

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

AOTEA / GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.2



Mihi

Ko Aotea te moutere rongonui.	Aotea is the renowned island.
Ko Hirakimata te maunga tapu.	Hirakimata is the sacred mountain.
Ko te moana nui a Toi te moana.	The Moana of Toi is the ocean that embraces our island.
Ko te Tuatara, te Mauri, rātou ko te Tukaiaia ngā kaitiaki.	The Tuatara, Mauri, and the Tukaiaia are the guardians.
Ko Aotea te kāinga o ngā uri o Ngāti Rehua.	Aotea is the home for the descendants of Ngāti Rehua.
Anei te whenua e manaakitia tātou. E whakapiritia tātou. E whakaoratia tātou.	Here is the land that protects us, brings us together, keeps us alive.
Te waahi o ngā taonga maha, ngā taonga tapu, ngā taonga matahiapo.	A place of many treasures, sacred treasures, precious treasures.
Na ngā whetū e kanapu ki te rangi ki ngā aitenga a puna e kōhimuhimu ana ki ngā ngahere.	From the stars shining bright in the sky to the insects that whisper in the forest.
Ko Aotea te taonga motuhake o te moana nui a Toi.	Aotea is the prize of the moana of Toi.
Ko Aotea toku tūrangawaewae.	Aotea is my standing place.

Ngāti Rehua –
Ngāti Wai ki Aotea Trust Board 2023

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 Aotea / Great Barrier 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 Aotea / Great Barrier 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**.

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▼ Hautapu ceremony



He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

Year two of our three-year Local Board Plan 2023 saw a continued focus on our community, environment and places.

We funded Aotea Family Support Group to deliver welfare to our youth, elderly and those in need; Aotea Education Trust to deliver education to our under 5s and rangatahi, and Anamata to deliver food resilience, our community garden and local waste solutions.

We supported local groups in Oruawharo Medlands, Okiwi and Okupu to undertake critical planting, trapping and surveying work to protect our island's biodiversity.

We delivered core community services such as track maintenance and our local library, along with upgrades of parks and playgrounds (including the Claris walkway project and the Medlands playground renewal).

We supported community-owned facilities with asset upgrades through the board's capital grant fund, including the Port Fitzroy wharf upgrade, construction of a native plant nursery, solar panels at Glenfern Sanctuary, the painting of St John's Community Church and the recladding of the Schoolmaster's House at the gallery.

We worked alongside mana whenua to protect our marine waters with surveillance for exotic Caulerpa and supported community-led Ahu Moana marine restoration projects at Katherine and Schooner bays.

We will continue focusing on resilience and wellbeing in the new financial year, supporting mana whenua and our community groups to deliver outstanding services and projects for Aotea.

Stay safe and take care.



Izzy Fordham
Chairperson,
Aotea / Great Barrier
Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Aotea / Great Barrier

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board



▲
(L to R) Patrick O'Shea,
Neil Sanderson, Izzy Fordham
(Chairperson), Chris Ollivier
(Deputy Chairperson).

Contact us



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Aotea / Great Barrier projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

 Current projects

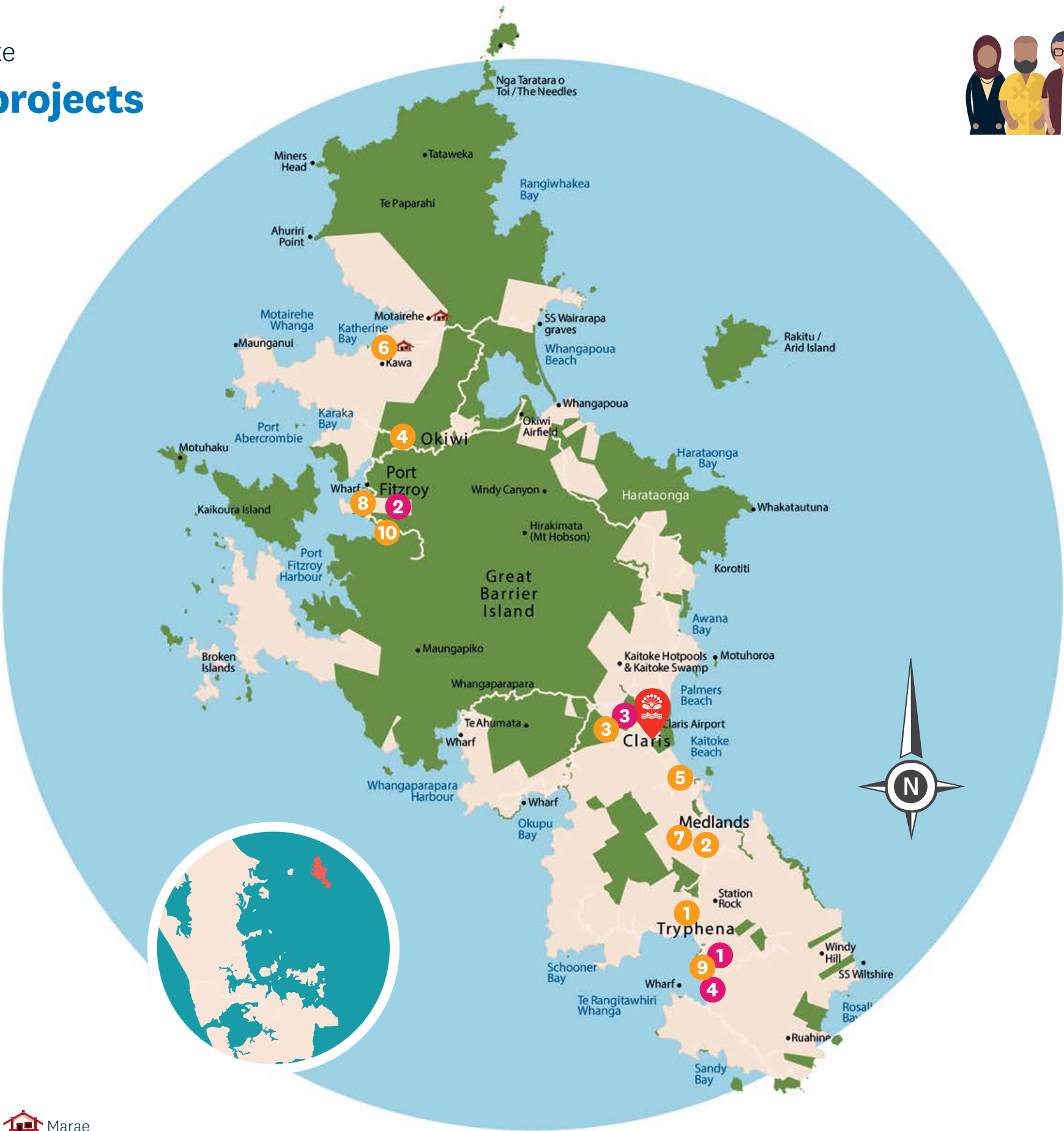
- 1 Mulberry Grove seawall renewal
- 2 Welcome signage renewals
- 3 Airport to Claris Village - renew pathway
- 4 Aotea Great Barrier - design and install pou

 Significant local grants funded projects

- 1 Grant for Aotea Family Support Group
- 2 Grant for food resilience and sustainability projects
- 3 Grant for construction waste leadership project at Anamata
- 4 Grant for Okiwi ecology programme
- 5 Grant for Aotea Learning Hub and Early Learning Centre
- 6 Grant funding for new oven at Kawa Marae
- 7 Grant funding for construction of a native plant nursery at Motu Nursery
- 8 Grant funding for engineering review and supports for Port Fitzroy Wharf
- 9 Grant funding for a reversible basketball/netball hoop at Mulberry Grove School
- 10 Grant funding for Aotea Caulerpa Response Team administration

Map legend

-  Local board office
-  Department of Conservation land
-  Marae



1,251 permanent residents

51% of residents are aged 50 years and older



Over 60% of the island is Department of Conservation estate; 43% of which is the Aotea Conservation Park



One of 23 places in the world to be designated an International Dark-Sky Sanctuary; one of three sanctuaries in Aotearoa

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 provided grants to our health, welfare, arts, education, housing and sustainability organisations to deliver community services. We supported our community through arts and culture, library, parks, sport and recreation, waste solutions and events delivered through a mix of council services, mana whenua, community groups and volunteers. We improved island food resilience by supporting the food resilience coordinator and community garden manager. We maintained and upgraded our parks and facility assets, and provided capital grants to community groups to maintain their assets.

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

The number of visits to library facilities*	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	10,900	10,881
	2024	13,000	10,150

Visitor numbers at the Great Barrier Library can vary due to the board’s small population, but strong results in July and January lifted overall performance. Targeted summer initiatives helped boost community engagement and contributed to the increase.

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community ^{1*}	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	100%	100.0%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Great Barrier Library remained fully operational throughout the year with no service disruptions, ensuring continuous access for the community.

*The Great Barrier Service Centre and Library are one multi use facility.

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition ²	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	88%	94.3%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance capacity and capability	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	12	14
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of partner organisations and groups funded to deliver placemaking activities	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	15	10
	2024	New measure	New measure

The target was established under a different understanding of the measure, and the result aligns with usual delivery outcomes. It will be adjusted accordingly for the next reporting period.

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%	100%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Results stem from strong collaborative relationships between our managers and contractors. Regular communication and established partnerships provide constant visibility over performance, enabling early identification of potential issues before they impact service delivery or become audit findings. When challenges arise, existing relationships facilitate quick, collaborative problem-solving, ensuring consistent audit outcomes.

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition ²	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	97%	91.3%
	2024	New measure	New measure

8 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 0.56 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a significant proportion of land fixture assets have deteriorated from average to poor or very poor condition. These assets will form part of 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 environmental management

We supported healthy ecosystems and sustainability through board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, and waste minimisation projects. We funded community-led environmental groups including Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision, Ecology Vision and the Okiwi ecology programme. We supported community-led marine protection initiatives including Ahu Moana and the exotic Caulerpa response.

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

Number of community events around natural environment enhancement	●●●● Target		Result
	2025	21	41
	2024	New measure	New measure

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

Number of community groups supported to undertake waste initiatives

The target was established under a different understanding of the measure, and the result aligns with usual delivery outcomes. It will be adjusted accordingly for the next reporting period.

	Target	Result
2025	5	1
2024	New measure	New measure

Local governance

Activities in this group supported the board to engage with and represent their communities and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, developing 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

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	5
2024	New measure	New measure



▲ Basketball halfcourt, Medlands Playground Reserve



▲ Okiwi students working on nest boxes

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Seeing green – kākārīki conservation in Okiwi

A number of threatened species of native birds call Aotea home, including the red crowned kākārīki or New Zealand parakeet. The Okiwi Community Ecology Project helps protect these species through planting and pest trapping initiatives.

Project coordinators work with locals including Te Kura O Okiwi / Okiwi School students to create a haven for our native green parakeets in and around Okiwi Park. This mahi has been going on for more than eight years, with funding support from the local board.

“The kids from the kura have taken on the role of looking after the park. With trapping as well as with seed collection,” says Thomas Daly, a local involved with the project.

“The kids go foraging for seeds from the park and bring them back to the school’s nursery to raise them. Part of the process is that the kids eventually put them back into the park through our planting programmes.”

The park has a unique approach to restorative planting. Rather than using sprays to remove weeds, the community has come up with an alternative solution. Sections of the grass area are targeted at a time, smothering the weeds with plastic before removing any remaining pest plants. After this preparation, Okiwi students plant their carefully raised seedlings among special weed matting which stunts the return of pest plants.

“We’ve now got these areas that were planted a few years ago which are beautiful and really lush and thick. Some of the kids that planted these sections can see that the plants have reached three times their height now!” says Thomas.

The plants provide a safe habitat and food for the kākārīki. Students have also made and decorated nesting boxes for them, designed so that rats are unable to gain access.

In addition, Thomas says the tamariki are assigned rat traps and check them regularly. The project has been involved with trials of AT220 traps – automatic self-resetting rat traps. The traps proved effective with a single trap once catching seven rats in one night.

The plan is to introduce more of these traps in and around the Okiwi Park alongside the regular traps that are already there.

Locals also trap on their own properties as part of the project to help decrease predator numbers in the valley.

This collaborative community effort has been rewarded with red crowned kākārīki coming back to breed in Okiwi year after year, along with a healthy kākā population and increased sightings of korimako / bellbirds.

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		3,002	3,002	2,818
Targeted rates		0	0	0
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		0	0	0
Fees and charges		0	0	0
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		2	2	2
Total operating funding		3,004	3,003	2,820
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	2,473	2,399	2,360
Finance costs		288	288	101
Internal charges and overheads applied		316	316	359
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		3,077	3,003	2,820
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(73)	1	(1)
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	735	399	291
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		735	399	291
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		14	3	54
- to improve the level of service		344	234	26
- to replace existing assets		304	164	210
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		662	400	290
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		73	(1)	1
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. The overspend is due to timing and coding differences following the 2024 council restructure. Supporting role costs were coded to the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board while the budget was recorded elsewhere. At the overall local board level, staffing costs remained within budget, and there are no ongoing implications.
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. We spent more than planned on capital projects because we fast-tracked the new concrete pathway between Great Barrier Aerodrome and Claris Village. The upgrade was seen as a priority and was finished in June 2025, creating a 1.8-metre-wide path to improve safety and access.

► Pāteke (Brown Teal)



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