



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau

TAONGA O TE WHENUA - TREASURE OF THE LAND

**The Meeting of the
Regulatory and Services Committee
Will be held on Wednesday 13 August 2025
commencing at 9.00am**

A G E N D A

REGULATORY & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Her Worship the Mayor - F K N Tunui

Councillor C J Ion - Chairperson

Councillor W Godfery

Councillor S Kingi

Councillor B J Julian

Councillor A Rangihika

Councillor R G K Savage

Councillor R Andrews

Councillor J Ross

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC FORUM AT MEETINGS

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 Meeting of the Regulatory and Services Committee
will be held on Wednesday 13 August 2025
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 Public Forum**

PART A – REGULATORY

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

Pgs. 1 - 5

Attached is the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering Regulatory and Planning Services activities for the month of July 2025.

Recommendation

That the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory & Planning Services for the month of July 2025 be received.

PART B – NON REGULATORY

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

Pgs. 6 - 11

Attached is the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Finance and Corporate Services activities for the month of July 2025.

Recommendation

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

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

Pgs. 12 - 17

Attached is the report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services covering Operations and Services activities for the month of July 2025.

Recommendation

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

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

Pgs. 18 - 54

Attached is the report from Economic and Community Development Manager covering Economic and Community activities for the month of July 2025.

Recommendation

That the report from the Economic and Community Development Manager for the month of July 2025 be received.

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

Pgs. 55 - 58

Attached is the report from the Communication and Engagement Manager covering Communication and Engagement activities for the month of July 2025.

Recommendation

That the report from the Communication and Engagement Manager for the month of July 2025 be received.

11 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

M Godfery

Chief Executive Officer

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MONTHLY REPORT REGULATORY & PLANNING SERVICES

July 2025

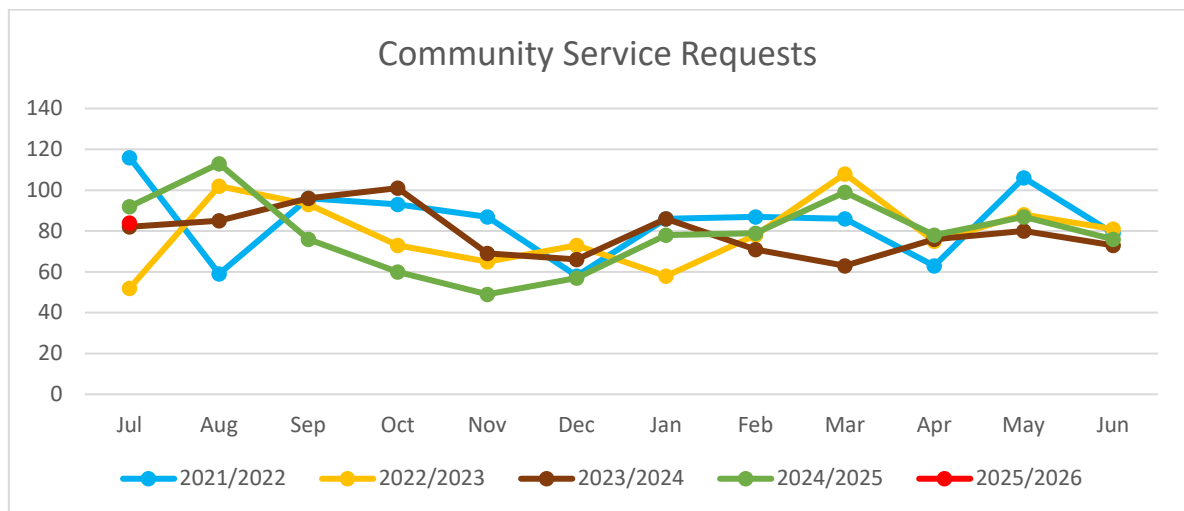
1 Animal Control

1.1 Dog Registration

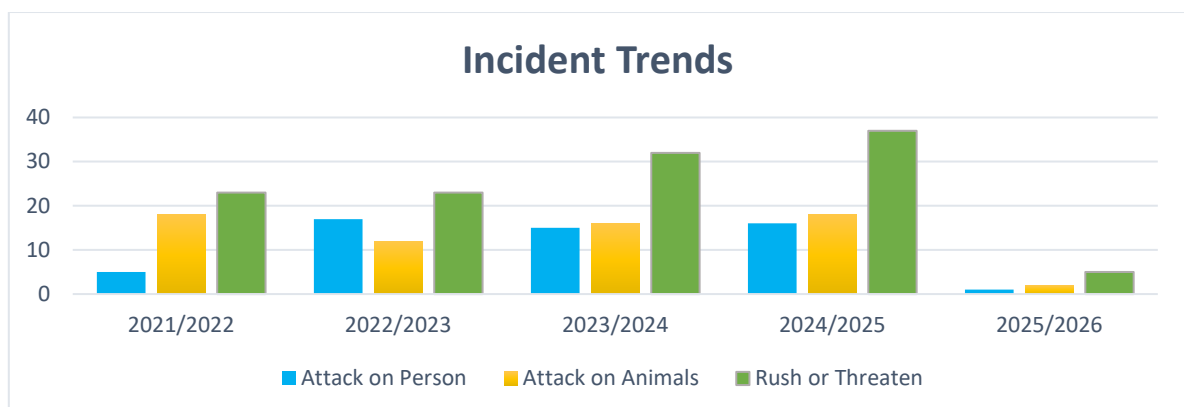
At 31 July 2025, there are 1,062 dogs registered of the 1,315 dogs listed on the dog register for 2025/2026. This represents 80.7% of known dogs.

1.2 Dog Control - Ranging, Complaints and Incidents

A total of eighty four (84) service requests were responded to during July 2025.



This included sixty six (66) statutory occurrences (barking, roaming, attacks) attended by Council. These related largely to complaints of barking (35) and roaming (23).



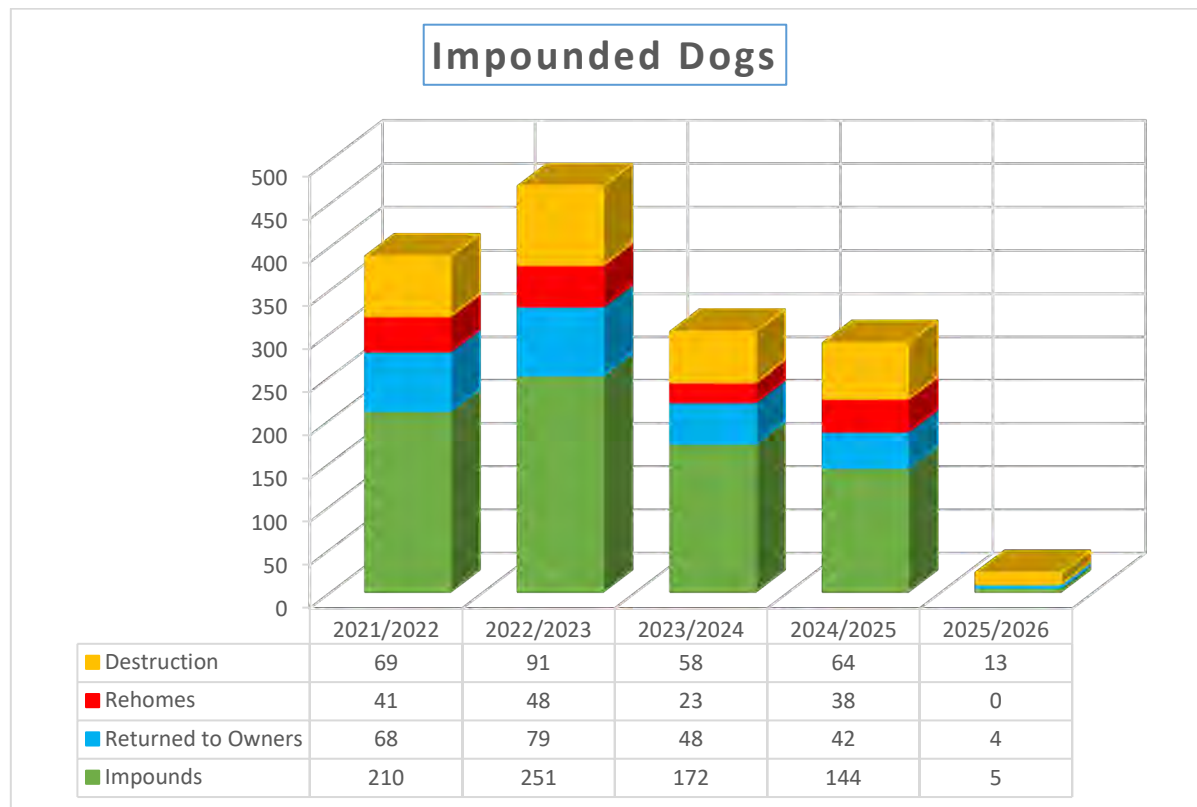
During July, there were five incidents where a dog has rushed an individual. Owners were identified for three of the five incidents. Two separate incidents related to two dogs roaming, during which they rushed at an individual – no dogs were located for these two incidents.

One incident related to a Postie being rushed by a dog. Dog located and secured by Rangers. Property checks were completed and infringements were issued.

The remaining two incidents resulted in formal warnings being issued.

The two attacks on a dog related to two separate incidents where two roaming dogs had attacked another dog. The first dog was at its own property when attacked, there was no injury and the dogs involved could not be located. The two roaming dogs in the second incident were located and resulted in infringements being issued and dogs classified as menacing.

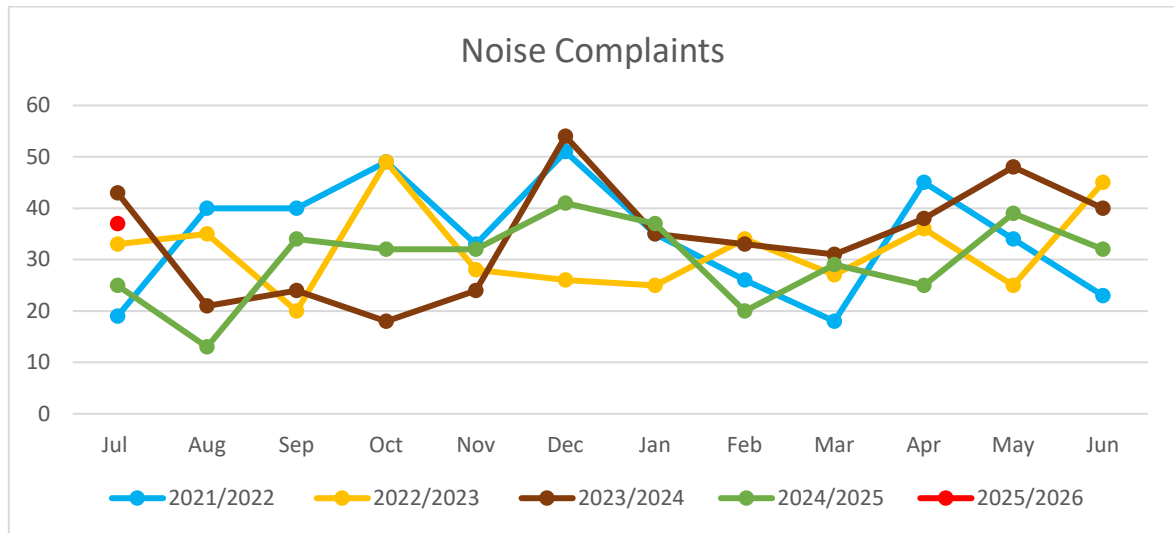
One attack on a person was reported, this related to a nip on the leg from an excited dog rather than an aggressive dog. Owner fixed hole in fence immediately and undertook further property improvements on inspection. Infringement issued.



During the same period, five (5) dogs were impounded, four (4) dogs were returned to their owners and thirteen (13) dogs were destroyed.

2 Monitoring and Compliance

There were 37 noise complaints in July 2025. Eleven incidents were found to be excessive.



The Dog Rangers are now completing the noise complaints during the hours of 8am and 5pm.

A further five (5) service requests were responded to regarding bylaw matters.

3 Alcohol Regulation

Nothing further to report for this month.

4 Food Safety and Premises

For the month of July, three (3) verifications were completed for food premises.

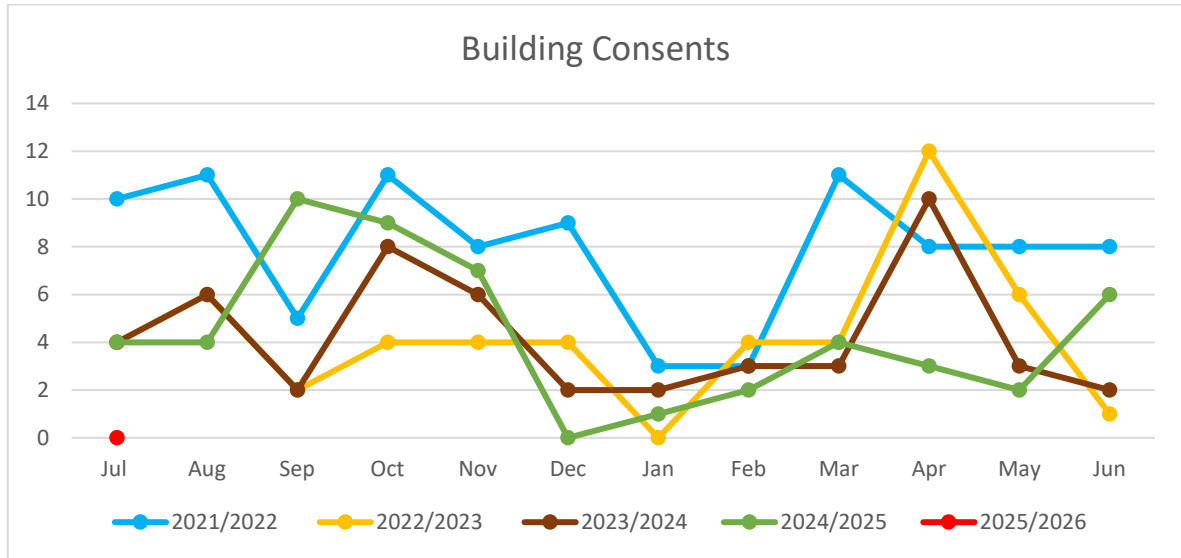
5 Environmental Health

Two odour complaints were received during July.

6 Building Control

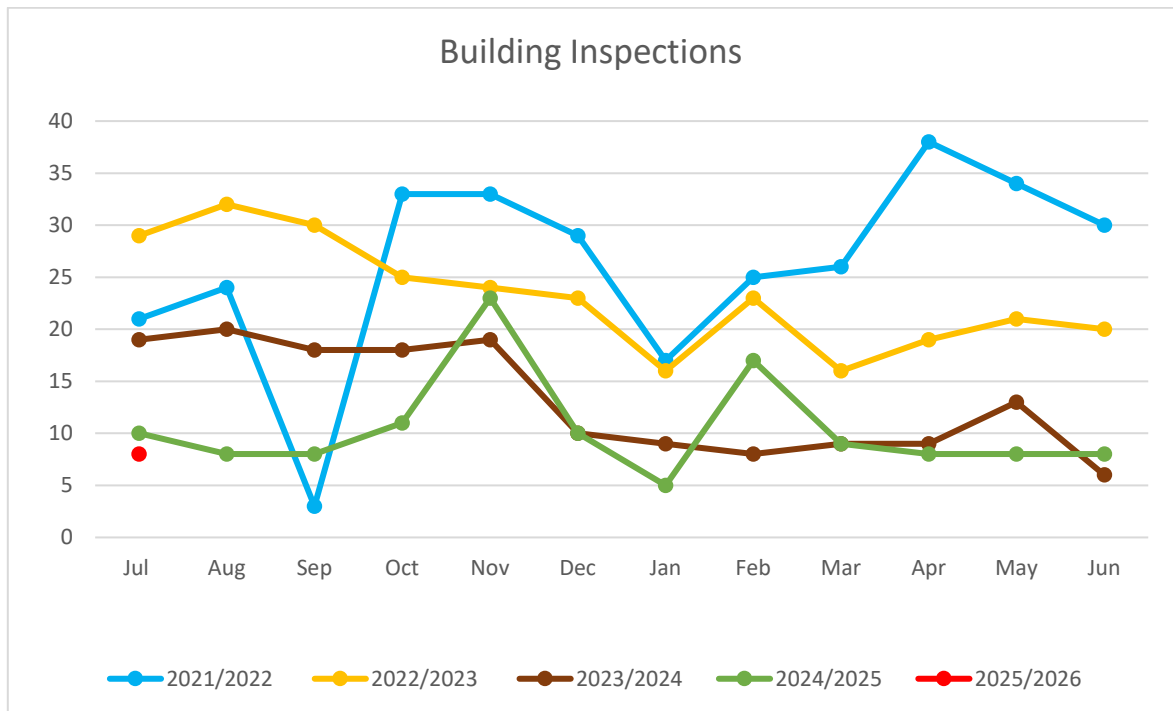
6.1 Building Consent Authority (BCA)

No building consents were issued for the period of 1 July 2025 to 31 July 2025.



Five (5) code of compliance certificates were issued.

Eight (8) building inspections were completed and three (3) office meetings.



6.2 Territorial Authority

Seven (7) Land Information Memorandum ('LIM') reports were issued in July.

7 **Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM)**

Our Controller was monitoring the weather event which was forecasted to hit the Eastern Bay on 30 July 2025. While Kawerau District received significant rainfall during this event, there was no reports of flooding or significant damage in the District.

8 District Plan

8.1 District Plan Review

Government recently announced new legislation stopping Council undertaking any further district plan reviews, while the Resource Management Review is being completed. This means Council will not be able to complete the current review that was underway.

Government is signalling an avenue to apply for an exemption in limited circumstances, in which some District Plan work may be completed, where approved. Legislation is expected later this month.

A paper will be brought to Council later this month to consider the proposed approach to complete the work on the boundary change and related zoning matters – this work is legally required to complete the boundary change requirements.

8.2 Resource Consents

No resource consents were processed to a decision during this period.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning Services for the month of July 2025 be received.



Michaela Glaspey

Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning

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MONTHLY REPORT

FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

July 2025

1 Library and Museum

1.1 Library

July began with the Night Library event which promoted the winter reading activities and many of the different things the Library and Museum do. Feedback from participants was very positive with 65 youth and 30 adults signing up to the winter reading programme.

The school holiday activities were also busy with making slime and photo frames the most popular sessions. Displays for July were promoting reading and our winter activities.

Library Statistics

	July 2025	YTD 2025/26	July 2024	YTD 2024/25
Items issued	3,150	3,150	3,919	3,919
People visiting	6,324	6,324	4,533	4,533
New members	32	32	10	10
Active members*	1,238		1,363	

*Those people that have used library services in the last 2 years

1.2 Museum

As part of the Night Library event, a new exhibition, *A Day In The Life Of Kawerau*, was launched on 1 July. Like the title says, the exhibition features scenes of life in the Kawerau community over 24 hours, but the twist is that each moment comes from a different year e.g. a night shift in the 1950's turns up next to a morning classroom of kids in the 1990's; afternoon sports in the 1970's is followed by amateur theatre from the 1980's. At night lighting effects are used to reinforce the different times of the day.

The team also began a review of Council's Museum processes and tools used to manage the collection.

Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum Statistics

	July 2025	YTD 2025/26	July 2024	YTD 2024/25
Exhibitions	1	1	0	6

Vernon Records	July 2025	YTD 2025/26	July 2024	YTD 2024/25
Objects – items added to collection	10	10	49	49
People	225	225	99	99
Documents	70	70	64	64
Photographs	33	33	91	91

Objects – items added to Vernon Museum Collection, *People* – records added to Vernon on individuals and organisations, *Documents* – a document added to Vernon like newspaper articles, forms, etc., and *Photographs* – photos added to Vernon.

2 Weather Station

The average temperature for the month of July was 16.7° and the highest temperature for the month was 21.0° recorded on 5 July 2025.

The accumulated sunshine hours for July was 143 hours and 54 minutes, with the sunniest day being 9 hours and 6 minutes of sunshine which was recorded on 25 July. The Appendix to this report shows a combined graph of the temperatures and sunshine data collected for July.

The rainfall for June was 96.1mm with the year to date total of 683.4mm. The total rainfall data for July was not available at the time of preparing this report, as there are delays in rainfall reporting.

3 Payments

There were five payments in July 2025, which exceeded \$50,000.

- Inland Revenue Department (2 invoices) - \$250,398.02 - PAYE for Fortnights ending 15/06/2025, 15/6/2025 and 29/06/2025.
- Contech – \$70,287.31 – One invoice for Raw Pit Renewals – Initial Deposit coded to 403520.011 Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Intergroup Limited (4 invoices) – Total of \$50,749.99 – Two invoices for Road Sweeping and Gutter Cleaning for \$10,325.27. Two invoices for Stormwater Cesspit Cleaning of \$18,888.46 and \$21,536.26. All invoices were for operational expenditure under the Roding and Stormwater Activities.
- Ōpōtiki Pumps and Irrigation (3 Invoices) – Total of \$77,545.95. Two invoices for Bypass Chamber System – Claims 1 & 2 for \$51,750 and \$23,000 respectively, coded to 403520.02 Wastewater Pipework Zone 1. One invoice for Raw Water Pump of \$2,795.95 coded to operational expenditure.
- Waste Management (2 invoices) – Total of \$86,599.49 for general waste and mixed recycling for May 2025.

** Please note the payments above are GST inclusive, however all financial reporting is GST exclusive. When comparing to capital expenditure reporting there is likely to be timing differences between payment date and reporting date.

4 Requests for Service

The following table details the total number of service requests received for July and identifies if they have been completed or are still being progressed by the end of the month.

Service	Total	
	Completed	In Progress
Dogs	77	10
Noise	36	1
Building Enquiries	12	1
Trees* & Parks	39	2
Rubbish (Bins & Collections)	39	2
Water	9	1
Wastewater	9	0
Stormwater	5	2
Roading/ Streetlights	12	**18
Enforcement/Health/Food/Stock	7	0
Council Buildings/Facilities – Maint.	21	6
Other (Events/Consents/Rates/Vandalism)	7	4
Official Information Requests	3	0
Total	276	47

*Requests relating to the removal of trees are added to a priority list.

** Of the 18 Roothing requests in progress – 9 have been referred to the External Contractor for the maintenance of Street Lighting.

For July, 35 requests came via the website/emails and 23 via Antenno. The balance of requests came from phone calls or visits.

5 Funds

The following funds were held at 31 July 2025:

Invested in	\$	Interest Rate	% External
ANZ – on call	751	1.40%	0.05%
BNZ – current & on-call	1,440,071	2.55%	98.37%
Rabobank (on-call)	23,121	2.00%	1.58%
Total Funds (Cash)	1,463,943		100.0%
Internal Loans	1,440,225		
Total Investments	2,904,169		

The following table shows Council's reserve and general funds balances as at 31 July 2025:

	July 2025	July 2024
Reserve Balances		
Depreciation Reserve Funds*	\$3,648,223	\$3,282,457
Total Reserve Balances	\$3,648,223	\$3,282,447
General Funds	(\$744,054)	(\$663,910)
Total (comprising funds & internal loans)	\$2,904,169	\$2,618,547

* This includes loan funds uplifted.

The figures show that overall Council has increased cash funds of \$285,622 at the end of July when compared to the same time last year. The general funds are usually lower in July as this is prior to the first rates instalment being issued for the new financial year. The Depreciation Reserve Funds have increased by \$365,766 compared to July 2024. During 2024/25 a number of capital projects were completed, which were funded from the depreciation reserves. There are some capital project budgets to be carried forward to the 2025/26 financial year.

6 RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Group Manager, Finance & Corporate Services for July 2025, be received.



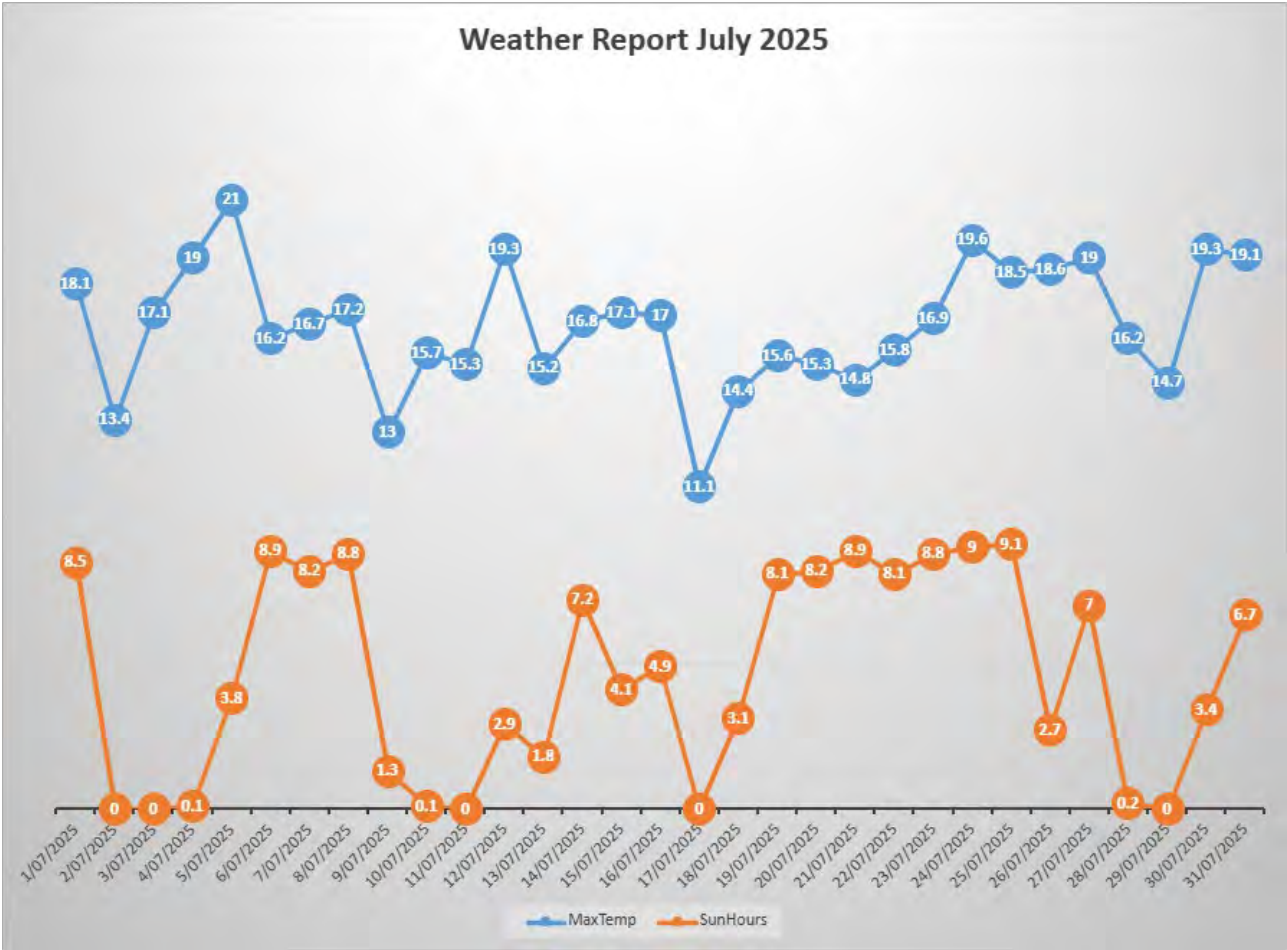
Lee-Anne Butler, CA, BMS

Group Manager, Finance & Corporate Services

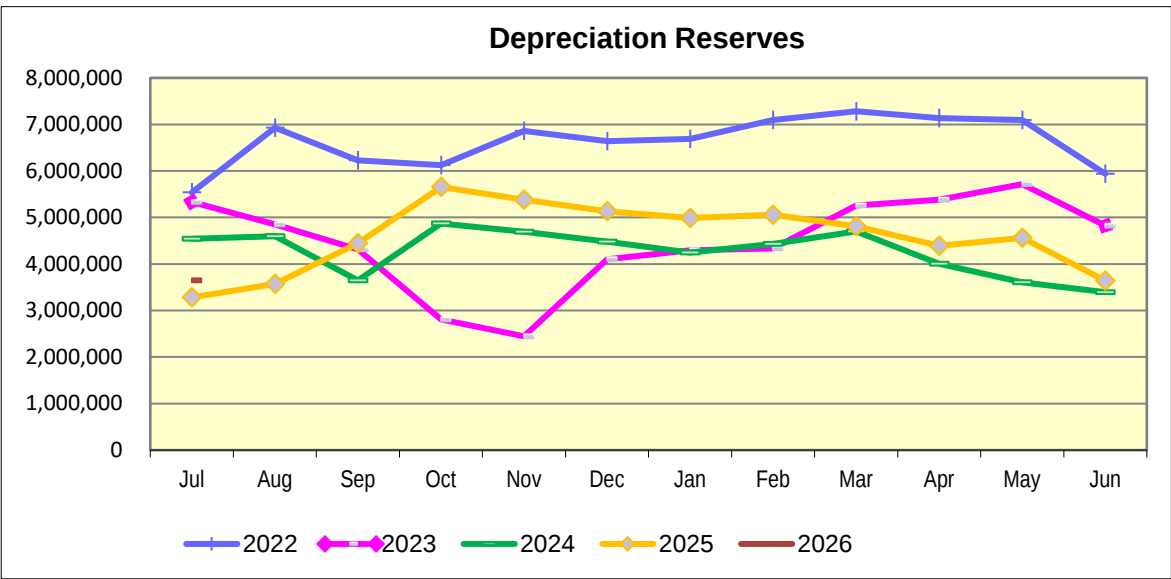
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Appendix

July 2025 - Weather Data

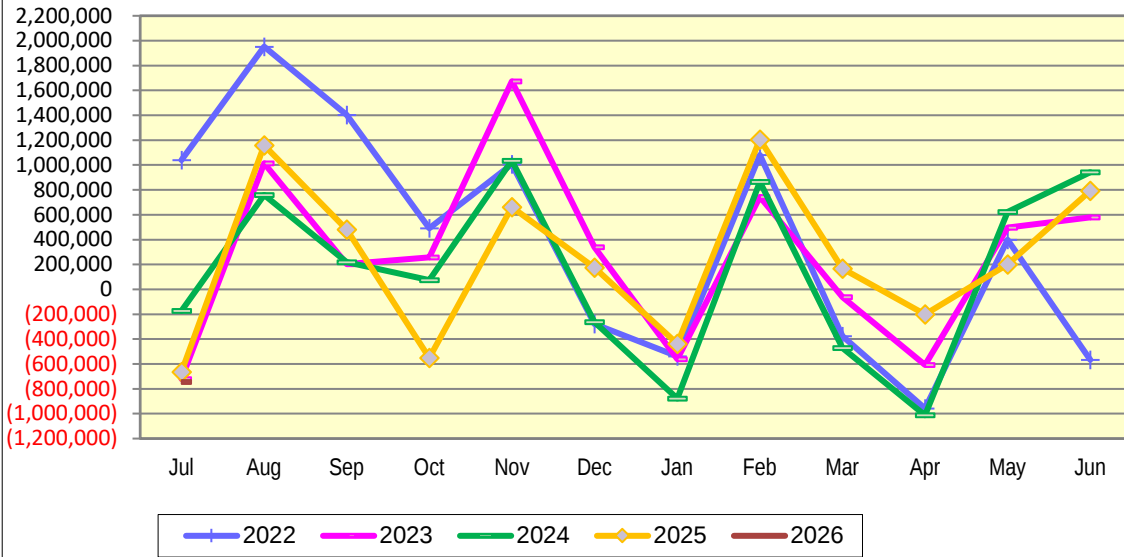


July 2025 – Financial Data

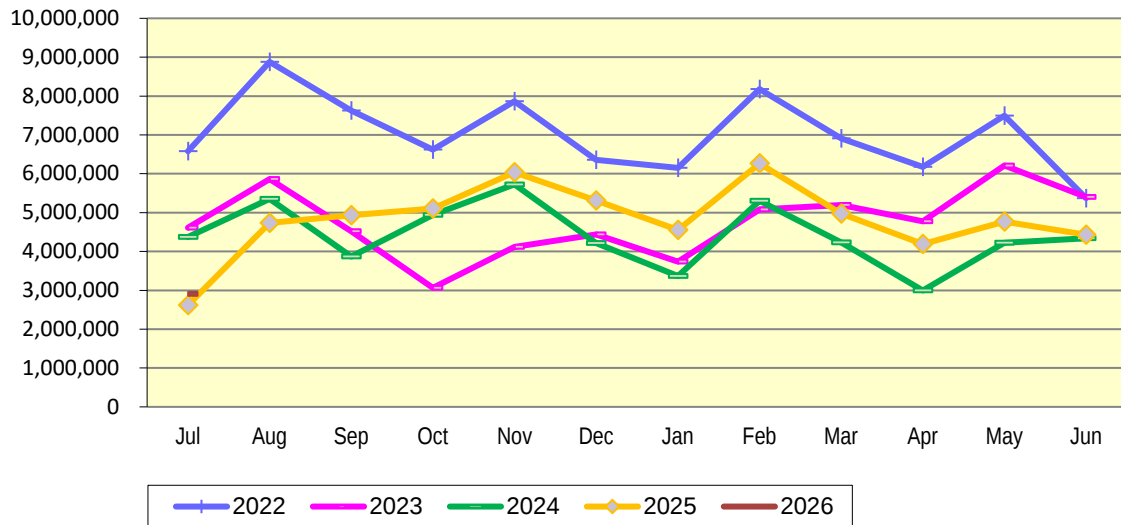


The depreciation reserves funds above includes the loan funding Council has uplifted.

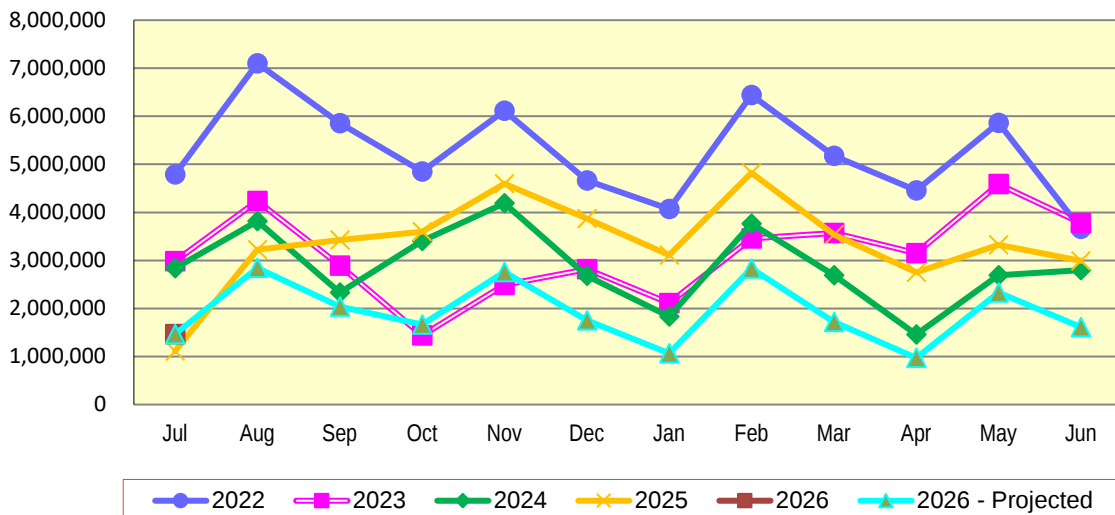
General Funds



Total Funds (includes Internal Loans)



Cash Flow



Please note that the 2024/25 actual cashflow is the same as the forecast cashflow for months year to date.

MONTHLY REPORT OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

July 2025

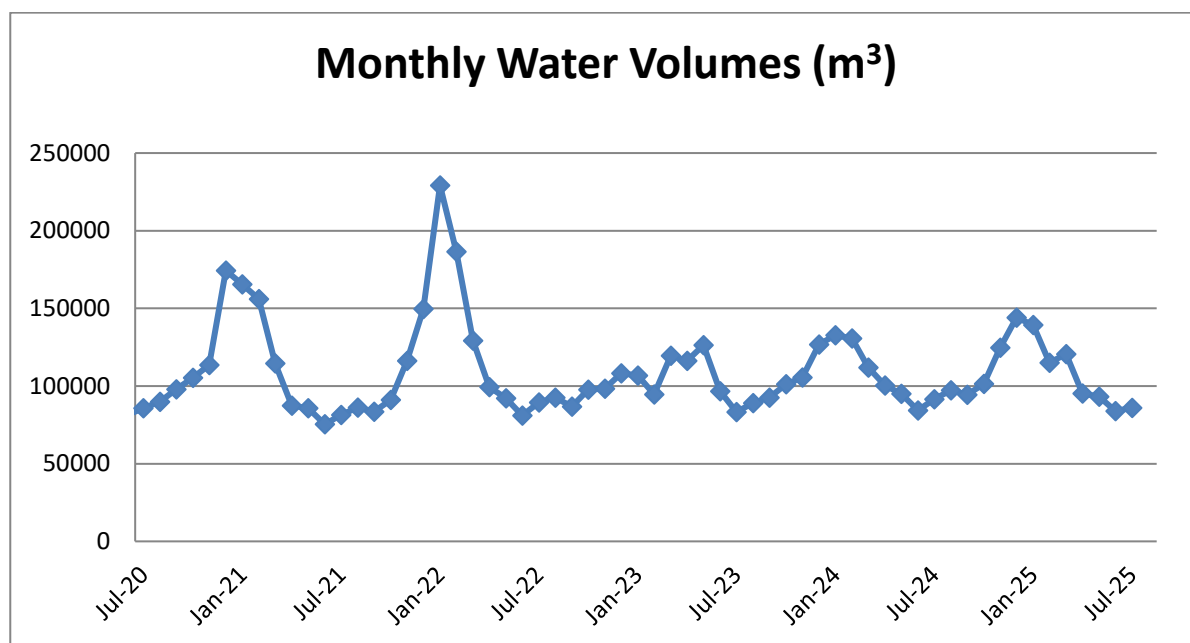
1 Water Supply

Umukaraka Spring has been fully developed, and all necessary telemetry and infrastructure has been established.

Council staff are currently working on renewing the water source consent to ensure long-term approval for the sustainable use of the spring. Ongoing negotiations are taking place with the landowner regarding water usage. Once all feedback is gathered, the consent application will move to the final review stage with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

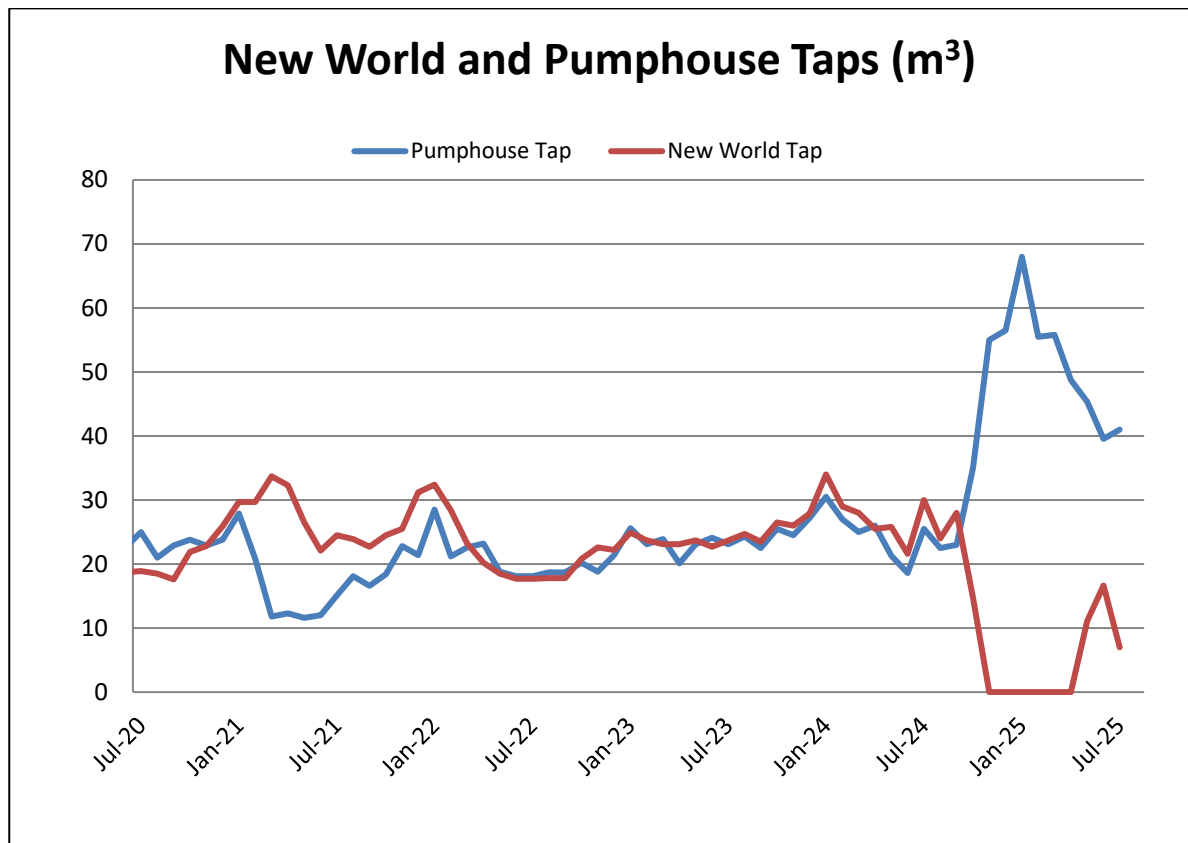
1.1 Use

The district's water consumption for the month was 85,923 m³, compared to 83,892 m³ used in June 2025. The graph below illustrates the monthly volume of water used (in m³) over the past five years for reference.



In July 2025, the water consumption recorded for the New World car park was 7 m³, while the pumphouse located on River Road supplied 41 m³.

The attached graph illustrates the monthly water usage (in cubic metres) over the past five years.



1.2 Water Quality

All routine supply samples tested negative for E. coli. There were no reported incidents of low pressure related to the council.

No reports of dirty water were received.

1.3 Reticulation

A contract has been awarded for the next phase of the reticulation replacement project in Zones 5 and 6. This phase involves replacing 12 kilometres of piping.

The necessary materials for the project have been ordered and delivered. Installation of the reticulation along Waterhouse Street, Ward Street, and Porritt Glade has commenced. For the month of July, 1650 metres of drilling have been completed, with approximately 900 metres drilled through rock.

The contract includes provisions for drilling through rock. In certain areas along Waterhouse Street, it was necessary to excavate trenches to accommodate the piping as it navigated around boulders. This excavation will result in additional costs for the project.

2 **Wastewater**

During this reporting period, the Wastewater Treatment Plant complied with all resource consent conditions, with no breaches recorded.

In July, there was one sewer overflow related to Council. This blockage was reported and attended to before entering a water body.

The renewal of the Raw pit is currently in progress. The bypass chamber and pumps have been completed and are fully operational. The target completion date for the project is currently set for the end of August 2025.

3 Roading and Facilities

Renewals and maintenance have been undertaken throughout the district, including 25 pothole repairs and 33 general service requests were attended to. Renewal and focus areas:

- Renewal and reconstruction of stormwater cesspits, with a total of 37 cesspits completed. These renewals included the surrounding kerbs and channels.
- 210 m² of footpaths replaced along Onslow Street.
- 33 Roading Service requests were attended to, with 25 potholes addressed.
- 30 Facilities-related service requests were received and addressed.

Further investigations are ongoing regarding additional subsoil drainage decisions in Hardie Avenue and the surrounding areas.

The roading and facilities team has reviewed the detailed design for the dog pound and is currently obtaining estimates for the necessary work. A report will be presented to the council to consider the associated costs and options before moving forward with the upgrades.

The investigation report for the foundation improvement works at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre was completed. Work is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of FY 2025/2026.

4 Stormwater

There were no instances of stormwater flooding or significant failures in July. Tree root clearing and cutting was performed on stormwater cesspits and piping across the district.

5 Parks and Reserves

The parks and reserves teams have concentrated their efforts on the following activities in the district:

- Identification and maintenance of hazardous trees
- District-wide mowing operations
- Weed spraying activities across the district
- Maintenance and repairs of boundary fences
- Inspections and maintenance of playgrounds

- Pest control for all Council-owned public facilities
- Installing new benches for the Cemetery
- Street tree maintenance of the tree canopy that affects vehicular movements
- Leaf blowing and vacuuming across the district

6 Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre

All pools are currently operating within their designated water quality ranges. This includes maintaining the chemical balance of pH, Free Available Chlorine (FAC), water hardness, and alkalinity. The pools have met the monthly monitoring requirements set by the regional council for faecal matter and bacteriological levels.

The geothermal steam well has ceased to produce steam of adequate quality, attributed to water ingress resulting from elevated rainfall and the subsequent rise in the regional water table. This decline in steam production has been further exacerbated by a build-up of calcite within the bore.

A contractor has been engaged to conduct an investigation and perform necessary clearing of the bore. Following the completion of this work, an improvement in steam supply was noted, which facilitated the heating of the SPA pool. However, the available steam remains insufficient to raise the temperature of the main pool to the desired levels. Ongoing investigations are being conducted, and alternative options are currently being explored. A comprehensive report will be prepared for the council, outlining various options along with their associated costs.

7 Solid Waste Services

During this reporting period, no disruptions to refuse collection were observed. The process of waste pickup and transportation to the Tirohia facility proceeded without incident, and recycling collections were maintained uninterrupted throughout the month.

The implementation of glass separation and collection has been successfully executed, now operating within the established parameters set by the recycling facility. This operation allows for the effective diversion of glass from other waste streams, promoting recycling and minimising landfill contributions.

In addition, the free drop-off zones at the transfer station have been established and are functioning efficiently. These zones are accessible to the public at designated hours, providing a convenient location for community members to dispose of their sorted recyclable materials.

Furthermore, all volume categories previously utilised at the transfer station have been systematically phased out and replaced with a new weight classification system. This transition to weight-based measurements not only enhances accuracy in tracking waste disposal and recycling rates but also aligns with best practices in waste management. These updates have been successfully implemented and are presently operating smoothly, contributing to improved operational efficiency and effectiveness in waste processing.

8 **Vandalism**

Vandalism throughout the district included the following incidents:

- Reinstalled the broken window at the Concert Chamber; the replacement cost was \$430.00.
- Repairs were made to the main gate at the Transfer Station. The front sliding gate controller had to be replaced, resulting in a cost of \$2,500.
- Residents have illegally cut down trees in the Firmin Field and Waterhouse Street area on three occasions to obtain firewood, leading Council staff to request police assistance after being threatened.

There have been occurrences of vandalism resulting in damage to the fences, gates, and entrances of public parks. The primary factor contributing to this damage appears to be individuals attempting to gain vehicular access to the river and other popular recreational areas.

9 **Maintenance, Projects & Schedule**

The attached report (Appendix 1) includes the project schedule for the end of the financial year 2024/25. The updated schedule for the new financial year will be presented in next month's Operations and Services report.

10 **RECOMMENDATION**

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



Riaan Nel, B. Tech, BSc Hons
Group Manager, Operations & Services

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Activity	Code	Type	Jul-25	TOTAL YEAR	YTD	%	Comments
AR Roads Subsidised Programme	402515 001	Renewal/Capital	Kerb Replacement	83,000	87,000.00	105%	This exceedance was due to additional scope identified during execution. The cost will be balanced in the overall budget.
AR Roads Subsidised Programme	402515 002	Renewal/Capital	Street Light Upgrade	40,000	39,814.00	100%	
AR Roads Subsidised Programme	402515 003	Renewal/Capital	Reseals	135,000	127,699.00	95%	
AR Roads Subsidised Programme	402515 004	Renewal/Capital	Pavement Treatment	75,000	67,445.00	90%	
AR Roads Subsidised Programme	402515 013	Renewal/Capital	Footpath Replacement	57,000	57,904.00	91%	
AR Roads Subsidised Programme	402515 019	Renewal/Capital	Storm water catch-pit renewal	60,000	58,553.00	98%	
AR Non Subsidised Programme	402516 001	Renewal/Capital	Reseal Carpark	30,000	30,000.00	100%	
Water Supply Availability	403001 002	Renewal/Capital	Pipework Zone 2	2,513,862	2,140,937.00	85%	Zone 5 & 6 Work commenced
Water Supply Availability	403001 003/05/07/21	Renewal/Capital	Reticulation Replacement Zone 6/Headworks/Valves/Pump Refurbish	797,217	789,353.00	99%	
Water Supply Availability	403001 004	Renewal/Capital	Replace Tables	50,000	20,000.00	40%	
Water Supply Availability	403001 010	Renewal/Capital	UV Tube Replacement	15,000	13,000.00	87%	
Water Supply Availability	403001 030	Renewal/Capital	Lime and Fluoride System	419,000	419,000.00	100%	Fully funded by MOH
Wastewater Availability	403520 002	Renewal/Capital	Pipework Zone 1	1,400,000	861,000.00	62%	Roll over to FY 26.
Wastewater Availability	403520 004	Renewal/Capital	Milli Screen Renewals	58,776	400.00	1%	Long lead item - Roll Over to FY 26
Wastewater Availability	404031 001	Renewal/Capital	Wastewater Treatment Plant	389,670	97,290.00	26%	Project under way to renew the Raw Pft. - Roll over to FY 26
Swimming Pools Availability	404031 002	Renewal/Capital	Club Rooms	39,749	0.00	0%	Engineering work underway - Roll over to FY 26
Swimming Pools Availability	404031 002	Renewal/Capital	Spa Pool	25,000	20,000.00	80%	
Swimming Pools Availability	404031 024	Renewal/Capital	Pool Floor	23,030	7,700.00	33%	Move FY26 Shutdown
Swimming Pools Availability	404031 061	Renewal/Capital	Filtration system	107,350	106,000.00	99%	
Recreation Centre	404035 005	Renewal/Capital	Building - Various	25,000	26,000.00	104%	Total cost centre balance on the bottom line
Recreation Centre	404035 020	Renewal/Capital	Cladding/Roof	100,000	94,106.00	94%	
Town Hall Availability	404036 009	Renewal/Capital	Roof	50,000	37,693.00	75%	
Passive Reserves	404042 002	Renewal/Capital	Boundary Fence	19,000	17,100.00	90%	
Passive Reserves	404042 019	Renewal/Capital	Seal Carparks	15,800	12,920.00	82%	
Dog Pound	405061 001	Renewal/Capital	Extension of facilities	596,502	15,000.00	3%	Roll Over to FY 26
Fields Amenity Buildings	405062 001	Renewal/Capital	Prideaux Park Pavilion - Electrical Equipment	20,000	0.00	0%	
District Office Building	405064 001	Renewal/Capital	Replace Air Conditioner	13,500	9,000.00	67%	
District Office Building	405064 020	Renewal/Capital	Flashings Spoutings	60,000	60,000.00	100%	
Vehicles & Plant	60 80 01 7800	Renewal/Capital	Plant Renewals	249,200	172,519.00	69%	Roll Over FY 26
				7,447,656	5,381,433.00	72%	

MONTHLY REPORT

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

July 2025

1 **Economic Development**

NZ Geothermal Strategy (Draft)

On 30 July 2025 Government launched the draft New Zealand geothermal strategy, **From the Ground Up** (Appendix A).

The strategy '*at a glance*' outlines the following:

Vision - *New Zealand is a global leader in sustainable geothermal development, delivering innovation, resilience and inclusive growth for future generations.*

Strategic outcomes

1. *Extend New Zealand's position as a world-leader in geothermal **innovation**.*
2. *Accelerate **energy resilience** through the development of increased electricity generation and harnessing geothermal heat to support New Zealand's energy transition.*

GOAL: Double geothermal energy use by 2040

3. *Strengthen **regional economies and te Ōhanga Māori** by advancing geothermal development in collaboration with tāngata whenua, and unlock industrial growth, tourism and trade to support New Zealand's goal of doubling exports.*

Five action plan goals have been identified to focus the Government's approach.

- *Improving access to geothermal data and insights.*
- *Ensuring regulatory and system settings are fit for purpose.*
- *Advancing knowledge and uptake of geothermal technologies.*
- *Enabling place-based geothermal clusters.*
- *Driving science, research and innovation, including supercritical geothermal technology.*

The draft strategy supports the Government's goals of economic growth, energy security, infrastructure delivery, regulatory efficiency and emissions reduction. It builds on objectives prioritised under the Energy portfolio by expanding low-emissions electricity generation and process heat solutions to help double renewable energy and strengthen security of supply.¹

Central Government is seeking feedback on the draft Geothermal Strategy for New Zealand.

¹ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/minerals-and-petroleum/strategies/consultation-document-from-the-ground-up-a-draft-strategy-to-unlock-new-zealands-geothermal-potential/draft-strategy-for-consultation>

Central Government is particularly interested in submissions to the questions below:

1. Are the 3 strategic outcomes of the strategy, centred around world-leading geothermal innovation, accelerating energy resilience and strengthening regional economies and te Ōhanga Māori, suitable, or is there more we need to consider?
2. Do the 5 overarching action plan goals capture the areas that are most important for achieving the vision, strategic outcomes and energy goal?
3. Does the proposed action plan correctly capture the necessary government interventions and priorities?
4. Is the role for the sector clear? How can the wider geothermal sector play a role (e.g. are there specific actions that the sector could own)?
5. Does the strategy and proposed action plan create the right settings to enable tāngata whenua to realise their aspirations for geothermal resources in their rohe?
6. Are there opportunities for our geothermal sector that we haven't considered?
7. Are there challenges for our geothermal sector that we haven't considered?
8. Are there any other things that the strategy should include or exclude?

Submissions will close 5pm Friday 12 September 2025.

A submission template, details on how to submit, and a PDF version of the consultation document are available on the following webpage:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-a-draft-geothermal-strategy-for-new-zealand>



Mayors Taskforce For Jobs (MTFJ)

The MTFJ Coordinator has provided an end of financial year programme report (Appendix B). The following statistics are provided for the programme:

- NEET (not in education, employment or training): 46
- Youth: 15
- Apprenticeship: 15
- Youth with Disability: 1
- Adults with Disability: 1
- Disadvantaged: 14
- Total employment placements made: 92**

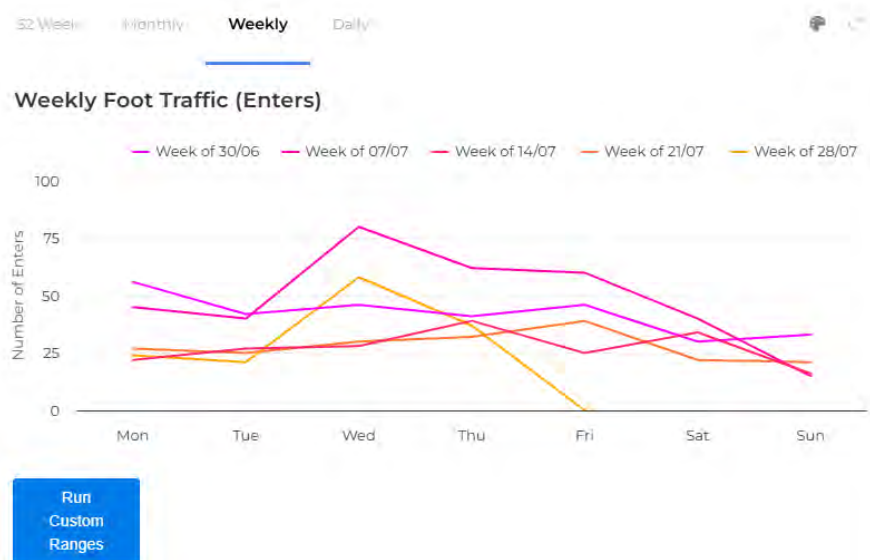
2 Kawerau isite Visitor Information Centre

The isite staff have received some negative feedback from motor homers that Council now charges for all access and use of power points. However, no formal complaints have been received. The change of fee structure has resulted in a significant payment increase of 636% - this is for the single month of July 2025 compared to July 2024.

Key Monthly Statistics – July 2025

Activity	June 2025	July 2025	% difference (to June 25)	July 2024	% Difference (to July 25)
Visitor enquiries	1246	1107	-13%	1430	22.6%
Forest permits	134	56	-139%	78	28.2%
Public toilet use	2688	985**	**	1440	**
M/home power	9	17	47%	15	-13.3%

** Female toilets only recorded, no male sensor due to a fault



3 Community Activities

Events completed for July

- **Whakatane Bird Show**
Friday 4th – Sunday 6th – Kawerau Town Hall
- **Elevate Kawerau - Community Concert**
Saturday 12th July – Recreation Centre
- **EBOP JAB Kawerau Host Day**
Saturday 26th July – Tarawera Park

Events registered for September

- **It's in the Ballot – Meet the candidates Evening**
Saturday 13th – Kawerau Town Hall
- **Mobile Blood Drive - NZ Blood Services**
Monday 15th – Concert Chambers
- **Keep Kawerau Beautiful – National Clean up week**
Tuesday 21st – 1pm – 4pm – Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre Car Park

Events registered for October

- **2025 Rally Bay of Plenty**

Saturday 11th - Recreation Centre (Service Centre and public viewing)

Kawerau Christmas in the Park – Saturday 6 December 2025

It has been previously reported that this year's event was to occur on Saturday 13 December.

Due to the following reasons there is now a date change to Saturday 6 December.

- A date clash with Coca Cola Christmas in the Park (Auckland) on Saturday 13 December, resulting in
- one artist unavailable to perform in Kawerau on 13 December (but available on the 6 December), and
- unavailability of key backstage personnel to deliver the afternoon show and support the evening show on 13 December

Funding applications are near completion and Council can expect decisions in the coming 8-12 weeks.

4 Youth Projects

Kawerau Youth Council (KYC)

The KYC met officially on 1 July. Council's Communication Officer, Kyla McClutchie attended and presented to the KYC on the local election process and the significance to young people that anyone 18 or over is eligible to stand for local elections. The presentation was well received and highlighted the lack of awareness of local youth in the election process.

The members discussed their voluntary contribution towards the Kawerau Blue Light Event – Elevate Kawerau. Members agreed their experience was successful.

Remaining KYC meeting dates for 2025:

- Wednesday 6 August
- Wednesday 3 September
- Wednesday 1 October
- Wednesday 5 November

Meetings commence at 4.30pm in the Council Chambers.

Kawerau Young Achievers (KYA)

A review of the nomination criteria has taken place between representation from Kawerau schools and the Youth Council over recent months.

Since last reporting to Council, further discussions have taken place with a new date for the awards now confirmed:

- Kawerau Young Achievers Awards – 26 September. The venue will be the Kawerau Town Hall

Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) Funding Decline

Council applied to MYD for youth development funding in November 2024 to MYD (administered by MSD). The KDC application was for \$19,500 (GST excl.).

Kawerau District Council's application for the Ministry of Youth Development Introduction to Enterprise Fund was unsuccessful. We were informed via email that while the evaluation panel has completed assessments for all Request for Proposal (RFP) responses, Kawerau District Council was not selected as a preferred provider for this funding stream.

MYD noted significant interest in this funding round, indicating growth within the Youth Enterprise sector. Across the three available funds (Introduction to Enterprise Fund, Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund, and Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund), over 135 programme proposals were submitted.

These proposals collectively requested \$11.3 million, substantially exceeding the \$1.5 million available funding by more than seven times.

The three Youth Enterprise Funds available were:

- Introduction to Enterprise Fund (\$0.475 million per annum)
- Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund (\$0.725 million per annum)
- Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund (\$0.300 million per annum)

This provided a total national funding allocation for 2025/26 of \$1.5m towards youth development initiatives through MYD.

The KDC application was the 'Introduction to Enterprise Fund (\$0.475m p.a.), and applicants were only permitted to apply to one of the funding pools (not all three).

MYD Panel Feedback

The evaluation panel provided the following feedback regarding our request for proposal:

- Strengths: The panel acknowledged and appreciated that our response addressed all potential barriers and demonstrated a strong local community focus.
- Areas for Improvement: The panel suggested that our response could have been strengthened by providing more detailed information on three key areas:
 - Programme Implementation
 - Community collaborations
 - Post-programme pathways

Council has accepted MYD's offer for a debrief session to discuss our application further. We will share the insights gained from that discussion once it has taken place.

Council's MYD application project – 'Visionary Vibes'

Visionary Vibes was a programme created by young people in Kawerau to inspire and empower other young people in their community. It aimed to offer a range of engaging activities designed to help them grow and succeed.

The programme was developed based on ideas from the Kawerau Youth Council and included:

- Youth Development Weekend: This intensive weekend helps young people learn how to plan, organise, and run their own events. They will get advice from experienced professionals, local youth services, and respected elders (kaumatua) on topics like event management, leadership, and getting involved in the community.
- School Holiday Programme: During school holidays, young people get to design and lead their own activities. This helps them build creativity, teamwork, and practical skills.
- Youth Awards Celebration: This is an event organised and hosted by young people themselves to celebrate the achievements and contributions of their peers in Kawerau.

Visionary Vibes aimed to boost young people's skills, confidence, and entrepreneurial spirit, and to give them the tools and knowledge they need to make a positive difference in their community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Economic and Community Development Manager for the month of July 2025 be received.



Lee Corbett Barton

Economic and Community Development Manager

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Regulatory and Services\Reports\08 August 2025\R-ECD Monthly Report_July 2025-08-13.docx

From the Ground Up

**A draft strategy to unlock
New Zealand's geothermal potential**

Published by the Ministry of Business,
Innovation and Employment

30 JULY 2025



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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More information

Information, examples and answers to your questions about the topics covered here can be found on our website: www.mbie.govt.nz.

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July 2025

Cover image: Mud pools in Rotorua, New Zealand.
Image supplied by Earth Sciences New Zealand.

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Ministerial foreword

Unlocking our abundant geothermal resources presents game-changing opportunities for economic growth and energy security

New Zealand was at the forefront of innovation in harnessing geothermal energy for electricity generation when our first geothermal plant – only the second in the world – Wairakei, opened in 1958.

Our history of utilising geothermal resources, however, significantly precedes that. Central North Island Māori used geothermal waters for heating, cooking and therapeutic purposes, and European settlers discovered the healing benefits of thermal springs with spa baths established in the Rotorua area from about 1870.

Today, geothermal is an integral part of New Zealand’s energy landscape in and beyond electricity generation, with direct geothermal energy used in industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential applications.

We know we have a comparable geological advantage and internationally renowned geothermal expertise – yet we have barely scratched the surface when it comes to how we could sustainably utilise this resource.

To unlock further potential for New Zealand and New Zealanders, we need to take a holistic view of where we could go next.

The opportunities are wide reaching, from traditional and tourism uses to innovative opportunities including minerals in geothermal brine and world-leading research into geothermal microorganisms. With advancing science, we can lead the world again on the potential of supercritical geothermal, which may offer significantly more energy than conventional geothermal fluids.

I want to see our regions, primary sectors and Māori economies utilise this unique advantage as an opportunity to diversify, transition to renewable, low-carbon energy, and support industry to thrive.

This strategy represents the Government’s commitment to supporting that work while addressing our energy challenges, having sensible regulatory settings that are both sustainable and enabling, and continuing to build on our world-leading expertise.

I acknowledge the ongoing National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources inquiry (Wai 2358) and reiterate that this strategy does not pre-empt any Waitangi Tribunal findings. I am excited to start this conversation about how we work together to remove barriers, support collaboration and innovation, and ensure this unique sector remains at the global forefront.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Resources

Strategy at a glance

A focused pathway to geothermal leadership and sustainable growth.

This section provides a high-level overview of the draft strategic framework, outlining the direction, ambition, and outcomes to coalesce around. It sets out a long-term vision to sustainably maximise New Zealand’s unique geothermal advantage and highlights how targeted actions and collaboration will help bring that vision to life.



VISION: New Zealand is a global leader in sustainable geothermal development, delivering innovation, resilience and inclusive growth for future generations.



STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

- 1. Extend New Zealand’s position as a world-leader in geothermal **innovation**.
- 2. Accelerate **energy resilience** through the development of increased electricity generation and harnessing geothermal heat to support New Zealand’s energy transition.

GOAL: Double geothermal energy use by 2040

- 3. Strengthen **regional economies** and **te Ōhanga Māori** by advancing geothermal development in collaboration with tāngata whenua, and unlock industrial growth, tourism and trade to support New Zealand’s goal of doubling exports.

How will we get there? Five ACTION PLAN GOALS have been identified to focus the Government’s approach.

Improving access to geothermal data and insights	Ensuring regulatory and system settings are fit for purpose	Advancing knowledge and uptake of geothermal technologies	Enabling place-based geothermal clusters	Driving science, research and innovation, including supercritical geothermal technology
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What is geothermal and how is it important to New Zealand?

Our unique geology provides New Zealand with an extraordinary opportunity to harness a powerful and versatile natural resource with diverse applications. Stunning vistas showcasing our globally significant taonga, combined with early innovation in energy development, laid the foundation for New Zealand’s energy profile and propelled us forward as a global geothermal leader.

A long utilised taonga

Derived from the Greek words *geo* (earth) and *therme* (heat), geothermal energy comes from deep within the Earth’s crust, where magma heats surrounding rocks and water to extremely high temperatures in reservoirs deep underground. The water and steam from geothermal reservoirs can rise to the surface, causing geysers, hot springs, boiling mud pools, and sinter terraces.¹ Now phenomenal tourism attractions, these geothermal features are taonga to Māori, who have used them for cooking, bathing, therapeutic and heating purposes for centuries.

New Zealand’s geographical location on the boundary of the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates means we have dynamic volcanic activity, giving us a unique geothermal advantage. Particularly in the Taupō Volcanic Zone (TVZ), Earth’s crust has stretched and thinned, allowing us to access significant geothermal resources and heat at much shallower depths.



In 2024, 27.5 per cent of international visitors reported experiencing a geothermal attraction while in New Zealand.²

A surge in development

Modern geothermal development in New Zealand began in the 1950s. A Crown-led explorative drilling programme between 1949 and 1986 jumpstarted our understanding of our geothermal fields in Ngāwhā and the TVZ. This work established the potential for electricity generation in these areas, utilising geothermal steam to power turbines.

New Zealand’s first, and the world’s second, geothermal power station was Wairakei, just outside Taupō, which first generated electricity in 1958. It is still operating nearly 70 years later and is now one of 17 geothermal power plants across eight geothermal fields – delivering a combined generation capacity of 1,207 MW.³ Unlike wind and solar, geothermal energy is consistently⁴ available and, in 2024, accounted for 8,741 GWh, or 19.9 per cent, of New Zealand’s annual electricity generation.⁵

¹ Sinter terraces are silica deposits formed as silica precipitates out of geothermal fluid as it cools – the most famous sinter deposits were the Pink and White Terraces which were destroyed in the eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886.

² From MBIE’s International Visitor Survey.

³ Capacity figure from Transpower’s ‘2025 SOSA – Final Supplementary Data – Final Version’ document which can be accessed here: <https://www.transpower.co.nz/invitation-comment-security-supply-assessment-2025-closed>

⁴ Geothermal power stations are occasionally shut down for periods of maintenances or upgrades.

⁵ From MBIE’s ‘Data tables for electricity’ which can be accessed here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-statistics-and-modelling/energy-statistics/electricity-statistics>

Partnering with tāngata whenua is an increasingly integral component of geothermal development, bringing a rich blend of economic insight, Māori development priorities and values to the forefront. This collaboration enables Māori, as kaitiaki, to actively shape the future and catalyse innovation across the industry.

Advances in reinjection technology are enhancing the sustainability profile of geothermal energy. In addition to being reliable and renewable, geothermal can now offer low-carbon electricity generation, as the naturally occurring greenhouse gases in geothermal fluids can be returned to the reservoirs rather than released to the atmosphere.

 In 2024, geothermal accounted for 8,741 GWh, or nearly one-fifth of New Zealand's annual electricity generation.

Beyond electricity generation

The potential of our geothermal resources does not end at electricity generation. In Kawerau and Taupō, renewable geothermal heat and steam powers industrial processes, such as timber drying and tissue manufacturing. In 2023, direct use of geothermal energy (across industrial, agricultural, commercial, and residential sectors) amounted to 7.45 PJ, with an additional 1.25 PJ⁶ used for co-generation.⁷

The full spectrum of geothermal heat can be used in a variety of applications – including bathing, aquaculture, horticulture, and heating for water and our built spaces (see Figure 1). This strategy seeks to incorporate all these opportunities, including indirect use⁸, and uses the term ‘**geoheat**’ to capture these wider applications.

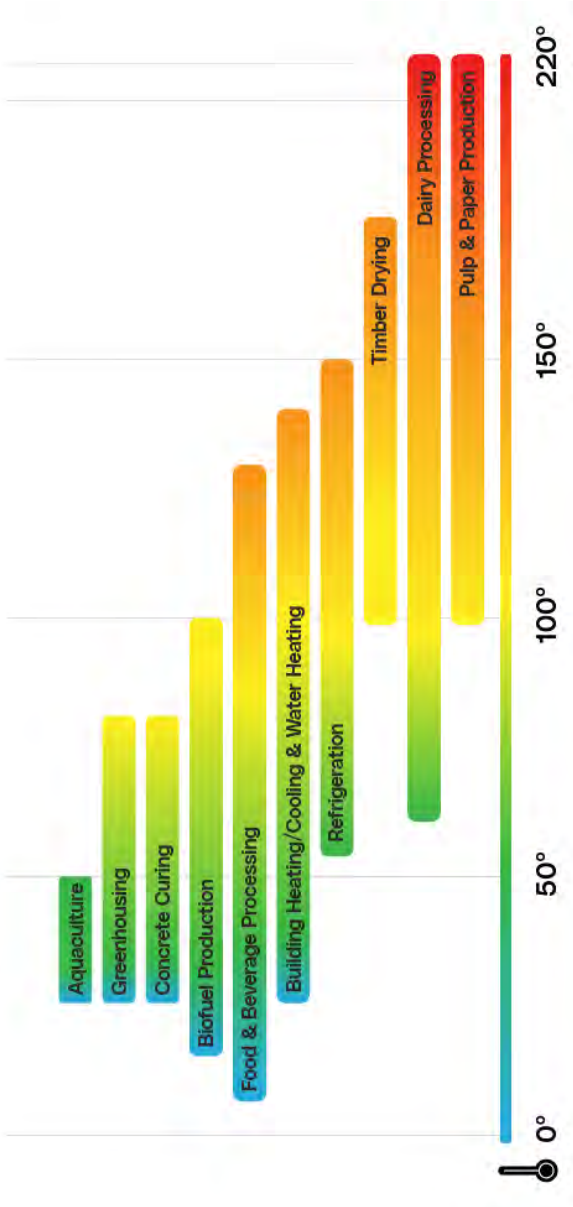


Figure 1: Examples of some uses of geoheat (image provided by Earth Sciences New Zealand)

⁶ Direct use figure from MBIE's 'Energy balance tables' spreadsheet which can be accessed here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-statistics-and-modelling/energy-statistics/energy-balances>

⁷ Co-generation means the use of geothermal energy to generate both electricity and heat.

⁸ The Resource Management Act 1991 defines 'geothermal water' as water heated within the earth to a temperature of 30 degrees Celsius or more. Usually, this resource can be used directly (e.g. for warm pool water, or for space and water heating) or for electricity generation. 'Indirect use' refers to the use of heat and energy sources that fall outside of this technical definition (for example, where heat pump technology is used to modify ambient ground temperatures for heating or cooling purposes).

Unleashing subsurface value

Beneath the surface lies further commercial potential – from extracting valuable minerals dissolved in geothermal fluids to pioneering biotechnology that leverages the resilience of microorganisms thriving in extreme conditions. These innovations open new economic pathways and position geothermal as a source of scientific advancement, environmental stewardship, and industry transformation.

A global leader in geothermal development

New Zealand's geothermal expertise is recognised globally, contributing to renewable energy development and building sector capability across the globe. Specifically, we have fostered partnerships with key regions including Indonesia, the Philippines, Africa, and the Caribbean. Through strategic partnerships, we strengthen trade relationships and gain access to international technology and expertise – critical advantages as we enter the next phase of geothermal advancement: supercritical geothermal.

Supercritical – the next frontier

New Zealand's geothermal reservoirs (up to 350 °C and located between 1km and 3.5km deep) have long powered renewable energy, but the next chapter lies deeper – within the largely unexplored realm of supercritical geothermal. In the TVZ, our unique geology and thinner crust offer a rare opportunity to access superhot fluids at depths beyond 5 km and temperatures exceeding 400 °C. These resources could deliver up to three times more energy than conventional systems.⁹

Backed by government investment, this bold exploration into uncharted subsurface territory could redefine our energy future and reinforce New Zealand's leadership in geothermal innovation on the global stage.

⁹ <https://www.gns.cri.nz/news/is-the-superhot-energy-solution-beneath-our-feet/>

Geothermal and geoheat utilisation across New Zealand

Some examples of geothermal and geoheat¹ development and innovation across the motu

The map opposite shows surface heat flow across New Zealand. Surface heat flow measures how much heat from within the Earth is transferred to the ground surface. Along with the thermal properties of rocks and soils, it is influenced by how quickly temperature increases with depth below the surface. Areas with low surface heat flow are blue, and areas with high surface heat flow appear as red.

- 1

The Ngāwhā geothermal reservoir enables both tourism and energy security in the far north by feeding the Ngāwhā Springs mineral hot pools and Top Energy's Ngāwhā geothermal power station (57 MW). Notably, this is the first power station in New Zealand to achieve net carbon zero status due to 100 % reinjection of CO₂-containing gases into the Ngāwhā geothermal reservoir.
- 2

The Coromandel peninsula contains several small geothermal systems which feed popular tourist attractions such as the Lost Spring hot pools in Whitianga and Hot Water Beach.
- 3

A research project led by University of Auckland's Geothermal Institute is exploring how underground temperatures can be harnessed to reduce water heating costs in Auckland.
- 4 to 8

Take a closer look at the Taupō Volcanic Zone over the page.
- 9

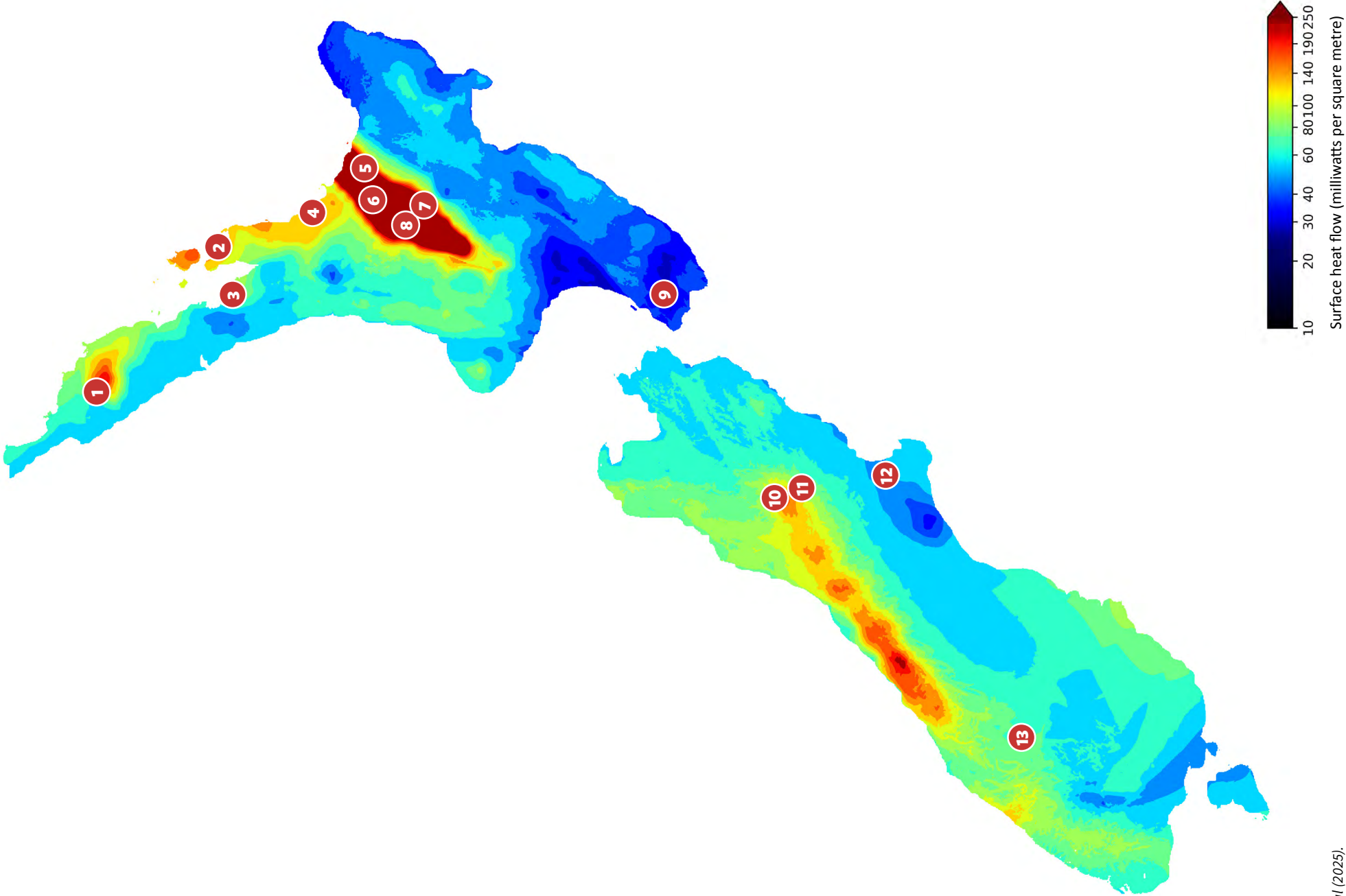
Lower Hutt City Council's administration building is heated by ground source heat pumps, integrated into the building's structural piles.
- 10-11

Maruia Hot Springs and Hanmer Springs thermal pools are popular geothermal spa and wellness experiences in the South Island.
- 12

Numerous buildings in Christchurch, including Christchurch Airport, Tūranga central library, Environment Canterbury offices, and several University of Canterbury lecture theatres are heated by water bore and ground source heat pump technology.
- 13

Tewa Banks is a 68-home development in Arrowtown for the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust. The homes are connected to a networked ground source heat pump system, providing affordable heating and hot water.

1. The term 'geoheat' is used to capture the full heat spectrum, including sources of heat and energy that fall outside of the technical definition of 'geothermal' under the Resource Management Act 1991 (i.e. 'geoheat' captures indirect uses and innovative technologies such as ground source heat pumps).



Geothermal activity in the Taupō Volcanic Zone

- 4

EECA's Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA)² report specifically highlighted the potential of Tauranga's low heat geothermal system for businesses and primary industries looking to decarbonise.
- 5

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Geothermal supplies geothermal steam and brine to a variety of industrial customers in Kawerau, including Eastland Generation's TOPP1 and TOPP2 (under construction) geothermal power stations and the Essity paper mill, which has installed the world's first 100 % geothermal tissue-drying machine.
- 6

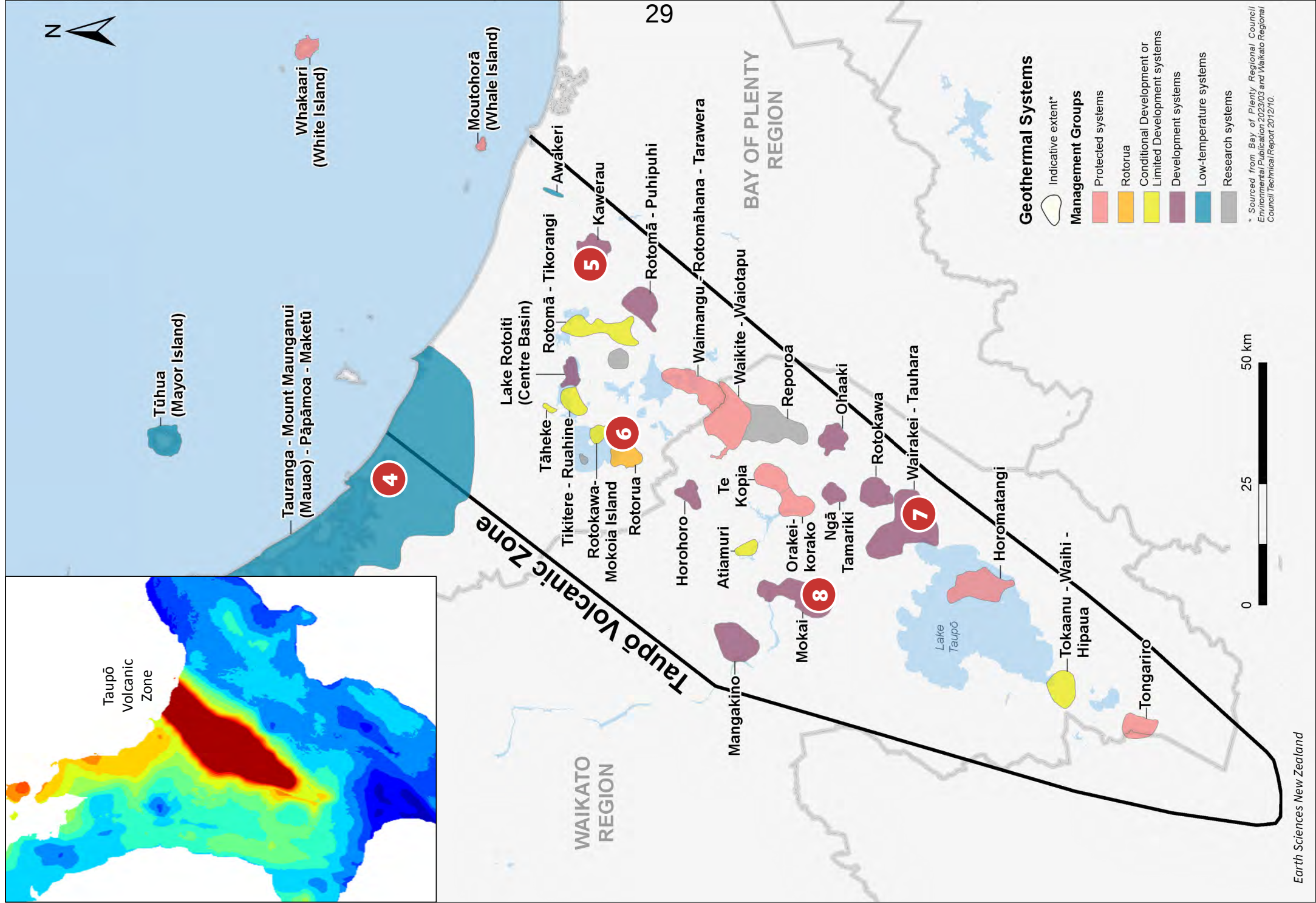
Rotorua Hospital and several council buildings utilise geothermal heating systems.
- 7

World-class geothermal tourism attractions in Rotorua, often showcasing both geothermal wonders and Māori culture, include Whakarewarewa Living Māori Village, Hell's Gate, Wai-O-Tapu and Te Puia (home to Pōhutu, the largest geyser in the southern hemisphere).
- 8

Opened in late 2024, Contact Energy's Tauhara geothermal power station (174 MW) is New Zealand's newest, capable of powering around 200,000 homes.
- 4

The He Ahi eco-business park development supplies geothermal heat from some of Contact Energy's wells that tap into the Tauhara geothermal field. This allows small and medium sized businesses to access geothermal heat without needing to drill their own wells.
- 5

Tūaropaki, an ahu whenua trust, has developed one of New Zealand's most advanced and integrated geothermal ecosystems, centred around the Mōkai geothermal power station (113 MW) which is operated by Tūaropaki Power Company in partnership with Mercury Energy. The geothermal ecosystem also includes Miraka, the world's first geothermally powered dairy processing company, the geothermally heated Gourmet Mokai glasshouses and, in partnership with Japan's Obayashi Corporation, Halcyon Power, New Zealand's first commercial-scale green hydrogen plant.



2. <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/eeca-insights/reto-bay-of-plenty/>

What is our opportunity?

Today, geothermal stands at the threshold of a new era – one in which it can support our transition to a low-emissions, high-value economy.

A proven resource, ready to scale

If geothermal already generates nearly 20 per cent of New Zealand’s electricity and contributes a small proportion¹⁰ of our direct heat use needs, what’s next? Our reliable, renewable baseload source – available rain or shine – is deeply embedded in our regions, particularly in the central North Island. We are the fifth largest geothermal power producer globally,¹¹ often sharing expertise across borders.

Yet, much of our current geothermal infrastructure is built on exploration led by the Crown decades ago. Since then, development has been incremental and fragmented. The opportunity now is to shift from legacy to momentum – doubling geothermal energy production and unlocking a broader set of uses across the full heat spectrum.

Why now?

The world is moving towards cleaner, more resilient energy systems. New Zealand’s electricity demand is projected to grow by 68 per cent over the next 25 years,¹² and our industrial sectors need to reduce emissions. Geothermal can meet this challenge, providing low-emissions heat and electricity to food and timber processors, greenhouses, and even powering data centres. Because geothermal is an indigenous resource, rooted in our land, it offers long-term energy security.

At the same time, new technologies like supercritical geothermal could triple energy output from a single well. This frontier innovation, along with mineral recovery from geothermal brine and the adoption at scale of low-temperature heating systems, can open the door to new industries and opportunities.

A platform for inclusive growth

Geothermal development is also a powerful lever for regional and Māori economic development. Many geothermal fields are located on or near whenua Māori, offering opportunities for iwi and hapū to lead and benefit from the resource. Protecting, retaining and growing tourism, wellness and biodiversity initiatives centred on geothermal taonga can further enrich local economies.

What’s holding us back?

Despite its vast potential, New Zealand’s geothermal sector faces some barriers, but has the opportunity to accelerate. Exploration has stagnated since the Crown’s initial drilling efforts, with high upfront costs (estimated at around \$10-15 million per well) and fragmented access to geothermal data. Much of the existing field knowledge is unconsolidated, making it difficult for tāngata whenua, smaller players and new market entrants to assess viability or invest confidently. It also means that we may not have the level of data and insights necessary to progress development on geothermal fields or within wider geothermal systems that may be well-suited to energy

¹⁰ In 2023, only 4.2 per cent of geothermal energy was used for direct use purposes – more than 95 per cent was used for electricity generation (figure derived from MBE’s ‘Energy balance tables’ spreadsheet, referenced in footnote 6).

¹¹ <https://www.thinkgeoenergy.com/thinkgeoenergy/top-10-geothermal-countries-2024-power>

¹² Government Policy Statement for Electricity (October 2024): <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-10/Government%20Policy%20Statement%20on%20Electricity%20-%2020October%202024.pdf>

production (electricity and direct use). Māori landowners, despite being well-positioned geographically, may face additional hurdles in accessing capital and technical expertise. Regulatory settings, designed for conventional geothermal use, have not kept pace with low-temperature applications and are yet to be developed for emerging technologies like supercritical geothermal.

Additionally, the sector faces challenges in scaling low and medium heat applications, which are underutilised despite their potential to decarbonise industries, transition gas users (including in public facilities like hospitals, prisons and schools) and support regional growth.

Without deliberate and coordinated action – through enhanced data stewardship, future-fit regulatory systems, targeted investment in demonstration projects, and enabling Māori participation – New Zealand risks under-leveraging a globally significant geothermal resource. This in turn will limit its potential to drive energy resilience, regional development, economic growth, and climate leadership.

The geothermal strategy envisions a future where **New Zealand is a global leader in sustainable geothermal development, delivering innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth for future generations.**

By embracing our geothermal potential, we can power a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous New Zealand, grounded in innovation, collaboration and kaitiakitanga of our natural resource.



Figure 2: Mokai geothermal field and Gourmet Mokai glasshouses showing the broad potential for low heat geothermal application (Image supplied by NZ Gourmet)

We are building momentum...

While the geothermal strategy sets a bold ambition for New Zealand’s energy future, it’s important to recognise the contribution already underway through funds like the Ministry for Primary Industries’ Primary Sector Growth Fund, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s (MBIE) Endeavour Fund, and our international diplomacy efforts to progress the sector.

Powering partnerships: Geothermal innovation across borders

New Zealand is driving international geothermal innovation as a world-leader in geothermal energy. Our geothermal cooperation arrangements with the Philippines and Indonesia support our commercial geothermal sector to access markets and provide a framework for New Zealand to help deliver on their renewable energy ambitions through technical assistance and capacity building programmes. New Zealand also partners with regional institutions such as the Africa Union Commission and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States via the New Zealand-Africa Union Geothermal Facility (AGF) and the Aotearoa New Zealand Caribbean Facility for Renewable Energy (FRENZ) to help develop these regions’ geothermal sectors. Our international partnerships in geothermal support New Zealand’s diplomatic ties and trade relationships.



Figure 3: The Tauhara geothermal power station derives its power from the world’s largest single shaft geothermal turbine, sourced from Japan – testament to our strong bilateral relationships in geothermal (image supplied by Contact Energy)

Decarbonising the covered crop industry with geoheat

This project is developing a web-based tool to help greenhouse growers in Auckland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty assess and adopt low-temperature geothermal heating. By translating complex subsurface data into accessible insights, it supports the horticulture sector’s shift away from fossil fuels toward 24/7 renewable energy. The initiative aims to strengthen food and energy resilience while embedding tāngata whenua perspectives in sustainable innovation. The Government is investing \$158,000 in this project through the Primary Sector Growth Fund.

Geothermal food systems

The Geothermal Food Systems project integrates geothermal heat, electricity, and carbon dioxide capture to create a low-carbon, self-sufficient growing environment for glasshouses. By replacing fossil fuels with renewable geothermal inputs, it addresses key barriers to decarbonisation in horticulture while enhancing energy and food security. Led by Upflow in collaboration with Tauhara North No.2 Trust, the initiative is progressing toward a demonstration-scale deployment to validate and optimise this innovative technology package for wider use across New Zealand. The Government is contributing \$250,000 to this project through the Primary Sector Growth Fund.

Novel biofeedstocks using geothermal resources

The Biofeedstocks project pioneers the use of geothermal waste gases and microorganisms to produce high-protein biomass for feed and nutrition. By transforming carbon dioxide and methane into a valuable product, it offers a novel pathway to reduce scope 3 emissions and reliance on global protein supply chains. Co-funded by Tauhara North No.2 Trust with project delivery from Upflow, the initiative is advancing toward pilot-scale optimisation and market alignment, with potential applications in animal feed, human nutrition, and high-value bioproducts. The Government will co-invest \$2.5 million over four years in this project through the Primary Sector Growth Fund.

Enhancing geothermal energy efficiency and resource recovery through silica capture technology

Silica scaling is a world-wide problem in geothermal resource utilisation and decreases power station energy efficiency. This research programme, funded by MBIE’s Endeavour fund has led to the development of a new technology that rapidly captures the silica before it can form the scale, as a nanostructured calcium silicate (CaSil) material. The technology has been successfully demonstrated at pilot plant scale operations in four New Zealand geothermal power stations. CaSil material is now being used to develop a fertiliser aimed at reducing phosphate run-off that pollutes surface waters.



Figure 4: The Te Huka power station steaming ahead, currently piloting the reinjection of non-condensable gases (primarily CO₂) back into the geothermal reservoir (image supplied by Contact Energy)

Draft strategy for consultation

From the Ground Up sets a long-term direction for the sustainable growth of New Zealand’s geothermal sector.

This strategy envisions a future where New Zealand continues to lead globally in geothermal science, research, and innovation; attracts investment into reliable, renewable baseload energy; and harnesses a wide range of opportunities – from protecting and valuing the significant contribution of geothermal tourism to emerging industries such as mineral and gas recovery from geothermal brine and geothermal microorganisms.

Through targeted action and collaboration, this strategy aims to ensure the continued development of geothermal energy to support a resilient, low-emissions economy and thriving regional communities.



VISION: New Zealand is a global leader in sustainable geothermal development, delivering innovation, resilience and inclusive growth for future generations.

To achieve the vision, three interconnected outcomes have been identified to guide action and investment. These outcomes reflect the breadth and depth of opportunity offered by New Zealand’s geothermal resources, while aligning with wider government priorities. They provide a framework for unlocking our geothermal potential in a way that is innovative, sustainable and collaborative.



STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

1. Extend New Zealand’s position as a world-leader in geothermal **innovation**.
2. Accelerate **energy resilience** through the development of increased electricity generation and harnessing geothermal heat to support New Zealand’s energy transition.

GOAL: Double geothermal energy use by 2040

3. Strengthen **regional economies** and **te Ōhanga Māori** by advancing geothermal development in collaboration with tāngata whenua, and unlock industrial growth, tourism and trade to support New Zealand’s goal of doubling exports.

While the intent of this strategy is to be broad reaching, there is a specific opportunity for geothermal energy to contribute more significantly to New Zealand’s energy mix. We have therefore included an energy-specific goal under the second outcome to further focus activity towards a tangible target: to double geothermal energy use by 2040.

Achieving this will require coordinated action across government, industry, tāngata whenua, and research communities. It reflects our commitment to a low-emissions future, energy security, and economic development – while upholding the principles of kaitiakitanga and ensuring benefits are shared across generations.



Figure 5: Showcasing the wide-ranging uses of geothermal waters (cooking mussels at Te Puia, Rotorua). Source: Tourism NZ Visual Library. Credit: Graeme Murray.

This strategy connects with wider government priorities and strategies

The draft strategy supports the Government’s goals of economic growth, energy security, infrastructure delivery, regulatory efficiency and emissions reduction. It builds on objectives prioritised under the Energy portfolio by expanding low-emissions electricity generation and process heat solutions to help double renewable energy and strengthen security of supply.

Acknowledgement of the ongoing Waitangi Tribunal inquiry (Wai 2358)

We acknowledge that the National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources kaupapa inquiry is currently under way in the Waitangi Tribunal (Wai 2358). In the development of the draft geothermal strategy, officials have been cognisant of this ongoing inquiry, have proactively engaged with iwi and hapū in its development, and welcome further and ongoing engagement. This draft strategy includes an action to consider the Waitangi Tribunal’s findings and recommendations when they are released.

How we'll get there

To deliver on the strategy’s vision, outcomes and energy goal, a set of focused action areas have been identified. These *action plan goals* represent the practical levers through which progress will be driven – ensuring the right foundations, capabilities and collaborations are in place.

Five action plan goals have been developed to focus activity (and potentially investment) to drive the outcomes sought through this strategy.

ACTION PLAN GOALS				
Improving access to geothermal data and insights	Ensuring regulatory and system settings are fit for purpose	Advancing knowledge and uptake of geothermal technologies	Enabling place-based geothermal clusters	Driving science, research and innovation, including supercritical geothermal technology

Improving access to geothermal data and insights

Unlocking geothermal potential begins with better access to data. High drilling costs and risks can be compounded by limited availability of historical and real-time geothermal data. Further, high costs and limited access to modern mapping technologies can restrict our understanding of lower temperature resource. Establishing a baseline of publicly available data (including identifying key gaps) will be the starting point to catalyse interest, reduce uncertainty, foster competition, and unlock new development opportunities across New Zealand.

Ensuring regulatory and system settings are fit for purpose

Existing regulatory frameworks have supported conventional geothermal development, but emerging technologies and applications – such as supercritical geothermal – require a future-ready approach. There is an opportunity to recalibrate resource management and planning systems to ensure they are enabling, adaptive, and sustainable, while supporting innovation and long-term environmental stewardship. The current resource management reforms present an opportunity to support the ambition of this strategy. Beyond resource management, the strategy also provides an opportunity to revise existing geothermal regulatory frameworks (with some regulations dating back to 1961).

It is also prudent to ensure that protected geothermal fields and our globally significant surface features remain protected and a taonga to the nation. Recognising their unique value, and their contribution to wellbeing, tourism and regional economies, is central to our strategy.

Ensuring our wider system settings deliver for the future is also important. Our geothermal sector relies upon a durable talent pipeline, strong international partnerships and collaborative relationships across the sector, government and tāngata whenua.

Advancing knowledge and uptake of geothermal technologies

Despite New Zealand’s globally significant geothermal resource, our uptake of direct and indirect use geothermal technologies – such as industrial heat, district heating, and agricultural applications –

lags behind international leaders. Targeted education, feasibility assessments, and demonstration projects (including government-user and public-private partnerships) can accelerate adoption and showcase the economic and environmental benefits of geothermal heat.

Enabling place-based geothermal clusters

Regional geothermal clusters can drive innovation, investment and localised benefits. Government can play a role by enabling coordination and collaboration among landowners, tāngata whenua, local authorities, industry, investors and developers. Tools may include place-based planning, co-investment models, and tailored incentives to support collaborative development and maximise regional value.

Driving science, research and innovation, including supercritical geothermal technology

The Government has made a significant commitment to the ambitious supercritical geothermal exploration project.¹³ This will lay the foundation for future breakthroughs in next-generation geothermal technologies. It will be important to understand the role of the reformed science system in supporting ongoing geothermal science, research and innovation.



Figure 6: Ngā Awa Pūrua Geothermal Station; Mercury NZ Ltd / Tauhara North No.2 Trust; Photographer Stephen Wells

Draft action plan for stakeholder feedback

Indicative actions, under each of the action plan goals, have been included overleaf to illustrate what government (and industry) activities and initiatives could look like to deliver the strategy.¹⁴

¹³ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-gaining-ground-pursuit-supercritical-geothermal-energy>

¹⁴ Note: Once the strategy is finalised, any action requiring government funding will be subject to normal budget processes.

From the Ground Up: Draft Action Plan



HORIZON 1 2025-2026	› Establish a baseline of publicly available data (including identifying key gaps) › Commission data insights report for the geothermal sector	› Clarify the application of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 to minerals in geothermal fluid › Ensure that the new planning and environment legislation enables the sustainable use of geothermal resources, including carbon capture utilisation and storage › Consider and respond to the Waitangi Tribunal's findings regarding Wai 2358 (when released) › Establish sector strategy implementation group › Explore whether ETS industrial allocation settings are acting to limit uptake of geothermal heat › Clarify the functions and responsibilities for wider geothermal regulations including geothermal well construction, maintenance and abandonment
HORIZON 2 2027-2028	› Investigate appropriate mechanism(s) for ongoing provision of geothermal data to a central repository › Consider the need for Crown involvement in further exploration or modelling › Investigate the need for further low heat geothermal mapping	› Ensure geothermal regulatory frameworks are fit for purpose (including the Geothermal Energy Regulations 1961 and those required for supercritical geothermal) › Explore the role of policy direction for managing geothermal resource (e.g. national direction) › Work with the education sector to strengthen geothermal career pathways to support an ongoing talent pipeline › Utilise New Zealand's geothermal expertise and advantage to strengthen bilateral relations
HORIZON 3 2029 onwards	› Potential Crown-led exploration	› Investigate the appropriateness of field classifications (following data collation undertaken in horizons 1-2) › Consider system-wide funding mechanisms

Note: The actions listed in this plan are for consultation only. Government resourcing and funding decisions will be sought through usual processes.



› Promote the role of geothermal in the energy transition (across the heat spectrum) from 2026 › Support the development of a geoheat information package for businesses looking to use direct geothermal heat for industrial/process heat	› Work with geothermal customers, developers, investors, iwi, hapū and Māori landowners to grow geothermal opportunities in New Zealand › Explore how zoning provisions and new spatial planning provisions can facilitate increased investment and coordination across geothermal economic activity › Explore options to develop a Geothermal Centre of Excellence (industry, iwi and hapū, landowners, academia and government) to encourage collaboration, information sharing and accelerate R&D › Identify geothermal tourism opportunities in Taupō and Tarawera regions, in partnership with iwi to support Māori economic development	› Undertake drilling programme for supercritical geothermal on first test well site
› Explore mechanisms to pilot technology for commercial and residential developments	› Explore opportunities and potential incentives for manufacturers and other sectors (including tourism) to cluster or relocate	› Explore the role of the reformed science system in supporting geothermal science › Explore options and secure funding/investment for second supercritical geothermal exploration well
› Explore transitioning government users to geothermal technologies		› Develop geothermal technologies to support and install supercritical geothermal power station and connect to successful well sites

PROPOSED ACTIONS

Having your say

We are seeking feedback on the draft Geothermal Strategy for New Zealand. We welcome all submissions but are particularly interested in the questions below:

1. Are the three strategic outcomes of the strategy, centred around **world-leading geothermal innovation, accelerating energy resilience and strengthening regional economies and te Ōhanga Māori**, suitable, or is there more we need to consider?
2. Do the five overarching **action plan goals capture the areas that are most important for achieving** the vision, strategic outcomes and energy goal?
3. Does the proposed action plan correctly capture the necessary **government interventions and priorities**?
4. Is the **role for the sector** clear? How can the wider geothermal sector play a role (e.g. are there specific actions that the sector could own)?
5. Does the strategy and proposed action plan create the right settings to **enable tāngata whenua to realise their aspirations** for geothermal resources in their rohe?
6. Are there **opportunities** for our geothermal sector that we haven’t considered?
7. Are there **challenges** for our geothermal sector that we haven’t considered?
8. Are there **any other things** that the strategy should include or exclude?

How to submit

Send your submission to resourcesfeedback@mbie.govt.nz by 5pm on 12 September 2025.
For any questions or help with submission, please contact resourcesfeedback@mbie.govt.nz.



Geothermal taonga of Whakarewarewa
(image supplied by Earth Sciences New Zealand)



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Community Employment Programme

End of Year Narrative Report to 30 June 2025

MTFJ: KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 July 2025

Separate Financial Report due 29th August



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS



Introduction from Mayor Faylene Tunui

This year has been a powerful reminder of what's possible when a community pulls together to support its young people. Through the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), we've seen real progress—not just in the number of job placements, but in the lives changed and futures shaped right here in Kawerau.

We're proud to be recognised nationally for our efforts, but the real success lies in the stories of rangatahi who are now on career paths they once thought were out of reach. That's the outcome of strong local partnerships—between council, iwi, industry and community stakeholders—working side by side to make employment meaningful and accessible.

A huge part of this progress comes down to the leadership of Amy Hayes, our MTFJ coordinator. Her ability to bring people together, build trust, and deliver practical outcomes has helped us run successful training programmes and open real job opportunities for our young people.

This mahi is proof of what can happen when collaboration, community knowledge, and a shared purpose come together. Kawerau is stronger because of it, and the future is looking brighter for our next generation.

We look forward to continuing this important journey—making sure every young person in our town has the support they need to succeed.

"Ka whangaia, ka tupu, ka puawai"

Nurtured, it will grow, it will blossom

Faylene Tunui

Kahika | Mayor



MTFJ placements and our Council

The partnership between MTFJ Kawerau and Kawerau District Council plays a pivotal role in driving positive outcomes for our community. We collaborate closely and consistently, from our cadets, to ensuring work experience is available where practicable, which can lead to permanent job placements

The relationship within all departments of Kawerau District Council is open, honest with a shared vision of hiring locals and sharing our knowledge.

As we move forward into the new financial year, we are optimistic about the potential for our partnership to deepen even further. By aligning our goals and resources, we can better address the unique challenges faced by our community and amplify our efforts to create sustainable employment opportunities. Together, we are committed to fostering a resilient workforce that meets the evolving needs of our local economy.

- Total employment placements made: 92
- NEETs: 46
- Youth: 15
- Apprenticeship: 15
- Youth with Disability: 1
- Adults with Disability: 1
- Disadvantaged: 14
- Top 3 ethnicities of placements: Maori / NZ European / Maori – Pasifika
- Top 3 industries of placements: 1)Agriculture, forestry, fishery 2) Construction. 3) Conservation
- Total number of registered jobseekers: 145
- Total number of registered businesses: 74



An Employment Story

One employer who has found ongoing success with MTFJ and the CEP programme is Jones & Cole Electrical in Kawerau, who have partnered with MTFJ Co-ordinator Amy Hayes and the CEP Programme since its inception.

Jones & Cole Electrical have three local youths currently on their books; first-year apprentices Raniera Clark and Michael Mitchell, and Jake Young in his third year. And Te Malkoha Paul, who completed his four-year apprenticeship in January, was recently employed by Jones & Cole Electrical as a tradesman.

Director Rebecca Cole says that working with MTFJ gives their business the ability to tap into a network of eager local youth.

“Our ethic is that you must have apprentices to bring on the younger generation. No point complaining about today’s youth if you don’t give them a chance,” says Rebecca.

“Anyone can be taught anything if they have the right attitude. That’s where Amy and MTFJ comes in, she’ll give us young people with a great attitude and work ethic who are open to being taught new things.

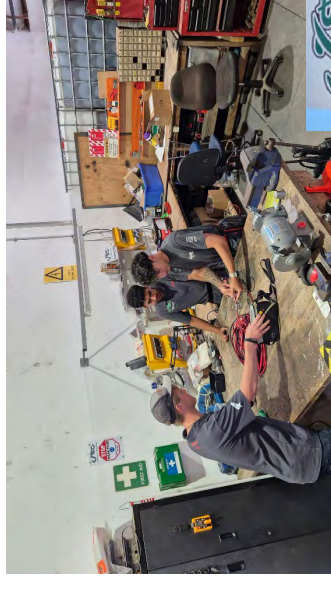
“Some of them don’t know if they want to be a sparky yet or not, so we’ll take them on jobs with us to see if it’s something they want to consider before making a commitment.

“Amy helps set the placements up with equipment and PPE gear, and she’s always popping around to make sure they’re happy and balanced. She’s there to provide support and they definitely rely on her.”

Rebecca says that one of the reasons MTFJ is successful in Kawerau is because of the community connection.

“There’s not a lot of employment opportunities in Kawerau. This is a mill town, there’s a lot of trades around the town - especially in forestry - but they don’t tend to take on apprentices. Sadly, you see people, young and old, getting laid off often.

“There’s not a lot of money here, but there’s a great sense of community; everyone looks out for each other. People know Amy and that she’s connecting our local youth looking for employment, with businesses looking to help their community.”



An Employment Story continued ...

“We want to help these young people see the value in every opportunity”

Amy Hayes has been an MTFJ coordinator for the past four years and a respected figure in the Kawerau community. She’s successfully placed 44 rangatahi into employment within the first quarter of this financial year, already exceeding the 12-month target of 30 placements. It’s an achievement she proudly celebrates.

“The job market is competitive, but our success in securing placements is remarkable, especially with many businesses being cautious about hiring youth,” says Amy.

“Every job is a stepping stone, and we want to help these young people see the value in every opportunity.”

Amy emphasizes the importance of building social skills and self-belief among her clients.

“While a huge number of our rangatahi face challenges with confidence and social skills, there are still incredible opportunities for growth. We are dedicated to helping them develop essential skills like effective communication and interview techniques.”

“Innovative support initiatives, like providing food and creating cereal stations at businesses, have also helped to enhance productivity for our clients.”

Amy acknowledges the strong partnership with Jones & Cole Electrical, which has placed eight apprentices and provided hands-on experience for many others, and the unwavering support of Kawerau District Council.

“Jones & Cole and their commitment to local youth is inspiring. And the backing of Kawerau District Council, particularly the Mayor and the Chief Executive, has been invaluable as we work together to empower our rangatahi and foster a brighter future.”

An Employment Story continued ..

“I want to take it further in life”

19-year-old Raniera Clark moved to Kawerau about 10 years ago.

His first encounter with Jones & Cole Electrical was doing work experience for them while at school. He's now in the first year of a four-year apprenticeship with Jones & Cole Electrical and has completed an ETCO Elite training course.

Raniera has enjoyed his experience as an apprentice so far.

“It's been pretty good, I like the jobs and I've been learning a bunch of stuff. Like how to be a first-year apprentice, just learning the basics of the job,” says Raniera.

“Being a sparky is something I want to do; I want to take it further in life. Amy [and MTFJ] have helped to place me in the company and given me the tools and gear I needed.

“It's been tough to find jobs around Kawerau so MTFJ has been really good, they help young people like me to get into the industry and help get them all the stuff they need - as it can be pretty expensive.”

Rebecca Cole says it's rewarding for her to help young people succeed.

“It's amazing to see these kids succeed, one of our apprentices went onto Australia for work and another we've employed. Without MTFJ, our company probably wouldn't have apprentices, but MTFJ's Community Employment Programme makes it easy for us.

“Anyone who can afford to take on an apprentice should do it.”

Ministry of Social Development Partnership

The partnership between MTFJ Kawerau and our local MSD office continues to thrive, playing a pivotal role in driving positive outcomes for our community. Throughout the year, we have collaborated closely, exchanging referrals for job placements and joining forces to organise recruitment whenever possible. These collaborative efforts have not only strengthened our connection but have also enhanced our collective impact on local employment and workforce development.

As we move forward into the new financial year, we are optimistic about the potential for our partnership to deepen even further. By aligning our goals and resources, we can better address the unique challenges faced by our community and amplify our efforts to create sustainable employment opportunities. Together, we are committed to fostering a resilient workforce that meets the evolving needs of our local economy.

We look forward to exploring new initiatives and strategies that leverage our strengths, ensuring that we remain effective partners in supporting the aspirations of both job seekers and employers in Kawerau.



Partnerships & Collaborations

As stated in every monthly report, our community collaborations, partnerships & relationships are vital to the success of the MTFJ programme.

We do not work in silos in Kawerau, we are open and transparent and work efficiently together to produce the most productive & sustainable outcomes for Kawerau.

Our partners include, but are not limited to:

Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau

EastBay REAP / Heartlands

Toiora

Industrial Symbiosis Kawerau

Toi Kai Rawa

Mental Health New Zealand

Bluelight / Kawerau Police / Youth Aid

Kawerau District Council

Tarawera High School

MSD / Connected

Trinity Lands

Tu Whare Toa Gym



A Driver Licence Story



Kawerau Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs 2024 - 2025: June & July 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	July25	Total	Target
Number of Referrals This Month	14	13	4	4	1	2	0	11	6	2	0	0	43	100	
Number of Enrolments This Month	4	5	12	5	1	2	0	5	5	5	1	0	13	58	
Number of Withdrawals This Month	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	10	
Number Passed This Month															
. Learners Licence	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	13	24	
- Restricted	2	1	0	4	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	14	
. Full Licence	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	1	3	0	0	0	10	
Total This Month	2	4	5	6	3	1	0	5	4	3	2	0	13	48	60

Note: Despite no referrals in June, and engagement with existing clients being difficult, July saw a strong increase in referrals; however, due to staff illness and the driving instructors full schedule, restricted and full licence referrals from July are yet to be contacted. Despite these challenges, 13 Kawerau residents successfully obtained their learner licence. All outstanding restricted and full licence referrals will be contacted and booked before the end of August. Additionally, a new cohort of learner licence referrals has been informed of the upcoming August course, positioning us well to meet our deliverables by month's end.

A Driver Licence Story Continued ...



June & July 2025
Success stories



Cedric, a dedicated Service Academy student, is taking inspiring steps toward a future career in the armed forces. As part of his commitment to personal growth and readiness, Cedric recently attended the Learner Licence course through Eastbay REAP. With determination and focus, he successfully gained his Learner Licence. This achievement marks a key milestone in his journey, boosting both his confidence and independence as he works towards a rewarding career.



Marua is a quiet, reserved young man who rarely spoke up—but his actions spoke volumes. Despite his shyness, he showed strong commitment by attending and completing the three-day Learner Licence course. Through determination and focus, he successfully gained his Learner Licence. This achievement has opened new doors, giving him independence and expanding opportunities for employment, training, and personal growth.

Testimonials – Jobseekers

“ Thanks to Amy’s funding from Mayors Taskforce I was able to gain all the qualifications needed to achieve in the workplace. She is very friendly, easy to talk to, was and has been very supportive with helping my find the placement for my apprenticeship where I am now, along with getting me into the courses I have attended and making sure I have everything I need.” – Michael Mitchell

“Amy is great at explaining everything and gives us pride in ourselves and the Kawerau Community. She first helped me get work experience with W.E.K for 3 months and the whole time she kept in contact with me asking if I need anything. She then introduced me to J&C and is still in contact making sure I have everything I need” – Raniera Clark



Testimonials – Employer

Dear Amy,

We, Jones & Cole Electrical Ltd, thought it high time we wrote down for you what we have often said.. to your face and behind your back. I know I should have done this earlier and apologise for being so tardy!

You may not be aware, but it is our company ethos to hire local, when Garry and Dave started J&C, they also wanted to ensure that others were given the same opportunities they had by hiring apprentices. Many companies these days are not in the position to do so, but this is where you and the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) has played a major role, especially for us.

When we seek new apprentices, it is our company policy that they are listed with you (Amy Hayes) and the MTFJ. This way we can be assured that the individuals we consider have the financial and moral support they need to concentrate on their training and development. In addition, we believe that anyone can learn new skills if they have the right attitude to begin with, and Amy's eye for identifying these positive attributes in our local youth is exceptional, no matter their background.

It is also important to note that being under the umbrella of MTFJ is also seen as a distinct advantage when we enrol our apprentices with the Electrical Training Company (ETCO). The training contributions provided by MTFJ have provided for Elite Training courses, tools, and personal protective equipment, all of which is a cost to the individuals.

The soft skills that Amy has developed with our team really makes them stand out. You can measure their growth in the way the apprentices communicate with both customers and tradesmen, clearly walking through job requirements with confidence. With customers this means the translating of often technical topics. Because we predominantly work in our local community, we often have customers tell us how amazing it is watching their youngsters gain these skills year on year. It is also appreciated that Amy personally celebrates with our team, in her personal time. These celebrations are very important, especially as when starting out as their days are usually filled with mistakes to begin with and seeing them stand taller when she leaves us for the next group is a heartwarming experience. Perhaps more importantly, and often underappreciated is that Amy provides a safe environment for our team. She is that all important independent person who they can go to for advice on how to approach difficult situations, from handling conflict in the workplace to challenges at home or even in the classroom. All of this is achieved without blame or shame, a skill and environment which is extremely difficult to cultivate.

It is not only the youth of Kawerau that benefit from Amy's care. I am in the process of learning the trade myself as a new owner, returning to the community after 30 years and the support, information and financial aid offered by MTFJ have honestly been the only way we could even entertain having apprentices, we wouldn't be the local success story we are if this backing wasn't available to local business owners as well. Sorry it's a novel, but you are a woman of many chapters!

Kind Regards
Rebecca Cole

Director | Mobile +64 27 499 7439 | Phone +64 7 323 7489 | E-Mail rebecca@sparkies.co.nz



MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS



Testimonials – Employer

Kia Ora Amy

I just wanted to touch base and let you know how much difference your role makes within our community.

From the time I started my apprenticeship at Bella Me you were supportive and always gave me motivation and encouragement that was absolutely crucial to me through my journey. Without the help from you and the MTFJ I would not have had the opportunities I have been blessed with. From mentoring me and supporting me and my mental state of mind through to being the sole reason I got to do additional training to further my career. Not just anyone could do the amazing job you do. You have amazing people skills and are down to earth and know how to relate to people which is key in a role such as yours. I admire the way you can uplift anyone and everyone that crosses your path. So from being the one learning and soaking up as much knowledge as possible, with the help from you I have now spread my wings and have started my own business in beauty therapy. Not only that but you now entrust me to teach/offer work experience and guide up and coming beauty therapists and to give them the same amazing opportunities I once had. It is a humbling experience to do my part for our community and help you help our next generation do well and thrive. You have made taking on the girls for work experience exceptionally easy and they come well prepared thanks to your guidance. They always point out how great you are and how lucky they are to have you leading the MTFJ and I couldn't agree more. The opportunities you provide our community are priceless. Helping people get work ready and into mahi is exactly what we need to be encouraging. I know quite a few different ones from around town that have gotten mahi through MTFJ and they all say the same thing. Amy is the sole reason I am where I am today.

Thank you for doing all that you do. It has an amazing ripple effect that is felt by many in our community. From people needing a helping hand to get into mahi to business owners who want to expand their team or simply give some work experience to offer the chance to let people get an insight to the different industries. Even work placements that may not work out are a success. It has given someone the opportunity to learn what they don't like which is equally important to knowing what you do like. It is all about the bigger picture and finding yourself, finding your place in the world. You help people do that and that's a very special role to be a part of.

You are one of the greatest assets in our town. We appreciate you, we see you, keep doing what you are doing.

Nga mihi
Shelly Dale



Testimonials – Employer

Kia ora Amy,

This is my first contact with the Mayors Task Force for Jobs and it's already proven to be a positive experience. I heard of you from mutual friends and my links with the High School, so I was really looking forward to working with you. I have the goal of a new business owner to ensure I provide a positive and productive workspace for those that I employ. Going from teaching to running a business has been a huge learning curve for me and I still have lots to learn, but from the outset I wanted to pay them a fair wage and develop a sense of purpose, skill and connection for my workers.

My first trainee was unemployed - I bumped into her in the foyer at KEA and recognised her face as I used to teach her at the High School. I asked what she was up to - 'Not much' was the reply. I asked if she was interested in learning how to make coffee and that was it - our journey began.

I was unsure how my new business could take on a new person or trainee - I simply didn't have the cashflow to feel comfortable or for it to be viable at the time. It was going to cost me money to train someone. After meeting with you and having a kōrero about how you could help out, I felt confident to take on the challenge of my first trainee.

She is doing great - and messaged me last night about how "The KEA building" could help with her returning family member from overseas - she knows that you work with Shelly down the hallway! I love the fact that she is committed to making the best for herself, for her whānau and looking for employment opportunities in Kawerau. She has had a good experience with you and the contact you have made, and also for her cousin. She has even helped out at the Food Bank on Fridays a few times just because she was in the right place at the right time to get asked.

Thanks for the support you have shown me as a new business owner and for the commitment you have shown to my current and future workers.

See you for coffee sometime soon,
Jules



Testimonials – Employer

We all call Amy "Aunty Amy" in our neck of the woods.... she's the cool chick that is amazing with our workers and that has a knack of making them laugh and truly be honest and think about what they want to do with their lives.

Without her help and ongoing support some of these boys probably wouldn't have stayed with us here. The job specific training and the help getting these boys sorted with their drivers licences, forklift licences and even down to work boots and any extra PPE they've needed would never have happened if it wasn't for her.

I wish I had an aunty Amy growing up.

Our workers are lucky and very appreciative the work she's doing in and around our community.

ISS Kawerau have an awesome working relationship with Aunty Amy, we are always happy to assist her with anything she needs.

I'd just like to say a big huge thank you for all the help and support that Amy has given us here at ISS Kawerau branch.

Nga mihi

Aroha & the ISS Whanau



Conclusion

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to MSD and the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs for their unwavering support through the MTFJ initiative. Their dedication to removing barriers for our smaller employers has been instrumental. By swiftly addressing immediate, practical challenges, MTFJ has enabled these businesses to invest in vital training, personal protective equipment, tools, certifications, and driving licenses. This responsiveness allows us to meet local demands effectively, and we take great pride in being recognised as facilitators of opportunity in Kawerau. By eliminating these initial hurdles, we are not only supporting employers but also nurturing a culture of investment in our youth. It is a privilege to play a role in our community's growth while providing essential pastoral care.

This year has marked a transformative phase for the MTFJ program, highlighted by significant achievements and collaborations. We have engaged a multitude of small employers, helping them to overcome growth barriers and invest in their workforce. A special acknowledgment goes to MSD, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs and Kawerau District Council for their steadfast support, which has been crucial in facilitating training, securing essential tools, and providing certifications.

We have celebrated impressive milestones, including increased job placements and enhanced skill development among our young people. The collaborative spirit of our community has been truly inspiring, particularly the willingness of local employers to invest in the future of our youth.

As we look ahead, our aim for the coming year is to broaden our outreach, focusing on the creation of more tailored training programs that align with industry needs. We aspire to strengthen our partnerships and introduce mentorship initiatives that connect young talent with seasoned professionals. Together, we can continue to dismantle barriers and empower the future of our community.



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAŌ ORA

MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS



Our Year in Pictures



Mana Taiohi Training in Kawerau



Elevate Kawerau Community Concert & Work Experience



Our Year in the Media

MTFJ - From 2hrs 49mins to 3hrs 15mins

https://kaweraudc-govt-nz.zoom.us/rec/play/s5TnesVNl0mshym0EdJ0u9L Vc9J6x3syZGgo3i_l6TXYd1v-YtQVlkQjb6OM1BU6UseUMSKeEQmJh2-K.IFTJauTu7l6bXueC?eagerLoadZvaPages=sidemenu.billing.plan_management&accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&startTime=1745960420000&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fkaweraudc-govt-nz.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FnLt-l6sTc-rkBvTlfqSLTBXYXDkO4BeazL6sXeHnTve49YRrcelzfeJpX8ws.pM9O-UsOW8afuBSp%3FstartTime%3D1745960420000

MTFJ - From 1hr 19mins to 1hr 41mins
https://kaweraudc-govt-nz.zoom.us/rec/play/NIZ2g9AUd1nBaJ_4rFsNHys6JVsj0r5K16lgrf_CnXAolxVIECzIXeB63GQagXKY0o9jxppkxbvWhV2.MoIvLxQJMqce5LJA?eagerLoadZvaPages=sidemenu.billing.plan_management&accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&startTime=1730232244000&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fkaweraudc-govt-nz.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FkK1qXzKnQYhzkOJL6-yF8uAvq_oFKsMlbOgWqQISUZ02fJ7u7TMupEkyJsVUI3TC.EzSp6xhGoyABVtJ2%3FstartTime%3D1730232244000



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
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TE MANATU WHAKAHIAHO ORA

MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS



MONTHLY REPORT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

July 2025

1 **Communication**

1.1 **Community Pānui | Update**

One pānui | newsletter completed – 1 July

1.2 **Significant Communications:**

- 1.2.1 Includes: Consultation – Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Local Body Elections 2025, Creative Communities Scheme Grants, Elevate Kawerau, Winter Programme at the Library, Civil Defence National Advisory: Tsunami activity and weather warnings
- 1.2.2 Council Operations and Services includes: Road works and closures, unplanned water shutdowns, Council meetings, Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre pool closures and colder temperatures, Transfer Station changes for recycling, Alcohol Licencing Public Notices, Dog registration renewals, and Tarawera Falls permits and weather closures.

Council Communication Channels overview

Website  16,207 visits (increase). Top Page Visits: Homepage, Rates Property Search, Search, District Library, Meetings and Agendas, Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre and Kawerau District Council Nominations

Social Media



Facebook

-  7,228 visits
-  49,682 reach
-  5,854 followers



Instagram

-  22 visits
-  272 reach
-  7214 followers

NB: Noticeable 67% increase in views of non-followers in July.

Top content: Road closures in EBOP and weather warnings; Transfer Station changes; Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre closures for repairs and colder temperatures; Message from the CEO re reserve damage; Council vacancies; Acknowledging the passing of MP Takutai Moana Tarsh Kemp.

1.3 **Website Renewal Project**

Project continuing with content renewal work. Online services assessment.

2 Local Government Elections 2025

2.1 Triennial Elections and Poll on Māori Wards – 9 September to 11 October 2025.

Electoral Legislation requires Council to encourage participation of the community via candidates standing, enrolments and voter participation.

Basis of Elections (following 2024 Representation Review):

- The Mayor elected 'at large' (by the whole district)
- Two Councillors elected at large (district wide)
- Three Councillors elected from the Kawerau Māori Ward and
- Three Councillors elected from the Kawerau General Ward

2.2 Decisions and Completed Processes in 2025:

26 March – Council resolved for candidates' names to be alphabetically listed

28 May – Candidate Information Briefing at Concert Chamber

28 May – Council adopted Election Signs' Policy and Policy for Communication by Elected Members' in a Pre-Election Period

24 June - Candidate Information Briefing at Rautahi Marae

25 June – Council adopted Pre-Election Report

3 July – Library drop in with the Electoral Commission with an enrolment drive

4 July – Candidate nominations opened.

10 July (midnight) - Pause begins for eligible people to change electoral rolls from General to Māori, or Māori to General until post-11 October 2025

11 July – Three-month Pre-Election Period commences

2.3 Local Elections 2025 - Next Steps:

1 August at 12 noon - Candidate nominations close.

6 August - Notice of Election and Poll

11 Aug - Election Advertising can be displayed (Signs' Policy)

9 Sept - Voting Papers delivered to homes (if enrolled by 1 August 2025)

9 Sept - Special Voting Period Opens

10 Oct - Last day for new enrolments (requires a special vote)

10 Oct - (midnight) – Signs and Election Hoardings removed

11 Oct 12 noon - Voting Closes at Council Office (open 8am to 12noon), District Library or Kawerau New World

(Progress and preliminary results available as soon as practicable after voting closes)

17 Oct – Declaration of 2025 Election Results and Poll Results

22 or 29 Oct (tbc) - Inauguration of Kawerau District Council 2025-2028

3 Engagement

3.1 Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

Excellent rates of engagement from the community with 79 formal submissions to the special consultative procedure to review and update the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Council adopted the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, waste assessment and summary at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 18 June 2025. The consultation process ran from 19 June to 20 July 2025. One submitter wishes to speak at the hearing, which has been delayed.

3.2 Consultation and Engagement completed and adopted by Council

- **Long Term Plan 2025-2034**

Adopted 25 June 2025 and available online via the Council website, and in hard copy at the Council Office. Council responding to submitters post 1 July 2025.

- **Local Water Done Well**

Council completed a comprehensive consultation process with the community from 11 April to 23 May 2025. Council heard and considered submissions at an Extraordinary Meeting on 18 June 2025. Council resolved to proceed with the in-house (internal) business unit with the support of 104 of 107 submissions or 92%, while assessing options for a multi-council controlled organisation. The consultation process will dovetail into the Kawerau District Draft Water Services Delivery Plan, to be tabled to Council in due course, and prior to the final plan being submitted to the DIA by 3 September 2025.

4 Residential Developments – *Current Status*

The table below shows the surplus/deficit to date for each of Council's residential developments (*construction costs):

	Central Cove	Hine Te Ariki / Bell Street	Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village	TOTAL
Total Sections / Units	31	4 / 2	29	64
Sections / Units Sold	22	1	29	52
Remaining Sections / Units	9	3 / 1		12
Units completed		2	29	31
	Central Cove	Hine Te Ariki / Bell Street	Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village	TOTAL
Units under construction				
Surplus/ (Deficit) to Date	291,230	(597,995)	37,748	
<u>Breakeven</u>				
Sales still required to break-even	0	1	0	

4.1 **Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village**

Ongoing management and routine maintenance of the village continues. Upcoming settlement of one unit in August 2025.

4.2 **Central Cove**

Sale and purchase agreement signed with Generation Homes for one lot which will require asbestos remediation under the current resource consent. Neighbours have been advised of the upcoming works.

4.3 **Duplex Build 53A Bell Street and Hine Te Ariki**

Investigating sales options for the three-bedroom Bell Street unit.

4.4 **Stoneham Park Residential Development**

Upper catchment stormwater modelling shows positive results and being investigated to progress the resource consent required via Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Manager, Communications and Engagement for the month of July 2025 be received.



Tania Humberstone

Manager, Communications and Engagement | Residential Development

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