

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

WAITĀKERE RANGES LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.19

Waitākere Ranges
Local Board
Auckland Council



Mihi

E nga pītau whakarei o te waka,
e nga rau tītapu o te iwi, e aku hei māpuna,
e taku iti e taku rahi, koutou kua mahue mai nei
hei toka piringa mōku i te ora,
hei ruruhau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.
E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,
kia oho te mauri, kia māriri o koutou wairua,
kia hora te marino, tēnā koutou katoa.
Tēnei au te noho atu nei i te tihi o Te Pae o te Rangi,
i tīhorea ai te whenua kia kī ake au,
e koe e te hau o te uru te wawā rā, me te kī mai,
e kore au e ora i ngā hau kōtiu, i āia ai te pūpūtara ki uta.
Nāu nei te tono kia piki ake au i ngā tai whakatū a Kupe
ki te Waonui a Tiriwhā me te Pae o te Rangi,
Kia titiro whakaroto ahau ki te maunga o Puketōtara,
kei raro e rere ana ko te awa o Waitākere
kei tētahi taha ko Puke Whakataratara, kei tua ko Te Whau.
Koinei rā te rohe kāinga o Te Au o Te Whenua me te
Kawerau ā Maki,
ko rātou nei te whāriki i āhei ai te nohoa o
tēnei moka o te rohe
e tini whāioio kua whakakāinga ma.
Kua kōhatu nei nga paparahi ki te whenua,
i tangata whenuatia ai tātou katoa.
I whaikiko ai te kōrero,
“Ko te hāpori te tauawhi i te taiao, he mea motuhake,
rerenga kē.” Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā.

To all those who adorn the prow of this canoe,
to the revered leaders of the people,
to my treasured heirlooms,
the lesser and the greater parts of me,
you who are my refuge in life,
my shelter from the storms of time.
My objects of affection,
let your very being flourish, let your spirit be at peace,
let the calm be widespread, I send greetings to you all.
Here I sit on the ridgeline of Te Pae o te Rangi,
where the land had been laid bare,
and the roaring wind of the west whispers
that I would not survive the blast of the northerly wind
that would drive the paper nautilus to shore.
It was you who commanded me to ascend from the
raised seas of Kupe,
to the forest of Tiriwha, and Te Pae o te Rangi.
So I look inland to Puketotara,
at the foot of which runs the Waitākere river
on one side stands Massey and on
the other – Te Whau.
Home of Te Au o te Whenua and Te Kawerau ā Maki,
the original settlers, they laid the way for later
travellers to make a home here.
They cast their footprints in stone upon these
precincts of the region,
and so made settlers of us all.
Which gives substance to the adage,
“Communities connected to their
natural environment are unique and diverse.”
Let us grow with vigour.

◀ On the cover: A local resident trying to restore habitat for giant kōkopu. Photo credit: Ocean Mead

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It’s part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council’s Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we’re delivering for Auckland.**

▼ Waitatarua community weed bin.
Photo credit: EcoMatters



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He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

In the Waitākere Ranges, our communities continue to lead the way in improving and uplifting our rohe. Despite ongoing challenges from the 2023 North Island weather events, including the lingering impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, the board supported a wide range of initiatives this year. Highlights from the work programme include projects involving community development, the arts, environmental restoration, parks and local events.

We have continued to build on our partnership with Hoani Waititi Marae and Te Kawerau ā Maki, and have worked closely with the Kaitūhono and mana whenua on several important issues. The board supported Matariki events held in June, and we worked with staff and the community to progress the Deed of Acknowledgement under the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act. Over the last year, a dedicated steering group of elected members, staff, and community representatives has been advancing work toward achieving Dark Sky accreditation for parts of the heritage area.

The unique nature of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and the ongoing effects of unexpected weather events continue to emphasise the importance of robust future planning. Environmental stewardship is one of the board’s top priorities. We are deeply grateful for the thousands of hours our community has dedicated to restoring local waterways and parks. We also acknowledge the support provided by staff to our community groups.

Our arts partners delivered a diverse and well-attended programme of events, and we are proud that these spaces and local events continue to nurture creativity and community connection.

Auckland Council’s introduction of Fairer Funding has provided us with some flexibility to respond to the needs of our community. Looking ahead, we will continue to support activities in the heritage area, improve neighbourhood parks, nurture local collective action and fund significant maintenance work, such as the refurbishment of the Titirangi War Memorial Hall and library.

Ngā mihi,



Greg Presland
Chairperson,
Waitākere Ranges
Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere

Waitākere Ranges Local Board



▲
(L to R) Mark Allen, Sandra Coney ,
Michelle Clayton (Deputy Chairperson),
Greg Presland (Chairperson),
Linda Potauaine, Liz Manley.

Contact us



39 Glenmall Place, Glen Eden



09 301 0101



waitakererangeslocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300, Auckland 1142



aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitakereranges

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Waitākere Ranges projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

✓
Delivered projects

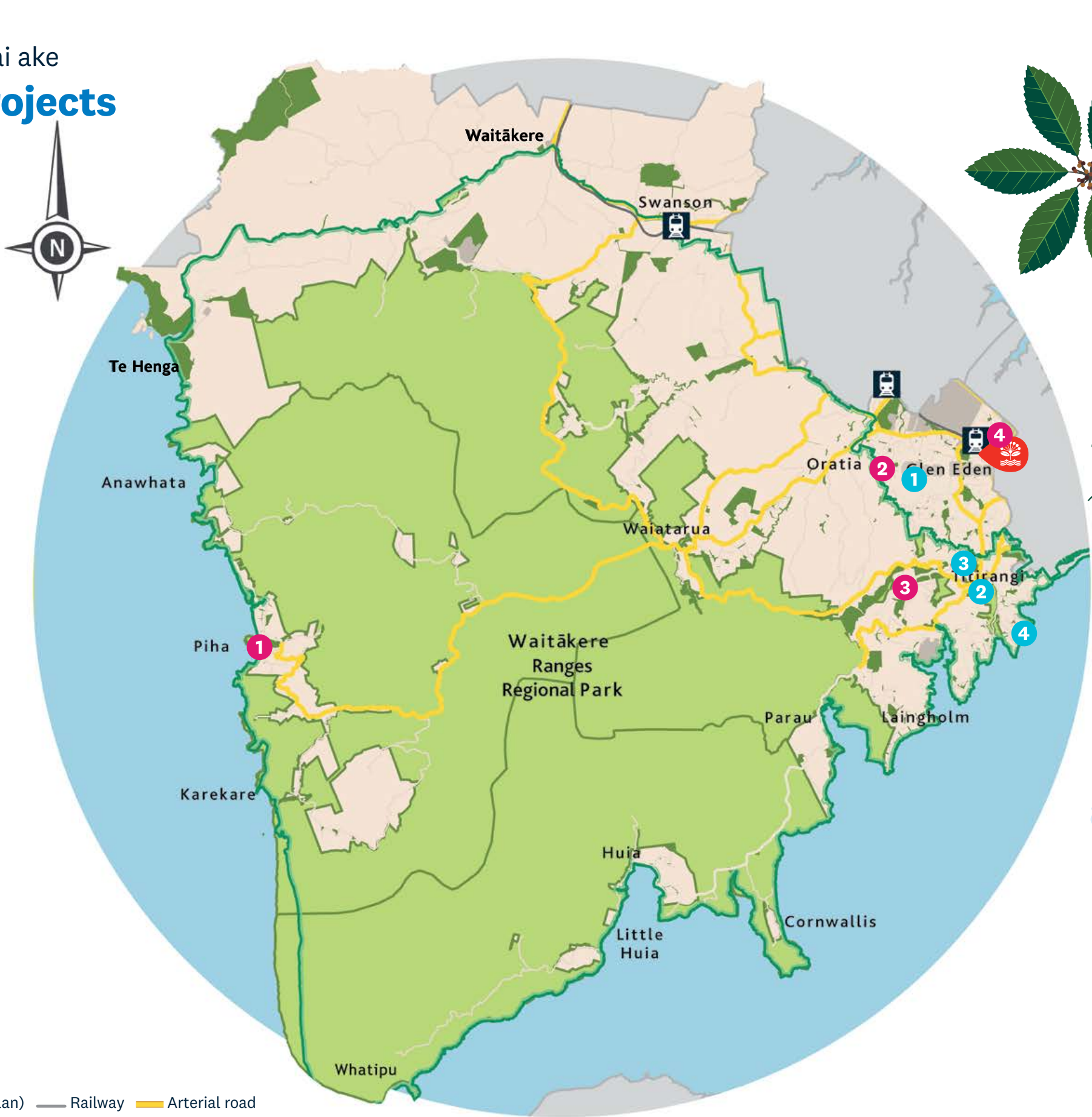
- 1 George Herring Common - develop park
- 2 Titirangi Library deck
- 3 Mt Atkinson Track
- 4 French Bay Esplanade Track

🚶
Current projects

- 1 Piha Domain - renew playground
- 2 Te Kakau - develop cultural park features
- 3 Waima Reserve - renew playground and park amenities
- 4 Koroī / Clayburn Reserve - develop neighbourhood park

Map legend

- 📍 Local board office
- 🟢 Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- 🚊 Railway
- 🛣️ Arterial road
- 🛤️ Medium road
- 🛤️ Minor road
- 🟡 Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) boundary



We are home to:

The **Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area** is an area of national significance with its own legislation.

More than **200 local** parks and sports fields, from tiny pocket parks to Parrs Park in Oratia, winner of two international Green Flag quality marks for parks and green spaces

Waitākere Ranges has nearly **20% of all native vegetation** in the Auckland Region and is home to **8 types** of threatened native plants



Waitākere Ranges is home to Waikumete Cemetery – the largest cemetery in New Zealand with more than **90,000** graves

Data sources: Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024)

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY

Achieved

Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin)

Not achieved

Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We supported work towards community and business emergency response plans and resilience programmes, and continued to fund Te Uru and other community arts partners to deliver a programme of community arts activities and events.

Our libraries provided welcoming, safe and inclusive environments that deliver digital, facility and community-based services and programmes to promote literacy, digital literacy, te reo Māori, and access to information.

Our parks and open spaces provided opportunities for recreation and enjoyment by surrounding communities, and a place for nature. We completed upgrades to the sportsfield and lighting at Singer Park and George Herring Common. Work is still underway on the playground renewal at Piha Domain.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities		Target	Result
	2025	197,000	212,177
	2024	218,800	203,841

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community ¹		Target	Result
	2025	100%	100%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition ²		Target	Result
	2025	80%	92%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Within the building portfolio, a significant proportion of roof system assets, including roof panels, gutters, fascias, and downpipes, are currently in average condition, and expected to deteriorate further as part of standard asset lifecycle. These components are anticipated to require renewal over the coming years and will be incorporated into our renewals planning process.

Number of local community events delivered		Target	Result
	2025	15	9
	2024	New measure	New measure

Nine events were delivered this year, with 8 funded events and one delivered event. Events delivered included Glen Eden Community Event and Piha Matariki. This was not enough to reach the target of 15.

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations and groups funded to deliver placemaking activities		Target	Result
	2025	50	43
	2024	New measure	New measure

This measure is below target, as the benchmark was based on assumptions made in the absence of historical data. However, a number of organisations such as Shadbolt House and Neighbours Day were funded this year.

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards ³		Target	Result
	2025	90%	92%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition ²		Target	Result
	2025	94%	87.6%
	2024	New measure	New measure

8.6 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 3.9 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a significant proportion of land fixture assets - such as bins, fitness equipment, drinking fountains and seating - have deteriorated from average to poor or very poor condition. These will form part of our renewals planning.

1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
2. For definitions of “Community Facilities” and “Local open space assets” please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.

Local planning and development

We supported local town centres and communities to thrive through town centre plans and development, Business Improvement Districts, and heritage plans.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations		Target	Result
	2025	100%	100%
	2024	100%	100%

Local environmental management

We supported and funded community groups and individuals such as the Titirangi Urban Sanctuary and the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance who tackle pest plants and animals, particularly in the heritage area.

We continued supporting a range of activities through the heritage area budget which included the distribution of 57 community weed bins across our area, the Waitākere Ranges Welcome Pack, and the pekapeka (long-tailed bat) community education project.

We continued supporting and funding activities to protect the environment, including restoring and maintaining native ecosystems, especially those impacted by storm events. We celebrated members of the community who take on environmental action in our area with activities such as the Love Your Place Awards.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Number of properties visited for plant pest control		Target	Result
	2025	150	239
	2024	New measure	New measure

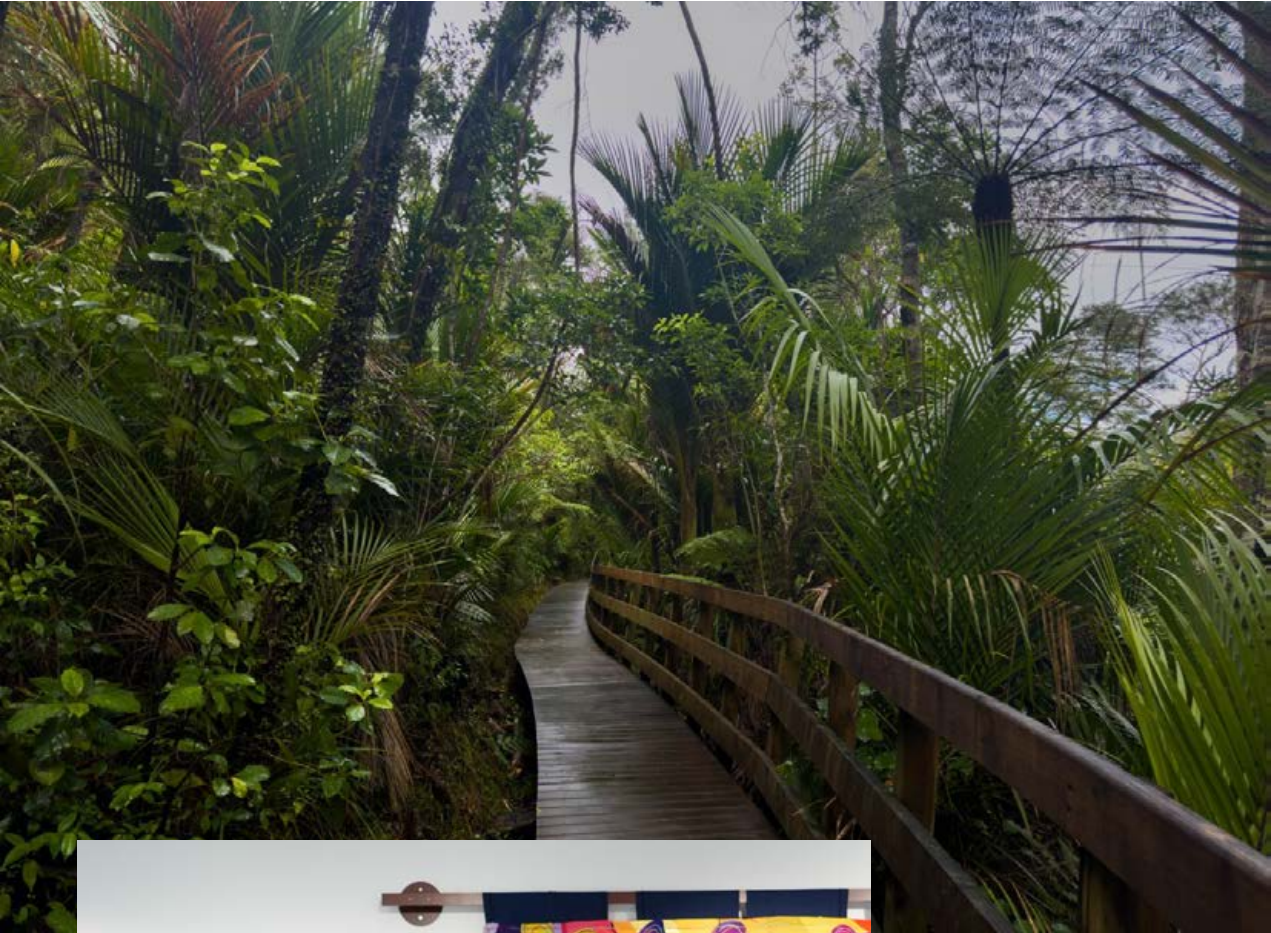
Participation in environmental programmes exceeded the target, reflecting strong community interest in environmental initiatives.

Local governance

Activities in this group supported the board in engaging with and representing its communities, and making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in ‘Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau’ (Council’s Māori outcomes framework).		Target	Result
	2025	Set baseline	20
	2024	New measure	New measure



▲ Zig Zag track in Waitākere forest



◀ Ron Te Kawa Workshop at Te Uru. Courtesy of Te Uru



▲ Local tamariki listening to restoration stories. Photo credit: Ocean Mead



▲ Special Species Reveal event at Swanson School. Photo credit: Anniruth Kannan

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Work starts on new life for Titirangi War Memorial Hall and Library

A major refurbishment is now underway on the Titirangi War Memorial Hall and Library to create a weathertight, stable and more sustainable building.

The library closed in mid-June to enable the removal of books and furniture before construction began on Friday 4 July. The beloved community facility will be closed for 12 months while the work takes place.

“This exciting project will ensure the longevity of our much-loved community hall and library, so the people of Titirangi can continue to use and enjoy it for years to come,” says Waitākere Ranges Local Board chair Greg Presland.

“I’d like to thank our library staff for ensuring a smooth and efficient transition. Their efforts will greatly benefit our community during this period.”

From Monday 30 June, a mobile book bus will operate from the library carpark at 500 South Titirangi Road, offering a reduced but essential range of library services. Visitors can pick up holds, return items, and browse a small collection of adult and children’s books, including titles from the popular Bestie collection. Weekly preschool programmes will continue nearby at Titirangi Community House, and a range of adult and children’s events will run from Lopdell Precinct during the closure.

Titirangi Library manager Debra Comber says, “while we’ll certainly miss being in our usual space, we’re excited to continue serving our community through the book bus and offsite programmes. Our team has worked hard to make sure the community can still access great books and services while the building gets the upgrade it deserves.”



▲ Titirangi War Memorial Hall

Ensuing longevity

The refurbishment will resolve weathertightness issues, increase seismic resilience, and increase sustainability. This includes a full re-roof and re-clad of the building, repair work on existing timber joinery and a full replacement of existing aluminium joinery, an upgrade of stormwater drainage, installation of seismic bracing and installation of solar panels.

The mature tree at the front of the hall will also be removed and a replacement tree will be planted.

The seismic strengthening will ensure the building meets the legislative requirements for the potential of future use as a Civil Defence Centre.

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		12,259	12,259	12,989
Targeted rates		98	103	95
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		19	11	11
Fees and charges		116	115	110
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other		477	481	476
Total operating funding		12,970	12,970	13,682
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	10,916	10,593	11,225
Finance costs		1,000	1,000	481
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,369	1,369	1,769
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		13,285	12,962	13,475
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(315)	8	207
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	3,311	2,331	1,978
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		3,311	2,331	1,978
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		353	730	105
- to improve the level of service		994	266	37
- to replace existing assets		1,649	1,343	2,043
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		2,996	2,339	2,184
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		315	(8)	(207)
Funding balance		0	(0)	0

* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. We spent more than planned on staff and supplier payments, mainly because septic tank maintenance was budgeted regionally and actuals spent locally. Offset against this is lower repairs and maintenance of leased buildings and open space, parks, and reserves than planned.
2. We spent more than expected on capital projects and payments to staff and suppliers, which required an increase in borrowings in this local board. These increases have been offset by reductions in other local boards and Group of Activities.
3. Capital spending was higher than planned mainly due to the upgrade of Koroi/Clayburn Reserve delivered ahead of schedule.

► Artist Bree Fraser at the Open Studios Waitākere event



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