



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 10 December 2025
commencing at 9.00am**

A G E N D A

REGULATORY & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Her Worship the Mayor - F K N Tunui

Councillor S Kingi - Chairperson

Councillor W Apiata

Councillor M Dowie

Councillor T Hill

Councillor B J Julian

Councillor G T Leokava-Taani

Councillor J Ross

Councillor A R Worsley

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC FORUM AT MEETINGS

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

**The Meeting of the Regulatory and Services Committee
will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2025
commencing at 9.00am**

A G E N D A

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Leave of Absence

A Leave of Absence was received from Deputy Mayor Kingi for Wednesday 17 December 2025.

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 November 2025.

Recommendation

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

Recommendation

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

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

Pgs. 12 - 19

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

Recommendation

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

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

Pgs. 20 - 47

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

Recommendation

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

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

Pgs. 48 - 59

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

Recommendation

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

11 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

M Godfery

Chief Executive Officer

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MONTHLY REPORT REGULATORY & PLANNING SERVICES

November 2025

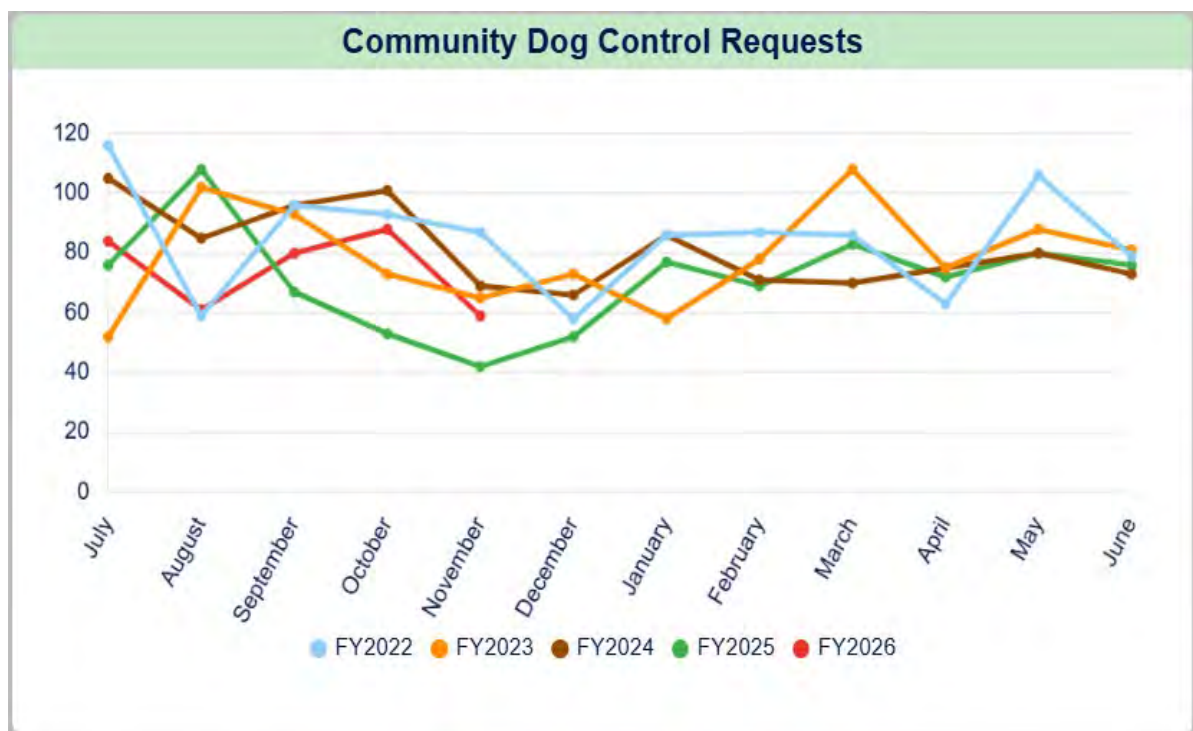
1 Animal Control

1.1 Dog Registration

At 30 November 2025, there are 1,243 dogs registered of the 1,311 dogs listed on the dog register for 2025/2026. This represents 94.8% of known dogs.

1.2 Dog Control - Ranging, Complaints and Incidents

Fifty nine (59) service requests were received in November.



A total of forty one (41) statutory occurrences (barking, roaming, attacks, general complaints, lost dogs) were attended by Council staff. These related largely to complaints of barking (10), roaming (20), rushes (4) and one (1) attack.

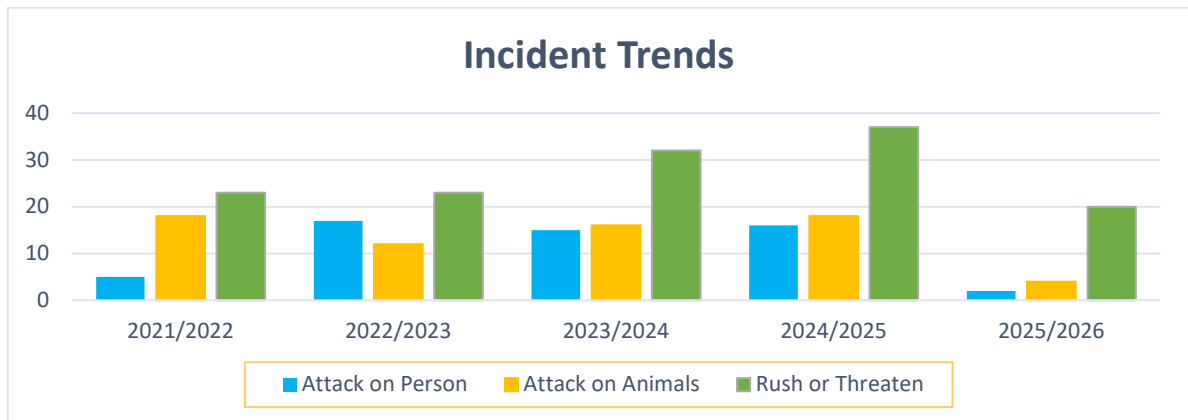
Of the reported roaming complaints, six (6) resulted in dogs being impounded.

The attack on a person related to a dog being walked (off lead) by children, with the dog's new born puppies being carried. When the dog was approached, it bit a child on the arm. The owner is cooperating with Council, and we are working with them to resolve the incident.

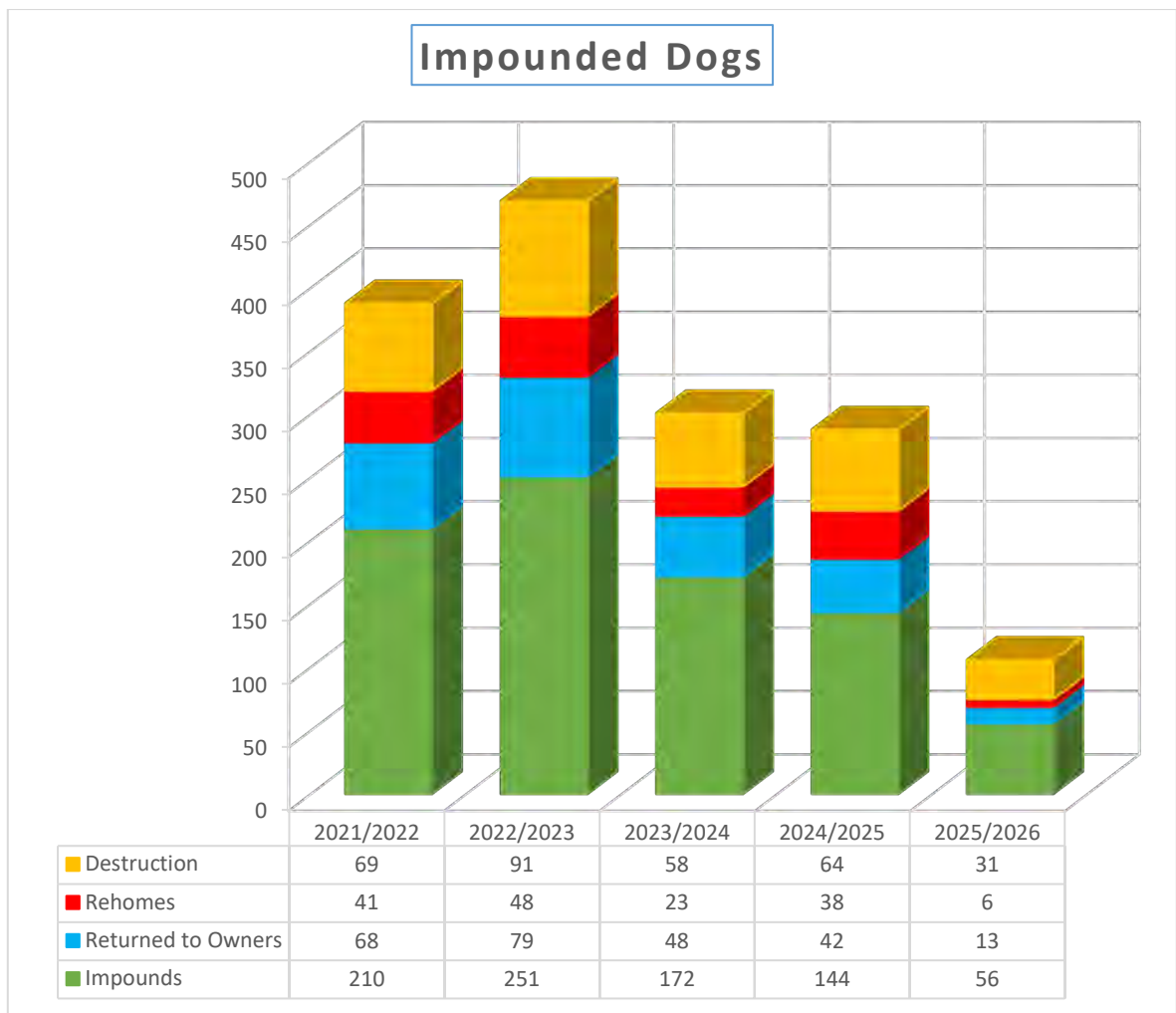
The four rush incidents were resulted as follows:

- One incident involved two dogs, with only one of the dogs rushing the victim. This dog was later seized.

- Two incidents related to dogs rushing a mailman. The owner in one case, acknowledged the incident and repairs were made to the fence. The identity of the dog in the second incident could not be confirmed.
- The last incident related to a person that was rushed while walking. The owner of the dog was located and an infringement issued.

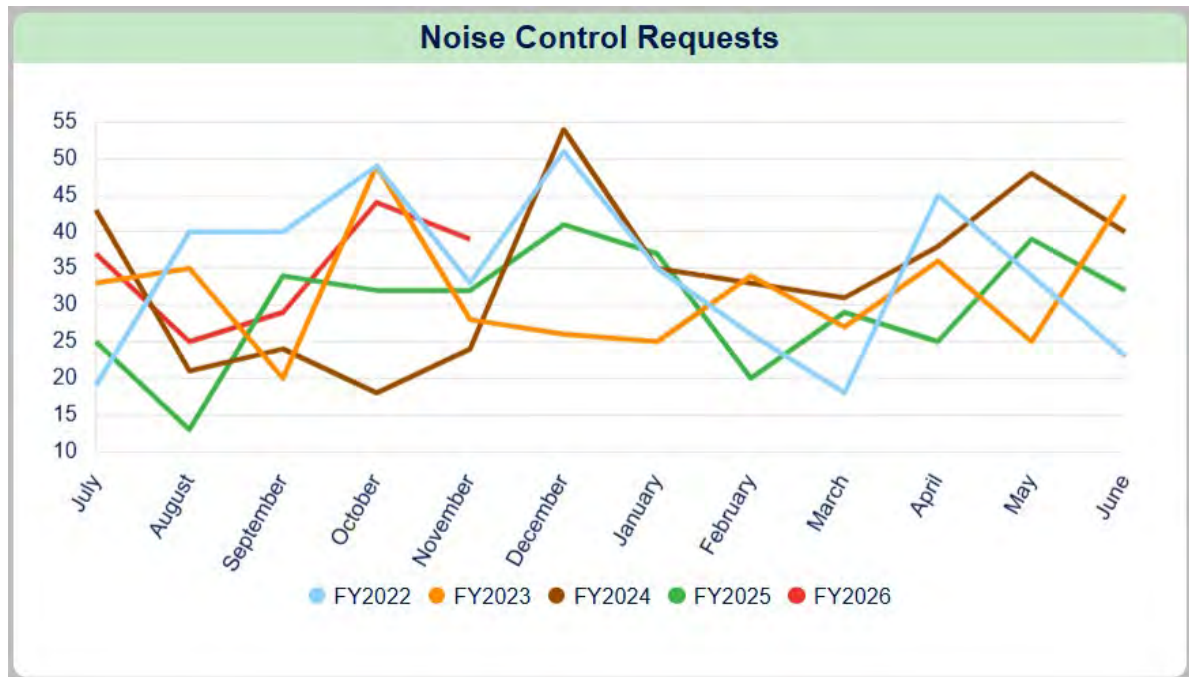


During the same period a total of nine (9) dogs were impounded, one (1) dog was returned to its owner, one (1) dog was rehomed and seven (7) dogs were destroyed.



2 Monitoring and Compliance

There were a total of thirty nine (39) noise complaints in November 2025. A total of five (5) incidents were found to be excessive with excessive noise notices issued on all occasions.



3 Alcohol Regulation

One new manager licence and four manager licence renewals were processed to an outcome during the month of November.

Two special Licence applications were processed for the Bowling Club to hold a Fire Brigade event and a Xmas function.

Interviews for the Commissioner of the Eastern Bay of Plenty District Licensing Committee have been set for December. Interviews for the List Members will likely take place early next year, once the Commissioner has been confirmed. One elected member from each of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Councils has been appointed to the interview panel.

4 Food Safety and Premises

Three Food Control Plan verifications were completed in November for Jive 2025, Amazing Grace Aotearoa and Fluffy Flaps.

5 Environmental Health

Two environmental health complaints were received relating to household waste being left on the kerb. These matters were addressed and resolved.

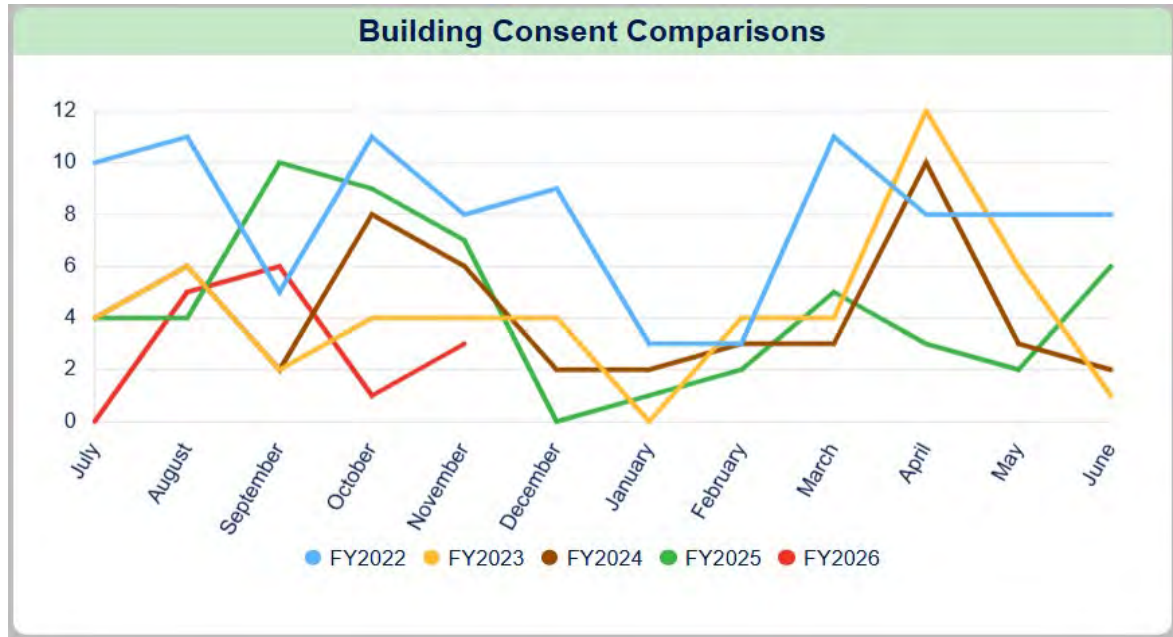
6 Building Control

6.1 Building Consent Authority (BCA)

Three building consents were issued for November 2025. The total value of the building consents was \$518,500.

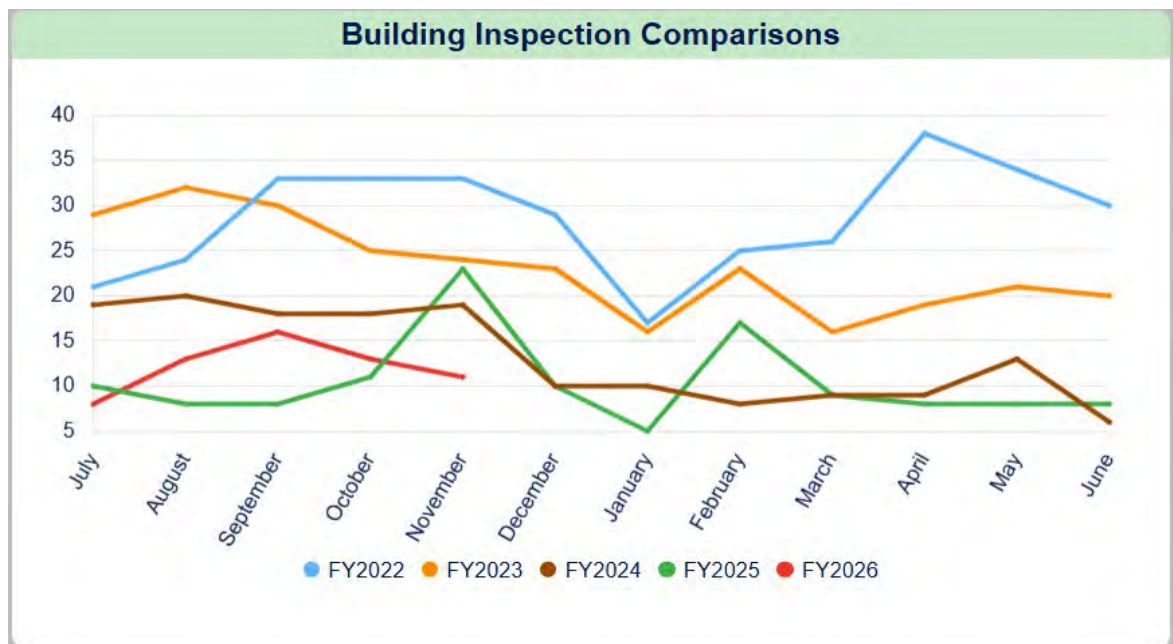
The types of building work for the month included:

- 1 x Solid fuel heater
- 1 x Marquee
- 1 x Seismic upgrades to a Commercial Building



Two (2) code of compliance certificates and one (1) compliance schedule were issued in November.

Eleven (11) building inspections were completed in November.



The Building Consent Authority ('BCA') underwent its bi-annual audit in November 2025. The audit resulted in twelve non-compliances to be resolved across the full scope of work, ranging from matters related to stamping documents received to missing customer information and adding more detail to decisions. The BCA is preparing the proposed resolutions for each non-compliance, which must be approved by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) and then implemented by April 2026.

6.2 Territorial Authority

Thirteen (13) Land Information Memorandum ('LIM') reports were issued during this period.

Two swimming pools were inspected in November, completing all required swimming pool inspections for this year.

7 **District Plan**

7.1 District Plan Review

During November 2025, work continued on the natural hazard section of the District Plan with initial feedback sought from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which is exempt from the Government Stop Plan legislation enacted on 20 August 2025. This work will not be completed until flood maps have been finalised for Kawerau District – this work is underway.

During November we had not received a response in relation to the request for a Stop Plan Change exemption to continue the portion of the District Plan Review that incorporates the recent Boundary Change into the Kawerau District Plan.

7.2 Resource Consents

One outline plan waiver was approved in November for an additional two classrooms at Kawerau South School.

RECOMMENDATION

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



Michaela Glaspey

Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning

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MONTHLY REPORT

FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

November 2025

1 Library and Museum

1.1 Library

November focused on preparations for summer reading which launched on 1 December with the theme ***Drawn To Read***. Youth 0 - 14 can pick up booklets which include reading logs and activities to complete. Adults also have a similar reading promotion to enter and there are competitions and in-house activities running until 23 January 2026. Youth who read over summer avoid the “summer slump” where literacy levels can decline for pupils returning to school.

The Library team ran a successful Pirate Murder Mystery evening, and participants are keen to return and solve more mysteries.

The Library and Museum Manager attended the annual Kōtui (NZ National Library) meetings which were held online this year. Most of the work in this space has been around security and consolidation of systems.

The displays for November were Pirates and Christmas.

Library Statistics

	November 2025	YTD 2025/26	November 2024	YTD 2024/25
Items issued	2,753	14,983	2,825	16,194
People visiting	4,017	23,454	4,073	21,601
New members	6	89	19	76
Active members*	1,277		1,342	

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

1.2 Museum

November's focus was on decommissioning the older exhibitions and replacing them with two new exhibitions. The first is called *The Unofficial Gallery: Caricatures from Tasman Mill* in the Main Gallery and looks at the original caricature work done by Tasman employees Herbie Pukeroa and Rob Morrison. The second exhibition called *Working Style: Work and Leisure Wear from Tasman and Norske Skog* is exhibited in the Jellicoe Court windows and shows the wide range of clothing and branded accessories that Tasman and Norske Skog produced over the years.

Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum Statistics

	November 2025	YTD 2025/26	November 2024	YTD 2024/25
Exhibitions	2	4	0	2
Vernon Records	November 2025	YTD 2025/26	November 2024	YTD 2024/25
Objects – items added to collection	15	89	23	139
People	24	473	58	284
Documents	36	247	44	247
Photographs	80	475	139	395

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 November was 27.7° and the highest temperature for the month was 31.2° recorded on 29 November 2025.

The accumulated sunshine hours for November was a total of 219 hours and 54 minutes, with the sunniest day being 13 hours of sunshine which was recorded on 29 November. The Appendix to this report shows a combined graph of the temperatures and sunshine data collected for November.

The rainfall for October was 90mm with the year to date total of 1,840mm. The rainfall data is reported a month behind due to the timing of data being available.

3 Payments

There were six payments in November 2025, which exceeded \$50,000.

- Inland Revenue Department (2 invoices) - \$168,062.47 - PAYE for Fortnights ending 19/10/2025 and 02/11/2025.
- Aon New Zealand (12 invoices) – Total of \$458,374.53. All invoices relate to insurances for material damage, business interruption, general, statutory, employee, cyber and professional liability.
- Audit New Zealand (4 invoices) – Total of \$109,266.18 for the audit of the Annual Report to 30 June 2025.
- Draintech 2018 Limited (1 invoice) – Total of \$167,717.66 – For Claim 7 for Zones 5&6 of water reticulation renewals programme, coded to 403001.01 Pipework.
- KRS Limited (3 invoices) – Total of \$51,598.29. One invoice was for initial deposit for Kerb Replacement \$37,053 coded to 402515.001 Kerb Replacement, one invoice was for Pool Floor Surrounds Refurbishment

\$13,530.90 coded to 404031.07 and one invoice of \$1,493.02 for footpath maintenance.

- Waste Management (3 invoices) – Total of \$83,449.64 for general waste and mixed recycling for October 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 November and identifies if they have been completed or are still being progressed by the end of the month.

Service	Total	
	Completed	In Progress
Dogs	55	7
Noise	33	6
Building Enquiries	10	0
Trees* & Parks	40	16
Rubbish (Bins & Collections)	49	4
Water	13	2
Wastewater	4	1
Stormwater	2	0
Roading/ Streetlights	25	**11
Enforcement/Health/Food/Stock	6	4
Council Buildings/Facilities – Maint.	19	1
Other (Events/Consents/Rates/Vandalism)	12	5
Official Information Requests	3	0
Total	271	57

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

** Of the 6 Roding requests in progress – 10 have been referred to the External Contractor for the maintenance of Street Lighting.

For November, 29 requests came via the website/emails and 23 via Antenno. The balance of requests came from phone calls or visits.

6 Funds

The following funds were held at 30 November 2025:

Invested in	\$	Interest Rate	% External
ANZ – on call	631	0.65%	0.02%
BNZ – current & on-call	3,679,883	1.55%	99.36%
Rabobank (on-call)	23,213	1.45%	0.62%
Total Funds (Cash)	3,703,727		100.0%
Internal Loans	1,416,292		
Total Investments	5,120,019		

The following table shows Council's reserve and general funds balances as at 30 November 2025:

	November 2025	November 2024
Reserve Balances		
Depreciation Reserve Funds*	\$5,407,840	\$5,379,214
Total Reserve Balances	\$5,407,840	\$5,379,214
General Funds	(\$287,821)	\$660,127
Total (comprising funds & internal loans)	\$5,120,019	\$6,039,341

* This includes loan funds uplifted.

The graphs attached in the appendix show the cashflow movements up and down throughout the year and for prior years. The timing and amounts of revenue and expenditure, as well total debtors and creditors, all impact the cashflows. The figures show that overall Council's total funds have decreased by \$919,322 at the end of November when compared to the same time last year. This is due to the comparative timing differences of subsidies to be claimed, lower refuse disposal revenue, additional operational expenditure and GST payments.

7 RECOMMENDATION

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



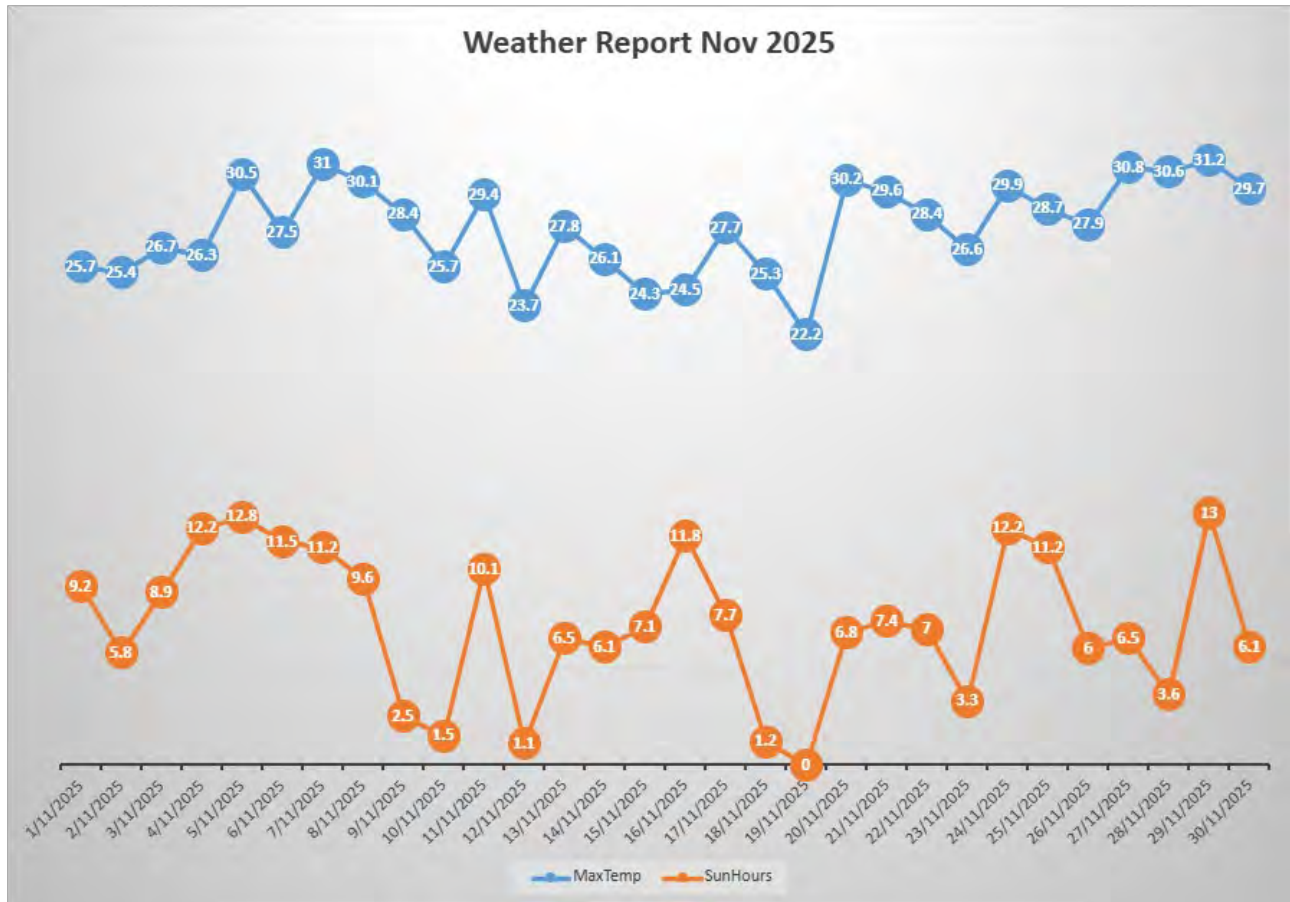
Lee-Anne Butler, CA, BMS

Group Manager, Finance & Corporate Services

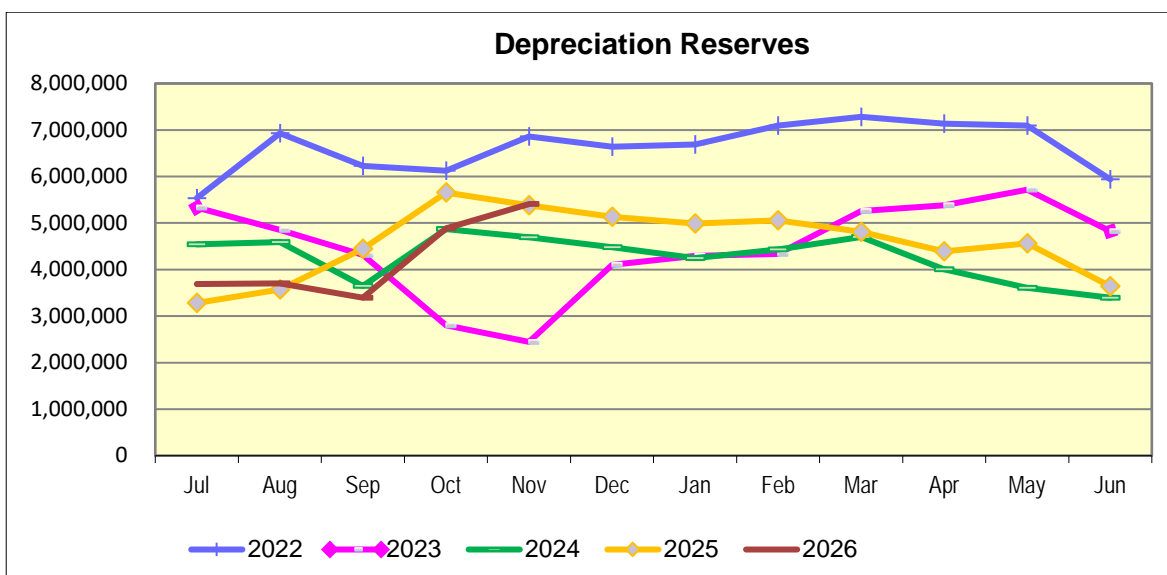
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Appendix

November 2025 - Weather Data

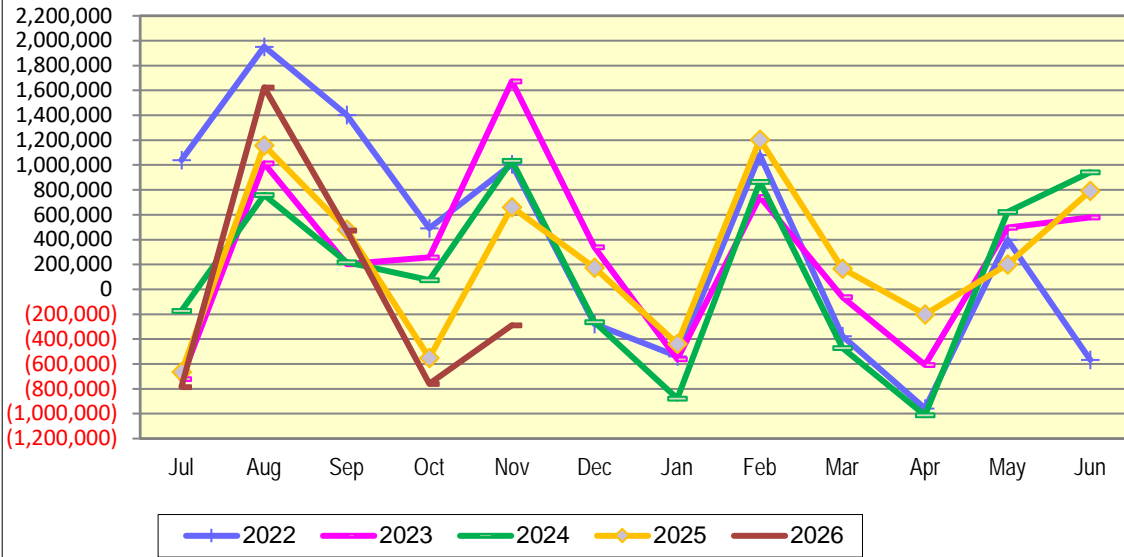


November 2025 – Financial Data

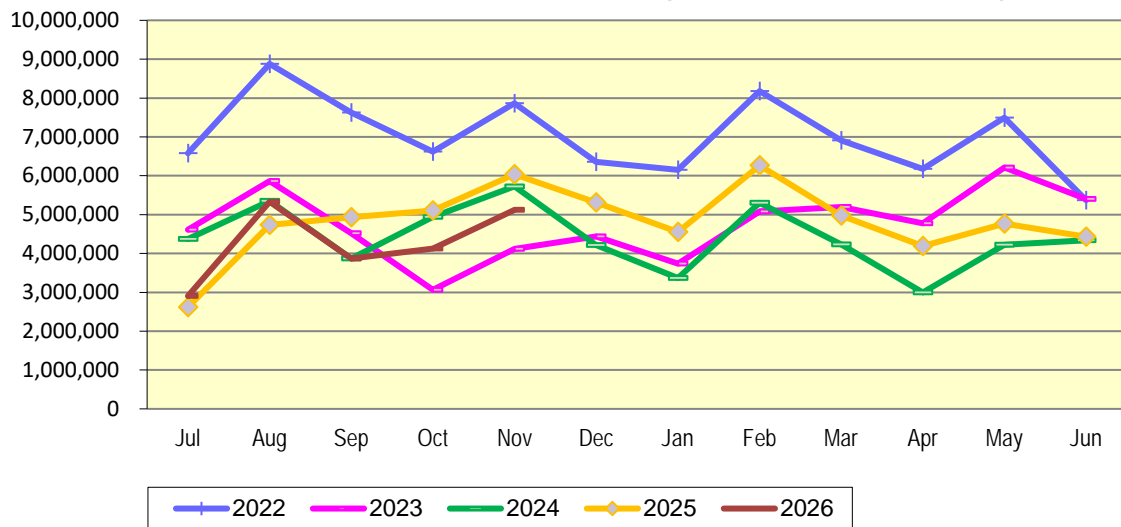


The depreciation reserves funds above includes the loan funding Council has uplifted.

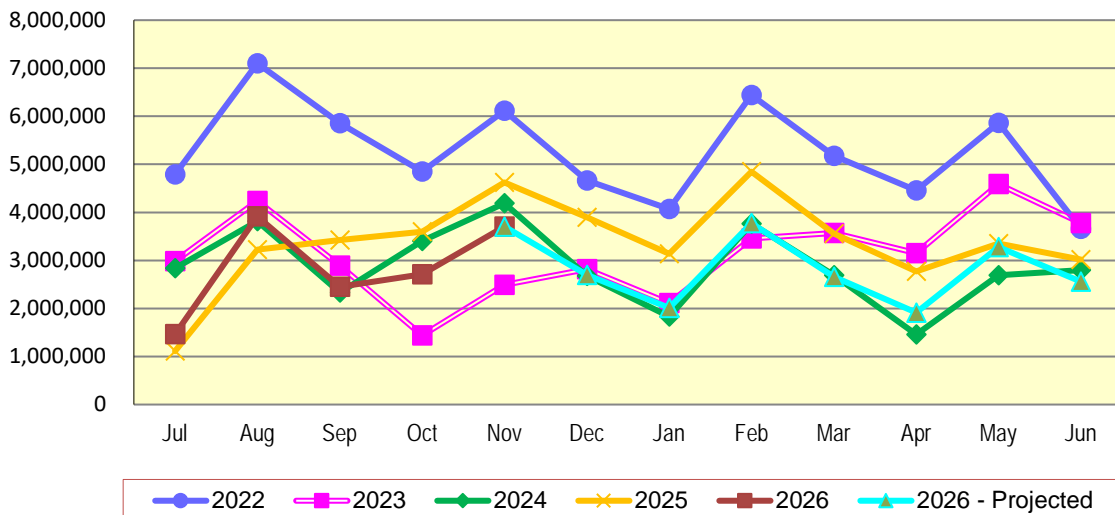
General Funds



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

November 2025

1 Water Supply

Umukaraka Spring has been fully developed, and all the necessary telemetry and infrastructure is in place.

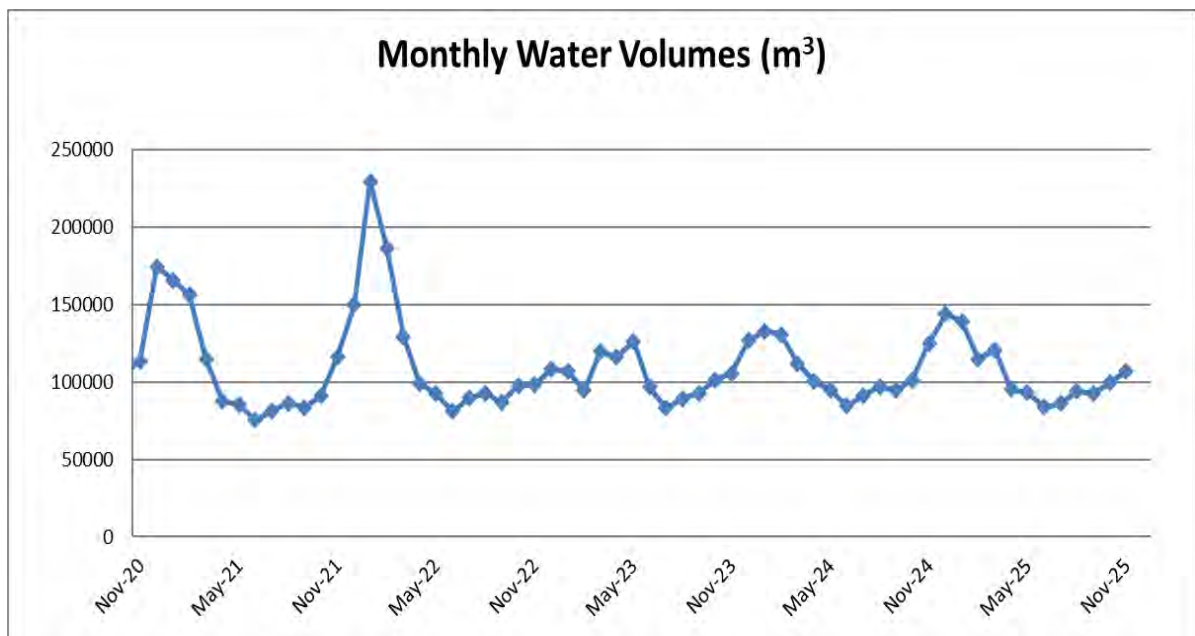
The council staff have updated and prepared the water source consent application to secure long-term approval for the sustainable use of these water sources. However, Umukaraka Spring has been removed from the current water take consent application and will be applied for once an agreement is reached with the landowners.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has issued draft conditions for Pumphouse Spring and Tarawera Bores, which remain under review.

The existing water consent for extraction from the Tarawera bores will expire in October 2026.

1.1 Use

The town consumed 107,172 m³ of water in November 2025. The graph below illustrates the monthly water volume used (in m³) over the past five years, for reference.

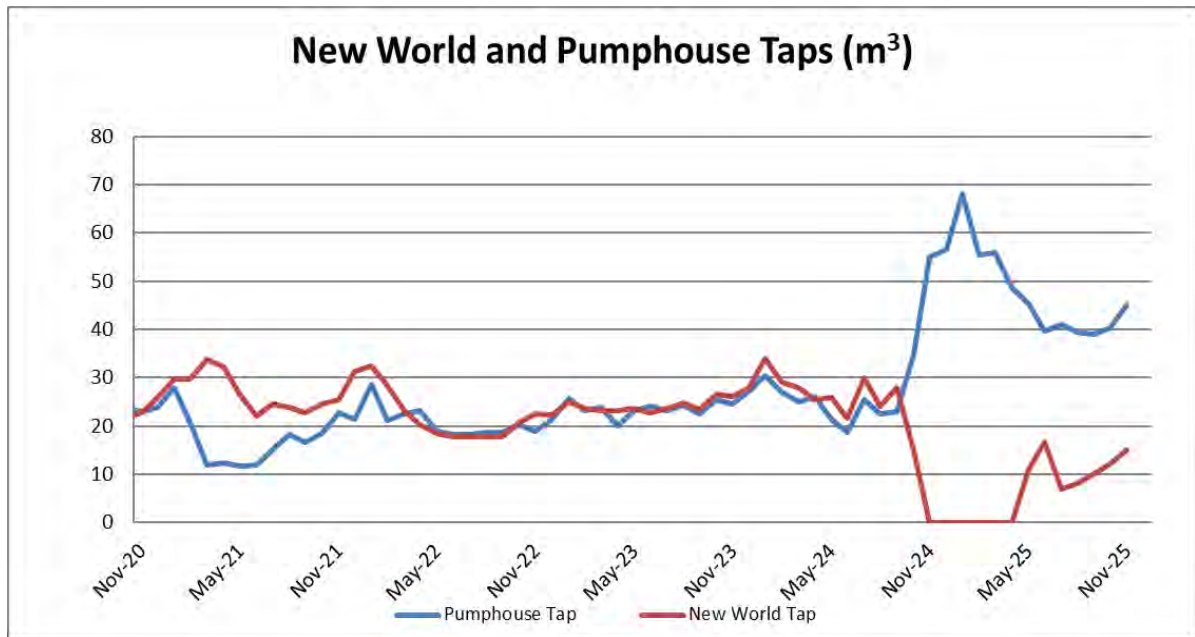


The recorded water consumption for the New World car park was 15 m³ in November 2025. In comparison, the pumphouse located on River Road supplied a total of 45 m³ in November 2025.

Pumphouse Taps at the Kawerau District Council water treatment plant offer the community access to unchlorinated and non-fluoridated drinking water. Before being discharged, the water is filtered to remove solid contaminants and treated with ultraviolet (UV) light to eliminate harmful microorganisms.

New World Taps, located in the New World shopping centre car park, provide unchlorinated drinking water integrated into the district's potable water system, ensuring effective chlorine removal through advanced filtration.

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 or low water pressure 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.

Zone 5

The water reticulation system along Waterhouse Street, Porritt Drive, Ward Street, Walter Nash Avenue, and Holyoake Crescent has successfully passed pressure, chlorine, and microbiological testing. It is now connected to the new line. Meanwhile, Cobham Drive and Holland Crescent have completed pressure testing and are currently being prepared for chlorine and microbiological testing before becoming operational.

Zone 6

Drilling along Spencer Avenue has now been completed. Contractors are now drilling along Tamarangi Drive. As of the end of November 2025, a total of 7,400 metres of drilling has been completed, with approximately 3,800 metres drilled through rock.

2 Wastewater

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

There were no sewer overflow issues related to the Council.

Planning for wastewater infrastructure renewal is underway. Scoping and tenders are being prepared for the identified renewals.

The tender for the replacement of two wastewater lines along Onslow Street has been posted and will close on 19 December 2025.

3 Stormwater

A new soakage pit has been installed at the Transfer Station.

In November, we received two complaints regarding stormwater issues. The first complaint concerned flooding observed on Normanby Street, which was caused by tree root blockages downstream. The tree roots have since been removed.

The second complaint involved puddling reported outside Ranfurly Court, affecting the paving stones and grass. This occurred after 48 hours of continuous heavy rainfall. Upon inspection of the surrounding stormwater network, no faults were detected.

4 Roading and Facilities

Renewals and maintenance have been undertaken throughout the district.

- Service Requests - The road maintenance team is actively involved in a range of maintenance activities, including pothole repairs, footpath maintenance, and the servicing of streetlights and street signs. During November 2025, a total of 36 service requests (SRs) were reported across all categories. Of these, 25 requests have been completed, while 11 requests are still in progress.
- Footpaths – During the period, the Roading team replaced 147 metres of footpath, covering an area of 206 square metres, as part of the project to renew the street footpaths.
- Annual roading Pavement renewals - The renewal work is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2025. The targeted areas for pavement renewal include Plunket Street, Islington Street, and Onslow Street. These areas

will involve milling the existing pavement and replacing it with AC14 asphalt concrete.

- Kerb Renewals - Construction began on 17 November 2025 and is expected to be finished by the end of January 2026. New kerbs will be installed along parts of Massey Street, River Road, and Onslow Street, with Massey Street kerbing still in progress.
- Reseal - The project scope for resealing has been finalised, and a tender has been published on GETS. The tender closed on 20 November 2025. It has received price proposals from HEB and Downer; contract awarding is in progress. The resealing work is planned for two roads: Fenton Mill Road and Ballantrae.
- Repainting Car Parks_– During the reporting period, all line markings in the car parks at New World, the old ANZ building's back and front sides, the skate park, and Caymans Sport Bar backside were repainted. Additionally, the road markings on Parimahana Drive was completed.

5 Facilities

The following building and facility maintenance and repair works were carried out during the reporting period:

- The facilities team has received 19 service requests, and 18 requests have been completed, while one request is still in progress.

6 Street Light Maintenance and Renewals

Maintenance - In November, 18 streetlight service requests were reported. The following table summarises these requests.

Streetlight Service Request in November					
No	SR ID#	Date Reported	Date Completed	Days Taken	Current Status
1	SR5333	6/11/2025	7/11/2025	2	Completed
2	SR.5383	12/11/2025	26/11/2025	11	Completed
3	SR.5384	12/11/2025	26/11/2025	11	Completed
4	SR.5385	12/11/2025	26/11/2025	11	Completed
5	SR.5387	12/11/2025	26/11/2025	11	Completed
6	SR.5388	12/11/2025			In progress
7	SR.5389	12/11/2025			In progress
8	SR.5390	12/11/2025			In progress
9	SR.5391	12/11/2025	17/11/2025	5	Completed
10	SR.5392	12/11/2025			In progress
11	SR.5393	12/11/2025			In progress
12	SR.5394	12/11/2025			In progress
13	SR.5395	12/11/2025	26/11/2025	11	Completed
14	SR.5420	14/11/2025	17/11/2025	3	Completed

Streetlight Service Request in November					
No	SR ID#	Date Reported	Date Completed	Days Taken	Current Status
15	SR.5434	16/11/2025			In progress
16	SR.5447	17/11/2025			In progress
17	SR.5448	17/11/2025			In progress
18	SR.5591	28/11/2025			In progress

7 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 and weed spraying operations
- Umukaraka Spring area maintenance and mowing
- Inspections and maintenance of playgrounds
- Pest control for all Council-owned public facilities
- Cemetery maintenance and housekeeping
- Street tree maintenance of trees that affect overhead lines
- Leaf blowing and vacuuming across the district
- Annual bed preparation
- Bed Irrigation installation and maintenance
- Blackberry spraying at the detention basins
- Preparations for Christmas in the park

8 Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre

All swimming pools are currently operating within their designated water quality parameters. This includes maintaining an appropriate chemical balance concerning pH levels, free available chlorine (FAC), water hardness, and alkalinity. The pools have met the regional council's monthly monitoring requirements for faecal matter and bacteriological levels.

In November 2025, steam bore casing and pressure tests were conducted to assess the condition of the bore and inform future actions. It was reported that the bore casing and footings are in good condition. Recommendations have been made to prevent future blockage of the bore. Staff are exploring the options provided and conducting scoping work to estimate the costs of these improvements.

9 Solid Waste Services

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

Diverted and recycled materials for the period included:

- 20 tonnes of cardboard
- 1.4 tonnes mixed recycling
- 18 tonnes of metal
- 40 tonnes of timber
- 1.29 tonnes of rubber

In the early 2000s, many local councils in New Zealand opted to combine paper and cardboard recycling to streamline their collection processes. However, over time, this approach faced challenges due to increasing contamination and mixed recycling entering cardboard recycling facilities. These facilities require cardboard to be exceptionally clean and cannot process materials containing more than 2% paper mixed with the cardboard.

Clean cardboard is worth recycling, earning councils between \$40 and \$60 per tonne. In contrast, mixed paper has little value, and councils can end up paying between \$50 and \$150 to recycle it. If paper is mixed with a load of cardboard, the load's value can drop from potentially earning over \$60 per tonne to costing as much as -\$200. This means councils can lose hundreds of thousands of dollars each year due to contamination issues.

Historically, many loads from the Kawerau District Council were rejected due to contamination, resulting in increased costs and damaging trust between the council and recycling facilities. To address this issue, staff have established a free paper drop-off facility at the transfer station for recycling and have implemented a screening process for paper and cardboard during collection.

10 Vandalism

There have been several instances of vandalism that have damaged the fences, gates, and entrances of public parks. The main factor contributing to this damage seems to be individuals attempting to gain vehicular access to the river and other popular recreational areas.

Repair work at the Museum was necessary due to vandalism, costing \$2,550 to replace a broken double-glazed window.

11 Maintenance, Projects & Schedule

Appendix 1 includes the project schedule for the financial year 2025/26.

12 RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services for November 2025, be received.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Riaan Nel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

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Appendix 1					
Activity	Project	BUDGET	Actual	Remaining	% Comments
Subsidised Roading	Kerb Replacement	\$84,000	\$35,000	\$49,000	42% Execution - 17 November - Completion 27 February
Subsidised Roading	Street Light Upgrade	\$40,500	\$40,500	\$0	100% Completed
Subsidised Roading	Reseals	\$136,700	\$0	\$136,700	0% Execution - 12 January - Completion 27 February
Subsidised Roading	Pavement Treatment	\$76,700	\$0	\$76,700	0% Execution - 1 December - Completion 21 December
Subsidised Roading	Footpath Replacement	\$58,100	\$44,000	\$14,100	76% Execution Phase
Subsidised Roading	Storm water catch-pit renewal	\$60,000	\$2,351	\$57,649	4% Target 4th Quarter of FY26
Non-Subsidised Roading	Reseal Carpark	\$54,698	\$10,000	\$44,698	18% Execution - 1 December - Completion 21 December
AR Water	Pipework Zone 1	\$2,000,000	\$746,000	\$1,254,000	37% Execution Phase
AR Water	Pipework Zone 2	\$240,417	\$0	\$240,417	0% Execution Phase
AR Water	Refurbish Pump	\$30,000	\$2,361	\$27,639	8% Execution Phase
AR Wastewater	Pipework Zone 1	\$1,621,000	\$28,511	\$1,592,489	2% Tender Phase
AR Wastewater	Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$852,000	\$430,000	\$422,000	50% Scoping Phase
AR Swimming Pool	Asset Renewals	\$158,280	\$117,000	\$41,280	74% Aquatic Centre shutdown
AR Children's Playground	Shade Sails	\$28,000	\$13,969	\$14,031	50% Installation - December 25
Fleet	Asset Renewals - Plant	\$265,565	\$78,547	\$187,018	30% Fleet renewals - ongoing
		\$5,705,960	\$1,548,239	\$4,157,721	27%

MONTHLY REPORT ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

November 2025

1 Economic Development (ED)

A success criterium of the EBOP Economic Development Strategy is 'Strategic Alignment'. One way to successfully achieve this is through projects and proposals aligning with central government funding, policies and strategies.

Central Government currently has several funding and investment opportunities available to unlock economic development in the regions.

It is uncertain if any Kawerau based businesses or prospective future businesses have applications under assessment through any of the following government investment opportunities.

Applications and proposals are received by and administered through relevant central government departments, with decisions shared publicly when finalised.

All Central Government funds require strong applications - Iwi, business, landowner and other entity support, robust project budgets indicating how loans will be returned, consent & permissions provided (or in progress) and co-funding plan and agreements.

Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

The \$1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) is the Government's commitment to investing in and improving New Zealand's regional infrastructure.

The RIF, \$1.2 billion over three years, is administered by Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (Kānoa).

The RIF is a capital fund. Funding support is primarily provided through a mix of loan and equity investments.

The aim of the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) is to help rebuild New Zealand's economy by investing in new and existing infrastructure projects that boost regional growth, resilience, and productivity.¹

The RIF is still open for applications.

<https://www.growregions.govt.nz/new-funding/regional-infrastructure-fund>

Wood Processing Growth Fund (WPGF)

The Wood Processing Growth Fund (WPGF) is administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to expand Aotearoa's wood processing sector. It aims to unlock the potential of the forestry resource by providing investment support.

¹ <https://www.growregions.govt.nz/new-funding/regional-infrastructure-fund/eligibility>

The fund is designed to help wood processors increase New Zealand's onshore wood processing capacity. It does this by providing grants for both pre-investment activities, and direct investment in capital projects.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forest-industry-and-workforce/wood-processing-growth-fund>

Wood Energy Strategy

On 22 October, Hon Simon Watts (Minister for Energy) announced the launch of the Wood Energy Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix A).

Simultaneously aligned with the strategy release was a request for proposals announcement by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) to industry offering grants to establish regional aggregation facilities for wood biomass.

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/tenders-and-rfps/wood-biomass-aggregation-facility-projects/>

Kawerau Pathways to Prosperity (P2P)

Council's ED team is currently closing out the final stage of the event with a final email call to action and acknowledgement to invitees.

Copies of the relevant strategies and videos of speakers at the event are provided on the Council website. The event received good local media coverage, which aided generating interest and participation towards a Kawerau focused ED strategy.



2 Kawerau isite Visitor Information Centre

The isite team received 18 float registrations for the Santa Parade and 28 stall holders registered for Christmas in the Park.

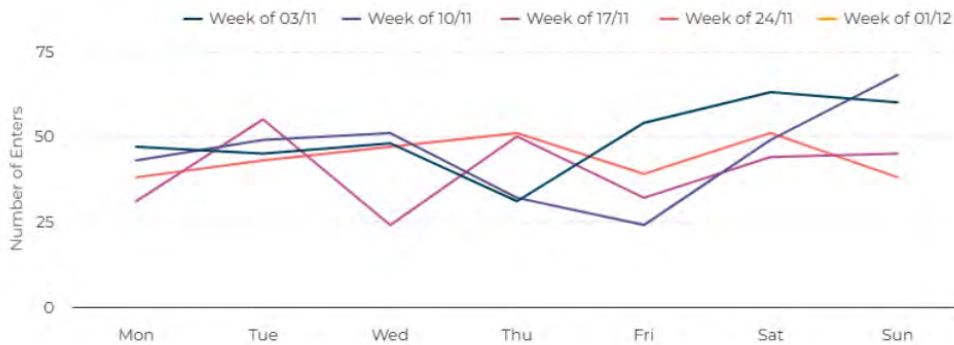
The Kawerau isite will close at midday on 23rd December in line with other KDC office-based staff, and will be closed on 24th and 25th December, reopening on Boxing Day and for the duration of the Christmas and New Year period.

Key Monthly Statistics – November 2025

Activity	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	% difference (to Oct. 25)	Nov. 2024	% Difference (to Nov. 25)
Visitor enquiries	1456	1352	-7%	1323	2%
Forest permits	198	230	16%	117	97%
Public toilet use	3040	2680	-12%	*	*
M/home power	6	2	-67%	7	-71%

*Door sensor faults resulting in inaccurate readings

Weekly Foot Traffic (Enters)



Council resolved as part of this current financial year's fees and charges to introduce a daily fee (\$12 p/d) for motorhome power use through Council owned power points. To date this has resulted in a 145% increase in revenue received compared to the same time 12 months previous.

3 **Community Activities**

Regular events

- **Twilight Cricket- Eastern Bay of Plenty Cricket Club**
Every Wednesday 5:45pm – 8:30pm Starting 22 Oct to 18 Feb 2026
- **Club Cricket – Whakatāne Rangatahi Sports heritage club**
Saturdays: 29 Nov., 13 Dec., 7 Feb., 21 Feb., 14 Mar.
- **Kawerau Athletics and Harrier Club**
Thursdays: 4:30pm – 7pm; 5 Feb. – 26 Mar. 2026

Events completed for November

- **Annual Art Exhibition**
Sat. 1 and Sun. 2 – Town Hall
- **Kaumātua Kapahaka**
Thurs. 6 and Fri. 7 – Town Hall/Concert Chambers
- **Meet the Locals – Hosted by the Collective Community Kawerau**
Sat. 15 – Rec. Centre
- **Kawerau Youth Mobile Filmmaking Workshop**
Sat. 29 – Town Hall/Concert Chambers
- **Canoe Slalom BOP Club Race**
Sat. 29 Nov and Sun. 1 December - Tarawera River - Firmin Field

Events registered for December

- **Kawerau Christmas in the Park**
Sat. 6 – Prideaux Park
- **New World Kawerau Santa Parade**
Sat. 6 – Rec Centre/Town Centre

Events registered for January and February

- **Tarawera Ultra Marathon**
Sat. 14 Feb. - Start at Firmin Field (100km)

Kawerau Christmas in the Park – Saturday 6 December 2025

As previously reported, funding applications were assessed with the following decisions:

- Four Winds Trust – Applied for \$90k – Approved (100%)
- Lion Foundation – Applied for \$65k – Approved \$59,775 (92%)
- Bay Trust – Applied for \$10k – Approved \$5k (50%)
- Trust Horizon – Applied for \$10k – Approved (100%)
- Lottery – Applied for \$24k – Approved (100%)
- New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) – No application required (adequate funding approved)
- Council - Confirmed \$20k
- Stall holder fees - \$9k

Council has received additional Koha / donations from local businesses totalling \$50,000.

Council wishes to acknowledge the following confirmed businesses for their kind contribution towards this community event:

- Sequal Lumber
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa Settlement Trust
- Putauaki Trust
- Essity
- Oji Fibre Solutions
- Mercury Energy
- Eastland Generation
- Māori Investments Limited
- Kajavala Forestry Limited

Total funding confirmed - \$259,275 (excl. GST) – This figure meets budget needs, and delivery of the event.

Council acknowledges its gratitude to all external funders for their funding contribution towards this community event.

The artists for the afternoon and evening show were provided to Councillors on Friday 21 November, prior to the wider public announcements. Several changes occurred since that update to the line-up.

The performance line-up for the 2025 event (noting amendments):

Afternoon Show – promoting our local talent – Directed by Liana Kerei

- MC's Colin Magee and Aroha Ruha-Hiraka
- Kawerau South School Kapa Haka
- Kawerau Putauaki School (Choir)
- T Sisters (Trio)
- 3 & 1 (Band)
- Te Roopu Tahiwī o Rehua (Group)
- Amber Paraha (Soloist)
- The Know it Allz (Band)
- Mark Armstrong (Soloist)
- Next Generation (Band)
- Lylla-Grace (Soloist)*
- ~~Whakatane Steps Dance Group~~
- Fusion (Band)
- TOHU (Soloist)
- ~~Soul Tear (Band)~~
- Tribute video of our loved ones that have passed over the year
- TJ & Huri (Duet) headline

Evening Variety Show – Directed by Pari Maxwell

- Opening with Powhiri
- MC Howie Morrison
- Adeaze
- Dillon Rhodes
- Vince Harder
- Luke Whaanga
- Ngāti Rangiwewehi Kapa Haka
- Nikau Grace
- Takerei Hikuroa-Peck
- Rewa Ututaonga
- Mellow*
- First Impressionz*
- Howie Morrison (MC)
- Ben Gilgen and the Christmas in the Park Showband

**Late additions to line-up*

Approval was received by the necessary authorities (WorkSafe, FENZ and Council, as landowner); for the firework display to occur as part of the evening variety show climax.

4 Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM)

Severe Rain Weather Event – 17/18 November

The Met Service issued a Severe Weather Warning (Orange for Rain), which initially indicated a moderate chance of an upgrade to a Red Warning. This moderate initiated Controller teleconferences across the BOP CDEM Group with response actions and public messaging the focus in readiness for the severe weather event.

The Group Emergency Coordination Centre (GECC) activated at 07:30hrs on Wednesday 19 November. Subsequently a text notification alert was sent across KDC staff to inform of this action and the potential to be called to respond (Heads up; on Standby).

The weather event delivered rain levels to a warning threshold but below anticipated forecast modelling, some areas across the BOP did experience localised flooding to known vulnerable areas causing minor disruption to roading. In Kawerau a few trees falling resulted in duty supervisor call out being the only points of notable impact.

The GECC deactivated on the 19 November, which resulted in a stand down text notification to KDC CDEM staff. Despite the minor impacts from the weather event, the scenario resulted in an excellent real time test of systems across the BOP, including KDC's notification system and internal procedures.

Earth Sciences NZ (including GNS, Met Service, NIWA) are signalling La Nina like weather patterns into 2026. Expected heavy rain events are common with La Nina systems.

Emergency Management Projects

Council's Emergency Management Officer (EMO) is participating in numerous forums and planning groups, initiatives as follows:

- *Risk Assessment Workshop* hosted by Emergency Management BOP (EMBOP - CDEM Group Office) - Scenario-based discussions applied risk ratings (insignificant to extreme) across natural, built, economic, and social environments.
- *Tsunami Readiness Programme* – Developing KDC messaging (preparedness at home, work, education and recreation; awareness of evacuation zones).
- *Business Resilience* - Progressing placement of EMBOP business continuity resources on council platforms. Exploring viability of a scenario-based exercise for local businesses to identify critical pinch points and contingency options.
- *Marae Preparedness*: Initial engagement with Iwi Office and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora. EMO invited to deliver a short presentation and discussion on preparedness and response planning to TOHU marae collective, (Tohia o te Rangi, Oniao, Hahuru, Umutahi). Exploring opportunities to develop Marae Emergency Preparedness Plans (MEPP) and Marae Emergency Response Plans (MERP).
- *Community Awareness and Engagement* – EMO attended 'Meet the Locals' event on 15 November at Rec. Centre. Approx. 200 attendees; 60 engaged at EM stall; 30 participated in emergency activity to win a 2-person survival kit. Positive community engagement and collaboration with Neighbourhood Support.

EBOP Emergency Services Coordinating Committee (ESCC)

Council hosted the quarterly ESCC meeting in Kawerau on 27 November which was chaired by the KDC CDEM Local Controller, Lee Barton. The committee represents partner agency leads across the sub-region and is hosted quarterly across the sub-region.

The committee membership includes partner agencies (Police, FENZ, Hato Hone St. John, Public Health Toi te Ora, Health NZ (BOP) Te Whatu Ora, EBOP Local Authorities, EMBOP (CDEM Group Office) Maritime, Coastguard, Lifelines (critical infrastructure), Radio 1XX, Surf Life Saving – with other agencies invited and attend periodically e.g. Land Search & Rescue, Neighbourhood Support, BOPRC Flood Team.

An agenda item of relevance was moved and passed unanimously; Kawerau District Council will undertake the administrative / secretariat role for the committee in 2026.

Council's Visitor Information Officer (VIO) Courtney Cox will fill this position, fostering meaningful & relevant experience and development in the emergency management sector.

A changeover with the outgoing secretary, Andrea Schuler (Whakatāne District Council) will occur, and ongoing supervision will be offered to Courtney Cox through KDC's EMO (Justin Douglas) and ECDM (Economic and Community Development Manager).

5 Youth Projects

Kawerau Youth Council (KYC)

The KYC met on 15 November after their involvement and voluntary contribution at the 'Meet the Locals' event.

Members discussed and resolved to participate in the 2025 Santa Parade, while other members expressed an interest to volunteer with the event operational pack in and out of Christmas in the Park.

Time commitment of members towards the end of this year have been stretched with four members participating in the Tarawera High School end of year production, Peter Pan.

Members elected Armani Hale to represent on the Project Revamp Steering Group.

Project Revamp

An initial Steering Group hui was KDC hosted at the Concert Chambers on 25 November. Attendees at this hui included:

- Eden Lloyd (THS Sports Coordinator)
- Ryleigh Hayes (Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora)
- Matariki Turuwhenua (Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora)
- Lyndal Kennedy (Neighbourhood Support Kawerau and Rotary)
- Jonette Mead (Independent and former Skate NZ board member)
- Heidi Parkes (Independent and accessibility community)
- Armani Hale (KYC Chairperson)
- Steph Reichardt (Sports BOP)
- Shannon Pawhau (Sports BOP)

- Majeau Rogers (KDC)
- John Rika (KDC)

Agenda items included – Group strength-finder exercise, review of draft Terms of Reference (ToR), review of draft project plan and timelines.

Council has also engaged with Adele Hadfield, Senior Planning Manager at BOP Regional Council. Adele Hadfield has a high-level of experience in community revitalisation projects and was a former senior at Veros. A meeting occurred at Council where Adele offered guidance on project development and direction, this included a site visit of the skate park and surrounding area.

BOPRC has agreed to offer 5hrs per week of time contribution from Adele Hadfield to assist, as required on the project.

The next hui will occur on 22 January, with the following initial agenda items:

- Cultural significance kōrero of the Opunoke area – Te Haukakawa Te Rire to be requested to attend
- Review and adopt amended Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Confirm Roles and Responsibilities
- Review and finalise Project Plan
- Discuss feasibility consultant procurement options

Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) Funding

Previously reported to Council was the unsuccessful funding application submitted to MYD.

Council's Youth Project Officer (YPO) is currently researching in-depth the successful recipients of the MYD funding and accessibility to services funded. A detailed overview of this will be provided to Council early in 2026.

Staff are hosting an in-person hui before Christmas with a Western Bay based organisation named Stand Tall, who deliver BOP youth services under the Young Enterprise Trust – a successful recipient of MYD funds.

RECOMMENDATION

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



Lee Corbett Barton

Economic & Community Development Manager

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Regulatory and Services\Reports\12 December 2025\R-ECD Monthly Report_Nov 2025-12-10.docx



Wood Energy Strategy

Diversifying New Zealand's Energy Mix

OCTOBER 2025





Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Hīkina Whakatutuki – Lifting to make successful

MBIE develops and delivers policy, services, advice and regulation to support economic growth and the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

More information

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

Disclaimer

This document is a guide only. It should not be used as a substitute for legislation or legal advice. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is not responsible for the results of any actions taken on the basis of information in this document, or for any errors or omissions.

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OCTOBER 2025

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Ministerial foreword

New Zealand's forestry and wood processing sectors already make a significant contribution toward our *Going for Growth* agenda by boosting economic growth and productivity.

There are opportunities to make greater use of forestry residues and wood processing co-products to create home-grown, secure, and affordable energy, particularly to ease pressure on energy supplies. With the right settings in place, this could be a win-win for New Zealand industry, our wood sector, the environment, and climate.

Our goal for forestry is to restore confidence and support further investment in forests and wood processing as part of our plan to rebuild the economy. We want to see a growing forestry sector that processes more logs into timber and other valued added wood products to create jobs and move this country up the export value chain.

Wood energy also can help us strengthen our energy system by diversifying the available energy fuels and powering our economy, reducing pressure on electricity supply, imported fuels and domestic gas. Locally produced wood energy can also support regional employment and create new economic opportunities in forestry and wood processing and manufacturing. There are also opportunities to sell wood energy on a global scale to support our goal of doubling the value of exports by 2034.

We want to enable private investment in wood energy. To support this we formed a ministerial Wood Energy Taskforce in late 2024 as part of our second Emissions Reduction Plan – to investigate barriers to growth and identify ways to help drive investment.

This Wood Energy Strategy reflects our commitment to this important sector, setting out our vision, objectives and desired outcomes.

The supporting Action Plan shows the current work underway to achieve our objectives.

We look forward to continuing work with the sector to enable abundant, affordable wood energy.



Hon Simon Watts
Minister for Energy



Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Forestry


Wood Energy Strategy – snapshot

Diversifying New Zealand's energy mix

- › Production forestry is our largest renewable biomass resource.
- › Around 40% of fossil fuelled process heat could be replaced by wood energy by 2050.


Our vision: New Zealand accelerates wood energy as a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy resource for domestic and export markets – creating new economic and employment opportunities for forest owners and wood producers in our regions.

Outcomes we are seeking:




SECURITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY

Enable additional supply of wood fuels to diversify our energy system and power our economy, reducing reliance on imported fuels and domestic gas, and supplement the existing forestry sector.



REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Enable domestic wood energy production to support regional employment opportunities, increase productivity and the resilience of regional forestry and wood-processing sectors.



EMISSIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Enable sustainably sourced wood energy to be used to displace fossil fuels where it is economically efficient compared to other options.

OBJECTIVES					
OBJECTIVE 1:	OBJECTIVE 2:	OBJECTIVE 3:	OBJECTIVE 4:	OBJECTIVE 5:	OBJECTIVE 6:
Improve availability of wood fibre supply	Enable private investment in production capacity	Reduce barriers for end users of wood energy	Promote export market access and attract foreign investment	Improve market transparency and coordination	Promote the use of sustainably sourced wood energy

Alignment with other Government priorities:

Building better markets for secure and affordable energy	Going for growth and doubling the value of exports	Biogas statement	Forestry Research Programme	Climate Strategy
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Wood energy from residues of forestry and wood manufacturing (e.g. sawdust, wood chip, and low-grade logs) can be used to generate electricity or generate heat for industrial processes as an alternative to coal, gas or electricity. Wood can also be used as an input to liquid biofuels (such as sustainable aviation fuel) and biogas.

Action Plan: The supporting Action Plan shows the current work underway to achieve our objectives.

Context

Wood energy can help strengthen our energy system by diversifying the available energy fuels and powering our economy, reducing reliance on the electricity grid.

Gas production has been declining more rapidly than expected leading to security of supply and cost increases. Wood energy provides an alternative fuel source for some industrial and commercial businesses where it is economic to switch, and for electricity generation.

In 2024, Government established a ministerial Wood Energy Taskforce through the second Emissions Reduction Plan to enable private investment in the wood energy sector. We heard from industry that they wanted to better understand the government's position and its work programme on wood energy.

This Wood Energy Strategy describes the Government's vision and objectives for the wood energy sector. The supporting Action Plan sets out our current work for achieving these objectives. While the actions will evolve over time, the objectives are intended to be enduring.

The scope of the strategy is focused on the wood feedstocks for energy use alongside existing forestry and wood processing activities. There is other work underway on the wider use of wood fibres, and on other parts of the bioeconomy such as biogas. This strategy focuses on near-term opportunities in process heat and electricity generation, but we are also watching developments in liquid biofuels. Our work to enable wood energy is part of the Government's wider goals, including:

- › The recently announced energy package in response to the Electricity Market Review programme to ensure energy is affordable and secure.
- › The *Going for Growth* plan, we have a goal to double the value of exports by 2034.
- › Our Climate Strategy and second Emissions Reduction Plan.

- › Our vision to grow the forestry sector includes spurring economic growth through jobs and exports; delivering low emissions solutions and products; supporting land use resilience, adaptation, biodiversity & social benefits; and providing carbon removals to support climate goals.
- › Work to enable the bioeconomy – for example, a Government Statement on Biogas and our Forestry Research Programme which includes initiatives to identify approaches to forestry management that if applied could support bioenergy forestry in New Zealand.

What is wood energy?

Wood has been burned for heat and energy for millennia. Today, wood processors commonly burn residues such as sawdust, wood chips, and hog fuel to power their own operations at lower cost. As some users have been seeking to switch from gas and coal, interest has grown in using wood energy to generate heat to power industrial processes and for electricity generation to support security of electricity supply. Wood can be used as an input to liquid biofuels (such as sustainable aviation fuel) and biogas.

Advances in technology and drivers such as climate change are increasing demand for manufactured wood products like pellets that are easier to transport, store and burn more consistently than unprocessed wood products. While “white” wood pellets and briquettes have been produced at scale for decades, newer innovations such as black pellets (torrefied and steam-exploded) are also being produced at commercial scale for applications where additional energy density and water-resistance are needed.

The opportunity for wood energy

New Zealand's forestry resource

New Zealand has an abundant and sustainable wood resource. Commercial plantations cover nearly two million hectares, with around 40 million tonnes of wood being harvested each year. Our forestry and wood processing sectors generate around \$8.5 billion of revenue each year, through log exports, as well as producing wood products such as structural timber, fibreboard, pulp and paper, and biochemicals.

The highest-value parts of trees will attract greatest economic value when they are turned into wood products. Known as the "value triangle", **Figure 1** illustrates the value of different bioproducts by comparing the input of wood fibre to the capital investment needed to be profitable. Low value bioproducts are at the bottom of the pyramid because they require high volumes of wood fibre for lower product value (and vice-versa).

As illustrated in **Figure 2**, the thick bottom section of a tree is typically used for structural timber in the construction sector, and higher-up parts are used in sectors such as pulp and paper.

The Value Triangle

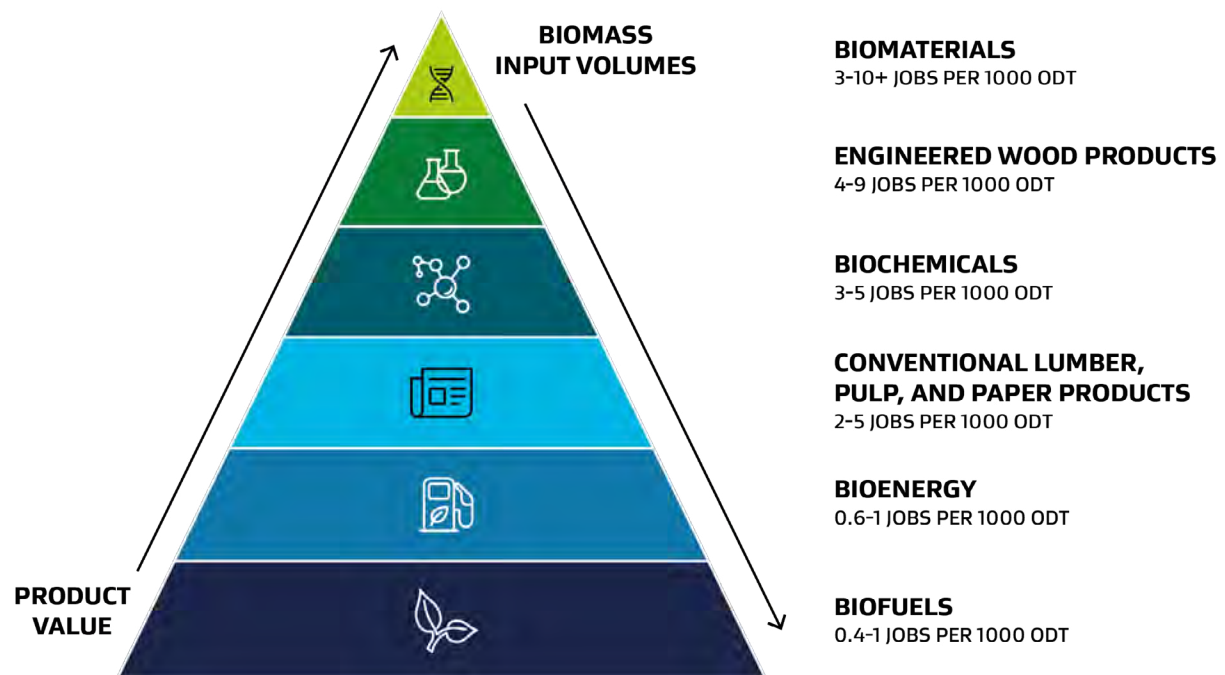


Figure 1: The Value Triangle

Source: Government of British Columbia. ODT refers to "oven-dried tonnes".

Products we can make out of a tree

Trees provide a sustainable and renewable source of wood fibre and residues to produce low-emissions materials, products, and biofuels.

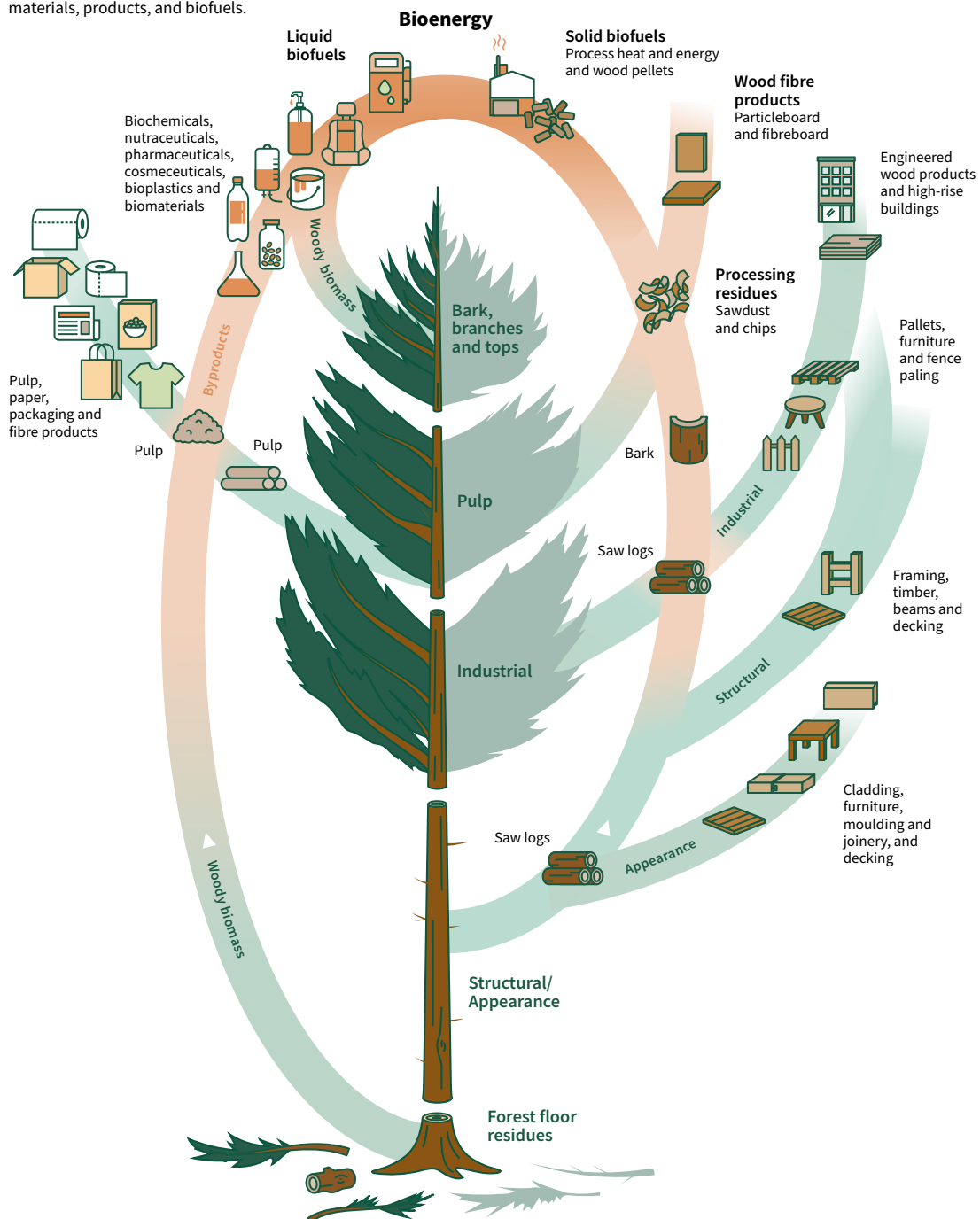


Figure 2: The fibre uses of a tree
Source: Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forestry Service

We want to maximise the economic value add to New Zealand from our forestry resource. Bioenergy can fit into this by:

- › Generating value from waste and un- or under-utilised resources.
- › As a by-product, supporting high value wood products such as structural timber or biochemicals.
- › Onshoring use of low-grade logs for energy where this exceeds the value of exporting.
- › Supporting the economics of demand for wood processing by creating an additional revenue stream.

Wood energy should not replace higher value uses of wood fibres where these are available.

The potential for wood energy

We have an opportunity to utilise wood residues to bring more domestically available fuel online while supplementing the existing forestry sector. This can diversify our fuel mix and reduce pressure on electricity supply, coal, and declining gas supplies. Making wood energy available where it makes sense as an alternative to electrification could also reduce the amount of electricity infrastructure upgrades required.

Wood energy could be supplied from the following sources:

- › **Wood processing co-products:** Sawdust, and sometimes bark, are the lowest cost feedstocks but are largely already used for on-site energy and as a feedstock for other parts of the wood processing value chain. Wood chip is more valuable for products such as pulp and MDF.
- › **In-forest residues:** Forest residues left after harvesting could be better utilised. There are opportunities to utilise these for bioenergy. Using forest residues could also reduce damage from forestry slash during severe weather events, although recovery can be costly and needs to be balanced with the needs to maintain soil health. Work is needed to improve the economics of collection and transport.

- › **Low-grade logs:** Low-grade (KI/KIS) logs could be available for bioenergy use, beyond what is already committed to other users such as pulp mills or exporters¹. While many low-grade logs are currently exported more could be used for domestic purposes, including energy products. Scion analysis indicates there is excess supply, even with increased consumption. However, there may also be opportunity costs in terms of value, supply to existing industries, carbon storage and emissions displacement.
- › **Short-rotation forestry:** Dedicated energy forests harvested after 12-18 years (rather than harvesting at age ~27 years) could play a role in future but are not widely established in New Zealand. Scion estimates that short rotation forestry as a feedstock for energy has the potential to replace six percent of New Zealand's annual fossil fuel demand using less than one percent of its land area². The value proposition is not clear to forestry managers. Investigating new forestry management methods is a steep capability and capacity change for New Zealand's forestry sector, approximately 30 percent of which are small forestry owners. It is not yet clear what price point short-rotation energy sources would sell for. There may also be an economic impact for local communities where short-rotation forestry is preferred over other land uses.

EECA estimates that 7-8 million tonnes of residues or low-grade logs could be available each year to meet wood energy demand, without impacting existing wood fibre users. This excludes K-grade logs (4-5 Mt) and does not include any future short-rotation energy forests.

Figure 3 estimates the quantity of volumes available from each of these sources³.

¹ Export is the final off-ramp – with all domestically unsold material going to export. Some of the wood destined for export could be made available for wood energy.

² Derived from Scion Short rotation forestry handbook. [Short-Rotation-Forestry-Handbook-4web.pdf](#)

³ Volume estimates come from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)'s Regional Energy Transition Accelerator project unless otherwise specified.

Energy security

Energy security is critical for economic growth and international competitiveness. Our businesses face energy security challenges as local gas supplies have been declining and as global markets increasingly put pressure on ongoing coal use. We have also experienced high electricity prices in recent winters, and we are reliant on coal to generate electricity, especially during dry years when our hydro lakes are low.

Increased wood energy supports security of supply through greater diversification of energy sources and provides a low-carbon fuel for process heat.

It can also be used as a feedstock to produce transport fuels.

This Strategy complements the Government's recently announced energy package in response to the Electricity Market Review to ensure energy is affordable and secure.

Wood energy provides an alternative fuel source for some industrial and commercial businesses where it is economic to switch.

Wood energy can be particularly useful where:

- › Higher temperatures are needed (such as process steam, kiln drying and particle board manufacturing)
- › Storable energy is needed (such as electricity generation)
- › There are capacity challenges for electrification (such as where there are grid constraints)
- › There are favourable logistics (such as where wood is available, and the firm has the ability to manage complex boiler operations).

Wood energy could be a significant part of our future energy mix. **Figure 3** below provides a snapshot of estimated supply and demand for wood energy through to 2050.

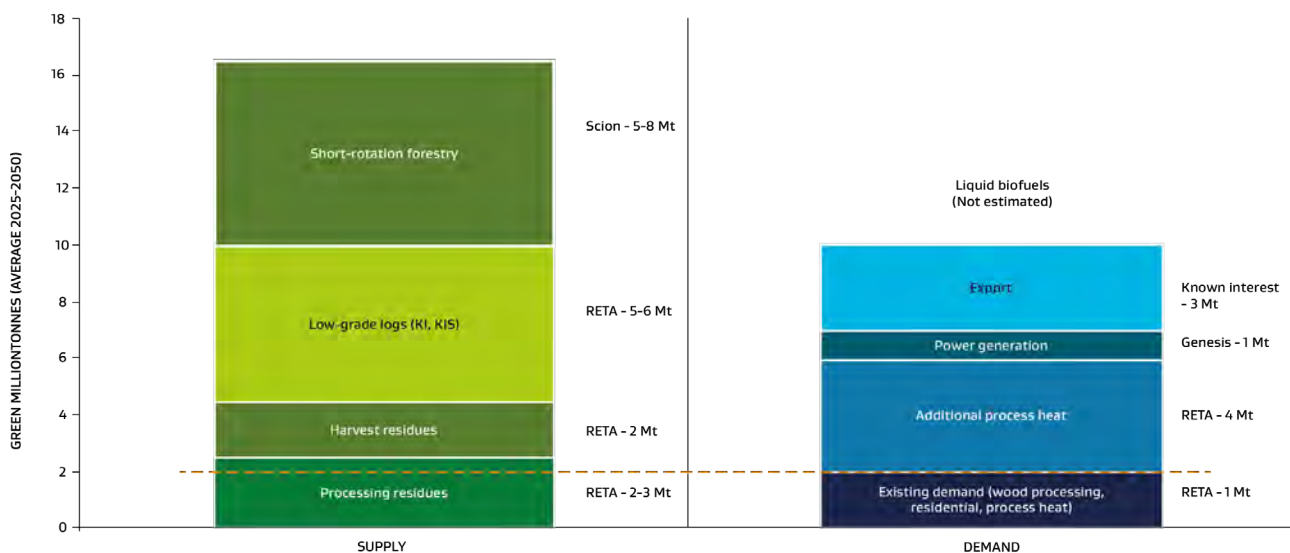


Figure 3: Potential solid wood energy supply and demand.

Source: MBIE based on data from EECA, Scion, Genesis Energy, and known potential export demand.

Around 1 million tonnes of green wood fibre is used annually for process heat.

EECA's analysis indicates that under a pathway where a combination of biomass and electrification projects are pursued (depending on what is most economic at each individual site), around 4 million tonnes of further green wood fibre could be required to replace around 40 per cent of fossil-fuelled process heat.

Supplying Genesis Energy's targeted supply of 300,000 tonnes of torrefied pellets would require a further 1 million green tonnes (see Huntly case study below).

New Zealand currently has four white wood pellet processing facilities. A number of companies are exploring further development, including torrefied or steam-exploded pellets. Wood energy could also be imported or exported. For example, Fonterra is importing white pellets to use at its Clandeboye site, while Nature's Flame is exporting white pellets. Key export markets include Japan, Korea, and the European Union.

CASE STUDY:

Wood pellets at Huntly could support our dry-year security

Huntly Power Station, run by Genesis Energy, is New Zealand's largest power station. One of its roles is to provide back-up power when the country does not have enough renewable energy. Three of the five generating units at Huntly can run on coal or natural gas. Coal generation from these units produced 1.35 Mt CO₂-e of emissions from July 2023 to June 2024. Genesis Energy has a public goal of delivering 300,000 tonnes of biomass per year to Huntly Power Station by the end of fiscal year 2028 materially displacing coal generation. Initial government estimates suggest this could deliver reductions of 1.1 Mt CO₂-e in the EB2 period and 1.6 Mt CO₂-e in the EB3 period.

Genesis has made significant progress in creating a biomass supply chain to secure a reliable and local wood pellet supply from a range of 'consortia'. This prioritises torrefied black pellets which are easily consumed by the Rankine boilers with minimum change required. When established, the supply chain is anticipated to generate permanent jobs in regions close to existing fibre supply.

Genesis says its demand will serve as an anchor for pellet production facilities which could service wider demand both domestically and in export markets.



The wood energy sector's contribution to our regions

New Zealand's forestry and wood processing sector is a major provider of employment and prosperity outside of our major urban areas. Relative to regions with major cities, more rural regions typically experience higher levels of unemployment, and lower incomes. Wood processing pays high wages for skilled workers and provides significant demand into supporting industries.

Issues affecting the forestry and wood processing sector contribute to these regional challenges, including volatility of log export prices and demand, and rising input costs (such as energy) affecting productive investment and employment opportunities. Recent major business closures and associated loss of employment, across Tasman, South Waikato and Ruapehu demonstrate the challenges faced by communities reliant on local manufacturing industries.

Increased wood energy production in New Zealand could provide a new line of processed products, diversifying and relying less on exports of low-grade unprocessed logs for regional income, increasing regional economic productivity and resilience. It could create new skilled jobs for experienced workers and attract new skilled workers to the affected regions.

Wood energy production could support the ongoing viability of the forestry and wood processing sector by creating new offtake opportunities and revenue streams for sawmilling co-products. A medium-sized sawmill employs around 130 people.⁴

At the same time, it will be important to consider the impact of wood energy production on sector incumbents, particularly existing users of wood residues – new wood energy producers may compete for supply of wood residues with, for example, New Zealand's pulp, paper and packaging producers.

Further to the overarching drivers of sector investment, some regions may face barriers to realising their wood energy sector potential, such as inadequate infrastructure, workforce challenges, or lack of existing industry and expertise to support efficiencies and innovation. This is particularly relevant to those regions which have poor infrastructure combined with limited in-region demand. For example, Tairāwhiti currently exports over 95% of its annual log harvest markets. Some of the actions in the Action Plan may enable regions to overcome these barriers and attract bioenergy production investment and add value to New Zealand's wood resource.

This strategy may also present opportunities for Māori landowners and forestry operators by creating regional jobs, supporting sustainable sourced wood energy as an alternative fuel, and enabling greater participation in the wood energy sector.

CASE STUDY: Ngāi Tahu Farming and Crown Forestry trial short rotation forestry

Ngāi Tahu Farming has partnered with Crown Forestry (a commercially-focused team within Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service) to demonstrate the viability of a range of forestry regimes for the harvest of short rotation forestry and the increased recovery of forestry residues. This joint venture will increase the supply through planting forests for woody biomass, and targeted research and development. The research programme will look at growing different species under different stocking densities which can lead to an increased volume of woody biomass. The 5,400-hectare Hikawaikura Forest in the Hurunui District is on land owned by Ngāi Tahu Farming (NTF) and is strategically located within reach of markets. The forest has scale for testing a range of regimes, the easy contour allows for increased recovery of forest residues, and it will provide insights on improving sector resilience.⁵

⁴ NZ Wood Fibre Futures Project Stage Two Report Final Main Report.

⁵ Source: Forestry right agreement focuses on woody biomass | Use Wood Fuel - a Bioenergy Association site



Wood energy's emissions and sustainability

Internationally, sustainability of wood energy is a key concern, particularly where it is produced from old growth forests or risks contributing to deforestation. Another concern is potential displacement of food crops. New Zealand is well-positioned to manage these risks. Our wood comes from fast-growing, sustainably managed plantation forests.

New Zealand has committed to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. Wood energy can contribute to this by replacing coal and gas used to produce heat and electricity, and potentially liquid fuels in the future.

While the combustion of wood energy is not in scope of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ie. there is no ETS obligation or cost associated with the combustion of biofuels or bioenergy), wood energy is not automatically “carbon neutral”. Its net emissions impact depends on how and where the biomass is sourced and processed, how it affects carbon storage in forests and wood products, and the fuel it is replacing. Even from sustainable sources such as harvest residues, wood energy can reduce levels of carbon storage.

While still delivering significant net emissions benefits compared with fossil fuels, impacts on carbon storage can delay and reduce these benefits. These impacts need to be understood and acknowledged.

Using logs for energy involves potential trade-offs with other wood uses which store carbon and provide a valuable product. This is a complex issue involving dynamic global markets. New Zealand currently exports large quantities of low-grade pulp and industrial logs which are typically used for short-term purposes such as temporary construction materials. In general, we see the use of these logs from sustainably grown forests as sustainable where its supply chain is efficient and its use effective at displacing emissions intensive applications to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Wood energy is in high demand globally, and New Zealand-grown wood energy could help to reduce emissions abroad as well as at home. It is important to acknowledge that while exported wood energy would create economic benefits, its production would create an emissions source without a corresponding reduction in domestic energy emissions. Imported wood energy could have the opposite effect. Importers may wish to consider the sourcing and sustainability credentials of their wood energy products.

**CASE STUDY:
McCain foods biomass**

McCain Foods converted its coal boiler into a 14 MW biomass woodchip boiler to eliminate coal consumption and the associated carbon emissions. This project was commissioned in July 2022 and co-funded by EECA, the site now uses about 25,000 tonnes of wood chips annually, completely replacing coal. The conversion of the boiler has removed the need for coal on-site and has improved local air quality.

Wood has a much lower ash content than coal, and the ash that is produced is less toxic. The reduced ash volumes have eased ash handling and stormwater quality has improved with reduced ash contamination. The remaining ash will be used for wider sustainable practices such as composting. McCain Foods has also been able to capitalise on the brand value of its cleaner processing and is now planning to implement similar projects across six other sites globally.



How wood energy can contribute to outcomes

Vision

New Zealand accelerates wood energy as a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy resource for domestic and export markets – creating new economic and employment opportunities for forest owners and wood producers in our regions.



OUTCOME 1: SECURITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY

Enable additional supply of wood fuels to diversify our energy system and power our economy, reducing reliance on imported fuels and domestic gas, and supplement the existing forestry sector.

How wood energy could support security of energy supply:

- › 40 per cent of currently fossil fuelled process heat could be fuelled by wood energy by 2050.
- › By 2028, wood energy could provide electricity generation equivalent to 40 per cent of the coal generation needed from the Huntly Power Station during the 2024 dry year.
- › If domestic SAF production emerged, domestic production of 102 million litres per year of unblended SAF would be equivalent to 5% of NZ's 2019 jet fuel demand (according to a feasibility study from Air NZ/LanzaJet).



OUTCOME 2: REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Enable domestic wood energy production to support regional employment opportunities, increase productivity and the resilience of regional forestry and wood-processing sectors.

How wood energy could support regional economic growth:

- › A white pellet mill producing 100,000 tonnes per annum could hire 15-30 people and produce 1.7 PJ of energy per annum. Black pellet mills could hire significantly more staff.
- › As an example, if 40PJ of demand occurred, this could mean over 20 mills hiring over 300 people.



OUTCOME 3: EMISSIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Enable sustainably sourced wood energy to be used to displace fossil fuels where it is economically efficient compared to other options.

How wood energy could support emissions and sustainability:

- › If process heat users switch to wood energy in line with an optimal pathway modelled by EECA, and Genesis Energy successfully secures 300,000 tonnes of pellets per annum by 2028, this could reduce net emissions by 5.6 – 6.6 Mt in EB3.
- › Wood energy export could reduce emissions overseas but could increase land use change emissions in New Zealand without a corresponding decrease in energy emissions.

How the Government will support wood energy

The markets for wood residues and wood energy products (such as pellets) are still developing when compared to other energy markets in New Zealand, building on the existing forestry and wood processing sectors. There are a range of barriers to market participants making efficient choices.

The Government will support market development by addressing market failures or regulatory barriers where it is practical and efficient to do so. We will aim to take actions that are technology and fuel neutral and do not distort other uses of wood fibres. At this stage, we are not pursuing policies such as demand mandates or direct support for the industry.

Our objectives for achieving our vision in line with this approach are laid out in accompanying Wood Energy Action Plan that sets out the actions the Government is taking beneath this Strategy. While the actions may evolve over time to reflect evolving circumstances and priorities, it is intended that the objectives remain consistent.

Objective 1: Improve availability of wood fibre supply

Users and producers need secure and affordable supply of wood fibre. As discussed above, wood fibre supply can come from processing residues, harvesting residues, low-grade logs, and short-rotation energy forests.

We aim to improve availability of wood fibre supply. We will take actions to:

- › Improve the economics for aggregating in-forest residues.
- › Demonstrate and de-risk short-rotation forestry.

Objective 2: Enable private investment in production capacity

New Zealand can benefit from investment in domestic production capacity for wood energy and fuels. These projects require significant capital, secure long-term wood fibre supply, and secure long-term offtake.

We aim to enable private investment in production capacity for wood energy. We will take actions to:

- › Support business development.
- › Create an enabling regulatory environment for investment.
- › Promote place-based sector growth and enabling settings.
- › Boost wood processing to create value, improve certainty for forest harvesting operators, and increase the supply of co-products such as chip for use in wood energy products.

Objective 3: Reduce barriers for end users of wood energy

Switching to wood energy can be a significant decision for businesses. It requires clear financial incentives, long-term security of supply and price, and a plan for navigating site and operational challenges.

We aim to reduce barriers for end users of wood energy. We will take actions to:

- › Provide information and guidance to support fuel switching
- › De-risk new technologies and capital projects.

Objective 4: Promote export market access and attract foreign investment

Wood energy could be exported to create revenue and to support domestic production. New Zealand already exports small volumes of wood pellets, and a number of companies are exploring export opportunities. Export demand could supplement domestic demand in underpinning manufacturing capacity. Our global customers are demanding sustainably sourced and certified bioenergy.

We aim to remove barriers to export and attract private investment. We will take actions to:

- › Explore options to influence international sustainability standards to reflect the use of sustainably managed plantation forestry.
- › Promote New Zealand's investment prospects internationally to attract investment and link our exporters to partners.

Objective 5: Improve market transparency and coordination

As mentioned above the markets for wood residues and wood energy products are currently still developing, with largely one to one transactions. Because demand-at-scale has yet to arrive, infrastructure is not yet in place meaning potential users, processors, and foresters have limited information on the overall size and potential of the market, who they can partner with for supply or offtake, and the price and terms of transactions in the market.

This can lead to duplicate efforts and inefficient trading outcomes.

It is important that all market participants, including new entrants, have access to high quality information to support efficient transactions. We will take action to:

- › Improve access to information on key market parameters, such as trading volumes, prices, and contract conditions.
- › Support market coordination.

Objective 6: Promote the use of sustainably sourced wood energy

As outlined above, wood energy can reduce emissions when managed sustainably and applied effectively. But its impacts can vary depending on how wood is sourced and how carbon storage in the forest is affected.

We aim to promote the use of sustainably sourced wood energy to support reducing net emissions. We will take action to:

- › Better understand the emissions and sustainability impacts of wood energy, to inform stakeholders on which methods and applications are most beneficial.

The Wood Energy Action Plan available on MBIE's website provides a snapshot of the Government's work programme to support this Wood Energy Strategy.





Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

MONTHLY REPORT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

November 2025

1 Communication


1.1 Community Pānui | Update

Two pānui | newsletters completed – 4 and 21 November

1.2 Significant Communications:

- 1.2.1 Includes: Guy Fawkes, Sports Bay of Plenty Survey, Recall notice of rainbow sand, heavy rain warnings, Take care of trees (no nailing signs to them), Pathways to Prosperity event, Meet the Locals – Civil defence giveaway and Copper wire theft
- 1.2.2 Council Operations and Services includes: Extraordinary Council Meeting Notice, Library Closure, Christmas in the Park, River Road drinking water tap maintenance, pool closure, Council Meeting, Skate park closure, Annual Dog Day, Council services closed for staff Christmas function, change of hours at the site; Acceptable Greenwaste and Recycling

Council Communication Channels overview

Website  17,831 visits (decrease). Top Page Visits: Homepage, Rates Property Search, Christmas in the Park 2025, Search, Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre and District Library

Social Media



Facebook

▼ 6,018 visits
▲ 43,107 reach
▲ 6,112 followers



Instagram

▲ 42 visits
▲ 867 reach
▲ 232 followers

Top content: Christmas in the Park line up, Inauguration and swearing in of Councillor Apiata and Deputy Mayor Sela Kingi announcement, Heavy Rain warning, Acceptable greenwaste and recycling, Pathways to Prosperity and Extraordinary meeting notice

1.3 Website Renewal Project

Project continuing with content renewal work at 80%. Plan for implementation of online forms module in first quarter 2026.

1.4 **Economic Steering Group – Pathways to Prosperity**

Pathways to Prosperity event 13 November 2025 completed with excellent response. Team supported the strategy, planning and delivery with the project steering group to deliver the Pathways to Prosperity event launch to kickstart the local Kawerau economic development strategy. Thanks Council Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire for his mihi whakatau and to our guest speakers Ngati Tūwharetoa Geothermal Assets CE Robbie Watt, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise CE Peter Chrisp, Putauaki Trust Chair Tiaki Hunia, Deputy Mayor Sela Kingi and Councillor Berice Julian and Council's CE Morgan Godfery for his address and master of ceremonies.

2 **Local Government Elections 2025**

- 2.1 The Local Election 2025 report follows this report with a summary of processes and decisions completed, results and breakdowns.

3 **Engagement**

3.1 **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 with 79 submissions received from the community. The Hearing was held on 27 August 2025 with one submitter in person.

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan is planned to be tabled for adoption in 2025, following which formal responses will be made to the 79 submitters.

3.2 **Consultation and Engagement completed and adopted by Council**

Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy engagement

A Bay of Plenty regional strategy is being developed with Sport BOP as lead and all the Territorial Authorities involvement, along with Sport New Zealand. This strategy is one of the actions out of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Sport Bay of Plenty and Territorial Authorities in the Bay.

The first stage of the engagement is to gather feedback from the community completed via online surveys for individuals and groups/organisations/clubs. The first stakeholder workshop is scheduled for 2 December in Kawerau. A further community workshop will be held in 2026.

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	23	1	29	53
Remaining Sections / Units	8*	3 / 1		11
Units completed		2	29	31
Units under construction				
Surplus/ (Deficit) to Date	291,230	(597,995)	(\$235,998)	
<u>Breakeven</u>				
Sales still required to break-even	0	1	0	

4.1 **Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village**

Ongoing management of the village continues. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 10-December 2025 and is open to residents, their proxy and support person/s.

4.2 **Central Cove**

*A further sale in Central Cove is likely with a sales and purchase agreement being drafted in December.

Council has received a request for a building consent extension for three lots already under agreement.

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

Generation Homes is ramping up marketing in Kawerau at both Central Cove and Hine Te Ariki, both as freehold house and land packages. An agreement is in progress for the listing and marketing of the three-bedroom unit at Bell Street.

4.4 **Stoneham Park Residential Development**

Meeting held with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council on Wednesday, 19 November 2025 attended by the project steering group of Council staff, Veros and Stratum, Regional Council staff (in person and online) and Metis (stormwater modelling company) with apologies from Her Worship the Mayor Tunui. With thanks to Councillor Berice Julian, Councillor Mal Dowie and Councillor Tracy Hill for your attendance and support. Significant ongoing stormwater modelling completed to progress the upper catchment detention basin and development's landform (surface) design to meet Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC) request that the development makes no negative impact in a 1%AED (1:100-year climate change adjusted weather event).

Agreement was reached on most areas for the mitigation proposed for the 1% AED events on site and to ensure no impact on neighbouring properties. Further work is being completed on one area with Metis, Veros and Stratum (project engineers). Further work is being undertaken to provide final areas of mitigation.

RECOMMENDATION

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



Tania Humberstone

Manager, Communications and Engagement | Residential Development

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REPORT TO KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local Government Elections 2025

Overview

Local elections, held every three years, are an opportunity for residents and ratepayers to vote for a Mayor and Councillors as the governance team.

The triennial elections were held on 11 October 2025 with a new basis for election comprising the Mayor, two District-Wide (at large) Councillors, three General Ward Councillors and three Māori Ward Councillors. Fourteen nominations were received for the nine positions. However, one candidate withdrew due to health concerns.

In Kawerau, 5,175 people within the community are eligible voters or electors. The voter turnout in 2025 was 45.3%, compared with 42.1% in the 2022 elections and 48.9% in 2019.

Following the Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, the election included the poll asking electors whether to remove or keep Māori wards. The result was 66.4% of Kawerau voters wished to keep Māori wards.


The following is a summary of key decisions and processes completed by Council and Election Services (via Dale Ofoske and his team) that provide a specialist service to support Kawerau District Council (and many other councils) to work through the Local Government Act 2022 legislation and the Local Electoral Act 2001 (and other applicable legislation) regarding the appointment of governance (elected members) of territorial authorities or local councils.

This includes the requirement to complete a representation review every six years to determine how the community is represented by councillors via the seats around the council table. In 2021, at the Hearing for the Representation Review, Council resolved to engage with the community regarding future representation arrangements, specifically Māori engagement, prior to the 2025 Local Body Elections.

Please refer to the following pages for further breakdowns of elector and voting returns and results.

Timeline of Local Body Elections, Decisions and Processes

14 September 2021	<p>Hearing of Submissions for the Representation Arrangements Review proposal for the 2022 Local Elections. This maintained the status quo of the Mayor and eight councillors, with no community boards.</p> <p>Following submissions from the community. Council resolved to engage with the community regarding future representation arrangements, specifically Māori representation, before the 2025 Local Body Elections</p>
October 2022	Local Elections were completed with the establishment of the Mayor and eight councillors following nominations from 12 potential candidates.
6 September 2023	<p>Extraordinary Meeting: With regard to the Local Electoral Act 2001, Council unanimously resolved to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain First Past the Post voting system 2. Consider whether to introduce Maori representation via Maori ward(s) 3. Undertake a Representation Review in 2024.
25 September – 10 November 2023	Community engagement was undertaken with the community regarding establishing Māori Wards. 165 submissions were received in total: 38.51% in support of Māori Wards, 4.97% neither supported or opposed and 56.52% opposed to Māori Wards. However, throughout the robust engagement process with the

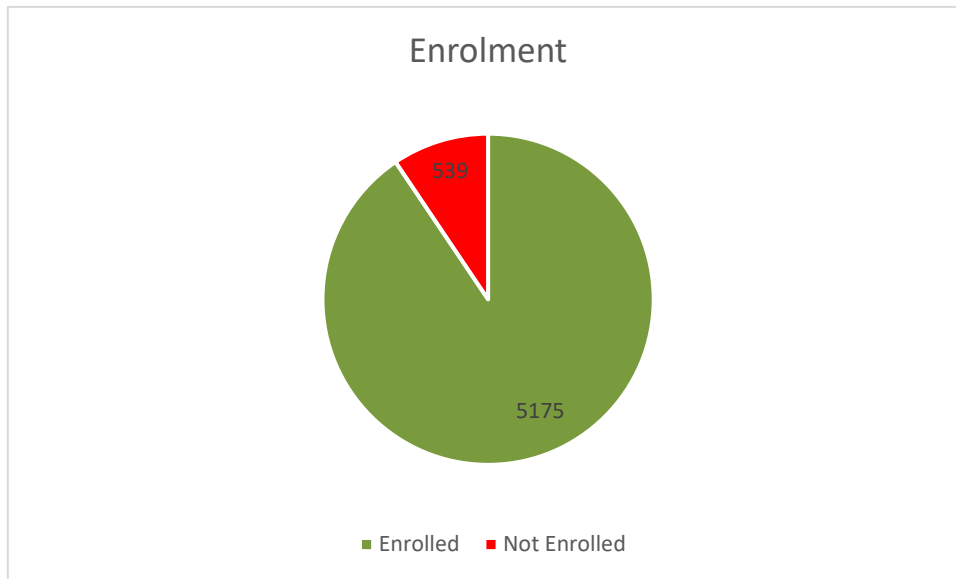
	community, and via the submitters at the Hearing, the widespread support for the introduction of Māori representation was evident to acknowledge and support the decision-making for future generations.
22 November 2023	Council resolved to introduce Māori Ward(s) for the 2025 election which initiated the requirement for a Representation Review
March - May 2024	Representation Review early engagement and feedback gathered from 71 people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall, respondents felt the current arrangements work well • prefer same number of councillors (75%) • preference for no community boards (70%) • preference for combination mixed system (60%)
29 May 2024	Kawerau District Council submitted against the Māori Wards and Constituencies Bill
May and June 2024	Two workshops with elected members regarding the early engagement received from the community for the representation arrangement
17 July 2024	Extraordinary Meeting: Council adopted Initial Proposal of a Mixed System (combination model) of eight councillors plus the Mayor; arranged as two 'at large' (district-wide) seats, three Kawerau Māori Ward seats, three Kawerau General Ward seats and no community board
July 2024	Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 became law
22 July to 26 August 2024	Representation Review formal consultation and engagement period re: Initial Proposal. 104 submissions were received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76.92% (80) submitters supported maintaining eight councillors • 74.04% (77) submitters stated their preferred number of councillors was 8 • 57.69% (60) submitters supported the initial proposal  <p>The infographic titled "Everyone votes for" illustrates the proposed council structure. At the top, a single blue person icon represents "ONE MAYOR". Below this, two blue person icons represent "TWO 'AT LARGE' DISTRICT WIDE COUNCILLORS". The bottom section is divided into two columns. The left column, for those on the General roll, shows three green person icons for "THREE GENERAL WARD COUNCILLORS". The right column, for those on the Māori roll, shows three dark green person icons for "THREE MĀORI WARD COUNCILLORS".</p>
14 August 2024	Extraordinary Meeting: Council reaffirmed decision to introduce Māori representation via Māori wards (unanimous decision)
11 September 2024	Hearing Representation Review: Council heard and deliberated on the 104 submissions received during the consultation period. The initial proposal that Council consulted on was based on the early engagement with the

	<p>community. The majority (60 submitters or 69%) of the 104 submitters agreed with the Initial Proposal, therefore, Council unanimously decided to proceed with the Initial Proposal as the Final Proposal.</p> <p>The appeal period was open from Friday, 20 September - 5:00pm, Monday 4 November 2024.</p>
20 September 2024	<p>Public Notice of Final Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain eight (8) councillors and the Mayor • Mixed system (combination model) comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Mayor elected 'at large' (district wide) ○ two (2) councillors elected 'at large' (district-wide) ○ Kawerau Māori Ward: represented by three (3) Māori ward councillors, with the ward boundaries aligning with the district's boundaries ○ Kawerau General Ward: represented by three (3) general ward councillors, with the ward boundaries aligning with the district's boundaries • No community board
20 and 23 September respectively	Submitters formally advised of the public notification (where contact details were provided) regarding the Final Proposal and appeal period of 20 September to 4 November 2024
4 November 2024	Final Proposal Appeal/Objection period 20 September to 4 November 2024. By closing, Council had received one appeal. Appeal referred to the Local Government Commission as per the process.
26 November 2024	Formal notification from the Local Government Commission that the hearing scheduled for 30 January 2025 was no longer required as the one objection received was invalid.
5 December 2024	<p>Public Notice of Representation Arrangement Review and Basis of Election was formally given with Basis of Elections (following 2024 Representation Review):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • No community board
4 February 2025	<i>Enrolment Advertising commenced:</i> Re opportunity to choose/change to General or Māori Ward. Newspaper and Council managed communication channels
26 March 2025	Council resolved for candidates' names to be alphabetically listed in the voting documents.
16 May 2025	<i>Advertising of Candidate Information Evenings Commenced</i> – Radio, Newspaper and Council managed communication channels
28 May 2025	Council Meeting: Council adopted the Election Signs' Policy and Policy for Communication by Elected Members' in a Pre-Election Period
28 May 2025	Candidate Information Briefing at Concert Chamber
24 June 2025	Candidate Information Briefing at Rautahi Marae. Former Councillor Chris Marjoribanks shares learnings for potential candidates pre and post-election
25 June 2025	Council Meeting: Council adopts Pre-Election Report

3 July 2025	Enrolment Drive: Library drop in with the Electoral Commission
4 July 2025	Candidate nominations opened. Advertising commenced – Radio, Newspaper and Council managed communication channels
10 July 2025 (midnight)	Pause for eligible people to change electoral rolls from General to Māori, or Māori to General until post-11 October 2025 11 July 2025; Three-month Pre-Election Period commenced
1 August 2025 at 12 noon	Candidate nominations closed. At the closure, Kawerau District Council received 15 nominations. Two for Mayor, Four for 'At Large' District Wide, Five for Kawerau General Ward and Four for Kawerau Māori Ward
6 August 2025	Public Notice of Election and Poll
11 August 2025	Election Signs Advertising can be displayed (Election Signs' Policy)
2 September 2025	Rotary Club of Kawerau's Meet the Candidate Event (approx. 120 people)
9 September 2025	Advertising commenced for voting – Radio, Newspaper and Council managed communication channels
9 September 2025	Voting Papers delivered to homes (if enrolled by 1 August 2025) Special Voting Period Opens
12 September 2025	Grey Power Kawerau's Meet the Candidates Event (approx. 110 people)
13 September 2025	It's in the Ballot's Meet the Candidates Event in the Town Hall
17 September 2025	Mayoral Debate on Radio 1XX
25 September 2025	Enrol and Vote drive at the Kawerau Community Markets
27 September 2025	Tuwharetoa Ki Kawerau Maori Womens Welfare League Meet the Candidates Event
9 October 2025	Enrol and Vote drive at the Kawerau Community Markets
10 October 2025	Last day for new enrolments (requires a special vote) (midnight) – Signs and Election Hoardings removed
11 October 2025 at 12 noon	Voting Closes at Council Office (open 8am to 12noon), District Library or New World Kawerau (7.30am – 12 noon)
11 October 2025	Progress Results available at 1.10pm.
12 October 2025	Preliminary Results available at midday
17 October 2025	Declaration of 2025 Election Results and Poll Results available at 8.32pm
29 October 2025	Inauguration of Mayor and seven councillors at Rautahi Marae.
12 November 2025	Inauguration of one Councillor. Announcement of Deputy Mayor.
<i>2030</i>	<i>Complete Representation Review for 2031 Local Body Elections</i>

BREAKDOWN OF ELECTION RESULTS**Enrolments**

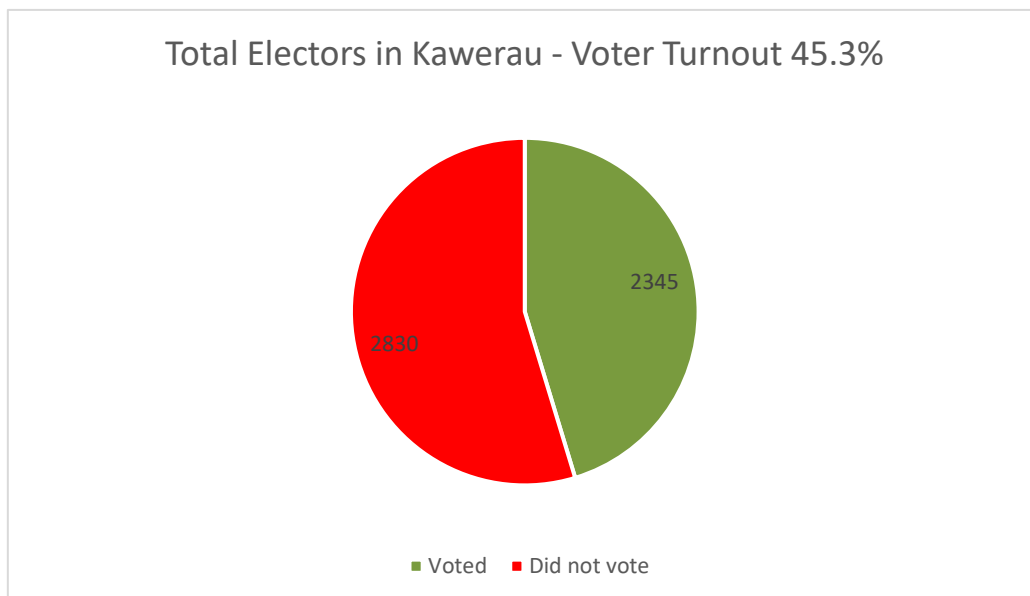
At the end of the election, 90.57% of the eligible voting population of 5,714 were enrolled to vote.



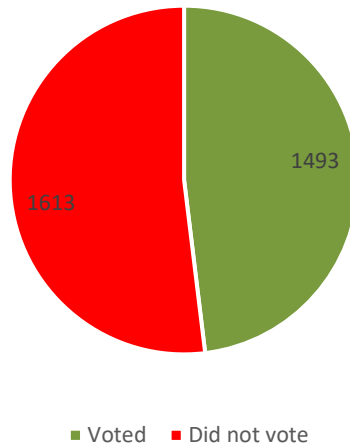
As of November, the 18–24 age group had the lowest enrolment rate, with 321 out of 685 enrolled (46.86%).

Voter Turnout

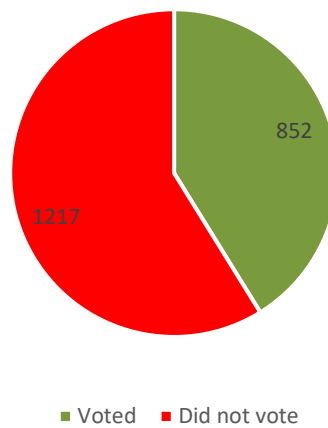
The final voter returns for the Kawerau District are below, resulting in an overall voter turnout of 45.3%. This is higher than the 42.1% voter turnout achieved in the 2022 election, and lower than the 48.9% in 2019.



General Roll - Voter Turnout



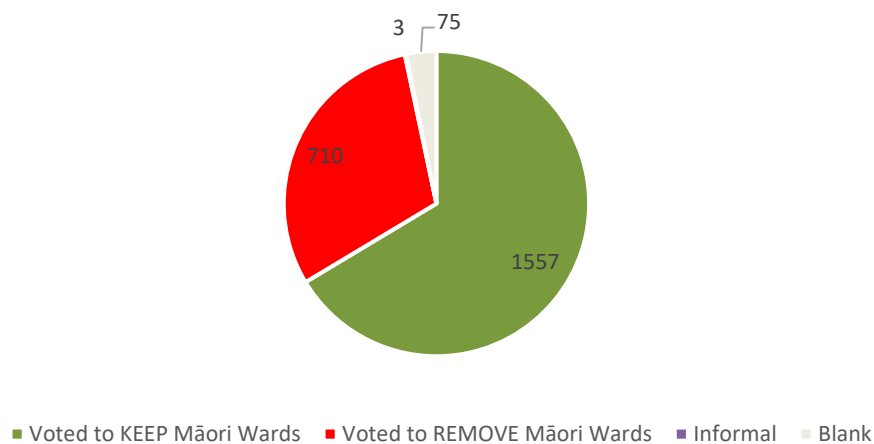
Māori Roll - Voter Turnout

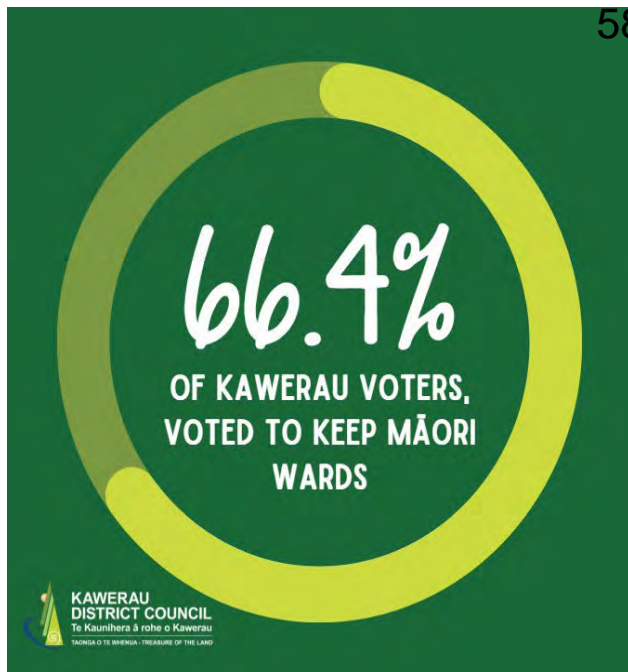
**The Poll to keep or remove Māori wards in Kawerau**

2,345 or 45.3% of eligible voters in Kawerau, voted in the 2025 Local Body Elections.

Of these voters, 2,267 voted in the Māori Ward poll with 1,557 voting to keep Māori Wards and 710 voting to remove Māori Wards.

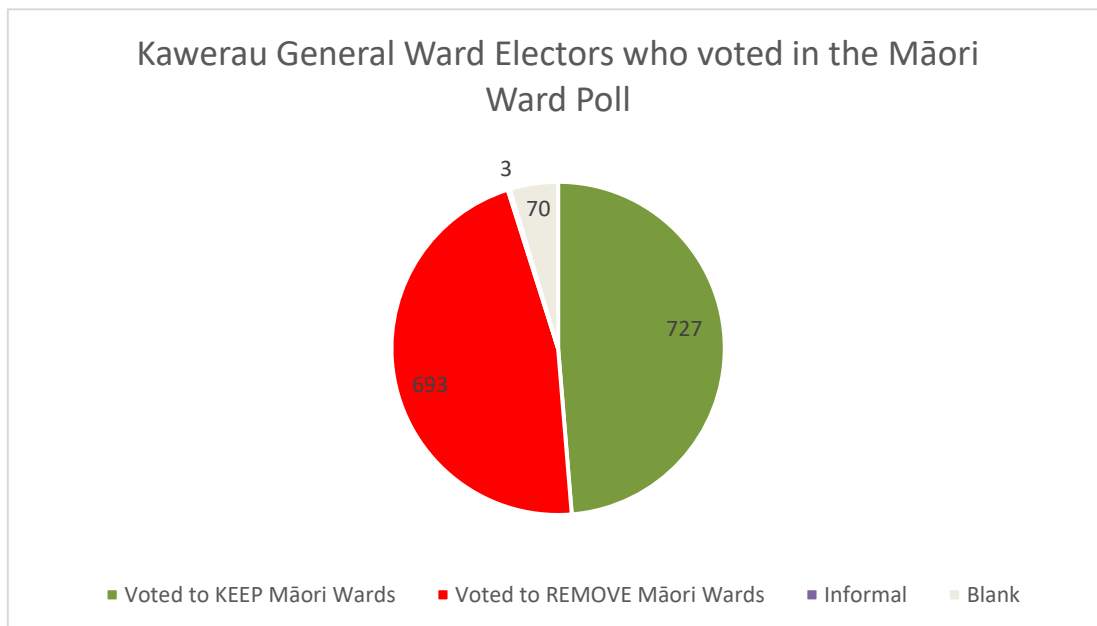
Total Electors in Kawerau who voted in the Māori Ward Poll





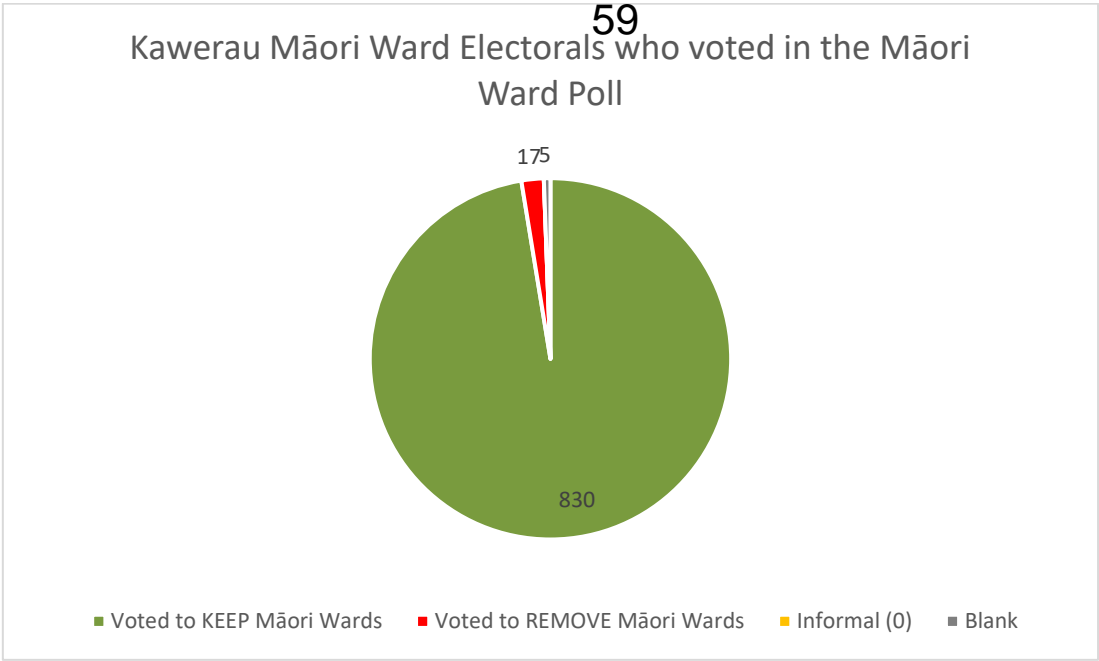
For the Kawerau General Ward:

- 727 voted to KEEP Māori Wards
- 693 voted to REMOVE Māori Wards
- 70 blank
- 3 informal



For the Kawerau Māori Ward:

- 830 voted to KEEP Māori Wards
- 17 voted to REMOVE Māori Wards
- 5 blank
- 0 Informal



Election Costs Summary

This is a summary of the costs for the 2025 election year. There is a considerable cost for postage included in the Election Services contract. Approximately \$35,000 will be reimbursed from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council as their election was carried out with Kawerau District Council)

Election Services: Meeting CE and DEO, Workshops, Public Meetings, Meet the Candidate Events, Postage & all election collateral, Includes BOPRC costs and \$2,434.78 nomination refunds	\$75,927.55
Staff training and travel to complete electoral duties	\$2,049.00
Events: includes Staff briefings, Hall hireage for Meet the Candidates, Markets, Election Day sausage sizzle.	\$907.00
Advertising and Promotion: Radio and Print advertising, Candidate Videos (13), Local Govt. Commission plans for district following boundary reorganisation, Design for external advertising and Council-managed channels including Candidate Handbook and Voter Guide	\$9,756.00
Total (including costs for Bay of Plenty Regional Council election to be reimbursed approx. \$35,000)	\$88,639.55