Noted that this report had been prepared by WBOPDC staff and endorsed by BOPRC
- Recognised the positive, cross-council collaboration, which was generating innovation in the climate change space.

Key Points - Members:

- Expressed concern regarding the lack of direction from central government on the climate change adaption legislation

- Recognised the rapid climate changes currently occurring worldwide and queried whether the Bay of Plenty region was adequately prepared/able to quickly adapt as required
- Well-developed and robust community based/grassroot climate adaption practices were essential to achieve resilience
- Social/cultural/environmental wellbeings were all interlinked
- Wide reaching and relevant educational initiatives were a critical component of climate change adaption
- Queried if cross regional discussions were occurring regarding opportunities for councils to work together and share resources.

Key Points - Staff:

- A national adaption framework was being progressed, and should identify the roles of local government; funding avenues; incentives; as well as provision of high level/detailed information at a national level
- Affordability in climate change adaption was a recognised and real consideration
- There were a number of collaborations between councils on various workstreams, e.g. solid waste, which supported the work undertaken with regards to climate change adaption
- Recognised the robust discussions at staff level between councils regarding the benefits and importance of close co-operation.

Action Point:

- Regional Adaptation Working Group to contact the Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change to emphasise the importance of prioritising the development of the national Adaptation Framework.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Report to Mayoral Forum - Regional Climate Change Update - 6 March 2025.**

**Denyer/Nees
CARRIED**

4.2 Cross-Regional Waste Strategy

Presented by: Cayley McLean - Team Leader: Waste Planning and Projects, TCC
and Dean Howie, Programme Manager - Regional Economic
Development, BOPRC

Key Points:

- Provided a background for the report and the progress to date
- Noted that some councils had, at a more operational level, decided to participate in the workstream, whereas other councils had indicated a desire to further discuss with the elected members/seek a council decision on the preferred option
- Five out of 16 councils across two regions (Bay of Plenty and Waikato) had signed up to co-operate

- Cost escalations had placed Te Maunga Redevelopment Project on hold in 2023
- The term 'governance group' within the report should instead be 'steering group' to more accurately distinguish between staff and elected members.

Key Points - Members:

- Drew attention to previous Mayoral Forum discussions regarding the Strategy and the appetite for a more joint approach to waste management than what was currently occurring
- Expressed concern that the end-of life tires project did not appear to have been progressed, despite being previously supported to form part of the considerations in the development of the Strategy
- Recognised the value a cross-regional strategy in waste management/reduction would add
- Highlighted the innovative thinking in iwi adaptation in the climate change and waste management space
- BOPRC had reviewed existing iwi/hapū management plans as part of proactive engagement in the waste management space.

Action Point:

- Staff to liaise with Mayor Luca, WDC regarding previous discussion/direction/information provided regarding end-of-life tire technology
- Staff to provide direction to Mayoral Forum regarding any consideration given to this technology and to include such considerations in the overall strategy, including timeframes.

Resolved**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Cross-Regional Waste Strategy.**

**Tapsell/Tunui
CARRIED**

5. Public Excluded Section**Resolved****Resolution to exclude the public**

- 1 Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting as set out below:**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public
5.1	Public Excluded Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 12 December 2024	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	To remain in public excluded.
5.2	Local Water Done Well Updates	Withholding the information is necessary to enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	48(1)(a)(i) Section 7 (2)(i).	To remain in public excluded.

**Tunui/Tapsell
CARRIED**

6. Closing Karakia

A karakia was provided by Mayor Tania Tapsell.

12.02 pm – the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED DATE

Rotorua Lakes Council - Mayor Tania Tapsell
Chairperson, Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee

Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Friday 28 March 2025, 10:00am
- Venue:** Rotorua Lakes Council Chambers, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua and via Zoom (Audio Visual Meeting)
- Chairperson:** Mayor Faylene Tunui – Kawerau District Council
- Deputy Chairperson:** Mayor James Denyer - Western Bay of Plenty District Council
- Members:**
- Kawerau District Council (KDC):** Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika (Alternate)
 - Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC):** Mayor David Moore
 - Tauranga City Council (TCC):** Mayor Mahé Drysdale; Cr Kevin Schuler – Alternate (via Zoom)
 - Whakatāne District Council (WDC):** Mayor Victor Luca, Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink (Alternate)
 - Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC):** Mayor Tania Tapsell
 - Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC):** Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour (Alternate) (via Zoom – from 11:00am)
 - National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA):** Mike Gillooly, Team Leader, Regional Emergency Management Advisors
- In Attendance:**
- Emergency Management Bay of Plenty (EMBOP):** Mark Crowe - Director; Chris Brewer - Manager, Planning; Lisa Glass - Team Leader, Communications and Engagement; Julian Reweti - Principal Advisor, Recovery; James Jefferson - Principal Advisor, Emergency Management; Paul Bourton - Senior Advisor, Operations; Shell Brandt - Advisor, Planning; Andrea Thompson - Executive Assistant
 - TCC:** Paula Naude - Manager, Community Development and Emergency Management
 - RLC:** Bruce Horne - Lead for Emergency Capability and Resilience; Rajind Seneviratne - Emergency Management Officer
 - ODC:** Stace Lewer, Chief Executive (via Zoom)
 - Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC):** Fiona McTavish - Chair of Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) and Chief Executive; Hayley Sheridan - Legal Counsel, Merinda Pansegrouw - Committee Advisor

External: Jacqui Rolleston-Steed, Director – Regional Public Service Commission (via Zoom for item 8.1)

Apologies:

Cr Malcolm Campbell – BOPRC; Cr Ron Scott – Alternate, BOPRC; Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular – Alternate, TCC

Declaration of Public Recording

Committee members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the BOPRC website and archived for a period of three years: [Civil Defence Emergency Management Group - 28 March 2025](#)

Opening Karakia

Provided by: Chris Brewer – EMBOP Manager, Planning.

1. Apologies

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Accepts the apologies from Cr Malcolm Campbell, Cr Ron Scott and Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, as tendered at the meeting.**

**Drysdale/Tapsell
CARRIED**

2. Items not on the Agenda

2.1 Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments - Rescindment of Local Controller

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Accepts the report Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments - Rescindment of Local Controller (item 7.1) for inclusion in this agenda and notes that the reason it cannot be deferred to the next meeting is to enable the powers vested in the Local Controller to be rescinded as soon as possible.**

**Denyer/Drysdale
CARRIED**

3. Order of Business

Item not on the agenda, item 7.1, “Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments- Rescindment of Local Controller”, was considered after item 6.5 as the last item in the Public Section.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Minutes

Minutes to be Confirmed

5.1 Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee Minutes - 13 December 2024

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. Confirms the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee Minutes - 13 December 2024 as a true and correct record.

Luca/Moore
CARRIED

6. Reports

6.1 Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments

Presented by: Mark Crowe - Director, EMBOP.

In response to Questions:

- Confirmed that current vacancies for Controller and Recovery Manager positions at territorial local authorities (TLAs) posed a significant risk/liability for councils: primarily due to the lack of capacity to respond effectively during emergencies and potential negative outcomes identified in post-event reviews
- Appointment of Controllers and Recovery Managers was a statutory obligation for councils
- Challenges relating to capacity/capability would be further considered as part of item 8.3, Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Training KPI Measurement.

Key Points - Members:

- Encouraged TLAs to have in-house conversations to prioritise the appointment of Controllers and Recovery Managers
- Acknowledged that emergency management responsibilities were secondary to primary roles within councils, presenting a challenge experienced throughout New Zealand.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report, Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments;

2. Approves the appointment of James Jefferson, Principal Advisor Emergency Management, Emergency Management Bay of Plenty as Alternative Group Controller for the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, as defined under s26(2) of the CDEM Act 2002;
3. Approves the appointment of Julian Reweti, Principal Advisor Recovery, Emergency Management Bay of Plenty as Group Recovery Manager for the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, as defined under s29(1) of the CDEM Act 2002;
4. Approves the appointment of Jacqui Rolleston-Steed, Director – Regional Public Service Commission – Bay of Plenty as Alternative Group Recovery Manager for the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, as defined under s29(2) of the CDEM Act 2002; and
5. Approves the rescindment of Janelle Coradine, as Group Recovery Manager for the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, as defined under s29(1) of the CDEM Act 2002.

Tapsell/Drysdale
CARRIED

6.2 Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Office Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report 2024 - 2025 (Q3)

Presented by: Chris Brewer – EMBOP Manager, Planning.

Key Points - Staff:

- Confirmed that all projects that had commenced were on track; remainder of projects scheduled to commence later in the financial year (Q3-Q4)
- No activities were at risk
- Future reports would be enhanced to include the percentage of project completion.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. **Receives the report, Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Office Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report 2024 - 20205 (Q3).**

Denyer/Tapsell
CARRIED

6.3 Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Training KPI Measurement

Presented by: Mark Crowe - Director, EMBOP.

Key Points - Staff:

- Reiterated the importance of appointing Controllers and Recovery Managers as statutory roles under legislation
- Following recent post event reviews, leadership roles had been identified as key risk areas for councils; not having key roles filled could leave councils exposed to unnecessary risk during response/recovery

- Elaborated on the appointment process/development pathway for each function
- Highlighted the deficit areas/the required number of appointed Controllers/Recovery Managers per council.

In Response to Questions:

- Provided an overview of the training process, highlighting its complexity and associated costs
- The primary matter was not the cost itself, but rather getting people started on the pathway and keeping them engaged
- Emphasised the importance of appointed Controllers/Recovery Managers having the necessary skills, knowledge, and exposure to be successful, as per the well-defined development pathway and its key components, as approved by the CDEM Group Joint Committee in 2024
- Confirmed that EMBOP covered the financial costs for courses to be attended by appointed Controllers/Recovery Managers as part of their development and training pathway. Costs for councils would be releasing staff/creating capacity in their daily roles to attend training/development
- The appointment of external Controllers/Recovery Managers by councils was permitted; however, it would be critical that appointees possessed the appropriate capacity, skills, and attributes to succeed in these roles.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Receives the report, Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Training KPI Measurement.**

**Drysdale/Luca
CARRIED**

Information Only

6.4 National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Update Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Joint Committee - 28 March 2025

Presented by: Mike Gillooly, Team Leader, Regional Emergency Management Advisors, NEMA.

Key Points – Mike Gillooly:

- Supported the comments/concerns raised regarding capability and capacity challenges in appointing Controllers/Recovery Managers – were important issues to consider; suggested that concerns be incorporated as part of councils' submissions to the Emergency Management Bill process
- New Emergency Management Bill: Cabinet paper was now publicly available on the NEMA website <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/legislation/emergency-management-bill>. NEMA invited input into the issues and options paper to feed into development of the public consultation document
- Bill would be closely linked to the Emergency Management System Improvement Programme (EMSIP), as the Bill would support delivery of some of the EMSIP actions.

Key Points - Members:

- Supported the idea of submitting jointly on the Emergency Management Bill as a region, as well as individual submissions by councils, with EMBOP preparing a submission on behalf of the CDEM Group Joint Committee
- The joint submission to the Emergency Management Bill to potentially cover matters relating to:
 - the financial system and related challenges
 - progressing technology/consideration of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool in the toolbox
- Highlighted the importance of having comprehensive response plans to address national supply chain disruptions.

In Response to Questions:

- Confirmed that the recently released Catastrophic Event Handbook was a blueprint to respond to severe disasters. It outlined roles and responsibilities by agency, across 11 workstreams in order to manage an All-of-Government response to catastrophic level events. As the next step, localised plans/resources (with a regional lens), were to be used by local councils' staff and elected members, and would be informed by the high-level guidelines
- Confirmed that central government had created a lead operational cyber security agency to enhance Aotearoa/New Zealand's ability to tackle emerging cyber security challenges. Encouraged local councils to establish internal policies and processes to ensure preparedness
- CDEM Resilience Fund: confirmed that five applications had been submitted for the Bay of Plenty region. Feedback on the outcome of these applications would be provided to Committee Members once received from NEMA.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Receives the report, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Update Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Joint Committee - 28 March 2025.**

**Tapsell/Denyer
CARRIED**

11:00 am – Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour entered the meeting (via Zoom)

6.5 Verbal Update: Director, Emergency Management Bay of Plenty

Presented by: Mark Crowe - Director, EMBOP.

Key Points – Mark Crowe:

- Bay 8 Programme
 - Bay of Plenty CDEM Group held its second residential training camp, Bay 8, in Kawerau on 16 March 2025
 - The Bay 8 Programme was designed to give participants an increased understanding of operating within a response environment, provide practical emergency training and provide a deeper understanding of CDEM to council employees across the region

- Included presentations from partner agencies, alongside various team discussions and workshops, tabletop exercises, and a full coordination center exercise to put theory into practice
- 22 Participants were involved; participant feedback as part of a 360 feedback process was very positive
- Tsunami Project update
 - GNS Science/Te Pū Ao were in the process of finalising the tsunami inundation report/data layers, which were due before the end of March 2025. A draft report and data layers were shared with EMBOP earlier this year for feedback and socialisation
 - Once received as a data set, the final outputs would be shared with coastal territorial local authorities in a timely manner
 - Next phase of the project would be to develop new tsunami evacuation zones for regions; as a collaboration between EMBOP, BOPRC and coastal territorial local authorities
- Update on Key Vacancies Management
 - Appointed Principal Advisor, James Jefferson
 - Manager Planning - was in the final stages of being filled
 - Chris Brewer had completed his tenure at EMBOP, would be returning to BOPRC.

In Response to Questions:

- Due date for finalisation of the develop of new tsunami evacuation zones for regions would be dependent on finalising the community engagement process
- Staff to consider/test the value and consistency of reporting on the training statistics for local councils' search and rescue teams at the Joint Committee level, particularly in the context of the New Zealand Response Teams' performance reporting to the Co-ordinating Executive Group. Updates on the Community Engagement Hubs initiative could potentially be included as part of the Director's update to the Joint Committee with the consent of the local councils.

Key Point - Members:

- Acknowledged recent positive feedback from a local councillor, noting that the outcomes of the Awatarariki Managed Retreat Programme had been successful, as the mitigations implemented had proved to be effective during a recent flooding event. Supported that the feedback/appreciation received from the Matatā community be shared with the Regional Transport Committee/NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Receives the report, Verbal Update: Director, Emergency Management Bay of Plenty.**

**Moore/Tapsell
CARRIED**

7. Consideration of Items not on the Agenda

7.1 Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments - Rescindment of Local Controller

Presented by: Mark Crowe - Director, EMBOP.

Key Points - Members:

- Expressed gratitude to Gary Allis for his 50 years of dedication and hard work as a Local Controller, his ongoing role in Civil Defence, and his significant contributions to the Western Bay of Plenty and the wider Bay of Plenty region
- Extended best wishes for his retirement.

Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. **Receives the report, Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Statutory Appointments - Rescindment of Local Controller;**
2. **Approves the rescindment of Gary Allis, as Local Controller for the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, as defined under s27(1) of the CDEM Act 2002.**

**Denyer/Tapsell
CARRIED**

8. Public Excluded Section

Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

- 1 **Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting as set out below:**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public
8.1	Public Excluded Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	To remain in public excluded.

	Group Joint Committee Minutes - 13 December 2024			
8.2	Bay of Plenty CDEM Whakaari/White Island Coronial Inquiry Update 28 March 2025	Withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	48(1)(a)(i) Section 7 (2)(g).	On CDEMG Chair and the Director EMBOP's approval.

**Drysdale/Moore
CARRIED**

Closing Karakia

Provided by: Chris Brewer – EMBOP Manager, Planning.

12:23pm – the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED

Mayor Faylene Tunui
Chairperson, Bay of Plenty Civil Defence
Emergency Management Group Joint Committee

Meeting Council

Meeting Date: 26 March 2025

Subject: Her Worship the Mayor's Report

File No. 101400

1 **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to outline meetings, functions and events that I have hosted, attended and/or participated in for the period Thursday, 20 February to Wednesday 19 March 2025.

February

- Thur 20
 - Regional Public Service Commission Kawerau Local Leadership Group Hui re: Council, Iwi and Central Government agencies working together for Kawerau, held at Ngāti Tūwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust Office
- Fri 21
 - Meeting with Foresta (NZ) Limited and Putauaki Trust re: Foresta Kawerau Stage 1 project proposal, held at Putauaki Trust Office
- Wed 26
 - Council Meeting, held in Council Chamber
 - Her Worship the Mayor's Report
 - Action Schedule
 - Annual Plan Performance for the six months ended 31 December 2024
 - Gambling Policy Review – Social Impact Statement and Policy Review Options
 - Receipt of Submissions, Hearing and Deliberations of the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw
 - Public Excluded Section
 - Local Water Done Well
 - Raw Pit Renewal
 - 2024/2025 Reseals Tender
 - EBOP Regional Deals Proposal
 - Unveiling of Mayoral Portrait, officiated by Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor, Te Haukākawa (Boycie) Te Rire.
 - Citizenship Ceremony with new citizens Morne De Lange, Arlene De Lange, Shelby De Lange, Cassidy De Lange and Jordan Lynn. Joined by East Coast National MP Dana Kirkpatrick.
- Thur 27
 - Oral submission in objection to the Treaty Principles Bill to the Justice Select Committee, via Zoom

March

- Mon 3
 - Meeting with Eastern BOP Mayors and Eastern Bridge Director re: Jiangxi Relationship, held at Whakatane District Council
- Wed 5
 - Council Briefing, held in Council Chamber
 - Activity Review for the Aquatic Centre Service
 - Rates Review Options LTP 2025-2034
- Thur 6
 - Meeting with Eastern BOP Mayors, Chair and CE's re: an Eastern BOP Regional Deal, held at Rotorua Lakes Council
 - Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum, held at Rotorua Lakes Council
 - Regional Climate Change Update
 - Cross-Regional Waste Strategy

- Public Excluded Section
 - Local Water Done Well Update[Agenda of Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum - Thursday, 6 March 2025](#)

- Fri 7 • Meeting with Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Deputy Chief Executive, Te Manawa Taki, Cath Cronin re: changes to Whakatane Hospital Obstetrics & Gynaecology Services and upcoming Kawerau Public meeting, via Teams

- Mon 10 • Meeting with NZ Police, Senior Sergeant Al Fenwick re: Kawerau Community Safety, held in Mayor's Office.

- Tues 11 • Attended Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Public Meeting re: changes to Whakatane Hospital Obstetrics & Gynaecology Services, held at the Little Theatre, Whakatane

- Wed 12 • Regulatory & Services Committee Meeting, held in Council Chamber
 - Monthly Report - Regulatory and Planning Services
 - Monthly Report - Finance and Corporate Services
 - Monthly Report - Operations and Services
 - Monthly Report - Economic and Community Development
 - Monthly Report – Communication and Engagement[Regulatory & Services Agenda 25.03.12.pdf](#)
- Attended Essity Geothermal Steam Upgrade Ceremony and 70 Year Celebration, held at Essity Kawerau
- Health NZ | Whatu Ora Public meeting re: changes to Whakatane Hospital Obstetrics & Gynaecology Services, held in Kawerau Town Hall

- Thur 13 • Opotiki and Kawerau meeting with Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Deputy Chief Executive Te Manawa Taki, Cath Cronin re: changes to Whakatane Hospital Obstetrics & Gynaecology Services and upcoming Opotiki Public meeting, held at Opotiki District Council
- Meeting with Opotiki Mayor and Deputy Mayor re: Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan
- Attended Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Public Meeting re: changes to Whakatane Hospital Obstetrics & Gynaecology Services changes, held at the Pavilion, Opotiki

- Fri 14 • CDEMG Joint Committee Agenda Planning meeting, held via Microsoft Teams
- Swearing In Ceremony for Kawerau Youth Council

- Sun 16 • Mihi Whakatau for Bay 8 (1. Emergency BOP, 2. Kawerau, 3. Opotiki, 4. Rotorua, 5. Tauranga City Council 6. Western Bay, 7. Whakatane 8. Regional Council), Civil Defence training with Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor, Te Haukākawa Te Rire, held at Firmin Lodge

- Tues 18 • Meeting with NZTA | Waka Kotahi Director of Regional Relationships, Andrew Corkill, re: meet and greet and Whakatane Hospital O&G 2025 situation, held in Mayor's Office

- Wed 19 • Elected Member Briefing, held in Council Chamber
 - Review of Council's Current Rate Remissions and Postponement Policies
 - Review of Revenue and Financing Policy
 - Adoption of the Draft Financial Contributions Policy for Consultation
 - Rates Review 2025-2026
- Meeting with Eastern BOP Mayors and Labour List MP, Hon Jo Luxton, held at Whakatane District Council

2 **Mayoral Correspondence**

- Mon 24/2 Invitation from Justice Select Committee to present an oral submission re: the Treaty Principles Bill on Thursday 27 February via Zoom.
- Wed 26/2 A message of comfort to the Community of Kawerau following the unexplained death in Kawerau.
- Fri 28/2 Email from Eastern BOP Mayors and CEs to East Coast National MP Dana Kirkpatrick and Minister for Regional Development, Shane Jones re: the Eastern Bay of Plenty Regional Deal Proposal.
- Tues 11/3 Invitation from East Coast National MP Dana Kirkpatrick to Eastern BOP Mayors, to join her and newly appointed Minister for Local Government, Hon Simon Watts on Friday, 30 May in Whakatane.
- Fri 14/3 Request for Support letter for Foresta re: Foresta Kawerau Stage 1 project.
Invitation to attend the TRENZ 2025 (NZ's largest international tourism business event bringing together hundreds of international travel buyers to meet with New Zealanders leading tourism operators and sellers) on Wednesday, 7 May at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre
- Mon 17/3 Invitation from East Coast National MP Dana Kirkpatrick to join her and Minister for Building and Construction, Hon Chris Penk on Friday, 28 March at the Comm, Whakatane.

3 **RECOMMENDATION**

That Her Worship the Mayor's report for the period Thursday, 20 February to Wednesday 19 March 2025, be received.



Faylene Tunui
Kahika | Mayor

Action Schedule

Meeting Date	Resolution / Action Requested	Action	Status	Comments	Estimated Date
OC 26.06.24	Activity Review for Economic Development Staff to return the report with additional information including the return on investment that Council makes to external partners and agencies.	ECDM	In Progress	Activity Review will be returned back to Council as part of Long Term Plan (LTP) process, with additional information as requested. Currently working through final stages and and dates of EBOP Economic Development Strategy with neighbour TAs. Aim is to have final draft tabled with EBOP EMs during April - May	April/May 2025
OC 26.06.24	Activity Review for Pensioner Housing Staff to return the report with additional information including history of the partnership between Council and Kawerau Social Services Trust (that operates Mountain View) and further detail on the implications of any future expansion plans. <u>R&S 16.10.24</u> Staff to provide a timeline for all Housing Developments.	C&EM	Timetable for upcoming workshop In Progress	Activity Review will be returned back to Council as part of Long Term Plan (LTP) process, with additional information as requested by Elected Members. Suitable timeframe for the activity review to be returned tbc. Timeline for the history of the housing development leading to Porritt Glade, will be provided as part of the S17A Activity Review for Pensioner Housing. An additional report will be provided with the history of other Council-led housing developments comprising Central Cove, Bell Street and Hine Te Ariki and Stoneham Park.	LTP process commences October 2024 April/May 2025 April/May 2025 April/May 2025

Meeting Date	Resolution / Action Requested	Action	Status	Comments	Estimated Date
OC 27.11.24	<p>Adoption of Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village Performance Report for year ended 30 June 2024</p> <p>Page 31 – Depreciation – Paragraph 5 – Elected Members have requested the correct spelling for “derecognised” in the Performance Report.</p> <p>Elected Members to be refreshed on Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village reporting and accounting principles through a meeting with Audit New Zealand.</p>	<p>C&EM</p> <p>GM, F&CS</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>	<p>Correct spelling has been added to the report.</p> <p>Working with Auditors on when they are likely to be at KDC on site.</p>	<p>August 2025</p>
R&S 11.12.24	<p>Monthly Report - Economic and Community Development</p> <p>Item 2 – Staff to provide clear communication to the community about how the permits for the Tarawera Falls work and that it is Māori Investments Limited that have made it available for access not Kawerau District Council.</p> <p>Staff to keep Elected Members updated on the outside basketball courts and skatepark progress.</p> <p><u>OC – 26.03.25</u></p> <p>Staff to provide designs created by the previous Youth Council for the skatepark and basketball area. This will be added to and developed on.</p>	<p>ECDM</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>	<p>Comms went out to the public on how permits for Tarawera Falls work and who makes it accessible.</p> <p>Staff coordinating with Tarawera High dates for tech software workshops for young people to produce concept designs</p> <p>Elected Members were sent a copy via email of the proposal for the Recreation Centre. Staff will show a video of the proposal for the skatepark and basketball court areas during the R&S on Wednesday 14 May.</p>	<p>April 2025</p>

Meeting Date	Resolution / Action Requested	Action	Status	Comments	Estimated Date
R&S 11.12.24	<p>Monthly Report – Communications and Engagement</p> <p>Staff to confirm whether the Porritt Glade AGM is open to the public.</p> <p>Staff to post a 'How to do a Request for Service to Council' on Council's social media as a refresher for the community.</p>	C&EM	<p>Completed</p> <p>In Progress</p>	<p>This process has been communicated via social media and in the Council Newsletter.</p> <p>The process for the community to request for service has been added to the regular rotation of messaging.</p>	Ongoing
OC 26.02.25	<p>Gambling Policy Review – Social Impact Statement and Policy Review Options.</p> <p>Staff to invite New Zealand Community Trust, Lion Foundation and Four Winds Foundation to discuss harm reduction and what is the investment to ensure that there is delegated resources.</p> <p>Staff to provide clarification on the organisation 'Tent Board', as it is listed in the New Zealand Community Trust grants to Kawerau District.</p> <p><u>OC – 26.03.25</u></p> <p>Staff to provide additional information about who Tent Board benefits or works with in the Community.</p>	<p>ECDM</p> <p>GM R&P</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p>	<p>Meetings have been coordinated with Lion Foundation and Four Winds Foundation for 14 May.</p> <p>Tent Board (The E Network Trust) is a charitable organisation based in Whakatane and provides bespoke support services to the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Areas of support include advice, operations, planning admin, marketing and funding support to help with the sustainability of community organisations. https://tent.org.nz/</p> <p>NZCT listed Tent Board as one of the many organisations they had funded through Regional and Multi Regional grants that benefit Kawerau.</p> <p>The grants date back July 2023 and May 2024 covering costs such as the event venue, sound, printing and event management costs. These events were both called "Meet the Locals Doing Great Things in Our Community".</p>	May 2025

R&S 16.04.25	Monthly Report - Operations and Services Staff to include in the May R&S report the capital costs for the infrastructure works that took place on Umukaraka Springs.	GM O&S	In progress	These were free events for the Eastern Bay of Plenty community to showcase local groups and community initiatives across the Eastern Bay. These events also promote volunteer roles and community events. To be added to the May report.
-----------------	--	-----------	-------------	---

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Reports\02 February 2025\25.02.26 R-Action Schedule-PM.docx

OC: Ordinary Council EC: Extraordinary Council A&R: Audit & Risk Committee R&S: Regulatory & Services Committee
GMF&CS: GM, Finance & Corporate Services GMO&S: GM, Operations & Services GMR&P: GM, Regulatory & Planning
C&EM: Communication & Engagement Manager ECDM: Economic & Community Development Manager

Completed Items

53

OC 18.12.24	Animal Shelter and Rehoming Facility Concepts Staff to seek advice from Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor, Te Haukākawa (Boycie) Te Rire about having an animal crematorium at the Animal Shelter and Rehoming Facility.	Council's Iwi Liaison & Cultural Advisor, Te Haukākawa (Boycie) Te Rire, inspected the proposed site of the animal crematorium at the Animal Shelter and Rehoming Facility on 1 April alongside the Mayor, Chief Executive, and GM, Operations & Services.		
R&S 12.03.25	Monthly Report - Economic and Community Development Staff to follow up with previous senior youth councillors as to why they have not reapplied to take part in this year's Youth Council. Staff to send a summary to Elected Members of the Kawerau Youth Council training weekend of 28 to 30 March.	Eight previous members did not reapply, two have spoken with staff as to why they did not reapply, one stated he encouraged his younger sister to apply, and she was sworn in. Another member stated his time was done and wished to do new things, he encouraged two new members to apply, and they were sworn in. Elected Members received the draft programme from staff, and final changes were being made to the programme.		

OC 26.03.25	<p>Public Forum – Andre van Schalkwyk</p> <p>Chief Executive Officer to advise Elected Members if the 23 recordings of Mr van Schalkwyk's complaints were received.</p> <p>Staff to have continuous communication with Mr van Schalkwyk regarding this.</p>	<p>Mr van Schalwyk's recordings were received as text messages to the CEO's Council phone. Other recordings have been received via informal mechanisms.</p>
A&R 10.02.25	<p>Audit and Risk Review Timetable from February 2025 to December 2025</p> <p>Staff to remove the "Performance report 31 December 2024" from the Audit & Risk Committee Meetings and Review Schedule.</p> <p>Staff to include a progress report on Audit Management with recommendation points to be added to the Schedule.</p>	<p>For the April Audit and Risk meeting staff reported on the progress made with the Audit Management recommendations as requested.</p>
A&R 07.04.25	<p>Update on Audit Management for the year ended 30 June 2024</p> <p>Staff were asked to make the following additions to the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 26 – Add "or Chief Executive Officer" as someone that can approve all Ozone access forms. • Page 27 – Add that the disposal of assets are approved by the Chief Executive Officer and Group Manager Operations and Services. 	<p>The procedures approval processes for Ozone Forms and disposals of assets have been updated to include that the Chief Executive can also approve these documents.</p>

A&R 07.04.25	<p>Local Water Done Well – risk profile for 2025</p> <p>Staff were asked to make the following additions to the risk profile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add “A loss of Community Trust with our water services delivery”. • Add “Explaining something to Kawerau that was not of this Council’s making”. • Another risk is, between the Department of Internal Affairs and Commerce Commission, we can be forced into a multi model. 	<p>These additions were received and have been incorporated into the next risk profile which will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on Monday 9 June.</p>
R&S 16.04.25	<p>Monthly Report - Regulatory and Planning Services</p> <p>Staff to check if the Emergency Management Bill is open to the public for submissions.</p>	<p>The Bill is open for public submissions to the Emergency Management Agency. The Bill has not been introduced to Parliament so it is not yet open for Select Committee submissions.</p>
R&S 16.04.25	<p>Monthly Report – Finance and Corporate Services</p> <p>Staff to inform the community to call the afterhours number for all dog-related complaints and queries instead of using Antenno.</p>	<p>This item has been added to the regular rotation of messaging.</p>

Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: 30 April 2025

Subject: Dog Registration Fees 2025/26

File No.: 213100

1 **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to set the dog registration fees for the 2025/26 financial year in accordance with Council's policy.

2 **Background**

The proposed expenditure and revenue for dog control and dog registration activities for 2025/26:

Dog Control Activity – direct costs	\$318,185
Overheads (including pound costs)	<u>\$171,390</u>
	\$489,575
Dog registration – direct costs	\$43,620
Overheads	<u>\$20,750</u>
	\$64,370
Total cost Dog Control Activity	\$553,945
Revenue	
Registration Fees	\$71,900
Infringements	\$10,270
Rates	<u>\$471,775</u>
Total Income Dog Control Activity	\$553,945

Dog owners are funding 13% of total costs while ratepayers fund the balance 87%.

Some ratepayers (particularly those that don't own dogs) feel that a greater percentage of these costs should be paid for by owners and not ratepayers as dog owners cause the need for this activity (they are exacerbators).

The following are the dog registration fees for 2024/25 (including GST):

Neutered Dog	\$42.00
Entire Dog	\$84.00
Late payment penalty	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (when dog is removed from the owner's property)	\$95.00
Fee for first impounding	\$95.00
Fee for second impounding	\$130.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$168.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$13.00
Microchipping Fee	\$18.00
Replacement Tag Fee	\$6.50
Rehoming Fee	\$13.00

Previously, it had been Council's policy to keep the dog fees low to make the cost of registration affordable and encourage all dog owners to register their dogs.

Council, the last two financial years, has decided to increase the fees and charges annually by inflation to avoid significant increases in one year. The annual inflation rate to 31 March 2025 is 2.5%. Inflation continues to impact Council's expenditure including personnel costs, which has previously been much higher.

If Council was to increase the fees by the annual inflation rate to 31 March 2025 (2.5%), the fees would be:

Neutered Dog	\$43.00
Entire Dog	\$86.00
Late payment penalty	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (when dog is removed from the owner's property)	\$97.00
Fee for first impounding	\$97.00
Fee for second impounding	\$133.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$172.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$13.50
Microchipping Fee	\$18.50
Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.00
Rehoming Fee	\$13.50

Alternatively, Council could increase the dog registration fees by a greater amount to recognise that dog owners should pay more towards the costs of the dog control activity, and also registration fees are lower than all neighbouring councils.

Council is required to adopt the 2025/26 dog fees and charges prior to the commencement of the year, as well as advertise the fees and charges in June.

The following table lists the dog fees and charges for other Bay of Plenty councils for 2024/25:

Councils	Ōpōtiki	Whakatāne	Rotorua	Tauranga	WBOP	Taupō
Neutered	\$58.00	\$65.00	\$110.25	\$125.00 Normal	\$90.00	\$95.00
Entire	\$120.00	\$95.00	\$121.28	\$187.50 Dangerous	\$120.00	\$110.00
Seizure fee (2nd seizure)	\$100.00	No Fee	\$60.70	\$112.00	1 st \$120.00 2 nd \$220.00	No Fee
Microchipping	\$25.00	\$17.50	\$33.08	\$32.00	\$35.00	\$30.00
Impound Fees						
– First	\$60.00	\$67.00	\$90.60	\$104.00*	\$130.00*	\$200.00*
-Second	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$190.80	\$149.00	\$220.00*	\$200.00
-Third	\$150.00	\$135.00	\$215.00	**\$214.00	\$220.00	\$155.00
Sustenance	\$12.50	\$8.50	\$16.60	\$13.00	\$17.50	\$20.00

*Lower fee if dog registered ** Fourth and subsequent = \$298.00

NB Some of these councils also have a reduced fee for working and/or rural dogs.

3 Options for 2025/26

The following are possible options for the 2025/26 dog fees and charges:

- 3.1 Keep the fees and charges for 2025/26 the same as 2024/25. This option would result in revenue from registration fees of around \$70,150.
- 3.2 Increase the current dog registration fees by 2.5% (annual inflation to 31 March 2025). This would result in a further \$1,750 of fee revenue compared to 2024/25

	Fees 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Neutered Dog	\$42.00	\$43.00
Entire Dog	\$84.00	\$86.00
Late payment penalty – Applied 2 August 2024 – 50% addition to the fee charged		
Seizure Fee (at the Dog Control Officer's discretion)	\$95.00	\$97.00
Fee for first impounding	\$95.00	\$97.00
Fee for second impounding	\$130.00	\$133.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$168.00	\$172.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$13.00	\$13.50
Microchipping Fee	\$18.00	\$18.50
Replacement Tag Fee	\$6.50	\$7.00
Rehoming Fee	\$13.00	\$13.50

Kawerau's dog registration fees are currently lower than all other councils in the Bay of Plenty, but any increase in fees will be a disincentive for dog owners to register their dogs.

For the 2025/26 budget the projected revenue for the dog registration activity has been based on the fees and charges being increased by inflation to \$71,900.

4 Policy and Plan Considerations

The Revenue and Financing Policy states all dog registration activity costs (100%) and 10% of the dog control activity costs are recovered from users by way of fees and charges. The revenue recovered from users is lower than the percentages per the Revenue and Financing Policy at 5%. To reach 10% recovered dog activity costs, the registration fees income would need to increase a further \$26k. The percentages of user funding could be updated in the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy to be 5% or Council could retain at 10% with the intention to move towards higher fees.

5 Financial Considerations

If Council adopts option 3.2, this is consistent with the current budget as prepared in the Long Term Plan, with total fees and charges of \$71,900. If Council adopts option 3.1 this would increase the rates requirement by \$1,750 due to lower fees and charges to fund the Dog Control activity.

6 Legal Considerations

There are no known legal obligations that would prevent Council from adopting the recommendations. The fees recommended below are in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report "Dog Registration Fees 2025/26" be received.
2. That Council sets the Dog Registration fees for 2025/26 as follows (2.5%):

Neutered Dog	\$43.00
Entire Dog	\$86.00
Late payment penalty-applied 2 August 2025	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (at the Dog Control Officer's discretion)	\$97.00
Fee for first impounding	\$97.00
Fee for second impounding	\$133.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$172.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$13.50
Microchipping Fee	\$18.50

Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.00
Rehoming Fee	\$13.50



Lee-Anne Butler CA, BMS
Group Manager, Finance & Corporate Services



Michaela Glaspey
Group Manager, Regulatory & Planning

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Reports\04 April 2025\IR-Council Dog Registration fees 2025-2026 - LAB 2025-04-30.doc

Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: 30 April 2025

Subject: **Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy Refresh**

File No: 309101

1 Purpose

This report seeks a resolution from Council to adopt the attached Economic Development Strategy Refresh for the Eastern Bay of Plenty, known as the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), prepared as a collaboration between Kawerau District Council, Ōpōtiki District Council, Whakatāne District Council, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council (the partnering Councils).

2 Background

In 2017 the *Eastern Bay – Beyond Today and Implementation Plan* was adopted by partnering Councils. This document outlined the 30-50 year economic development strategic aim for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. This strategy was a priority document to attract central government funding into the region.

By 2020 the strategy had successfully received \$250 million of direct investment via the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) and over \$400 million of total investment across the EBOP projects.

Kawerau projects¹ were successfully awarded PGF investment towards:

- Kawerau Container Terminal (KCT Co Limited) - \$9.6 million
- Putauaki Trust roading extension and infrastructure (Putauaki Trust) - \$7.5 million
- Kawerau Off-Highway Road (Sequal Lumber Ltd) - \$2.8 million

It was identified in June 2023 that with several key projects either near or reached completion, and other strategic focus areas impacted by external forces, a refresh of the sub-regional REDS was a matter of urgency.

The approach to the refresh began with a framework designed to coordinate economic activity and foster greater prosperity and wellbeing across the sub- region.

The drafted purpose was to '*unlock resilient economic development for the Eastern Bay of Plenty*' and the vision for 2055 was that '*the region will be an attractive place*

¹ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/199-million-pgf-kawerau>

to visit, work and live, with flourishing communities and thriving natural and built environments’.

Initially the refresh project was coordinated by Toi EDA but since mid-2024, the three district councils have been leading this work and have shared the cost proportionally according to population.

A REDS draft version was briefed in September 2024 with the partnering Councils, and then circulated for feedback with businesses and Iwi stakeholders. The timeline included below is a brief summary of the progress made to date.

A summary of feedback from across the EBOP is provided as Appendix A in this report. This summary formulated the attached and formatted version of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy (known as REDS) and the focus point for discussion and adoption by EBOP partnering Councils.

To preserve commercial sensitivity, the individual feedback is not attached to this report but will instead be circulated to Elected Members separately.

Feedback from local businesses

After the Council briefing in September 2024 Elected Members directed staff to re-engage in consultation with local businesses. Staff provided the draft REDS to 23 local businesses with an accompanying cover letter and detailed questions including a survey link as well as an offer to meet in person, online or over the phone. This offer was to help accommodate the time-short business sector. In summary:

- 23 Kawerau-based businesses received the formal request to provide feedback on the draft REDS
- 7 completed the detailed online survey
- 4 provided email feedback of different length and detail
- 2 provided feedback via phone or in person
- 10 businesses did not provide feedback
- The total feedback rate was 56%

The Chief Executive also sought informal feedback from 4 hospitality businesses in the CBD.

The Kawerau District achieved the highest feedback rate of the partnering Councils with formal feedback received from iwi-owned business, the wood sector, and the energy sector.

Timeline

March 2024	Formation of the EBOP REDS Project Team and SteerCo
March – July 2024	Strategy Review & Development phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDS Project Team meet weekly 26 March to 18 June • SteerCo hui #1- 16 April (Whakatāne with CE attendance) • SteerCo hui #2 – 5 May (Kawerau with CE and Mayoral attendance) • SteerCo hui #3 – 4 July (Ōpōtiki with CE and Mayoral attendance)
September 2024	DRAFT REDS received and circulated with Elected Members Elected Members directed staff to consult with key existing businesses.
October - December 2024	DRAFT REDS socialised across EBOP industry / business / Iwi for feedback
January 2025	Feedback compiled and provided to Polis Consulting for integration into a final draft.
February 2025	Two-page feedback summary and final draft received from Polis Consulting, with amendments based on feedback Draft REDS included in Regional Deal light-touch proposal
March 2025	EBOP Economic Development Managers review draft REDS with minor additional amendments made
April/May 2025	EBOP Council meetings – final draft of REDS presented to EBOP Elected Members for adoption at their respective Councils. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 29 April: Draft REDS presented to Ōpōtiki District Council for adoption - 30 April: Draft REDS presented to Kawerau District Council for adoption

3 Options

Option 1 Adopt the Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy Refresh – Recommended option

Advantages

- Enables each district to move forward with local economic development initiatives
- Supports future efforts for collaborative investment campaigns
- Enables Kawerau Iwi, businesses and housing development projects to leverage off the strategy to demonstrate strategic alignment (to investors and central government)

Disadvantages

- No disadvantages have been identified

Option 2 DO NOT adopt the Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy Refresh

Advantages

- No advantages have been identified

Disadvantages

- Prevents the development of regionally-aligned local economic development initiatives
- May prevent future efforts for collaborative investment campaigns

4 Policy and Plan Considerations

The REDS strategically aligns with the Eastern Bay Spatial plan and a draft version submitted with the Regional Deals Light-Touch proposal.

For Kawerau industry it aligns with a focus on decarbonisation and renewable energy (including both geothermal energy and bio-energy).

5 Legal Considerations

There are no legal implications.

6 Financial Considerations

There are no budget considerations associated with the recommendations of this report. Costs for development of the strategy have been incurred and settled.

7 Significance and Engagement

Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken in the preparation of the strategy refresh. This was solidified with robust feedback on the draft REDS provided by stakeholders.

No future engagement is anticipated until implementation actions are identified.

8 Conclusion / Summary

The refreshed Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy commenced in 2023, and is now complete after engagement with the Eastern Bay communities and industry stakeholders. The strategy is based on an Economic Development Framework that aligns and coordinates economic activity across the sub-region.

The framework sets out why economic development matters, what to focus on, and how to unlock growth.

The strategy sets the scene for the development of a Kawerau Economic Development Strategy over the next 12 months. Both Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council indicate they will seek to develop local economic development strategies to better enable the strategic direction identified in REDS. It is recommended Kawerau District Council also formally confirms its intention to develop a local economic development strategy. This strategy has been budgeted for in financial year 2025/2026.

9 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report “Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy Refresh” be received.
2. That delegation be granted to the Chief Executive Officer to enact editorial amendments to the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) to reflect changes identified by Elected Members during the adoption discussion.
3. That the adopted REDS be provided to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to supersede the draft REDS submitted as part of the Regional Deals Light-Touch proposal.
4. That the adopted REDS be circulated with Kawerau-based stakeholders.
5. That Council authorises the development of a local Kawerau-based Economic Development Strategy.



Lee Corbett Barton

Economic & Community Development Manager

Kdc Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Reports\04 April 2025\R-Ebop Economic Development Refresh _Reds 2025-04-30.Docx

Overall:

- Embed a clearer, more positive, all-of-EBOP narrative.

Executive summary:

- Edit the executive summary to weave a stronger all-of-EBOP narrative.
 - Shorten and lighten mention of constraints in 1st, 4th and 5th paragraphs
 - Mention existing industries which underpin the EBOP's current economic base.
- Expand the second paragraph to emphasise that the EBOP single biggest winner from PGF.
- Edit the 7th and 8th paragraphs to emphasise the collective value of this strategy—success in one district improves intraregional economic development. Shared strategy, shared success.
- Separate to the purpose of this strategy (9th paragraph), include the purpose of this document, as a shared blueprint for medium- and long-term growth in the Eastern Bay.
- 11th paragraph: edit to emphasise all-of-EBOP narrative.
- Signpost the summary of the strategy clearer than saying 'by 2050'.
- In the 3rd to last paragraph, expand the point on time spent to mention that this has been a time-bound and streamlined process to align with the spatial plan and prepare the subregion for emerging funding opportunities.

Introduction:**The power of economic development:**

- Mention the value of a cluster approach (connecting businesses, innovators, and skills providers) to strengthen locational and competitive advantages within the Eastern Bay.
- Include mention of the EBOP's existing economic base, including industries such as:
 - Horticulture (world-class farmland and capability, kiwifruit expansion potential around Te Kaha, blueberries etc.)
 - Aquaculture
 - Renewable energy (geothermal, solar, hydro)
 - Tourism and eco-tourism including cultural experiences, farm stays, and recreational fishing
 - Manufacturing (boat building, packaging, chemical, metal fabrication manufacturing and many others)
 - Forestry and wood processing sector
 - Hospitality, retail, and professional services
 - Tertiary education

- Expand narrative that these regionally significant sectors, like the focus areas, are positioned for growth and will similarly benefit from alleviating the shared constraints to economic development.

Since 2018: Wins and headwinds:

- High-value horticulture:
 - Expand on the final sentence—employment pathways and partnerships required to realise community benefits.
 - Note that Ōpōtiki has particularly fertile land and potential for expansion, particularly on Māori land.
 - Potential for synchronised seasonal employment between horticulture and aquaculture.
- Manufacturing:
 - Note that Whakatāne is home to several manufacturers who are expanding operations and moving into higher value advanced manufacturing. Alleviating workforce, transport, and capital constraints can further this growth.

The Economic Development Framework: Overview**Purpose & Vision**

- Add footnote re: 'why 2050?'. 2050 was selected as the target time horizon to embed a long-term strategic economic direction for the Eastern Bay, in line with the Spatial Plan. The constraints to growth—housing, transport and connectivity, workforce development, and capital—are long-term challenges that require sustained effort to alleviate. A longer timeframe means we can implement change while allowing economic benefits to emerge progressively across the subregion in both the medium and long term. This approach balances urgency with the persistence needed to create a resilient, thriving economy for the Eastern Bay.

Focus Areas:**Ōpōtiki:**

- Note in Vision the potential for expansion of sustainable horticulture and agriculture in the district, particularly on Māori land.

Kawerau:

- Note in the reasoning that Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau remains a cornerstone for furthering local

advantage and development opportunity in Kawerau.

- Make the value of the wood sector clearer as the anchor sector of the industrial hub. Note that geothermal energy generation is a symbiotic sector that supports the wood sector's expansion and transition toward value-added, greener lumber products.
- Raise the prominence of forestry and energy specialist excellence skills in the area.
- Note the potential for expansion into bioenergy (biofuels, biogases) depending on community direction.
- Note that geothermal process heat (separate to geothermal power) holds opportunities for supporting Kawerau's horticulture sector.

Whakatāne:

- Reword the opportunity area for Whakatāne. Note that Whakatāne is already the economic, commercial, and residential heart of the Eastern Bay—deepening this advantage will strengthen economic development locally and across the Bay. As the EBOP's most diversified local economy, Whakatāne is positioned to advance and benefit from industrial development across the Eastern Bay.
- Note Whakatāne as the tourism centre of the EBOP and the gateway to the EBOP's gateway to the growth and trade of the Golden Triangle.
- Raise the stated value of tertiary education providers underpinning skills development across the EBOP.

Constraints

Housing

- Note that, per the spatial plan, The Eastern Bay population will be growing to 2050. Housing existing, returning, and new residents requires closing existing housing gaps and keeping up with population growth rates. This necessitates coordinated, concerted efforts from councils, businesses, iwi, and central agencies.
- Interlinked impacts: Note that growing the local construction workforce is required to meet current and future construction demand.

Transport:

- Mention the EBOP's transport interconnectivity with Gisborne (Ōpōtiki), Tauranga (Whakatāne/Kawerau), and the Waikato.
- Note that improving connectivity within the EBOP supports connection to surrounding regions, improving the flow of goods, services, and people to and from the EBOP.

- Note coastal shipping as an option for moving goods across the Bay of Plenty.
- Add source for fact-box.

Workforce:

- Note the labour shortages faced across many sectors in the EBOP, coupled with an ageing population, makes workforce a key constraint.
- Note that retaining and attracting businesses is an important part of employment outcomes.
- Make clear the interconnectivity between housing (desirability of place), transport, and workforce. Note the ongoing risk of brain drain.

Implementing this strategy

- Note with more specificity that the next step is for the three districts to flesh out our own ED strategies which further this strategy, build on local advantages and progress local objectives.
- Suggest that aligned EBOP council regulations could be valuable in attracting and retaining businesses that operate across districts.

Appendix 2: Stakeholder roles in implementation

- Add more detail around the roles of listed stakeholders in implementation.
- Note that councils play a critical enabling role that comprises planning, regulation, consents and zoning. They also have a coordination role to facilitate engagement between themselves, businesses, and Māori partners. This is key to strategic alignment between stakeholders.
- Note that businesses as employers and industry participants have a critical strategic and implementation role in the economic development of the Eastern Bay. This includes small, medium, and large businesses.
- Change 'Iwi' to 'Māori'. Note that iwi, hapū, businesses, trusts, and Māori landowners are all key players in the development of the Eastern Bay's economy. Note that mana whenua partners embed knowledge, identity, capital, and innovation in the sub-region, and are critical to achieving a shared vision.



Economic Development Strategy Refresh for the Eastern Bay of Plenty

FINAL

March 2025

Key terms

- **Eastern Bay of Plenty.** A sub-region of the Bay of Plenty including the three district councils of Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne.
- **Toi EDA.** The Economic Development Agency for the Eastern Bay of Plenty.
- **Regional Infrastructure Fund (or RIF).** A \$1.2 billion fund to be administered over three years by Kānoa – the Regional, Economic Development and Investment Unit. Funding can be allocated to build new infrastructure or improve existing assets- boosting growth, resilience and productivity in the regions.¹
- **City & Regional Deals.** Initiatives for establishing long-term agreements between central and local government. The programme unlocks funding and resource opportunities to support councils to make improvements in their region, for example to roads, infrastructure, and the supply of quality housing.²

¹ Kānoa: Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (2024). Regional Infrastructure Fund. Retrieved from <https://www.growregions.govt.nz/new-funding/regional-infrastructure-fund>

² Infrastructure New Zealand (2023). Position Paper: City and Regional Deals- Laying the Foundations for Partnership. Retrieved from <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Regional-Deals>

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction.....	5
The Economic Development Framework: Overview	9
1) Purpose & Vision	10
2) Economic Development Success Criteria.....	11
3) Development Focus Areas	11
4) Cross-cutting constraints to address.....	18
Implementing this strategy.....	24
References	26
Appendix 1: How this strategy was developed	27
Appendix 2: Stakeholder roles in implementation	28

Executive Summary

Context

The Eastern Bay of Plenty is blessed with rich natural resources and a long, proud history, but it also faces industrial and socio-economic challenges.

In 2018-19, the sub-region successfully attracted substantial investment from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF), to foster development in aquaculture, high-value horticulture, manufacturing and tourism, which in turn would lift community wellbeing. The potential for catalysing these sectors led to the Eastern Bay attracting the most PGF investment of any region on a per capita basis.

Much has been achieved since then—including the redevelopment of the Ōpōtiki harbour which will foster growth in the aquaculture sector; the launch of New Zealand’s largest ‘by Māori for Māori’ blueberry farm in Te Teko; the creation of roading links and serviced sites at the Kawerau Putauaki Industrial Development; and the restoration of Whakatāne’s 100-year-old wharf. Kiwifruit production has expanded. The Whakatāne board mills have reinvested.

While the Eastern Bay has seen significant economic progress, some initiatives have faced setbacks. The 2019 Whakaari / White Island eruption deeply affected families and disrupted parts of the tourism sector. Norske Skog closed the paper manufacturing plant at Kawerau. The Putauaki Industrial Development continues to build momentum, but further investment in containerisation facilities and rail links are required to attract tenants. In Whakatāne, revitalisation efforts are ongoing, with a focus on strengthening the CBD as a vibrant commercial centre.

Across the sub-region, housing, transport, workforce availability, and access to capital remain important enablers for sustained development. It is challenging to attract suitably skilled staff; to house them in quality, affordable homes near their place of work; to efficiently connect businesses across the supply chain; and to attract private capital that could fund transformation. Collectively addressing these constraints will unlock greater opportunities for investment, and for business and community prosperity.

The wider landscape has also changed. A National-led Coalition Government came to power late in 2023, with new priorities and new programmes. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and challenging. Major iwi settlements are complete, meaning iwi are well-positioned to lead or support major economic initiatives.

It’s now time for a refreshed strategy for the Eastern Bay. This strategy has the same DNA as it did in 2018. It’s evidence-based, it has been collaboratively developed, and there is a focus on shared success across the sub-region (the districts of Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne). What differs is the long-term view—looking to the horizon of 2055.

The strategy is based on an Economic Development Framework that aligns and coordinates economic activity across the sub-region. The framework sets out *why* economic development matters, *what* to focus on, and *how* to unlock growth.

The purpose of this strategy is to unlock resilient economic development for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Economic growth for its own sake means little—but economic development can be a powerful lever for delivering social, cultural and environmental outcomes for local communities. This document is to be used as a shared blueprint to unlock resilient economic development in the medium- and long term.

Economic development will succeed if it fosters prosperity, resilience, regional competitiveness, strategic alignment between the three districts, and mahi tahi—or a collective response to shared constraints and opportunities.

Economic development will centre on three Development Focus Areas across the three districts. The intent is to accelerate economic development across the Eastern Bay by leveraging local advantages and existing specialisations, while taking a collective approach to common regional opportunities and challenges where appropriate and efficient to do so.

Eastern Bay of Plenty: Economic Development Strategy Summary

2055 Vision:

The Eastern Bay of Plenty will be a prosperous, high-productivity sub-region with flourishing communities and robust infrastructure. The Eastern Bay's diversified economy, underpinned by a strong bi-cultural foundation, supports nationally and internationally competitive industries, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive future that fosters social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

Ōpōtiki will become an aquaculture centre of national and international significance. The district has an opportunity to develop a multi-billion-dollar aquaculture industry, leveraging the \$200m+ of investments that have been made to date, including the recently launched Ōpōtiki harbour entrance and onshore processing facilities. The region could become a major player in the end-to-end supply chain, covering the growth, processing and export of aquaculture products to both domestic and international markets.

Kawerau will be a green industrial and energy hub, harnessing sustainable energy for use in innovative, tech-led manufacturing. The district has an established geothermal plant, strengths in forestry, and a modern industrial park that could all be leveraged to foster innovative, sustainable and high-value industries.

Whakatāne will amplify their role as the commercial and residential heart of the Eastern Bay- attracting people to live, work and play in the district. The centre will combine core social services, professional services, education and training providers, along with hospitality and placemaking ventures that enhance liveability. Manufacturing will continue to grow. Whakatāne will create cross-regional value, accelerating growth and development across the whole Eastern Bay.

In order to achieve these ambitions, and lift the wellbeing of locals, four cross-cutting constraints must be addressed – housing, transport and connectivity, workforce and capital.

- **Housing.** There is a lack of affordable, quality housing in places where locals and newcomers wish to settle. This makes it harder to attract and retain new talent from outside the region, and it limits local relocation, meaning talent becomes less mobile and businesses find it harder to recruit the personnel they need.
- **Transport and connectivity.** There are connectivity constraints within and around the Eastern Bay. Poor-quality roads, capacity limitations, and over-reliance on road networks for freight, all contribute to congestion, lower productivity and higher business costs.
- **Workforce.** There is misalignment between the local labour force and the roles available, meaning businesses have trouble sourcing the talent they need, and locals are hampered in their employment and career development. A strategic approach to workforce development, support and incentives is required.
- **Capital.** The sub-region has struggled to attract private capital which could accelerate industrial growth and economic development. Additional public funding would also help to address the cross-cutting constraints related to housing, transport and the workforce.

The sub-regional constraints are interrelated and interdependent, which means sequenced and coordinated action will be required to address them. The recommended pathway is to enable housing, then transport connectivity, which will support workforce capacity and skills development in turn – setting off a positive feedback loop. Capital serves as a central enabler.

Success in these areas looks like – the right number and mix of housing, in the right locations; a comprehensive and resilient transport network that improves connectivity within the sub-region and between regions; an engaged and skilled local workforce that can meet industry needs now and in future; and private industry successfully elevating to the next level of size and scale, supported by enabling public initiatives.

This strategy represents six months of input and effort from councils, iwi, business leaders, advisers and more.

But in many ways, it's only a starting point, and it is now time to convert strategic intentions into reality.

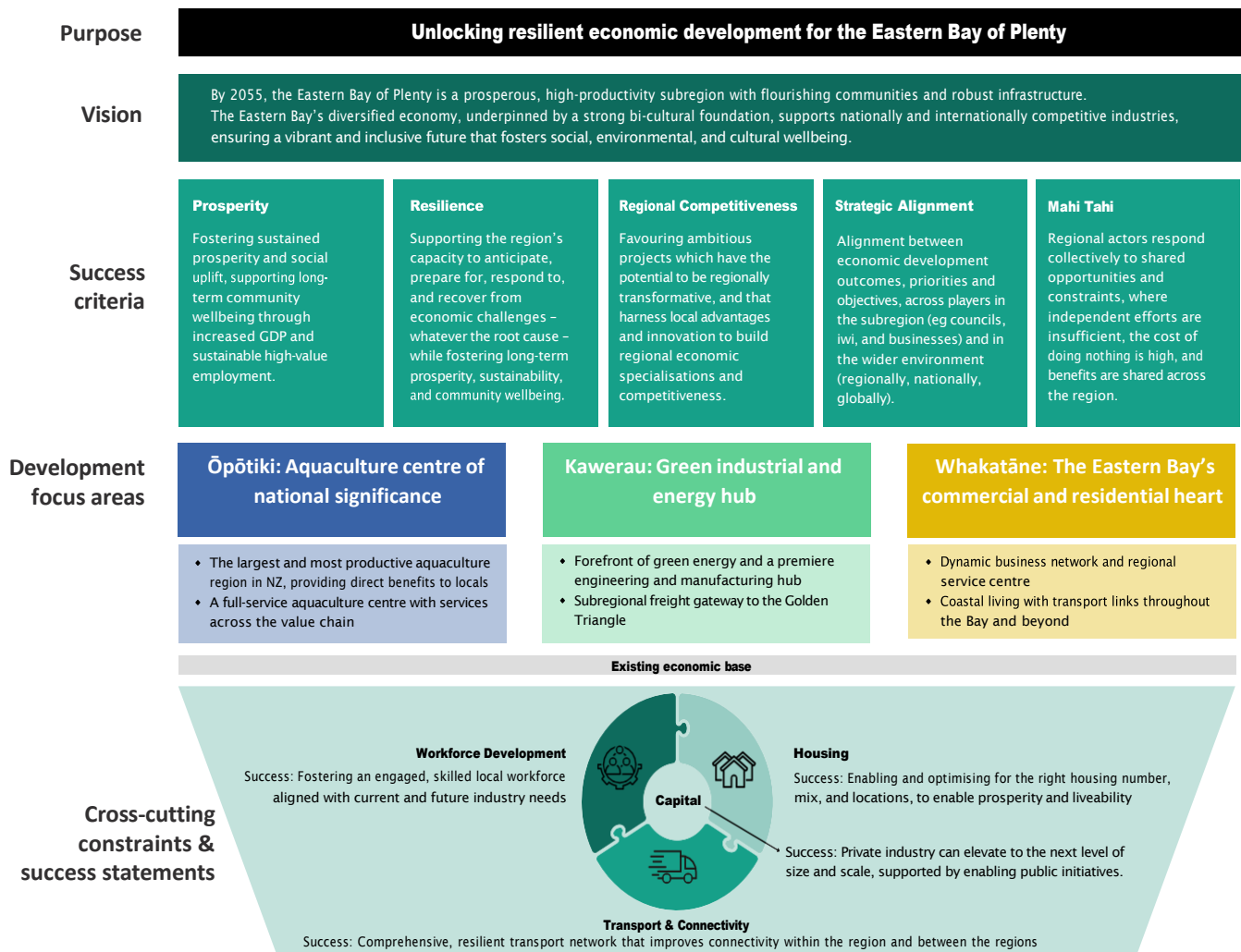
Once this strategy is formally adopted:

- Cross-cutting constraints should be addressed at the sub-regional level, including through implementation of the Spatial Plan.
- Districts can prepare localised plans for the three focus areas of aquaculture in Ōpōtiki, green industry in Kawerau, and the Eastern Bay's commercial and residential heart in Whakatāne, working in collaboration with local iwi and industry.

- The partner councils have submitted a proposal to the City and Regional Deals programme and are supportive of private sector and iwi applications to the Regional Infrastructure Fund where these align with the vision and strategic objectives of the Regional Deal proposal, the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan, and this Economic Development Strategy.

This strategy is about getting 'new bang for old buck' and maximising the value of the investments that have already been made in the Eastern Bay. It's about finishing what was started and generating shared prosperity for generations to come.

Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Strategy Summary



Introduction

Looking back: A brief history of Economic Development in the Eastern Bay

The Eastern Bay of Plenty is blessed with rich natural resources and a long, proud history, but it also faces industrial and socio-economic challenges. In 2018, the sub-region successfully attracted the country's highest per-capita injection of Provincial Growth Fund investments, to foster development in aquaculture, high-value horticulture, manufacturing and tourism. Much has been achieved since 2018, but some initiatives have been hard-hit by natural disasters and roadblocks, and business growth remains constrained by workforce challenges, housing, logistics and access to capital.

The Power of Economic Development

The Eastern Bay of Plenty is blessed in many ways.

The sub-region enjoys a favourable climate, fertile soils and rich natural resources including fishery and forestry stocks.

Its people have a long, proud history, dating back to the first settlement by Tiwakawaka in modern-day Whakatāne, over 1,000 years ago.³

There is a diverse and robust industrial base – including nationally and internationally competitive players in horticulture, manufacturing, forestry and wood processing, tourism, energy, aquaculture, and many others.

The three districts in the sub-region- Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne – are all strongly connected, creating economic resilience and a strong foundation for further development.

However, the Eastern Bay faces a range of interconnected challenges – like industrial decline, ageing or absent infrastructure, and socio-economic deprivation. For instance:

- The Eastern Bay remains one of the nation's most deprived areas, with an average deprivation score of 8.5/10 versus a national average of 5.6, when considering education and healthcare, employment and income, housing, crime, and access to services.^{4,5}
- In 2023, unemployment rates were more than twice the national average (7.4% versus 3.3%), and close to one-quarter (23.1%) of working-age people were receiving a benefit.⁶

The upshot is - economic development can be more impactful in the Eastern Bay than in comparatively better-off areas. As the shared constraints on economic development are lifted, benefits will accrue to regionally significant players, both big and small. As a cluster approach is adopted connecting businesses, innovators and skills providers – we'll see the Eastern Bay maximising its locational and competitive advantages. In short, economic development will help to meaningfully improve people's lives.

³ Whakatāne District (Nd). History of the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Retrieved from <https://www.Whakatāne.com/live-and-work/about-Whakatāne-and-eastern-bay-plenty/history-eastern-bay-plenty>

⁴ University of Auckland School of Population Health (circa 2018). Deprivation and Health Geography within NZ: 2018 New Zealand Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD18). Retrieved from <https://imdmap.auckland.ac.nz/download/>

⁵ MBIE (2024). Deprivation index in New Zealand. Retrieved from <https://webrear.mbie.govt.nz/theme/deprivation-index/map/timeseries/2018/new-zealand?right-transform=absolute>

⁶ MBIE (2024). Regional Economic Activity Web Tool. Retrieved from <https://webrear.mbie.govt.nz/summary/new-zealand>

2018: Our successful strategy

In 2018, the sub-region put together an Economic Development strategy that was evidence-based, collaboratively built, and highly compelling. The strategy attracted \$250 million of direct investment via the Provincial Growth Fund and over \$400 million of total investment – the highest per-capita injection of economic development investment in the country.

The 2018 strategy focused on development in four key areas: aquaculture, high-value horticulture, manufacturing and tourism.

Since 2018: Project wins and headwinds

Much has been achieved since 2018, and these successes should be celebrated. However, other initiatives have been hard-hit by natural disasters and roadblocks.

Aquaculture

Development of the aquaculture sector primarily centred on developing the Ōpōtiki harbour entrance. This \$100 million initiative was one of the country's largest non-roading infrastructure projects, and it was delivered on time and on budget, a feat typically achieved by less than 10% of major works.⁷

The new harbour features two retaining walls that redirect the mouth of the Waioeka River through a canal dredged to 4 metres. The harbour can now be accessed in all-tides and all-weather conditions by large commercial mussel and fishing boats, and by recreational boaties. Vessels can readily service the 4,000ha offshore mussel farm, along with 10,000+ ha of planned development, and access the onshore processing facilities at the Whakatōhea mussel factory – which previously required a 40km journey from the Whakatāne wharf.

High-value horticulture

High-value horticulture focused on improving irrigation on Māori-owned land, and scaling up developments of kiwifruit, blueberries and manuka, particularly in deprived communities. Since 2018, the country's largest blueberry orchard has opened at Te Teko, with a 'by Māori for Māori' business model.⁸ Kiwifruit acreage has increased, and the Minginui nursery is playing its part in regenerating native forests.⁹

There is further development potential in both kiwifruit and other horticulture subsectors. Ōpōtiki has highly fertile land and potential for expansion, particularly on Māori land, with potential for synchronised seasonal employment between horticulture and aquaculture. Going forward, care should be taken to align development with the needs of local communities- providing sustainable employment to the local labour force and ensuring a reasonable share of the value created flows on to those communities.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing themes centred on improving the Eastern Bay's manufacturing capability and supply chain links, particularly via the Kawerau Putauaki Industrial Development which would offer warehousing, container packing, and improved roading and rail links; and opportunities to expand Whakatāne boatbuilding and other manufacturing.

The second stage of the Kawerau industrial zone is now complete, with all industrial sites connected to roading and utility services.¹⁰ Key connecting roads have been built, including a 1.6km stretch off State Highway 34 that connects private forestry sites to the industrial zone, and a rail link is planned. Kawerau has also unique resources in shallow and deep geothermal energy, that could become key drivers of the industrial hub.

However, to date, the industrial zone has struggled to attract a full suite of tenants. The container hub and rail links are not yet established, which has made it harder to attract industry; several early prospects did not proceed; and competition is set to increase as business parks are fully established in Rangiuru and Rotorua. The next key target will be to optimise utilisation, to drive return on investment in line with Kawerau's Green Business strategy.

Manufacturing remains a cornerstone of Whakatāne's economy, with local businesses scaling up and shifting toward high-value, advanced manufacturing. Whakatāne Mill is reinvesting in substantial new plant, while Surtees and Extreme continue to strengthen their position as leading small boat builders. Several other firms are seeking to expand. Continued investment in workforce development (countering an ageing workforce), transport infrastructure, and access to capital will help unlock the

⁷ Lipford (2023). Book review: How Big Things Get Done- The Surprising Factors That Determine the Fate of Every Project, from Home Renovations to Space Exploration and Everything in Between. The Independent Review: A Journal of Political Economy, 28(2). Retrieved from <https://www.independent.org/publications/tir/article.asp?id=1900>

⁸ Waatea News. (2020, July 7). Te Teko blueberry farm largest in Aotearoa – owned by Māori for Māori. Retrieved from <https://waateanews.com/2020/07/07/te-teko-blueberry-farm-largest-in-aotearoa-owned-by-maori-for-maori/>

⁹ Minginui Nursery (2024). Retrieved from <https://minginuinursery.co.nz/>

¹⁰ Putauaki Trust. (2020). Industrial zone. Retrieved from <https://www.putauakitrust.com/industrial-zone/>

manufacturing sector's full potential, and drive further economic growth across the sub-region.

Tourism

Tourism centred on the redevelopment of Whakatāne, including wharf and waterfront improvements to support tourism services and marine-based industries. The key success has been the remediation of the 100-year-old wharf, which re-opened in 2022.

The 2019 eruption of Whakaari / White Island proved devastating for the families of those killed or injured, and for the livelihoods of those in the local tourism sector.

Plans to develop the river promenade and the CBD paused after public consultation in 2020, due to uncertainty about the Regional Council's plans to raise the town's stop banks to minimise the impact of flooding and other extreme weather events.¹¹

Development of the boat harbour has also paused, while careful consideration is given to managing any historical contaminants from wood waste.¹²

Since 2018: Strategic constraints and opportunities

Alongside the project-specific wins and challenges, the Eastern Bay faces a dynamic landscape of constraints, threats and opportunities.

Constraints and threats

There are cross-cutting constraints related to the workforce, housing, logistics and access to capital, all of which have slowed business growth. It is challenging to attract suitably skilled staff; to house them in high-quality, affordable homes near their place of work; to efficiently connect businesses across the supply chain; and to attract private capital that could fund transformation in these areas. As a result, business growth and economic development have been constrained.

These constraints are described in more detail in section 4.

More generally, the Eastern Bay is vulnerable to sea-level rise, flooding, cyclones and other extreme weather events driven by climate change.

Opportunities

The political context has changed, with a National-led coalition Government coming to power late in 2023. The coalition brings a focus on regional development, along with new funds and rules for investment. This creates an opportunity to align the Eastern Bay's economic development plans with broader national economic goals and attract additional funding and support.

Major iwi settlements are also complete, with Te Tāwharau o te Whakatōhea signing in 2023. The \$100 million package is one of the largest and most comprehensive of any iwi in the motu, including access to 5000 ha of marine space. As iwi leaders explain, "The real value of our Settlement lies in the 5000ha of marine space which will create numerous opportunities for our whānau now that the Ōpōtiki harbour development project is underway."¹³

Looking forward: A refreshed Economic Development strategy

It's now time for a refreshed Economic Development Strategy for the Eastern Bay. A strategy with the same DNA as 2018 – based on evidence, collaboration and shared success.

This is a refresh- because the strategy extends the good work that began in 2018. It's a refresh because the focus is on getting new bang for old buck. Maximising the investments that have already been made in the region and finishing what was started.

This strategy contains the same DNA as 2018. It's based on evidence and a deep understanding of the local context. It was developed collaboratively, and it focuses on shared challenges and opportunities across the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Success won't happen in siloes. The people, businesses and districts of the Eastern Bay will succeed through strategic, collective action.

¹¹ McCarthy, E. (2023, August 25). Whakatāne boat harbour: Potential for contamination causing hold-up. *Rotorua Daily Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/Whakatāne-boat-harbour-potential-for-contamination-causing-holdup/2GCXZQAYN5BZXJWGDFTW5LUM4A/>

¹² ibid

¹³ Te Tāwharau o te Whakatōhea. (2023). First Reading of the Whakatōhea Settlement Claims Bill. Retrieved from <https://tewhakatōhea.co.nz/our-settlement/>

Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou
ka ora ai te iwi

With your food basket and my food
basket the people will thrive

The Economic Development Framework: Overview

The purpose of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Economic Development Framework is to coordinate economic activity across the sub-region, and address key constraints in order to foster greater prosperity and wellbeing. The framework clarifies what success looks like, key focus areas for development, and the cross-cutting constraints that will be addressed.

Purpose of the framework

This framework will help to align activity across the three Districts of Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne. It will:

1. Align the focus of economic development.
2. Serve as an input into the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan.
3. Preface future applications to the government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Key components in the framework

There are three components in the Economic Development Framework- *why*, *what*, and *how*.

Why: Economic Development Success Criteria

Stakeholders have agreed on a set of Economic Development Success Criteria. These explain, in plain language, why economic development matters to individuals, businesses and communities in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

What: Development Focus Areas

Three focus areas have been identified – one per district. The intent is to accelerate regional economic development by leveraging the unique strengths of each district.

How: Cross-cutting constraints to growth

Four cross-cutting constraints are currently acting as a 'handbrake' on economic growth in the Eastern Bay. The intent is to address these constraints via coordinated, collective action.

The resulting Sub-regional Economic Development Strategy is the result of six months of economic analysis and extensive engagement with industry, iwi and other key stakeholders.

Deciding what matters

Stakeholders decided on the Development Focus Areas and the cross-cutting constraints to growth, by considering:

- **Economic impact:** Current and projected contribution to regional GDP, employment, and economic resilience.
- **Alignment:** Level of strategic alignment with the national economic direction, regional priorities, and the region's competitive positioning for future.
- **Impact:** Potential for public or private interventions to make a positive impact on the region.

1) Purpose & Vision

Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to unlock resilient economic development for the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

The Eastern Bay is striving for economic, social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

Economic growth for its own sake means little—but economic development can be a powerful lever for delivering social, cultural and environmental wellbeing. For instance:

- As household incomes rise, families can enjoy increased access to high-quality housing, healthcare and education. People's horizons expand.
- As communities enjoy economic stability, there's a rise in social trust and cohesion.
- When there is more money to go around, there's more capacity and willingness to invest in cultural initiatives – such as preserving heritage sites or promoting cultural activities.
- When the local economy is robust, businesses and communities can make more choices that foster long-term sustainability, generating returns beyond just the financial.

In short, economic growth unlocks other forms of wellbeing. It's a logical starting point.

Vision for 2055

By 2055, the Eastern Bay of Plenty is a highly productive and prosperous sub-region, and recognised as one of New Zealand's centres of green energy. The region is an attractive place to visit, work and live, with flourishing communities and thriving natural and built environments.

Robust housing, transport infrastructure, and a talented workforce maximises the region's potential, creating a vibrant and inclusive economy. The sub-region is home to nationally and internationally competitive industries, underpinned by a strong bi-cultural foundation and partnership with mana whenua, honouring the area's cultural heritage.

Resilient roading infrastructure ensures seamless connectivity, enabling residents to live and work throughout the sub-region. Strategic land developments and energy resilience help to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events and rising sea levels, safeguarding the region's future. The diversified economy thrives with surge sectors such as aquaculture, green industry, and primary industries, all contributing to a circular economy and reinvesting in the sub-region.

Sustainable development is at the heart of the Eastern Bay's growth, with proportional expansion of housing and supporting infrastructure, ensuring readiness for current and future needs. The Eastern Bay's purpose for enabling economic prosperity was to empower social, environmental, and cultural wellbeing for all communities, creating a prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come. Resilient economic development has been unlocked for the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Note: 2055 was selected as the target time horizon to embed a long-term strategic economic direction for the Eastern Bay, in line with the Spatial Plan's time frame. Aligning with the Spatial Plan ensures that economic and community development are aligned, factoring in population growth and infrastructure needs for the next generation. The constraints to economic growth—housing, transport and connectivity, workforce development, and capital—are long-term challenges that require sustained effort to alleviate. A longer timeframe means we can implement change while allowing economic benefits to emerge progressively across the sub-region in both the medium and long term. This approach balances urgency with the persistence needed to create a resilient, thriving economy for the Eastern Bay.

2) Economic Development Success Criteria

Successful economic development in the Eastern Bay should deliver the following results:

- **Prosperity:** Fostering sustained prosperity and social uplift, supporting long-term community wellbeing through increased GDP and sustainable high-value employment. In other words, people are in valuable and well-paid jobs, for the longer term, and this contributes to a lift in GDP and in living standards.
- **Resilience:** Supporting the region's capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from economic challenges – whatever the root cause – while fostering long-term prosperity, sustainability, and community wellbeing.
- **Regional competitiveness:** Favouring ambitious projects which have the potential to be regionally transformative, and that harness local advantages and innovation to build regional economic specialisations and competitiveness.
- **Strategic alignment:** Alignment between economic development objectives, priorities and outcomes across players in the sub-region (e.g. councils, iwi, and businesses) and in the wider environment (regionally, nationally, globally).
- **Mahi Tahi:** Regional actors respond collectively to shared opportunities and constraints, where independent efforts are insufficient, the cost of doing nothing is high, and benefits are shared across the sub-region.

3) Development Focus Areas

The Economic Development strategy identifies three Development Focus Areas, which align with the three district councils of Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne making up the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Focus areas were selected by considering geographic advantages and existing industry specialisations. This is a strengths-based approach of building on and extending what is already working, to generate more high-quality jobs and boost economic performance. While specific types of growth have naturally concentrated in particular districts, their economic benefits extend across the entire Eastern Bay of Plenty. Strengthening key industries in Ōpōtiki and Kawerau, for example, reinforces Whakatāne's role as the sub-region's commercial and residential hub, creating a more interconnected and resilient economy. The subregion may also enjoy common advantages (location, brand) and constraints (for example, housing or workforce issues) that merit sub-regional coordination.

Focus areas typically have the following characteristics:

- High-value, high-employment, high-growth sectors
- With competitive and/or locational advantages
- Considered both nationally and internationally competitive
- Aligned with the development aspirations of iwi
- Strategically significant for the local, regional and national economic landscape
- Operating in a genuinely sustainable way – i.e. walking the 'clean green' talk

The three key Development Focus Areas are described on the following pages.



Ōpōtiki: Aquaculture centre of national significance

Vision

By 2055, Ōpōtiki will become New Zealand's leading aquaculture centre, and a key player in international markets. The district boasts extensive, fully operational sea farms for green-lipped mussels and other species. The aquaculture industry is well serviced across the value chain, with an extensive shipping fleet, harbour infrastructure, onshore processing facilities, research facilities, and an efficient, well-integrated transport network that allows businesses to rapidly access regional, national and international markets.

Satellite industries have developed around aquaculture, including education and training services that build workforce capability.

Sustainability has been a key consideration in development – meaning primary industries, including horticulture and agriculture, are now more climate resilient, and new housing developments are further inland and uphill to achieve managed retreat whilst attracting and housing a skilled workforce.

Local communities are enjoying economic growth, environmental sustainability, and more holistic wellbeing.

Opportunity

Ōpōtiki could develop a multi-billion-dollar aquaculture industry, starting with the existing extensive offshore farming of green-lipped mussels and diversifying into other fish and shellfish species. The industry can leverage the \$200m+ of investments that have been made to date, including the recently launched Ōpōtiki harbour entrance and onshore processing facilities. The region has an opportunity to dominate the end-to-end supply chain, covering the growth, processing and export of aquaculture products to both domestic and international markets.

Reasoning

- Ōpōtiki has existing aquaculture assets that can be leveraged – offshore marine farms, hatchery facilities, the new harbour access, and onshore processing.
- Land is available for associated facilities – e.g. a marina and a wharf.
- Aquaculture is a growth industry, with an expected compound average growth rate in the international mussel market of 5% from 2024 to 2034 and a distinct market for mussel oil and powder as dietary supplements.^{14,15}

¹⁴ Future Market Insights. (2024). Mussel Market Outlook from 2024 to 2034. Retrieved from <https://www.futuremarketinsights.com/reports/mussels-market>

¹⁵ Future Market Insights. (circa 2022). Mussel Oils Market Snapshot (2022 to 2032). Retrieved from <https://www.futuremarketinsights.com/reports/mussel-oils-market>

- Aquaculture is highly sustainable – as green lipped mussels do not require additives or fertilisers; improve water quality;¹⁶ boost biodiversity;¹⁷ and generate a smaller carbon footprint than other forms of farmed protein.¹⁸
- Recent Te Tiriti settlements enable large-scale farming in the open ocean. Iwi are ready to lead, bringing ambitious plans and strong strategic and commercial leadership.
- Aquaculture has had strong support from previous governments and is a stated focus area for the current government.
- There is proximity between the existing workforce, marine farms and processing facilities, with additional land available and zoned for residential housing.

Potential benefits

\$2-3 billion revenue

potential, from proposed 28k hectares of planned seawater space

2,000 – 3,000 jobs

in industry and supporting local services

Reference: *PWC Aquaculture report for Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Te Ara Moana a Toi | a path to the sea, Te Ara Moana a Toi | Initial Benefits Assessment*

Mussel farming has the smallest carbon footprint of all animal proteins

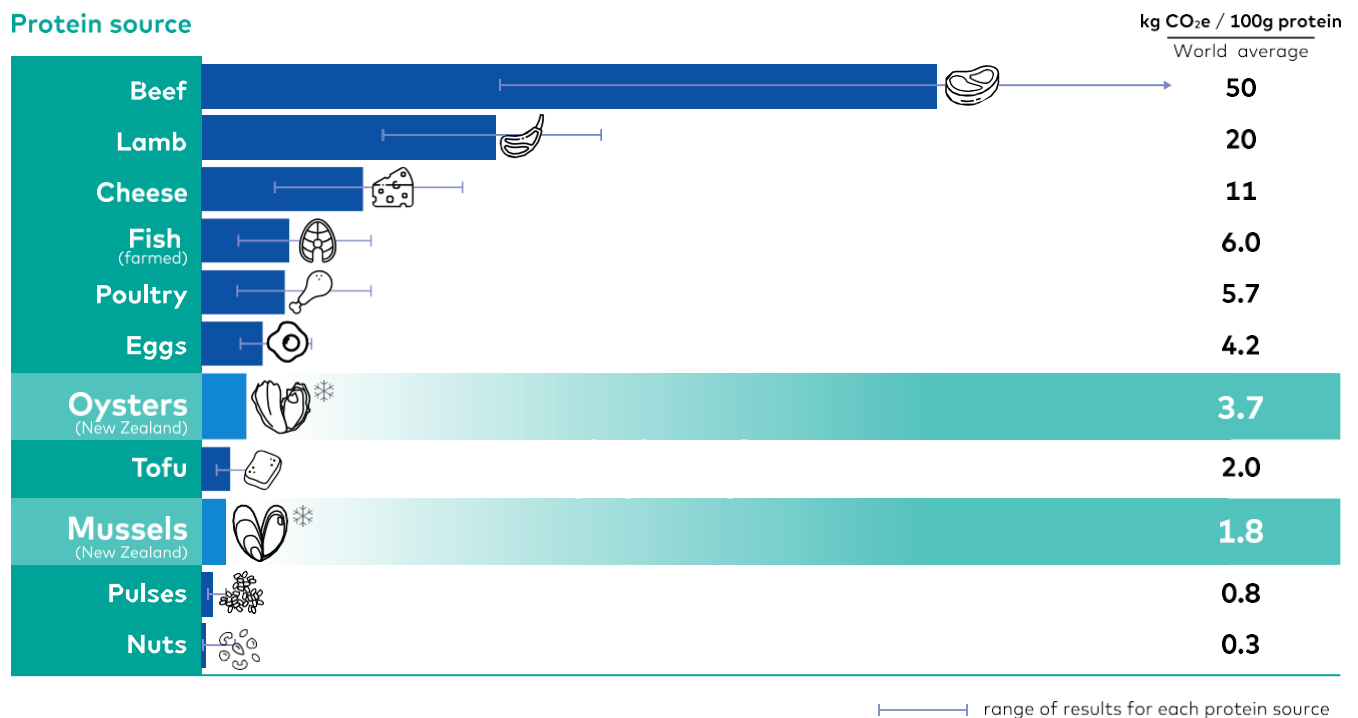


Figure 1: Carbon footprints of different dietary proteins on the global market – farming to retail only ‡

¹⁶ MacLab (nd). Sustainability. Retrieved from <https://www.maclab.co.nz/sustainability/#:~:text=Mussels%20are%20highly%20self%2Dsufficient,health%20of%20the%20marine%20ecosystem>.

¹⁷ University of Auckland (2024, May 28). Seaweed and mussel farming can boost wild fish populations. Retrieved from <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2024/05/28/seaweed-and-mussel-farming-increases-wild-fish-populations-.html>

¹⁸ ThinkStep (2021). Life Cycle Assessment of New Zealand Mussels and Oysters: Prepared for Aquaculture New Zealand & Ministry for Primary Industries. Retrieved from <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/48526-Life-Cycle-Assessment-of-NZ-Mussels-and-Oysters#:~:text=The%20carbon%20footprint%20of%20New%20Zealand%20mussels%20and%20oysters&text=For%20a%20kilogram%20of%20shellfish,CO2e%20per%20kg%20shellfish%20meat>.



Kawerau: Green industrial and energy hub

Vision

By 2055, Kawerau has transformed into a thriving hub of green technology and industrial innovation. Industrial sites have expanded and are fully utilised, attracting a diverse ecosystem of businesses that foster each other's success.

Industrial growth is powered by sustainable and renewable resources, including forestry, geothermal power and hydrogen. Abundant energy resources are symbiotic to a thriving forestry and wood processing sector. Local manufacturers are leading the way in green industrial technology- developing products, services and processes that have a high financial value and a low environmental impact. The district enjoys state-of-the-art logistics infrastructure, with robust warehousing, distribution, road/ rail/shipping links, and supporting information systems, all of which reinforce Kawerau's status as a premier hub for engineering and manufacturing.

Safe, climate-resilient residential and commercial developments have flourished, attracting skilled workers and fostering a vibrant community. Kawerau stands as a model of sustainable development and industrial prosperity, contributing significantly to the environmental, economic and social wellbeing of the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Opportunity

Kawerau has an opportunity to become a premier green industrial hub, harnessing sustainable energy for use in innovative, tech-led manufacturing. The district has an established geothermal plant, deep strengths in forestry, and a new industrial park that could all be leveraged to foster innovative, sustainable and high-value industry.

Reasoning

- Kawerau specialises in forestry and wood processing and would anchor the hub, with proximity to the largest forestry plantation in New Zealand and deep local expertise. There is scope for high-value innovation in the forestry sector, with Kawerau being a natural testbed for industry-led innovation.
- The district has extensive energy resources and infrastructure, including the 100 mega-watt Kawerau Power Station which is New Zealand's largest generator of geothermal power.¹⁹
- Geothermal energy generation is a symbiotic sector that supports the wood sector's expansion and transition toward value-added, greener lumber products. Potential exists for expansion into bioenergy and biogas, and the use of geothermal process heat to support other sectors – such as horticulture.
- The focus on green energy aligns with national sustainability commitments and Māori aspirations for sustainable industry.
- The Kawerau Putauaki Industrial Development is operational, and ROI will be generated by attracting more tenants and complementary industrial players.
- Land is available and already zoned for various industries.

More detailed modelling is required

Detailed modelling is required to understand the pathway to full industrial capacity and infrastructure utilisation.

This includes:

- Modelling the infrastructure needed to service the Kawerau Putauaki Industrial Development, including transportation requirements and three water services (drinking, storm and wastewater).
- Modelling green energy generation, and distribution capacity.
- Once complete, the planned rail network and container terminal will serve as the Eastern Bay's gateway for freight to the Golden Triangle (of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga).
- Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau already brings together local businesses committed to collaboration and sustainable growth; this network will continue to enhance local advantages and maximise development opportunities.

¹⁹ LFF Group (2018). Kawerau Powerstation Geothermal Pipeline. Retrieved from <https://www.lffgroup.com/projects/geothermal/kawerau-power-station-geothermal-pipeline>



Whakatāne: The Eastern Bay's commercial and residential heart

Vision

By 2055, Whakatāne district has strengthened its established position as the commercial, retail and residential heart of the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Whakatāne's service sector supports local and regional industrial pillars, including agriculture, aquaculture, manufacturing, construction, boat building and green energy. Tertiary education and training providers underpin a skilled and capable workforce which meets the labour needs of the Eastern Bay's diversified economy. Whakatāne also serves as the tourism hotspot of the Eastern Bay, drawing in visitors and facilitating connections to the growth and trade of the 'Golden Triangle' – Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga.

The town centre is vibrant- with hospitality, retail, and amenities that draw in locals, tourists and new talent, all via efficient transport links that enhance connectivity throughout the Bay of Plenty and beyond. Sustainable housing construction is fuelled by population growth within the district. Whakatāne's strong partnership with mana whenua also fosters a culturally rich and inclusive community.

Whakatāne District will have prioritised strategic and sustainable development that has reduced exposure to climate change and promoted growth in the district's network of townships. The district capitalises on its natural advantages to generate surplus green energy, reinforcing the Eastern Bay's position as one of New Zealand's leading green energy hubs.

Whakatāne is also a manufacturing centre in its own right, with two leading boatbuilders, the large Whakatāne Mills, and a range of up and downstream manufacturing and service businesses.

Whakatāne creates cross-regional value, accelerating growth and development across the whole Eastern Bay, and reaping the rewards.

Opportunity

Whakatāne can strengthen its position as the commercial and residential heart of the Eastern Bay - attracting people to live, work and play in the district. The centre would combine core services, like medical facilities and social support to foster health and wellbeing; professional services like legal, accounting and IT, to support business success; workforce development via education and training providers; and hospitality, placemaking and tourism ventures, to enhance liveability. As the EBOP's most diversified local economy, Whakatāne is positioned to advance and benefit from industrial development across the Eastern Bay.

Reasoning

- This strategic pivot aligns with the strengths of Whakatāne district, as the largest, most diversified and advanced economy in the sub-region.
- There is alignment with the needs of local businesses and those across the Eastern Bay – who seek a skilled workforce and a robust network of service providers and associated industry players.
- This focus converts regional constraints around housing, workforce and transport into a strategic vision for the district – as a well-connected and growing commercial and residential centre for the sub-region.
- Being the Eastern Bay's centre for workforce development capitalises on existing strengths in tertiary education.
- The pivot is necessary, as a tourism-only strategy cannot be relied upon to drive development following the Whakaari eruption and the consequent decline in visitor numbers.
- There is alignment with the Spatial Plan and potential development options, and alignment with adaptation activities (e.g. boosting flood resilience in the CBD and supporting managed retreat).
- There is alignment with the development priorities of local iwi, who are focused on economic, educational, and cultural revitalisation across Whakatāne.

4) Cross-cutting constraints to address

The Eastern Bay needs to address four cross-cutting constraints to achieve economic development in the medium- and long-term: housing, workforce, transport and connectivity, and access to capital.

The three districts of the Eastern Bay share productive resources – like labour and energy, business and industry, roading and communication infrastructure.

The districts also share the same constraints, which act as a handbrake on economic development.

To unlock economic development in the medium- and long-term, the Eastern Bay of Plenty will need to address four cross-cutting constraints: housing, workforce, transport and connectivity, and capital.

Focussed and coordinated action will be required.

Housing

There is a lack of affordable, adequate housing in places where locals and newcomers wish to settle. This makes it harder to attract and retain new talent from outside the region, and it limits local relocation, meaning talent becomes less mobile and businesses find it harder to recruit the personnel they need.

The situation

The Eastern Bay has a lack of affordable, adequate housing in places where locals and newcomers wish to settle.

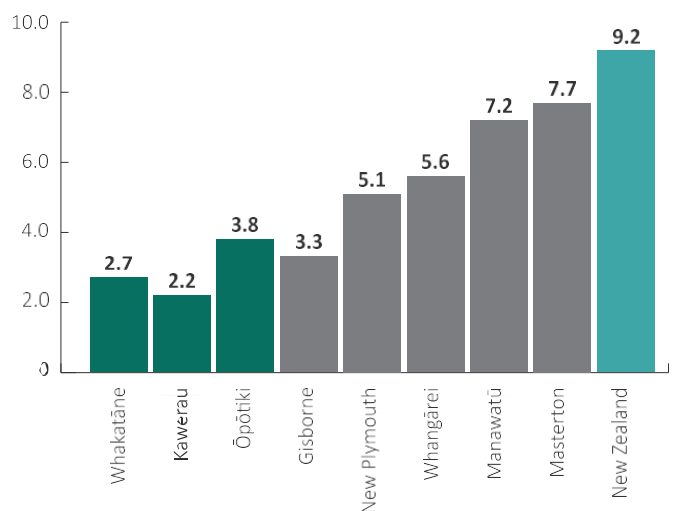
There are two key driving forces.

First, there's an acute housing shortage in the Eastern Bay. Building consents are lower than in any other region of New Zealand, with an average of 2.9 dwellings consented per 1000 residents, versus a national average of 9.2 / 1000.²⁰ By one estimate, the Eastern Bay will need 4,430 more homes built across 316ha of land, by 2053.²¹

Second, houses in the Eastern Bay are relatively unaffordable, when compared to local incomes. The Eastern Bay has the highest housing cost-to-income ratio in the country, with the average household allocating 18.8% of their income towards housing versus a national average of 16.9%.²² The primary issue is low household income, rather than excessive housing costs.

Per MR Cagney's research for the Spatial Plan, the Eastern Bay's population will continue growing beyond 2055. In order to house existing, returning, and new residents, the current housing shortage will need to be addressed, and new developments will need to keep pace with population growth. Coordinated and concerted efforts will be required from councils, businesses, iwi and central agencies.

The Eastern Bay of Plenty has a low rate of housing consents, relative to other regions



(Source: Statistics NZ, 2023)

Interlinked impacts

The lack of affordable, adequate housing makes it harder to attract and retain new talent in the sub-region, and it limits the movement of people *within* the region. For instance, locals may spot a job opportunity in a neighbouring district but be unable to find decent housing near the new place of work. They may be reluctant to commute due to connectivity challenges across the sub-region (described below), meaning they stay in their current role and home.

²⁰ Statistics NZ (2023). Infoshare. Retrieved from <https://infoshare.stats.govt.nz/default.aspx>

²¹ MRCagney NZ Ltd (2023) Eastern Bay of Plenty Housing and Business Needs Research: Prepared for Whakatāne District Council.

²² Statistics NZ (2023). Infoshare. Retrieved from <https://infoshare.stats.govt.nz/default.aspx>

The risk of not addressing these constraints is that talent becomes less mobile, and businesses find it harder to recruit the personnel they need to foster economic growth. Growing the local construction workforce will be key to meeting current and future housing demand.

What good looks like

- Success statement: (Enabling and optimising for) The right housing number, mix, and locations to enable prosperity and liveability.
- Indicative objectives:
 - > Housing numbers, mix, and locations matched to current and future population needs
 - > Community liveability.

Transport and connectivity

There are connectivity constraints within and around the Eastern Bay. Poor-quality roads, capacity limitations, and over-reliance on road networks for freight all contribute to congestion, lower productivity and higher business costs.

The situation

A flourishing economy relies on good transport networks and connectivity, to allow for the free movement of workers and goods.

At present there is inadequate connectivity *within* the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Poor-quality roads lead to increased travel times, along with higher vehicle maintenance costs, and decreased safety for travellers. Road reliance for freight is creating demand for alternative modes, such as rail from Kawerau and coastal shipping from Ōpōtiki.

There is also inadequate connectivity *between* the Eastern Bay and other regions:

- The roading network has limited capacity, creating congestion at key pressure points on State Highway 35, State Highway 2, and on certain bridges. Resilience is also limited, with frequent slips and flooding.
- Speed limit reductions have been introduced on some highways, such as SH30 from Rotorua to Whakatāne, increasing commute times for workers into the Eastern Bay, and making it less likely that people will seek or continue employment in the sub-region.
- Key parts of the roading network carry most imports to and exports from the region, which adds to congestion and accelerates the degradation of local roads.

The Eastern Bay is a key transport link between Gisborne (Ōpōtiki), Tauranga (Whakatāne/Kawerau), and the Waikato. Improving connectivity within the sub-region and to surrounding regions would improve the flow of goods, services, and people to and from the Eastern Bay.

Interlinked impacts

As a result of the factors above, individual workers face more congestion, longer commutes, and lower productivity. They are also discouraged from working and living in separate places.

Businesses face more congestion, higher freight costs, and a diminished ability to attract talent from across the sub-region. Businesses are also over-reliant on the roading network due to lack of sea-freight capacity, and the local economy lacks resilience if roads are closed for standard repair or damaged following an extreme weather event.

More generally, reliance on key roads compromises the emergency response during extreme weather events – especially for isolated communities that lack alternative transport routes.

What good looks like

- Success statement: Comprehensive, resilient transport network that improves connectivity within the region and between the regions.
- Indicative objectives:
 - > Intra-regional connectivity (one region)
 - > Inter-regional connectivity (plugged in)
 - > Resilient networks (sustainable).



Workforce

The labour shortages faced across many sectors in the EBOP, coupled with an ageing population, makes workforce a key constraint. There is misalignment between the local labour force and the roles available, meaning businesses have trouble sourcing the talent they need, and locals are hampered in their employment and career development. More attention is needed to both early-stage work readiness and the development of long-term, sustainable local career paths. Current workforce interventions are sporadic and disjointed across the Eastern Bay.

The situation

There is currently a mismatch between the jobs available in the Eastern Bay and the local labour force. Employers have high-quality roles on offer, for instance, Factory Engineer or IT lead roles in aquaculture, but they cannot attract the talent they need. Similarly, locals cannot find suitable roles or appealing career pathways. As a result, labour force participation rates are relatively low and unemployment rates are high, along with social service costs.

The risk of brain drain is ongoing as young people seek opportunities in larger centres. From a capital investment perspective, retaining and attracting businesses is an important part of delivering better employment outcomes.

Interlinked impacts

Businesses struggle to import talent and fill key roles, and this is exacerbated by the lack of quality housing on offer, and by connectivity issues which deter commuting. The cost of doing business goes up, and without essential staff, productivity drops.

Locals who cannot find a suitable role, career, or training pathway do not fulfil their full potential, and at scale, this hinders economic growth and collective wellbeing.

What good looks like

- Success statement: (Fostering an) engaged, skilled local workforce aligned with current and future industry needs.
- Indicative objectives:
 - > Workforce engagement
 - > Skills development and matching
 - > Career pathways, attraction and retention.



Capital

It has been persistently challenging for the Eastern Bay of Plenty to attract private capital to support industrial growth and broader economic development. While public funding would help to address the cross-cutting constraints related to housing, transport and the workforce, unlocking private capital sources is essential. New mechanisms for attracting investment are required, to help mobilise businesses both large and small, accelerate business development and achieve shared regional goals.

The situation

Despite securing significant investment through the Provincial Growth Fund, the region has struggled to attract sustained private capital for large-scale, high-impact projects. As a result, key initiatives are often delayed, scaled down, or remain unrealised — limiting their potential economic returns. Small- and medium-sized businesses can also struggle to attract capital, due to their size and distance from large markets.

Given the size of the domestic investment pool, foreign investment will likely be a necessary complement to local initiatives. Economic development agencies, industry collectives, and business networks should work together to facilitate investment, taking advantage of more pro-investment policy settings.

Interlinked impacts

Access to public co-funding will help to address the other cross-cutting constraints, by supporting major housing developments, improving transport connectivity, and contributing to education and skills training in the sub-region.

Access to private capital will accelerate industrial and economic growth, in the three development focus areas of aquaculture in Ōpōtiki, green industry in Kawerau, and the commercial and residential heart in Whakatāne, as well as other key and emerging sectors. Investment, both domestically and abroad, would provide the growth capital to develop key sectors across the Eastern Bay and strengthen the region's economic resilience.

What good looks like

- Success statement: Private industry can elevate to the next level of size and scale, supported by enabling public initiatives.

**Workforce
Development**



Housing

Transport & Connectivity

Addressing the cross-cutting constraints

A phased, regional approach is required

It's clear that the sub-regional constraints are interrelated and interdependent, which means sequenced and coordinated action will be required to alleviate the issues. The recommended pathway is to enable housing and transport connectivity, which will support workforce capacity and skills development in turn - setting off a positive feedback loop. Capital serves as a central enabler.

- **Housing.** Developing the housing stock will be key to resolving the other constraints and unlocking regional economic development.
 - > When there are suitable houses available, talent can more readily move into and around the sub-region, relieving the workforce development challenges.
 - > When houses are built where people want to live and work, pressure on the transport networks is eased.
 - > Given the lead times for consent and construction, housing must be the first cab off the rank.
- **Transport and connectivity.** The next logical focus is improving connectivity across the sub-region, to enable a freer flow of people and goods.
 - > With more housing in the right place, pressure on transport networks should ease. Equally, improved transport links can enable new housing developments to be built.
 - > Better transport networks will support the free movement of workers, so the sub-regional labour market becomes more flexible, businesses find the talent they need, operating costs go down, and productivity goes up.



- > Better connectivity will allow a freer flow of goods, again lowering business costs.
- > A more resilient, multi-modal transport network can better withstand external shocks, such as road closures for maintenance or repair following extreme weather events.
- **Workforce Development.** Growth in the three focus areas – of aquaculture in Ōpōtiki, green industry in Kawerau, and commercial services in Whakatāne – will hinge on the capability and capacity of the workforce.
 - > Much of the necessary talent already resides in the Eastern Bay. The key is to train and retain locals through fit-for-purpose education and training programmes, supplemented by high-quality housing and community liveability.
 - > Attracting outside talent will be easier after improvements to housing and transport links.
 - > Additionally, it will be important to develop the local trades, to support housing developments and construction of roading and rail links, and to maintain other key regional infrastructure.
- **Capital.** Access to capital will help to accelerate progress in the three development focus areas and address the cross-cutting constraints that have hindered economic development.
 - > Private capital is critical for the next level of industry development in Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne. Attracting private capital is not just a means to an end — it is a strategic capability, requiring targeted expertise, strong networks, and a proactive approach to positioning the region as an attractive investment destination.
 - > Potential avenues for attracting private capital include:
 - Targeted investor outreach via the Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce and regional business networks.
 - Leveraging international partnerships, including sister-city relationships and trade missions.
 - Facilitating business-to-business investment, particularly in sectors with strong export potential.
 - > Public co-funding is critical for initiatives that address housing, transport and connectivity, and workforce development constraints.

Implementing this strategy

Once this strategy is formally adopted, cross-cutting constraints should be addressed at the sub-regional level, including through implementation of the Spatial Plan. Districts can prepare localised plans around aquaculture in Ōpōtiki, green industry in Kawerau, and Whakatāne as the Eastern Bay's commercial and residential heart, working in collaboration with local iwi and industry. The partner councils are supporting private sector and iwi applications to the Regional Infrastructure Fund that align to the vision and strategic objectives of the EBOP Regional Deal Proposal, EBOP Spatial Plan and this Economic Development Strategy.

Guiding principles

This strategy represents six months of input and effort from councils, iwi, business leaders, consultants and more. But in many ways, it is only a starting point, and it is now time to convert strategic intentions into reality.

The following principles should be kept top-of-mind during implementation:

- **Coordinate and collaborate.** Action should be aligned and coordinated- with existing streams of activity, and across the three districts. The constraints are cross-regional, and cross-regional effort will be critical to the success of this strategy. Aligning relevant council regulations between districts could be valuable to attract and retain businesses that operate across districts.
- **Give sufficient focus to each development area and constraint.** The strategy sets out three development focus areas and four cross-cutting constraints. Each will need sufficient attention, because there are already multiple moving parts and many actors, and complexity will increase during implementation.
- **Ensure business and iwi leaders are heard.** Business and iwi leaders know their own businesses best, understand how the current constraints are holding them back, generally welcome systemic engagement from local government, and are well-placed to access capital and drive development. It makes sense to leverage the expertise and capital that these players can bring.
- **Foster transparency and accountability.** Best-practice project management principles should be followed. This includes establishing clear structures and processes to track and report on projects; communicating frequently and proactively with key stakeholders; and remaining accountable for results.

Key next steps

The recommended steps are:

- 1) Formally adopt this sub-regional economic development strategy,** at the district and sub-regional levels.
- 2) Create district-level Economic Development strategies that build on this document, working in collaboration with local iwi and industry.** The district-level strategies should seek to strengthen place-based advantages, and progress local objectives. Working groups could be responsible for strategy development and accountable for implementation.
- 3) Address cross-cutting constraints at the sub-regional level.**

The **Eastern Bay Spatial Plan** project already includes a focus on **Housing**, and **Transport and Connectivity**, which are two of the cross-cutting constraints. It makes sense to integrate follow-up in these areas with the existing governance and project management processes of the **Eastern Bay Spatial Plan**.

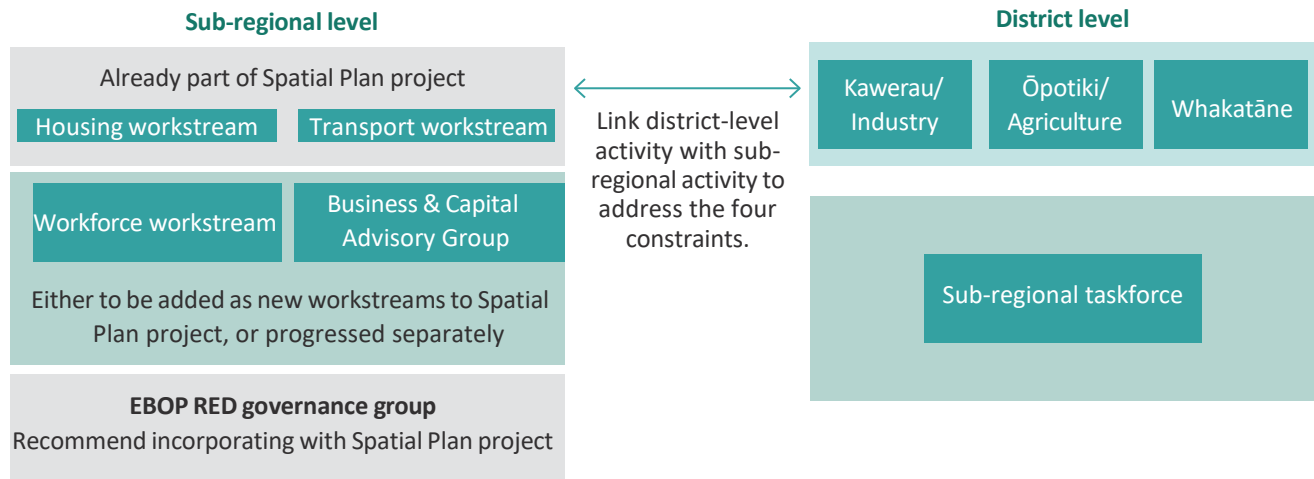
However, the Spatial Plan has little focus on Business / Capital, and it is silent on Workforce Development. Therefore:

- For the Capital constraint: Establish a Business and Capital Advisory Group within the spatial planning 'Friends of Our Places' Framework.
- For the Workforce Development constraint: Create a separate workforce development workstream within spatial planning, possibly led by an economic development entity which can coordinate between public and private organisations in the Eastern Bay.
- Governance: Incorporate governance group from the Economic Development Strategy refresh into the Spatial Plan project.

- 4) Support private sector and iwi applications to the Regional Infrastructure Fund.** This may include formal support from partner councils where the applications align to the vision and strategic objectives of the EBOP Regional Deal Proposal, Eastern Bay Spatial Plan and this Economic Development Strategy.

The Eastern Bay councils have elected to lead the implementation of this strategy in-house, including through implementation of the **Eastern Bay Spatial Plan**. As a result, detailed target outputs and success measures will be developed as part of their ongoing implementation planning. The project team has provided a full document handover to support this process, with regular report-backs expected from working groups across the three councils.

Proposed structure to support implementation



(Note - all dark green boxes are potential working groups)

Conclusion

The Eastern Bay of Plenty is a unique and dynamic region—rich in natural resources, cultural vibrancy, and historical significance.

While it faces social and economic challenges, it also holds immense potential for growth. Targeted economic development can drive significant benefits for local communities, a reality recognised by the three district councils, Toi Economic Development Agency, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, iwi, businesses, and community leaders.

Recent Treaty settlements have strengthened the strategic role of iwi in economic development, creating new opportunities for collaboration and investment. Substantial investments were made in infrastructure through the Provincial Growth Fund in 2019-24: Ōpōtiki Harbour, Kawerau Putauaki industrial development (KPID), Whakatāne wharf redevelopment and other projects.

Throughout the strategy's development, community feedback has been clear: addressing constraints in workforce, housing, infrastructure, and capital access is essential to maximising the value of these investments and unlocking long-term prosperity for the Eastern Bay.

To do so, three core focus areas are proposed:

- Further supporting Ōpōtiki and the Eastern seaboard as New Zealand's premier aquaculture centre, through commercial and iwi-led development of more sea farms

and associated manufacturing and marine research facilities.

- A green business hub around Kawerau, leveraging plentiful geothermal and natural resources, and helping to take forestry production and value creation to the next level.
- Turbo-charging Whakatāne as the commercial, services and residential heart of the sub-region, and continuing its development as a manufacturing centre.

This strategy represents a key step – but it is by no means the final step.

Following consideration and adoption by Councils, it is proposed this strategy will be implemented through four working groups – two hosted within the **Eastern Bay Spatial Plan** Project, and two coordinated separately through economic development entities or added to Spatial Plan project. Funding will be sought via various channels, including the Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund. Engagement will continue – particularly engagement with iwi and businesses, as a critical success factor.

The Eastern Bay of Plenty is a jewel – of sparking seas, green hills, and a warm glowing heart. Its best days are ahead, and implementing this strategy can help it take the next steps to its bright, sustainable future.

References

- Future Market Insights. (ca. 2022). *Mussel oils market snapshot (2022 to 2032)*. Retrieved from <https://www.futuremarketinsights.com/reports/mussel-oils-market>
- Future Market Insights. (2024). *Mussel market outlook from 2024 to 2034*. Retrieved from <https://www.futuremarketinsights.com/reports/mussels-market>
- Harbour development boost for town. (2024, July). *Business North*, 23(4). Retrieved from <https://digitalpublications.online/waterfordpress/business-north-july-24/>
- Infrastructure New Zealand. (2023). *Position paper: City and regional deals - Laying the foundations for partnership*. Retrieved from <https://infrastructure.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Infrastructure-NZ-Policy-Postions-City-and-Regional-Deals-v2.pdf>
- Kānoa: Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit. (2024). *Regional Infrastructure Fund*. Retrieved from <https://www.growregions.govt.nz/new-funding/regional-infrastructure-fund>
- LFF Group. (2018). *Kawerau powerstation geothermal pipeline*. Retrieved from <https://www.lffgroup.com/projects/geothermal/kawerau-power-station-geothermal-pipeline>
- Lipford. (2023). *Book review: How big things get done - The surprising factors that determine the fate of every project, from home renovations to space exploration and everything in between. The Independent Review: A Journal of Political Economy*, 28(2). Retrieved from <https://www.independent.org/publications/tir/article.asp?id=1900>
- MacLab. (n.d.). *Sustainability*. Retrieved from <https://www.maclab.co.nz/sustainability/>
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). (2024). *Deprivation index in New Zealand*. Retrieved from <https://webrear.mbie.govt.nz/theme/deprivation-index/map/timeseries/2018/new-zealand?right-transform=absolute>
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). (2024). *Regional economic activity web tool*. Retrieved from <https://webrear.mbie.govt.nz/summary/new-zealand>
- McCarthy, E. (2023, August 25). *Whakatāne boat harbour: Potential for contamination causing hold-up*. *Rotorua Daily Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/Whakatāne-boat-harbour-potential-for-contamination-causing-holdup/2GCXZQAYN5BZXJWGDFTW5LUM4A/>
- Minginui Nursery. (2024). Retrieved from <https://minginuinursery.co.nz/>
- MRCagney NZ Ltd. (2023). *Eastern Bay of Plenty housing and business needs research: Prepared for Whakatāne District Council*.
- Putauaki Trust. (2020). *Industrial zone*. Retrieved from <https://www.putauakitrust.com/industrial-zone/>
- PwC. (n.d.). *Aquaculture report for Te Whānau-ā-Apanui: Te Ara Moana a Toi | A path to the sea, Te Ara Moana a Toi | Initial benefits assessment*.
- Statistics New Zealand. (2023). *Infoshare*. Retrieved from <https://infoshare.stats.govt.nz/default.aspx>
- Te Tāwharau o te Whakatōhea. (2023). *First reading of the Whakatōhea Settlement Claims Bill*. Retrieved from <https://tewhakatohea.co.nz/our-settlement/>
- Te Teko blueberry farm largest in Aotearoa – owned by Māori for Māori. (2020, July 7). *Waatea News*. Retrieved from <https://waateanews.com/2020/07/07/te-teko-blueberry-farm-largest-in-aotearoa-owned-by-maori-for-maori/>
- ThinkStep. (2021). *Life cycle assessment of New Zealand mussels and oysters: Prepared for Aquaculture New Zealand & Ministry for Primary Industries*. Retrieved from <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/48526-Life-Cycle-Assessment-of-NZ-Mussels-and-Oysters>
- University of Auckland. (2024, May 28). *Seaweed and mussel farming can boost wild fish populations*. Retrieved from <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2024/05/28/seaweed-and-mussel-farming-increases-wild-fish-populations-.html>
- University of Auckland School of Population Health. (ca. 2018). *Deprivation and health geography within NZ: 2018 New Zealand Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD18)*. Retrieved from <https://imdmapp.auckland.ac.nz/download/>
- Whakatāne District Council. (n.d.). *History of the Eastern Bay of Plenty*. Retrieved from <https://www.Whakatāne.com/live-and-work/about-Whakatāne-and-eastern-bay-plenty/history-eastern-bay-plenty>

Appendix 1:

How this strategy was developed

Polis Consulting Group were tasked with refreshing the Eastern Bay of Plenty's Economic Development Strategy, to align the Eastern Bay's priorities with the changing national context.

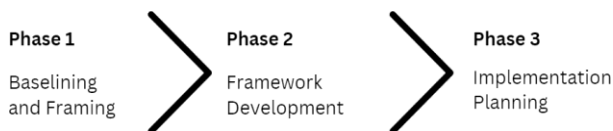
There were three goals for the refresh.

First, to put the best foot forward with the National-led coalition government, to maximise the Eastern Bay's chances of securing central funding and support. This included seeking a slice of the new \$1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure Fund, or securing a longer-term Regional Deal.

Second, to establish an evidence-based, collectively agreed upon framework for economic development. A framework that could be used to enhance collaboration across the region, and to attract both public- and private-sector funding.

Third, to support the longer-term implementation of the strategy, by embedding the necessary skills, tools and knowledge in the region.

The project spanned six months and proceeded in three phases: baselining, developing an Economic Development framework, and implementation planning.



Phase 1: Baselining and Framing

This phase involved:

- Data gathering and analysis, to understand how the Eastern Bay's economy, labour market and population demographics were likely to change over time.
- Clarifying key priorities at the sub-regional level, now and in future.

- Agreeing on success criteria for economic development in the Eastern Bay.
- Developing a long-list of potential projects that require funding and support – to be prioritised in phase two.

Phase 2: Framework Development

This phase involved:

- Creating a consolidated economic development framework – aligning the focus across the Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki districts, and specifying what needs to change and why.
- Refining the draft framework with industry.
- Prioritising key projects, using the dual lenses of (i) ability to deliver on the success criteria and (ii) likelihood of receiving funding, including via the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Phase 3: Implementation Planning

This phase involved:

- Providing district councils and other local partners with a high-level approach to strategy implementation, and clear next steps.
- After the criteria for the Regional Infrastructure Fund were announced: (i) planning for Regional Deals and (ii) developing a narrative to accompany this sub-regional Economic Development strategy.
- Determining the immediate next steps for this sub-regional Economic Development strategy and for City & Regional Deals. Committing to coordinated processes and concrete actions.

Appendix 2:

Stakeholder roles in implementation

Regional stakeholders have different levers to pull, and different roles to play in the proposed implementation of this strategy. The following table outlines the key stakeholder groups and their core roles.

Stakeholder roles in implementation: A guide

Regional stakeholders have different levers to pull and roles to play in the implementation of the economic development framework

Role	Economic development entities	Councils	Iwi	Business	Central government
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotional activities Coordination between Councils on relevant activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying government Promotional activities Bringing urgency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying government including where it makes sense to do in tandem with councils and/or industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying government including where it makes sense to do so 	N/A
Facilitation & Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing and leading in some cross-org groups Alignment across groups and workstreams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading cross org groups Long term planning for clarity and certainty Alignment across groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key contributors to cross-organisational groups and long-term planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key contributors to cross-organisational groups and long-term planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brokering international trade arrangements for EBOP exports
Enabling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public/private interface: influencing and connecting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding and building infrastructure Zoning laws Regulatory support Consents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for support through consenting processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving demand and supply related to workforce, housing, and transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws and regulatory changes to resolve constraints at pace and scale
Driving Development	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for limited 'driving' activities, but development is primarily driven by business (including iwi businesses) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding and building houses Progressing individual workforce, social and commercial initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding and building houses Growing businesses Employing people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding
	Key facilitator, ensuring alignment	Coordinate, facilitate and enable others' ambitions	Key driver of development	Key driver of development	Provide enabling regulatory and funding settings

- **Councils** play a critical enabling role that comprises planning, regulation, consents and zoning. They also have a coordination role to facilitate engagement between themselves, businesses, and Māori partners. This is key to strategic alignment between stakeholders.
- **Businesses**, as employers and industry participants, play a critical role in both developing economic development strategies, and implementing those strategies in the Eastern Bay. This includes small, medium, and large businesses. Organised advocacy and engagement on an organisational and/or industry level is valuable to coordinate initiatives that further the Eastern Bay's development.
- **Iwi, hapū, businesses, trusts, and Māori landowners** are all key players in the development of the Eastern Bay's economy. Mana whenua partners embed knowledge, identity, capital, and innovation in the sub-region, and are critical to achieving a shared vision.
- **Economic Development entities** play a vital coordinating role in advocating for focus target groups within regional economies. They are a valuable proxy-stakeholder between businesses, iwi, and councils.

Ngā Mihi



Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: 30 April 2025

Subject: **S17A - Activity Review for the Maurie Kjar Memorial Aquatic Centre Service**

File No.: 408600

1 Purpose

The Local Government Act mandates that local authorities examine the cost-effectiveness of their current arrangements for meeting the needs of communities within their district or region. This includes ensuring the availability of good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and effective performance of regulatory functions.

This review of the Aquatic Centre Service focuses on governance, funding, and service delivery, and it requires the consideration of specific options. Governance refers to the decision-making processes related to the service, finance pertains to how funding is allocated, and delivery encompasses the actual operation of the service.

2 Activity Goals

The main objective of this activity is to provide a high-quality recreational facility that fulfils the community's social, cultural, economic, and environmental needs. Additionally, Council aim to provide a water training facility for local schools and clubs while also attracting visitors to the district.

To achieve this, Council need to maintain the existing pools of various depths and lengths and comply with all consent, cultural, environmental, water safety, and workplace health and safety requirements.

3 Service and Scope

This Service provides an aquatic facility consisting of five pools:

- 25 m exercise pool with lines and ropes
- 12 m training pool (the bulkhead pool)
- 1.2 m deep learners' pool
- 0.3 m deep toddlers' pool
- 40-person spa pool

The pools and spa are heated through a steam supply from geothermal energy.

This Service also provides recreational facilities:

- A BBQ-covered area with a large BBQ, suitable for up to 80 people
- Mobile BBQ and lunch areas

- Picnic tables and grass lawns
- Splash pad
- Jumping pillow
- First aid room and defibrillator

The large and mobile BBQs are available for hire during opening hours. The pools are shared with the general public during these hires, and only the BBQ areas and tables are reserved.

Public ablution facilities with hot showers and toilets are available to patrons and the general public. There is full disability access to the ablutions, the bulkhead, and spa pools.

The facility is available for after-hours hire for exclusive recreational use. It is also available to schools and other service providers for aquatic sports and water training events, with options for exclusive use (such as large school galas) and shared use (normal school swim days).

The pools are open year-round, except on Christmas Day and during annual maintenance, which typically occurs in October. This schedule is designed to take advantage of the low rainfall season and avoid conflicts with school holidays.

During the summer months, the pools are open from 8:00am to 5:30pm. In the winter months, the hours are adjusted to 9:00am to 5:30pm. After 5:30pm in the winter, the steam can cause poor visibility and pose health and safety risks, so it is not advisable to keep the pools open later. Guests are asked to begin clearing the pools at 5.30pm. However, guests are allowed to shower and change clothes until 6:00pm. The pools are available for private bookings starting at 6:00pm.

In the mornings, the staff start working at 6:30am in the summer and 7:30am in the winter to prepare the pools for the day.

The current services delivered are:

- Managing and maintaining the facility and all infrastructure
- Monitoring water quality through in-house and third party sampling and testing
- Maintaining all resource consent compliance
- Planning to meet future requirements and improve operations

4 Current Governance and Service Delivery

Council governs the Aquatic Centre Service. Major infrastructure projects are executed by contractors selected through a competitive tender process. These major infrastructure projects require resolution via Full Council.

Council staff are responsible for providing and maintaining the pool services and infrastructure as part of their operational role. Council employs its in-house Asset Management and Project Management teams to provide the necessary services. Specialised water monitoring and control services are provided by external experts.

5 **Current Performance Measures for Level of Service**

The Aquatic Centre Service has the following Levels of Service:

- Community satisfaction with the Pools Service is assessed through a Triennial Residents' Survey. The 2023 survey indicated an approval rating of 72%, compared to a benchmark of 69% for New Zealand. The relatively low satisfaction rate was attributed to the closure of the Aquatic Centre for the refurbishment of the geothermal bore.
- The pools are open to the community. The duration of pool accessibility is documented in the pool log books.
- Pool water meets water quality standards.
 - Council pool water must comply with NZ pool quality standards. Compliance is assessed through both internal and independent water testing. All conditions were met in 2023/24.
 - 100% of all third-party testing was compliant.
 - Compliance with all resource consent conditions.

6 **Current cost of Service**

The Aquatic Centre Service has an operational budget of \$1,087,550 for the fiscal year 2024/25. This service is funded by:

- Rates contribution: \$1,070,550
- Fees and charges contribution: \$17,000 in fees

This translates to a 98% contribution from rates and 2% contribution from fees and charges.

Additionally, a capital renewal budget of \$206,129 is planned for this financial year.

7 **Analyses of the Service**

Need of the Service

There are no laws or regulations requiring Council to provide aquatic centre services. The service is offered at the Council's discretion.

The Aquatic Centre serves as the sole recreational swimming facility within the district that employs certified lifeguards. It receives substantial support from the community. During the academic term, the facility accommodates an average of 300 patrons on weekdays and 600 on weekends. Conversely, throughout the school holidays, the average daily attendance rises to approximately 350 visitors.

The capacity of the Aquatic Centre at any given time is contingent upon the number of lifeguards present, with a maximum allowable limit of 200 individuals. However, on peak days, the total daily visitor count may reach as high as 900 across the entire day.

Attendance records for the year 2024 indicate that the Aquatic Centre welcomed over 100,000 visitors throughout the year.

Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Service

The service is efficient and employs local staff. It is the only ratepayer-funded service of its kind in the region.

Improvement of the Service

The Aquatic Centre Service can be enhanced by introducing several new services and facilities.

One option to consider is merging the site and pool offices. This proposal was initially scoped internally, but to ensure the robustness of its 2022 assumptions a professional re-evaluation by expert and independent consultants will be conducted. This will inform a future business case which will include potential pricing models for entry fees. The results of the feasibility study will be presented to Council in the next financial year (FY 2025/2026). Governance retains full control over any decision regarding pricing models and fees.

Constraints of the service

The facility has access to ample water sources and geothermal heat, making operations feasible. Additionally, there is sufficient space for potential expansion and the addition of new features. A new geothermal permit was obtained in 2023 and is valid until 2033. An alternative option for heating the pool would be to use a heat pump powered by electricity. The estimated annual cost of heating the pools with a heat pump is approximately \$100,000.

Risks of the service

The pool area poses a considerable drowning risk due to the open water. To reduce this risk, full-time lifeguards are on duty during operating hours. For after-hours rentals, agreements for private hire must include designated qualified first aid responders and designated lifeguards within each rental party to ensure safety.

The pool water is regularly tested and monitored to reduce health risks associated with contamination. Local industry generously donates the supply of pool chlorine. If chlorine needs to be purchased on the open market, it is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000 per month. During the annual shut in 2024 improvements were made to the levels surrounding the main pool to help reduce water loss. By reducing water loss Council also reduces its chlorine requirements.

8 Delivery Options of the Service

Current arrangement

The service is governed, funded, and delivered by Council.

Governance

There are currently no other options identified for alternative governance of the service.

Funding

The service is funded through rates and by charging fees to after-hours and BBQ users. Swimming paraphernalia (swimming nappies) are sold to the public. There is significant demand for other related items such as swimming clothes, goggles, and refreshments.

The Aquatic Centre is currently open to the public with no entry fee charged. However, there is the potential for funding through entry fees in the future. This option was considered internally in 2022 and further investigation is underway with expert and independent consultants. The involvement of external and independent consultants will help ensure the robustness of any assumptions and potential pricing models for entry fees.

Comparison of Cost related to different operating hours.

The Aquatic Centre currently operates split shifts (i.e. two shifts per day). The split shift model is required because the Aquatic Centre is open for longer than 8 hours per day. Staff must also arrive before opening time to begin opening procedures and stay after closing time to ensure closedown procedures are adhered to.

The table below illustrates the potential cost savings that could be achieved by changing the pool's operating hours to accommodate a single shift (1 shift).

Options	Number of shifts	Life Guards	Pool open	Annual hours	Staff	Annual cost	Annual Saving
1	1	3	9:30 am	11934		\$310,284	\$65,572
2	2	3	8:00 am	14456		\$375,856	\$0

It is important to note that a group of 20 individuals participates in Aqua aerobic training from 8:00am to 9:00am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This activity can be accommodated by option one, which involves adjusting the morning cleaning schedules.

On average, four regular patrons use the pool starting at 8:00am before the school bookings begin at 9:30am. If option one is implemented, these patrons will be affected and will need to adjust and find alternative times to use the pool.

The cost saving related to a 9:30am instead of 8:00am opening translates to a \$120 per hour saving.

Delivery

The service is provided by Council staff, and all infrastructure is developed and maintained by Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report "S17A - Activity Review for the Maurie Kjar Memorial Aquatic Centre Service" be received.
2. That Council adopts the Maurie Kjar Memorial Aquatic Centre S17A review as proposed in the report and Appendix A

3. That Council confirms that during the 2025/26 financial year a review will be undertaken of the following:
- a. fees and charges, including potential entry fees: and
 - b. the opening hours for delivering aquatic centre services, both of which will be reported back to Council.



Riaan Nel, B. Tech (Mech), BSc (Hons)

Group Manager, Operations & Services

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Reports\04 April 2025\R-S17A Review Swimming Pools 2025-04-09.doc

PART I: PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS	
<i>Name of the service and scope</i>	<u><i>Maurie Kjar Memorial Aquatic Centre Service</i></u> <i>To provide an aquatic centre with five pools and other recreational facilities for the Kawerau District.</i>
<i>The rationale for service provision</i>	<i>Providing heated pools, water play areas, and water sports facilities for the Kawerau District.</i>
<i>Present arrangements</i>	<i>The service is governed by Council.</i> <i>All operations, management, and maintenance of the service are provided by Council staff.</i> <i>The service is funded through rates (98%) and fees and charges (2%).</i>
<i>Last review</i> <i>Reviewed</i> <i>Next Review</i>	<i>July 2017</i> <i>March 2025</i> <i>March 2031</i>
<i>Performance</i>	<i>Performance is currently measured by:</i> <i>Community satisfaction surveys conducted every three years.</i> <i>Quality of pool water.</i> <i>Attractiveness of gardens and displays.</i> <i>Safety of playgrounds and equipment.</i>
<i>Cost</i>	<i>\$ 1,087,550 per year</i>
PART II: DECISION TO REVIEW	
<i>Why is a review considered?</i>	<i>It has been 8 years since the previous full review.</i>
<i>Are there any exceptions to undertaking this review?</i>	<i>There are no exceptions that may be considered when undertaking this review.</i>
<i>Is a full or a partial review required</i>	<i>It has been 8 years since the previous full review, and a full review is required.</i>

PART III: ANALYSES OF OPTIONS	
<i>Governance options</i>	<i>There are no other governance options.</i>
<i>Funding options</i>	<p><i>The service is financed by rates, fees, and charges as determined by the Council's Revenue & Financing Policy.</i></p> <p><i>This service is funded by \$1,070,550 in rates and \$17,000 in fees and charges, which translates to 98% from rates and 2% from fees and charges.</i></p> <p><i>External funding may be sought for facility and plant expansions or improvements when available.</i></p>
<i>Operational options</i>	<p><i>The service is managed, maintained, and operated by Council staff. This approach is highly cost-effective and provides the Council with direct control of the service.</i></p> <p><i>No shared services with other councils or organisations are involved in managing, maintaining, or operating this service. However, chlorine is provided free of charge by industry.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, no other entities have been identified that may manage, maintain, or operate the service.</i></p>

Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: 30 April 2025

Subject: **Confirming alternative tap arrangements**

File No.: 404000

1 Background

Kawerau District Council provides the community with two unchlorinated water outlets. These outlets are located at the Pumphouse and New World car park. Approximately 25 cubic metres (m³) of water is sourced monthly from the Pumphouse, while the New World tap sees an average usage of around 30 m³.

- **Pumphouse Taps** are designated water taps at the Kawerau District Council water treatment plant. These taps provide the community with access to unchlorinated drinking water. The water supply is connected to the treatment plant system before chemical treatment occurs. Before discharge to the taps the water undergoes filtration to effectively remove solid contaminants, ensuring it meets public use safety standards. Additionally, the water is treated with ultraviolet (UV) light, which sterilises it by eliminating harmful microorganisms without using chemicals. Therefore, water at the Pumphouse Taps remains chlorine-free and fluoride-free.
- **New World Taps** are designated water taps that are situated in the car park of the New World shopping centre to provide the community with access to chlorine-free drinking water. These taps are integrated into the district's potable water reticulation system. The water passes through an advanced filtration process that effectively removes chlorine. These filters are compactly designed, allowing for easy installation without needing a dedicated shed or electrical supply. To maintain optimal performance, the filters are replaced yearly at \$1200.

The Ministry of Health has issued a directive mandating that all Council-supplied potable water must be fluoridated effective from 1 October 2024. In light of this requirement, a question arose regarding the existing unchlorinated taps and whether they would be upgraded to offer an option for fluoride-free water.

- **Pumphouse Taps** draw from the water system prior to the introduction of any chemical treatments, including fluoride. As a result, these taps already dispense non-chlorinated and non-fluoridated water.
- **New World Taps** - In October 2024, a series of filters were installed at the New World car park to remove both fluoride and chlorine from the water. However, these filters struggled to handle the high water usage demands and ultimately had to be returned to the supplier. Following this setback, comprehensive research and investigations, along with cost assessments, were conducted. The findings indicated that the most effective solution for a fluoride removal system, capable of handling the required capacity, would involve an initial investment of approximately \$28,000, along with a recurring

yearly service fee of approximately \$2,500. These costs also include the need for a shed to house the system and to provide electricity.

Since the trial in October 2024, the chlorine removal filters have not been reinstated, pending a decision on whether to upgrade the system to also remove fluoride OR to continue supplying only non-chlorinated water.

2 Options

Option 1

Procure and install a treatment system that has the capacity to supply chlorine- and fluoride-free water at the taps in the New World car park. This project will require an initial capital investment of \$28,000 and an annual service fee of \$2,500. Upgrading the filters was not been budgeted for in the 2024/2025 financial year.

This option includes reconfirming the Pumphouse Taps as chlorine-free and fluoride-free.

Option 2

Reinstate the chlorine removal filter, which supplies unchlorinated water at the taps in the New World car park. This would have no cost impact on the current approved budgets.

This option also includes reconfirming the Pumphouse Taps as chlorine-free and fluoride-free.

Given the availability of chlorine- and fluoride-free water at the taps at the Water Treatment Plant on River Road, Option 2 is recommended.

As part of Council's resealing project the driveway and turning bay at the Pumphouse Taps have been upgraded. There is also a new drainage system installed at the Taps to help prevent water from pooling where a tap is accidentally left running or leaking. The resealing to the driveway and turning bay has helped accommodate the increased vehicle movements as well as improve the general amenity value.

3 Legal Considerations

Under section 115F(3) of the Health Act 1956 the Director-General of Health can alter the content of the directive to fluoridate by allowing a local authority "to supply, at 1 or more specified sites, water to which fluoride has not been added".

On 12 September 2024 the Chief Executive wrote to the Ministry of Health seeking permission as per section 115F(3) to provide fluoride-free taps at the Pumphouse and New World carpark. In a letter dated 3 December 2024 the Director-General of Health approved this request confirming Council can legally provide fluoride-free water at the Pumphouse Taps and, if it chooses to incur the capital and operational costs, the New World Carpark.

4 Significance and Engagement

Obtaining the Community's views on any of the options is not considered necessary.

5 Financial Considerations

Upgrading the filter system will require \$ 28,000 in capital expenditure (CAPEX) funding, which is not included in the current budget. This would be funded from depreciation reserves under capital expenditure.

Additionally, an unbudgeted annual increase of \$2,500 will be added to the operating expense (OPEX) budgets to maintain the upgraded system.

Restoring the chlorine removal filter as per Option 2 will not affect the current budget.

6 Conclusion

The Ministry of Health has mandated fluoridation of all Council-supplied potable water starting 1 October 2024. Questions have been raised about whether existing chlorine-free taps will be upgraded for fluoride-free options.

Chlorine- and fluoride-free water is available at the Water Treatment Plant on River Road.

Two options were considered for the New World car park:

1. Upgrade the filtration system for chlorine-free and fluoride-free water. This is not budgeted for.
2. Reinstall chlorine removal filters only for unchlorinated water. This will not impact the budget.

Given the availability of chlorine-free and fluoride-free water at the Water treatment Plant, Option 2 is recommended.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report "Confirming alternative tap arrangements" be received.
2. That Council approves either:
 - a) Option 1 – Reconfirm the Pumphouse Taps as fluoride-free AND upgrade the New World car park filtration system to supply chlorine- and fluoride-free water. This option includes the approval of \$ 28,000 capital expenditure and increasing the annual operational budget by \$2,500.

- b) Option 2 – Reconfirm the Pumphouse Taps as fluoride-free AND reinstall chlorine removal filters only for unchlorinated water.



Riaan Nel, BTec (Eng), BSc Hons (Eng)

Group Manager, Operations and Services

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Reports\04 April 2025\R-Options for non-Fluoridated taps 2025-04-30.docx