

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Howick Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

HOWICK LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.7

Mihi

Tēnā kia hoea e au taku waka mā ngā tai mihi o ata
e uru ake ai au mā te awa o Tāmaki
ki te ūnga o Tainui waka i Ōtāhuhu.
I reira ka tōia aku mihi
ki te uru ki te Pūkaki Tapu o Poutūkeka,
i reira ko te Pā i Māngere.
E hoe aku mihi mā te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa
ki te kūrae o Te Kūiti o Āwhitu.
I konā, ka rere taku haere mā te ākau
ki te pūaha o Waikato, te awa tukukiri o ngā tūpuna,
Waikato Taniwha Rau, he piko he taniwha.
Ka hīkoi anō aku mihi mā te taha whakararo
mā Maioro ki Waiuku ki Mātukutūreia,
kei konā, ko ngā Pā o Tāhuna me Reretewhioi.
Ka aro whakarunga au kia tau atu ki Pukekohe.
Ka tahuri te haere a taku reo ki te ao o te tonga
e whāriki atu rā mā runga i ngā hiwi,
kia taka atu au ki Te Paina,
ki te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.
Mātika tonu aku mihi ki a koe Kaiaua
te whākana atu rā ō whatu mā Tīkapa Moana
ki te maunga tapu o Moehau.
Ka kauhoetia e aku kōrero te moana ki Maraetai
kia hoki ake au ki uta ki Ōhūiarangi,
heteri mō Pakuranga.
I reira ka hoki whakaroto ake anō au
i te awa o Tāmaki
mā te taha whakarunga ki te Puke o Taramainuku,
kei konā ko Ōtara.
Kātahi au ka toro atu ki te Manurewa a Tamapohore,
kia whakatau aku mihi mutunga
ki runga o Pukekiwiriki
kei raro ko Papakura – ki konā au ka whakatau.

Let this vessel that carries my greetings
travel by way of the Tāmaki River
to the landing place of Tainui canoe at Ōtāhuhu.
There, let my salutations be borne across the
isthmus to the Pūkaki lagoon
and the community of Māngere.
Paddling the Manukau Harbour
we follow the Āwhitu Peninsula to the headland.
From there we fly down the coast
to the Waikato river mouth,
sacred waters of our forebears.
Coming ashore on the northern side
at Maioro we head inland to Waiuku and Mātukutūreia,
there too is the Pā at Tāhuna and Reretewhioi.
Heading southward I come to Pukekohe.
My words turn to follow
the ancient ridgelines along the southern boundary,
dropping down into Mercer
and Te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.
My greetings reach you at Kaiaua
who gazes across Tīkapa Moana
to the sacred mountain, Moehau.
Taking to the sea, my remarks travel to Maraetai
and then to Ōhūiarangi,
sentinel to Pakuranga.
There we follow again
the Tāmaki River
to Te Puke o Taramainuku,
Ōtara resides there.
From here I reach for Manurewa
until my greetings come to rest
on Pukekiwiriki
below lies Papakura – and there I rest.

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 Howick 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 Howick 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**.

▼ Mission Heights Reserve playground



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He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

Tēnā koutou,

As we close out the first year of the new Howick Local Board Plan 2023, we're pleased to report good progress.

Our ongoing support for UXBRIDGE and Howick Historical Village has enabled them to build on their continued successes with increased visitors and programming. Together with our Arts Out East brokering programme, we're enabling more arts and culture opportunities.

Our environmental action continues to deliver amazing results. Pest Free Howick's Moth Plant Competition once again broke records with approximately six billion seeds removed. While our industrial pollution prevention programme will pause for a year while we assess its impact, our construction waste education and enforcement programme continues, supported by innovation to prevent illegal dumping. Meanwhile, our support for EnviroSchools continues to empower students and develop the next generation of leaders.

With nearly a third of our population under the age of 25, we're investing more to support our tamariki (children) and rangatahi (youth). Our decision to keep the Early Childhood Education Centre at Howick Leisure Centre has enabled us to reinvest into Te Taiwhanga Taiohi East Auckland Youth Space. Opened in April 2024, the dedicated youth space has exceeded expectations with over 23,000 visits in its first year. Together with our ongoing support for the Howick Youth Council, we remain committed to empowering youth and responding to their needs.

Moving into next year, we remain focused on addressing service gaps, particularly for Flat Bush. We're pleased to have secured funding for the long-awaited Flat Bush Community Centre and Library, and Pool and Leisure Centre. In the meantime, we've funded a temporary library within the Ormiston town centre that will provide space for our communities to connect and grow.

Delivering more with less has taken focus, discipline, and lots of hard work. I'm pleased to report that staff and members have risen to the challenge and our community will benefit from the combined efforts of many. Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini – our strength is not made from us alone but made from many.



Damian Light
Chairperson,
Howick Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Howick

Howick Local Board



▲
(L to R) Bruce Kendall, Peter Young, Mike Turinsky, Adele White, Bo Burns (Deputy Chairperson), Damian Light (Chairperson), John Spiller, Katrina Bungard and David Collings.

Contact us



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Howick projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

Delivered projects

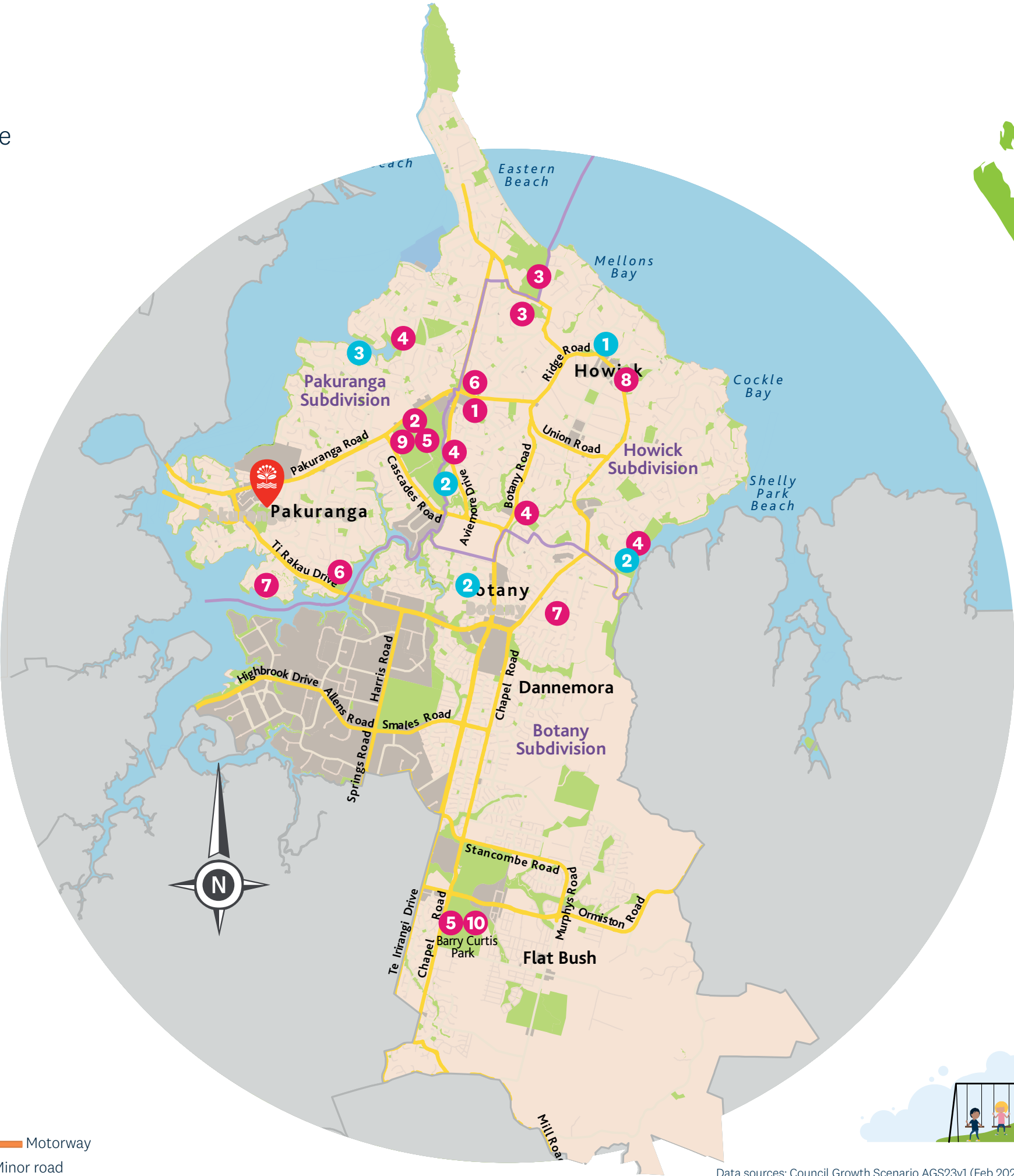
- 1 Crawford Reserve - remediate slope movement
- 2 Howick - remediate storm and cyclone damaged assets - tracks at Bard Place Reserve, Mangemangeroa Reserve, slips at Aivemore Drive
- 3 Bramley Drive reserve playspace

Current projects

- 1 Highland Park Library - comprehensive renewal
- 2 Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool - renewal
- 3 Howick - renew walkways and pathways
- 4 Howick - renew walkways and pathways - Mangemangeroa Reserve, Prince Regent Drive, Cascades Walkway
- 5 Howick - install shade provision - Lloyd Elsmore Park, Barry Curtis Park
- 6 Howick - install drinking fountains - Riverhills Park, William Green Domain
- 7 Howick - renew play space Annalong Park, Raweynn Place Reserve
- 8 Howick Library - comprehensive renewal
- 9 Lloyd Elsmore Park - renew skate park
- 10 Barry Curtis Park - renew play facilities

Map legend

- Local board office
- Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- Motorway
- Major road
- Arterial road
- Medium road
- Minor road



We have a population of **153,570** or **9%** of Auckland's total population



We are home to **266** local parks, **14** sports parks, **4** libraries, **4** recreation centres, **7** community halls and houses



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 strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered by a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers. We empowered community groups to deliver local initiatives through contestable grants, partnerships and collaboration.

We continued supporting Te Taiwhanga Taiohi – East Auckland Youth Space, delivering youth-focused programmes shaped by the needs of local young people.

Ongoing renewal and maintenance of assets including playgrounds, pathways and toilet block refurbishment remained a key focus.

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

The number of visits to library facilities

	Target	Result
2025	823,000	860,105
2024	837,200	883,418

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community¹

	Target	Result
2025	100%	99.9%
2024	New measure	New measure

Number of visits to Pool and Leisure Centres

	Target	Result
2025	923,000	954,437
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of time main Pool and Leisure Centre services are accessible to the community¹

	Target	Result
2025	95%	99.9%
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²

	Target	Result
2025	82%	91.5%
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	4	11
2024	New measure	New measure

Stockade Hill Lights event did not proceed on the night due to weather conditions. Botany Community Day and Koanga Spring Festival were not delivered, as the organisers did not access the available funding during the year.

Number of activities and events delivered which support local communities to be physically active

	Target	Result
2025	75	72
2024	New measure	New measure

Board direction and feedback on the final activities schedule resulted in slightly fewer activities being delivered but within the allocated budget.

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	15	21
2024	New measure	New measure

Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.

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

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards³

	Target	Result
2025	90%	97.5%
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²

	Target	Result
2025	94%	85.1%
2024	New measure	New measure

12.7 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 2 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 partnered with businesses and community associations to support Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), heritage plans and initiatives.

We are also supporting the Howick BID in exploring expansion of their BID area to include more commercial and business properties.

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%

All business associations in the Howick Local Board complied with the BID policy.

Local environmental management

We supported healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects. We continued to support the Howick Stream improvement Programme, Pest-Free Howick and local volunteer environmental initiatives through the ecological and environmental programme.

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

Number of events in stream enhancement programmes	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	9	29
	2024	New measure	New measure

Weather conditions from the previous year were considered when setting targets, however the better weather conditions this year allowed us to exceed the target.

Round of pest control carried out in key areas

Funding enabled Ngāi Tai to increase pest animal control from three to four rounds at Te Naupata / Music Point and Mangemangeroa Reserve. Additional engagement enabled Pest Free Howick Ward to run more rounds of pest plant control at Te Naupata and Sancta Maria.	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	9	23
	2024	New measure	New measure

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	13
	2024	New measure	New measure



Spices workshop with Anju Desai at Celebrating Cultures Pop-up 2025, Ormiston Town Centre.



▲ Celebrating Cultures Pop-up



▲ Community Carnival and River Festival.

▼ Our Lady Star of the Sea garden (enviroschool tour visit 2025)



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Exploring local Howick Enviroschools

Howick Local Board members recently visited four local Enviroschools to see how students and staff are leading the way in sustainability.

The visits gave board members a firsthand look at the creative, hands-on initiatives supported by the Enviroschools programme - a nationwide initiative that empowers tamariki (children) and rangatahi (youth) to take action for a sustainable future.

The Howick Local Board provided \$36,000 in funding for the Enviroschools programme in 2024/2025, supporting environmental education and sustainability initiatives. This commitment will increase to \$38,000 in 2025/2026, reflecting the board's continued support for youth-led environmental action.

The board toured Pakuranga Baptist Enviro-Kindergarten, Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Mission Heights Junior College, and Mission Heights Primary. They were joined by new Enviroschools principals and teachers, alongside the Sustainable Schools team.

At Pakuranga Baptist Enviro-Kindergarten, children are actively learning to care for Papatūānuku (earth) through activities like composting, 3D mapping, bee watering stations, and planting trips to Ohuiārangi / Pigeon Mountain. This immersive, real-world learning is exactly what the Enviroschools kaupapa aims to deliver.

“These visits show the long-term impact of

Howick Local Board's support,” says Sustainable Schools Advisor Cate Jessep. “We're seeing over 1,000 students engaged in the Pest Free Howick programme, 40 schools reducing waste by up to 74 per cent, and a growing number of schools running initiatives like Garden to Table, carbon footprint tracking, and the Moth Plant competition. Four new schools joined this year, bringing the total to 33 of 44 schools in the area.”

Enviroschools is a key part of the board's Tō Tātou Taiao/Our Environment commitment, which also includes native planting for birds, iwi-led restoration of Te Naupata / Musick Point, and education-focused programmes across the region.

The board's investment is helping to grow a generation of environmentally conscious leaders, many of whom go on to champion sustainability in their careers and communities.

Enviroschools, supported by Toimata Foundation and regional partners, encourages students to explore, design, and take action in their local environments. In Auckland, 343 centres and schools are on this journey, contributing to healthier ecosystems, reduced waste, stronger community connections, and vibrant learning environments.

► Mission Heights Primary teachers leading sustainability with their enviroschool students (enviroschool tour visit 2025)



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		31,694	31,694	30,850
Targeted rates		765	802	489
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		228	131	772
Fees and charges		3,852	4,154	3,765
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		782	655	719
Total operating funding		37,320	37,436	36,595
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	31,486	28,824	28,382
Finance costs		4,055	4,055	2,544
Internal charges and overheads applied		4,030	4,030	4,794
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		39,570	36,909	35,720
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(2,250)	527	875
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	9,366	7,230	2,768
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		9,366	7,230	2,768
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		85	246	343
- to improve the level of service		2,158	830	61
- to replace existing assets		4,873	6,681	3,239
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		7,116	7,757	3,643
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		2,250	(527)	(875)
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 expected on staff and utilities. This was mainly because of wage increases to support the living wage and higher costs for things like electricity, gas, and water due to rising market prices. One of the affected sites was Lloyd Elsmore Pool and Leisure Centre operated by the council.
2. Although we spent less than planned on some capital projects, the over-spend on staff and suppliers was higher, which required an increase in borrowings. These increases to staff and suppliers and borrowings have been offset by reductions in other local boards and Group of Activities.
3. We spent less than planned on some major projects because they depend on detailed planning and approvals. For example, replacing the play equipment at Barry Curtis Park has taken longer due to consent and community consultation, and is now expected to finish in 2025/2026. Work on renewing the Lloyd Elsmore skate park started in June 2025 and will continue through to 2026/2027. Upgrades to sports fields, lighting, and turf are also underway and will extend into 2026/2027.

► Murphys bush, Flat Bush.



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ISSN 2624-1935 (Print)
ISSN 2624-1943 (PDF)