Summary Annual Report 2024/25

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
New Plymouth District Council

Welcome to NPDC's Summary Annual Report for 2024/25

Naumai ki te whakarāpopototanga o te Pūrongo ā-tau o NPDC mō 2024/25

This summary provides a snapshot of our activities from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

For a comprehensive overview - including NPDC's financial performance - please refer to the full Annual Report. Copies of the full report are available on request, or read it online at npdc.govt.nz.

The information in this summary is taken from the audited Annual Report 2024/25 which was adopted by the Council on 10 October 2025.

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Mayor's Message

Te Karere ā te Māngai ā-Kaunihera

This year has brought continued change and challenges, with inflation and rising costs significantly impacting our organisation, local economy, and community.

Like councils across the country, we're navigating the difficult balance between managing a cost-of-living crisis and keeping rates reasonable, while also fulfilling our responsibility to maintain essential infrastructure for current and future generations. This includes roads, water, wastewater systems, and community facilities—many of which have suffered from years of underinvestment.

These efforts have been further complicated by reduced government subsidies for key transport projects, policy changes, rising insurance and interest costs, and declining revenue—all of which have increased financial pressure.

Despite these challenges, we have worked hard to reduce costs, including committing the organisation to $10 million in operational savings each year, which was achieved in 2024/2025. Even so, it resulted in an average residential rate increase of 11.3%[1] - a tough ask for ratepayers but necessary to maintain momentum on critical infrastructure improvements.

Our AA credit rating from S&P Global reflects our strong financial management. This is supported by our Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF), which surpassed $400 million during this period and contributed around $12 million to offset rates and directing $250,000 to the new Sustainable Lifestyle Capital Reserve.

We've made solid progress on some of our big calls in the first year of the plan including Tūparikino Community Active Hub which is underway, with the removal of the Taranaki Racing public stand; we adopted our first Environmental Sustainability Policy and added 1.9 hectares of new native plants to our Planting our Place programme. We've also continued to future-proof vital infrastructure including rebuilding a section of Tarata Road at Purangi Saddle and starting the final stage of a major upgrade to Urenui's water pipes, reducing water loss from leaks significantly compared to previous years.

One milestone is the agreement with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to coordinate works in Bell Block - one of our fastest-growing areas. NZTA is constructing a dual-lane roundabout at the intersection of SH3 and De Havilland Drive, connecting to a realigned Airport Drive. On our behalf, it will also build a roundabout on Airport Drive to eventually link with Parklands Road, which NPDC plans to extend. Coordinating these projects ensures efficient delivery and better value for ratepayers.

Partnership has also been critical in completing stage one of the impressive Destination Kāwaroa playground, a project led by the Taranaki Foundation in partnership with NPDC, Ngāti Te Whiti hapū and NP Partners.

Setting our district up for the future isn't just about better roads and water pipes—it's also about building thriving, healthy communities. I'm proud of the work we've done this year to support some of our most vulnerable residents. When homelessness became more visible in our city centre, with an increasing number of people sleeping rough, businesses and residents looked to us for a solution. In response, we committed $800,000 over three years to YMCA Taranaki to operate a nighttime homeless shelter while we continue to advocate to central government. This was the right thing to do and sent a clear message - we care.

Many challenges lie ahead as we continue our journey toward the vision of a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital—a goal that becomes even more critical as the region's oil and gas supplies dwindle.

Navigating central government influence on what is considered core council business, how we manage water services, and planning rules will be key. But I'm confident that this Council has the building blocks in place to do what's best for our residents.

As we look back on a year marked by both challenge and progress, it's clear that our district is moving forward with purpose and resilience.

With the foundations in place and a clear vision for a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital, we are well-positioned to meet the needs of today while preparing for the opportunities of tomorrow.

Neil Holdom, Mayor

[1] The average residential rate increase is the percentage change in Council rates for a property with the median (middle) residential land value. It shows how much a typical homeowner's rates go up compared to the previous year.

Chief Executive's Message

Karere ā te Tumu Whakarae

This year marked a period of consolidation, laying the groundwork for a leaner, more efficient organisation focused on delivering value for money and building a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital.

Following a major organisational restructure, we achieved our ambitious $10 million savings target - a pleasing result amid ongoing economic challenges for both our community and Council.

Change can be challenging and disruptive, but our team rose to the challenge. Of 112 non-financial performance measures, 90 were met, and three narrowly missed their targets. Where performance fell short, contributing factors included venue booking cancellations, a surge in resource consent applications ahead of development contribution changes resulting in a backlog, as well as temporary facility closures for upgrades.

Despite these challenges, satisfaction with core services - water supply, stormwater, sewage, kerbside rubbish collection, parks, and overall quality of life - remained high, as reflected in our annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

We acknowledge that some decisions this year were unpopular, and our community voiced their concerns loud and clear. The ongoing challenge for us is balancing investment in critical infrastructure and planning for growth, while keeping rates affordable for residents already facing financial pressures.

We continued to strengthen our capital works programme, delivering $114.2 million in assets in 2024/25 - 94% of the planned $121.7 million. Our capital delivery comprises $108.9 million of new assets through our renewal and capital works programme, and $5.3 million on behalf of partnering agency NZTA. This reflects our commitment to improving project planning, procurement, and execution.

Water was a key focus this year. By July, 85% of water meters were installed, helping detect 203 leaks and saving just over two million litres of water a day. This sets the stage for mock billing in 2026, following Council's decision to introduce volumetric charging after receiving over 1,000 public submissions on the issue.

We also consulted on future water and wastewater service delivery, working with neighbouring councils under the Government's Local Water Done Well policy. Planning is underway to transition these services to a NPDC Council Controlled Organisation.

We continue to strengthen relationships with Māori, ensuring kaitiakitanga and meaningful participation in placemaking and decision-making.

A highlight was Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga 2025, hosted at the Bowl of Brooklands. The five-day kapa haka festival drew thousands, contributed $24 million to the regional economy, and showcased our district on the global stage.

Other key milestones this year include:

- Rolling out 100 new parking meters ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Reopening Downtown carpark.
- Beginning the green transformation of New Plymouth's city centre, starting with the removal of ageing alder trees on Devon Street.
- Launching the Antenno app in December, with 5,200 downloads enabling residents to report issues and receive targeted updates.
- Supporting the Rohutu Block Trustees in the removal of five properties at extreme risk from coastal erosion in Waitara.
- Completing the Kurapete Windsor Walkway extension in Inglewood and began a new coastal walkway and bridge in Ōakura, protecting the historic Hauranga Pā site.

As we reflect on a year of consolidation, resilience, and progress, we remain committed to delivering high-quality services, strengthening community partnerships, and investing in the future of our district.

While challenges remain, we are focused on continuous improvement and transparent decision-making.

Gareth Green, Chief Executive

Highlights during the year

Ngā whakamiramira o te tau

Throughout the year, NPDC has delivered a wide range of impactful projects and initiatives. Below is a spotlight on some of the highlights from our work programme.

Te Pae o te Rangi – Coastal Walkway Extension

A significant milestone was marked on 5 July 2024 with the planting of a tree to celebrate progress on the Coastal Walkway extension from Waitara to Mangati/Bell Block and the redevelopment of Otupaiia Marine Park. The dawn ceremony at Otupaiia in Waitara was hosted by Manukorihi, Otaraua, Pukerangiora and Puketapu hapū

Co-designed by NPDC and ngā hapū, with support from Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust, Stage 1A at Otupaiia Marine Park was completed in January 2025. This stage includes several new pathways connecting to the Waitara Historic Walkway, a beachfront boardwalk, and routes through the park.

In November 2024, four pou (pillars) were installed at the New Plymouth Airport mātairangi (lookout) as part of the walkway extension. The next phase will see a raised platform built between the pou, offering panoramic views from the mountain to the coast.

New wash presses at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant (NPWWTP)

Another efficiency upgrade, this time at the NPWWTP in Waiwhakaiho, saw two existing wash presses replaced with larger models. These presses play a key role in the treatment process by removing everything larger than 5mm (e.g. rags, wetwipes, tampons, false teeth) before the wastewater reaches the large bioreactor bins.

As well improving the plant's efficiency, the bigger presses also reduce a health a safety issue for staff around keeping the work area clean and sanitary.

New thermal dryer facility takes shape

Construction of a new thermal dryer at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant is progressing well, with storage silos in place and the building that houses it all but finished.

The new thermal dryer is a key part of our district's wastewater treatment plant. We're the only council in New Zealand that dries and sells by-product from treating wastewater as a fertiliser, which avoids the cost and environmental issues of disposing of excess sludge in a landfill.

Major milestone for Tūparikino Active Community Hub

Development of the Tūparikino Active Community Hub entered a new stage in March 2025 when demolition of the public stand at the New Plymouth Raceway beginning.

The removal of the stand will open the way for the construction of a six-court indoor stadium - the first stage of the project to enhance sport and recreation opportunities for the region.

The aim is to recycle 99 per cent of building materials from the stand, including crushing and reusing most of the concrete as fill material in the new car park and re-purposing the seating into mobile container grandstands.

Aquatic Venues upgrades

Todd Energy Aquatic Centre

The 20-year-old indoor pool ventilation system was replaced with a modern, energy-efficient system, improving air quality and comfort for users.

Community Pools' Accessibility Upgrades

Ōkato Pool received a major accessibility upgrade, including a new unisex, fully accessible toilet block with spacious cubicles that double as changing rooms. Future improvements will include a redesigned entrance to further enhance accessibility.

Lighting Up Summer and Winter

The value of big events to the region has been reinforced with NPDC's TSB Festival of Lights and concerts at Bowl of Brooklands this summer with visitors spending $21.2m and injecting $10.9m of GDP into the Taranaki economy.

Pukekura Park and the Bowl were filled with more than 170,300 excited locals and visitors making the most of the five-week free lights festival kicking off on 21 December 2024 and two major concerts, Rock the Bowl, and L.A.B, Stan Walker and Friends through the summer.

The TSB Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up over Matariki weekend 19 to 22 June 2025 brought a dazzling dose of colour, creativity and community spirit to the heart of New Plymouth.

Antenno App launch

In December 2024, NPDC launched the free Antenno app, giving residents real-time updates on council news, services, events, and activities. The app also allows users to report issues directly to NPDC. By the end of June, there had been 5,200 downloads of the app.

New bus shelters across the district

NPDC is rolling out 14 new bus shelters across the district, costing ratepayers nothing but providing savings by generating revenue.

As well as sheltering commuters from the elements, they include seating, light, space for mobility devices and digital or static advertising screens, with a portion of the income coming to NPDC

So far six bus shelters have been installed – Tukapa Street, Westown; 331 and 537 Devon Street East; Parklands Avenue and Bell Block Court, Bell Block; and Mangorei Road.

Kurapete Windsor Walkway - Inglewood

In October 2024, the upgraded Kurapete Windsor Walkway in Inglewood was officially opened.

The $1.5m project replaced 3.7km of loose metal and grass berm with concrete, completing a 5.3km loop.

New features include seating and drinking fountains, enhancing the experience for walkers and cyclists.

New mixer installed at New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant (NPWTP)

A new mixer was installed in the inlet tank at the NPWTP, making the mixing incoming raw water more effective and efficient – an important part of the treatment process that removes the taste and odour from the water supply. A new access platform and crane were also added, making maintenance easier and safer.

Te Ara Tahuri Hau Walkway and Whenu Ariki Bridge

A new walkway and bridge near Ōākura were opened to protect the historic Hauranga Pā site. The project, led by NPDC in collaboration with mana whenua and the Kaitake Community Board, includes:

- Te Ara Tahuri Hau (Pathway of Wind Changes).
- A rock revetment to protect the wāhi tapu site, which also enables access around the headland at high tide.
- A new footbridge over the Whenu Ariki Stream, replacing the one destroyed by Cyclone Dovi in 2022.

The $2m project received $440,000 in funding from NZ Transport Agency.

Delivering on our district's priorities

Te tutukinga ā ngā kaupapa matua ā rohe

The Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP 2024) identified the key challenges and opportunities shaping our district's future. In 2024/25, we made significant progress in addressing these priorities, particularly in the areas of growth, planning, infrastructure, and water reform.

Responding to growth

Responding to growth – "To support our growing population, we invested in essential infrastructure, delivering the full $16.2m of growth-related capital expenditure planned in the LTP 2024. This investment ensures our district remains well equipped to meet future demand.

Planning for the Future

We are nearing the conclusion of the appeals process for the Proposed District Plan (Decisions Version released 13 May 2023). The few remaining appeals are site-specific. The Plan is expected to become Part Operative in August 2025, streamlining the resource consenting process and reducing costs and complexity for applicants.

Improving Capital Delivery

We continue to strengthen the delivery of our capital works programme. In 2024/25, we delivered $114.2m - 94% of the planned $121.7m. Our capital delivery comprised of $108.9m of new assets through our renewal and capital works programme, and $5.3m on behalf of partnering agency NZTA. This reflects our commitment to improving project planning, procurement, and execution.

Progress on the Three Big Calls from LTP 2024

Below, we outline our progress on the three major priorities - or 'Big Calls' - identified in the LTP 2024, along with updates on other key issues.

Big Call 1 Future proofing our district

Investing more in looking after our existing infrastructure

Transportation

In the LTP 2024, $248m was allocated for transportation renewals, pending confirmation of NZTA funding and subsequent finalisation of the delivery programme. This represents a significant increase from the $155m allocated in the Long-Term Plan 2021–2031, with the bulk of the uplift scheduled to begin in year four (2027/28). However, due to reductions in NZTA funding, renewal budgets for 2024/25 were constrained. Throughout the year, we focused on improving contract processes and procedures to ensure readiness for the planned increase in renewal activity.

In 2024/25, we invested $11.5m in renewals. This included the resealing of 47 kilometres of road - approximately 4.1% of our 1,136 kilometre network. Routine maintenance and renewal activities continued across surface repairs, kerb and channel, footpaths, drainage, structures, and vegetation control.

Three Waters

Over the 10 years of the LTP 2024, $289m was allocated for the renewal of stormwater, wastewater, and water services. In the past year, $15.8m was invested in these renewals. This included $5.61m in renewing 5.4 kilometres of water pipes, an additional $4.54m to renew 1.9 kilometres of sewer pipes and $400,000 for stormwater pipe upgrades.

To support proactive maintenance, we carried out 4,400 metres of CCTV inspections across the stormwater network, which led to the lining of 178 metres of pipe to prevent further degradation. In the wastewater network, 1,218 metres of CCTV inspections were completed. We also advanced design work for a range of water, stormwater, and sewer replacements across the district, ensuring a pipeline of shovel-ready projects for delivery in 2025/26.

Boosting the Disaster Recovery Reserve

Council reviewed and adopted the Disaster Recovery Reserve Policy on 5 November 2024 , agreeing the policy intent be expanded to pay for self-insurance, partly insured assets and deductibles against claims. More recently it was agreed that any remaining premium savings gained through the 2025/26 renewal activities be redirected to the Reserve to bolster the fund.

Big Call 2
Sustainability

Climate Action Framework

Climate change planning

We adopted our first Environmental Sustainability Policy.

We initiated the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2024/25, including a community risk assessment and survey. The Plan is on track to be adopted in 2025/26.

We initiated LTP projects to fuel switch gas systems to low or no emission alternatives, and have begun identifying further fuel switching projects. We also secured new electricity contracts that will use 100 per cent renewable energy for three years from late 2025, and investigated potential sites for solar panels on our buildings. These will form part of a revised Emissions Reduction Plan in 2025/26.

We also drafted our first climate-related disclosures for the 2024/25 financial year. A summary of that disclosure is included in this Annual Report. We identified, from that disclosure, a range of new actions to undertake in the future to improve our climate change response.

Rohutu Block managed retreat support

With ongoing coastal erosion at the Rohutu Block in Waitara we have supported the Rohutu Block Trustees by undertaking the demolishment of five of the six houses at extreme risk in 2024/25.

Sustainability Accelerator Fund

We developed a prioritisation framework for the new Sustainability Accelerator Fund. We identified energy efficiency and electrification as our 2024/25 priority, with funding including solar panels at the TSB Showplace and LED lights for Waitara Library, New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Planting our Place

We transitioned Planting Our Place from project to programme - reflecting Council's ongoing commitment to addressing climate change, increasing indigenous biodiversity cover and supporting community engagement initiatives.

Five native plantings totalling 1.9 hectares (4.69 acres) were carried out within Council administered reserves - bringing the programme total up to 11.8 hectares (29 acres) of new carbon-sequestering forest and wetland planting to date.

We funded two community planting projects through Te Korowai o Tane grants, and supported others in preparation for applications in the year ahead.

Alongside hapū, we engaged with numerous schools, agencies, clubs and environmental groups around native revegetation planting initiatives within the district and region.

Bus trial

We are working with the Taranaki Regional Council to establish a high-frequency bus service trial in New Plymouth, which if approved will commence in the second quarter of 2026.

Big Call 3
Paying it forward

Establishing a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital Reserve

We agreed to establish a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital Reserve to help fund future projects using part of the funds released from our Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF) to pay for it. As detailed in the LTP 2024 the reserve has received $250,000 in the 2024/25 year with a release from the PIF.

Tūparikino Active Community Hub

We signed the Agreement to Lease with the Taranaki Racing Inc. which enabled enabling works to commence. Site infrastructure works to enable the development of the new hub have commenced, with the demotion of the stand completed with a 96 per cent recycle rate of material. Design work for the hub is progressing well, and looking to start construction of the hub in early 2026.

Brooklands Zoo

In the Annual Plan 2025/2026, Council approved combining Phases 1 and 2 of the zoo projects (aviary and otter habitats). Work began on the developed design for both habitats, with design funding allocated in the LTP 2024. Detailed design will progress in 2025/26, with reporting to Council on the proposed designs prior to the commencement of construction.

Other Key Issues

Investigation into Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)

Water service delivery

In response to Central Government's Local Water Done Well initiative, we engaged with our community on three proposed options for delivering our three waters services. Hearings were held on 1 July 2025.

On 22 July 2025 Council resolved to proceed with a Single Council Water Service Council Controlled Organisation for delivery of drinking water and wastewater and the in-house delivery of stormwater. Water Service Delivery Plans were prepared and approved by Council. These were submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs on 28 August 2025.

Housing for the Elderly

We have undertaken a review of our Housing for the Elderly services to ensure they remain effective, affordable, and sustainable. As part of this, we have explored a range of delivery models, including the potential use of a CCO or similar structure. A set of options and recommendations will be presented to Council over the coming year.

Traffic management

We have undertaken a review of traffic management expenses and practices. At this stage it has be determined to not progress further with a Traffic Management CCO but to continue to monitor and reduce costs. This includes using road closures where appropriate to reduce the construction time and need for traffic management and support contractors to do the same.

Caring for our people and environment

Youth engagement and services

In 2024/25, we completed a comprehensive review of NPDC's youth engagement approach. Council endorsed a new and improved model, which is set to be implemented in 2026.

To further support young people, we entered into a separate funding agreement to establish a dedicated youth space in the central business district. This space will offer a range of services tailored to the needs of young people, creating a welcoming and accessible hub for youth engagement.

Non-fluoridated water supply

The options for a non-fluoridated water in the New Plymouth supply were investigated and no feasible options are available. The three other water supplies in the district at Inglewood, Ōākura and Ōkato are unfluoridated.

Puke Arki Gallery refresh

The project brief has been developed, and the project team is now underway. Consultation has begun as part of the initial research phase, ensuring community input helps shape the future direction of the gallery.

Mana Whenua Partnership funding

We have allocated $150,000 from the 2024/2025 Mana Whenua Partnerships Fund to Ngāti Te Whiti for civil works supporting the development of the new Marae at Ngāmotu. An additional $150,000 has been granted to Pukerangiora for the construction of a new car park and toilet block at Pukerangiora Pā, enhancing safety and cultural experiences at the site.

Investing in our public places and spaces

New Plymouth Ngāmotu City Centre Strategy, including West End Crossing and Huatoki Daylighting

Like city centres around the world, Ngāmotu New Plymouth is adapting to changes in the way we work, travel and shop. In response, the Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy vision supports a vibrant, family-friendly city centre and there are a range of projects that are occurring over the next year that will contribute to the strategic vision for the city centre.

The West End Crossing will create a green, pedestrian-friendly, and accessible gateway to the city for the thousands of people working and visiting businesses, our celebrated civic buildings and attractions, and the recently completed Ngāmotu House. Detailed design and consultation with key stakeholders for a new western gateway to New Plymouth, with more parking spaces and a green shared space between the iconic White Hart building and the Len Lye Centre, has been completed.

A project to open up the Huatoki Stream currently covered by the Metro Plaza building has been developed in conjunction with the neighbouring landowner and Ngāti Te Whiti Hapū. A private/public partnership opportunity has enabled the outcomes for the Huatoki daylighting project to be expedited. Working in partnership will result in efficiencies in the development (long planned by Council), enhance public access to the stream and adjacent Downtown carparking building, and generate improved urban design outcomes through a retail and business activated public space in the heart of the city.

The Huatoki Daylighting and West End Crossing projects are part of the programme of works included in the Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy (the Strategy) consulted on and approved by Council on 21 December 2021. This strategy includes a key move for restoring the Huatoki which has a sub-component for the daylighting. Contingent to this is the demolition of the Council-owned Metro Plaza building. The project has the potential to not only enable the creation of an important public green space within the city centre for public enjoyment, but also to strengthen relationships with private developers and the hapū by working together in an agile and collaborative way which will lay the groundwork for increased confidence for future long-term investments.

Cemetery mowing

The additional cemetery mowing has been implemented where the district cemeteries have had an increase in mowing frequency to weekly during high growth periods with seasonal staff employed.

Northgate speed camera

As of 1 July, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi is responsible for the provision and operation of speed cameras but do not receive any revenue. This is to ensure that the use of speed cameras is not driven by profit motives but by public safety goals.

Destination Play

Phase 1 of Destination Play was completed on 18 December 2024. Construction of Phases 2 and 3 is now underway with completion anticipated by mid August.

Supporting growth and economic development

Ring Road and second Waiwhakaiho Crossing planning

We are currently in the project set-up phase to explore options and potential alignments for a second road crossing over the Waiwhakaiho River, near the New Plymouth urban area. This work will help inform future transport planning and improve connectivity across the district.

Events Reserve

The Events Reserve has been established, and Council is in the process of adopting the Events Reserve Policy that outlines how the funds can be used in the future.

Economic Development Reserve

Following the adoption of the Economic Development Reserve Guidelines in late 2024, three strategic projects were selected to drive Taranaki's growth: the Applied Innovation Centre advancing science and partnerships, a biotech initiative positioning the region nationally, and Branching Out Phase 3 scaling sustainable food and fibre ventures with strong funding support.

Listening to our community boards development

Retaining and improving the Hutiwai Transfer Station

As part of the LTP 2024 deliberations, Council resolved to "maintain and improve the Hutiwai Transfer Station." Since then, a 24/7 recycling pod has been reinstated in the area, improving access to recycling services. Additionally, funding has been approved in the Annual Plan 2025/26 to replace the 'Jack Trash' resident bag collection.

Committing to new footpaths in Ōākura, Ōkato and Omata

In line with community board priorities, initial planning stages have commenced with the installation of a new footpath along Wairau Road. This project has funding approved through the Kaitake Community Board.

Installation of safety cameras in Bell Block

In response to a request from the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board, NPDC delivered a CCTV crime prevention camera system installation project, placing cameras at three key locations in Bell Block. The system was fully operational by early February 2025 and now streams live footage to the New Plymouth Police Station. The initiative has been praised for enhancing community safety and supporting crime prevention.

Improving accessibility at the Inglewood Swimming Pool

Project planning and design work is underway and will be led by the NPDC Project Management Office.

Including in Year 3 a budget to remediate the old Battiscombe Terrace Landfill

A detailed investigation report has been completed to determine the full extent and boundaries of the old Battiscombe Terrace Landfill, as well as to identify any contaminants present. This information will help guide informed decisions about the most appropriate management and remediation options for the site.

Improving Council's performance and growing non-rates revenue

Scholarships and internships

In August, we will be seeking expressions of interest from leaders NPDC's new scholarship and intern opportunities. Up to three scholarships will be awarded in the first year, each providing a one-off payment of $2,000 to support local students under 25, including school leavers or graduates.

Internships will be offered over the summer period, providing up to 10 weeks of paid work experience within NPDC. These placements are designed for students pursuing studies relevant to local government, helping build future capability and career pathways in the sector.

Overview of our non-financial performance

He tirohanga ki ngā hua pūtea-kore

The majority of NPDC's work – our services, projects and budgets – is delivered through 16 key activity areas. These reflect how we operate and serve our community. Each activity includes specific performance measures, targets, and results, which are detailed in the Council Services section on page 24 of the Annual Report.

Despite a challenging operating environment, NPDC has largely maintained its performance across these areas.

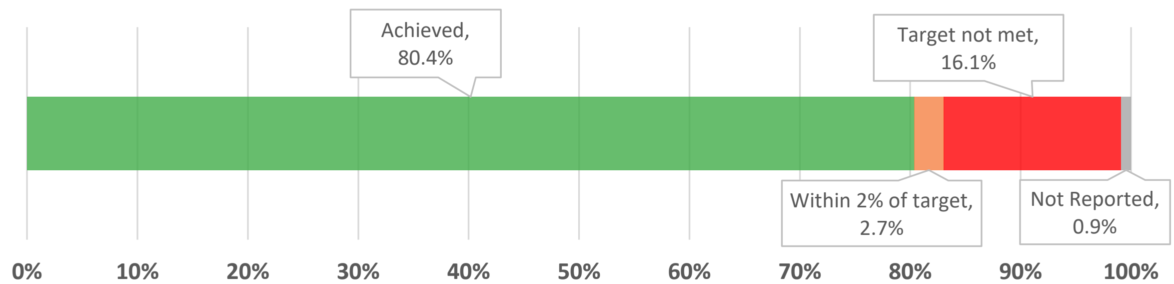
How we performed against our targets for the year

This year, we tracked 112 performance measures across our activity areas. The graph below shows our overall performance:

- 80.4% of performance targets were achieved (90 out of 112 measures).
- 2.7% of measures (3 out of 112) were substantially achieved, meaning the target was missed by a narrow margin (within 2%).
- 16.1% of measures (18 out of 112) were not achieved.
- One measure was not reported in 2024/25, as triennial elections were not held during the year.

The measures that were not fully met or only substantially achieved were influenced by a range of factors, including:

- Low community awareness of the advice and support available to groups.
- Stricter enforcement of animal control activities, which led to mixed public perceptions.
- Delays in responding to formal complaints and official information requests due to increased volume and complexity.
- A surge in resource consent applications ahead of development contribution changes, resulting in a processing backlog.
- Ongoing challenges in maintaining and enhancing urban landscapes and street environments.
- Postponement of gallery refresh projects, caused by expanded exhibition scopes.
- Declining satisfaction with the cycle network, linked to community feedback on the Transport Choices project.
- Temporary closure of the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre indoor pool for a ventilation upgrade.
- Cancellation of annual events by regular hirers due to external funding pressures.
- Difficulty reducing household waste, possibly influenced by more people working from home and shifting priorities.
- An increase in water-related complaints, with the largest spike caused by a brown water event in Inglewood.



Services at a glance

We continued to deliver services that support our district's strategic vision of becoming a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital.

11,518
registered dogs

1,496
average customers per day across Puke Ariki and community libraries

52
public toilets

342,695
pool patrons

Over 30m litres
of water per day supplied to
29,558
households and businesses in defined urban and rural areas

25m litres
of wastewater each day servicing
31,207
properties

Over 300 km
of stormwater pipes with
32,415
connections

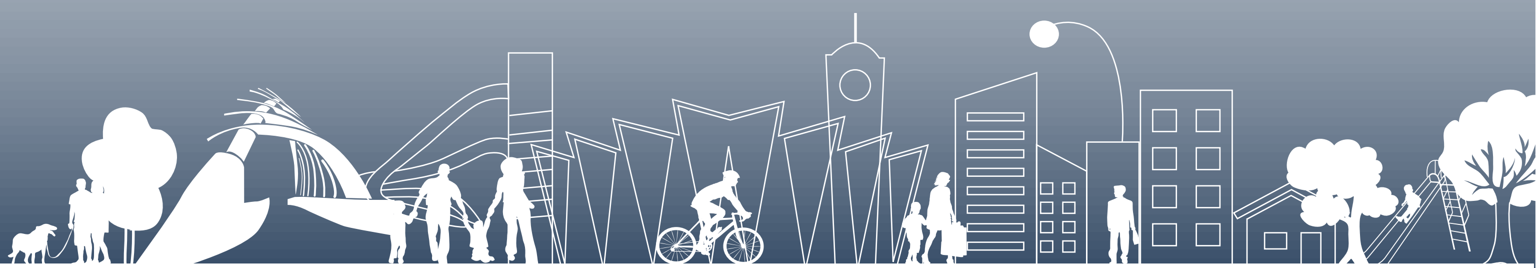
265 kg
of landfill waste generated per capita
274 kg
of landfill waste generated per household

1,313 km
of roads
537 km
of footpaths

810
events provided across all venues with
342,695
attendees

49
playgrounds
21
sports grounds

7
exhibitions with
79,147
visitors per year



Summarising our performance

The following overview presents how we performed across 112 measures spanning 16 Council activities. It includes a summary of measures that were fully achieved, substantially achieved, and those that were not met, providing a clear picture of our overall performance.

Community Partnerships

Four of the five Community Partnerships targets were met – three indicators achieved 100% satisfaction, including partners satisfaction with NPDC's advice and involvement in community initiatives, the performance indicators by funding recipients of NPDC's grants, and Housing for the Elderly tenants satisfaction with the service provided. Six initiatives received 'start-up' financial support, more than the initial target of three.

Resident satisfaction with NPDC's advice and support to community groups reached 87% – slightly below the 90% target but an improvement from last year's 85%. This was attributed to a low awareness about advice and support we provided to community groups.

Customer and Regulatory Solutions

All dog attacks were responded to within the two hour target timeframe (100%). All alcohol licensing inspections were completed in accordance with statutory requirements. Of the 360 official information requests received, 98% were completed within statutory timeframes (target 100%), with six requests exceeding the timeframe due to resourcing pressures and complex nature of requests.

The percentage of residents satisfied with animal control activities was 84%, falling short of the 90% target. Similarly, only 83% of formal complaints received an interim reply or were resolved within five working days (target 90%), impacted by a 44% increase in volume of complaints and complexity. Dog registration compliance improved to 92% (target 95%), up from 87% the previous year, with new strategies planned to further improve compliance across all activities.

Building applications processed within statutory timeframes reached 98% (target 100%), with 2,830 applications processed. This is an improvement from last year's 95%. Non-notified resource management consents processed within statutory timeframes dropped to 55% (target 100%), attributed to a surge in applications before development contribution changes and ongoing backlog clearance. A new measure has been added where all decisions to extend timeframes met the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991.

To address these challenges, NPDC has implemented new digital workflow systems (Rico and Flowingly) to improve consent processing efficiency, tracking accuracy, and overall service delivery.

Economic Development

We continued to promote New Plymouth District and the Taranaki Region as a vibrant and desirable place to work, live, learn, play, and invest. A total of 16 major events were attracted or retained (target six), including a diverse mix of cultural, sporting, and seasonal events.

Additional funding secured for regional development programmes reached 34% of total funding (target 20%), and Venture Taranaki delivered 20 initiatives supporting regional strategy objectives (target 10), with most completed and the remainder nearing completion.

Client satisfaction remained high, with a Net Promoter Score of 79 (target 40+). A full 100% of performance measures and reporting requirements were met across 22 external contracts (target 90 per cent), reflecting strong delivery and contract management.

Emergency Management and Business Continuance

All but one emergency management target was achieved. Emergency plans were reviewed as scheduled, and the Emergency Operations Centre remained fit for purpose through regular checks and audits. Six emergency exercises were completed (target two), including regional, community, and internal events.

Staff and volunteer recruitment exceeded the target, with 163 trained individuals (target 150), improving on last year's result. However, only seven Civil Defence Centres were formalised with Memorandums of Understanding (target eight), consistent with the previous year.

This year's results reflect continued progress in readiness and response capability, with strong engagement across teams and communities.

Flood Protection and Control Works

All flood protection and control works targets were met again this year. Assets were maintained to full service potential along with the Dam Safety Management System which was updated in accordance with regulations, and any damage following events was identified and scheduled for repair.

Key progress included completing dam impact classifications and a safety assurance programme, both approved by the Taranaki Regional Council.

Governance

All governance and statutory compliance targets were met. Meeting agendas were made available within required timeframes, and the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, and Annual Report were all adopted on schedule. Although no elections were held this year, statutory compliance was maintained across all processes.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre

All targets were met or exceeded. Seven exhibitions were delivered (target seven), and the gallery welcomed 79,147 visitors (target 72,000). A total of 89 audience engagement events were held (target 65), and 65% of residents were satisfied with the service (target 65%). Customer satisfaction measure by in-house surveys were taken of exhibitions visitors, with the overall experience measuring 88% (target 82%), results reflect both 'satisfied' and 'very satisfied'.

Management of Investments and Funding

We met all financial targets. The annual return from the Perpetual Investment Fund was 9.8% (target 6%), continuing strong performance above benchmark. All debt level measures were fully compliant with the Liability Management Policy, including maintaining net debt at nil and strong liquidity coverage.

Parks and Open Spaces

Resident satisfaction remained high across most areas. Parks and reserves (including the Coastal Walkway and Pukekura Park) achieved 97% satisfaction (target 95%), sports grounds 94% (target 90%), playgrounds 95% (target 95%), and Brooklands Zoo 97% (target 90%). Public toilet satisfaction met the 80% target.

Urban landscapes and streets improved but remained below target at 86% (target 90%). Planned greening initiatives under the New Plymouth Ngāmotu City Centre Strategy aim to address this. Access to parks and open spaces exceeded the target, with 88 per cent of households within 500 metres of a green space.

A new measure assessing playground compliance with NZ Safety Standards was introduced and achieved 96%.

Puke Ariki and Community Libraries

On average, 1,496 customers visited Puke Ariki and the community libraries each day, exceeding the new target of 1,000 per day. The i-SITE Visitor Information Centre maintained 100% customer satisfaction (target 98%), and the library collection held steady at 3.1 items per capita (target 3 to 3.5 items). Free access to online information using public computing devices was available at all libraries.

A total of 1,811 programmed learning opportunities were delivered (target 1,200), with 34,503 participants attending (target 29,000). Satisfaction with these programmes was slightly below target at 92% (target 95%), with improvements planned for survey methods in the museum space.

Three temporary exhibitions were delivered (target two), and seven additional exhibitions were held in other gallery spaces (target four). However, the planned refresh of a permanent gallery was delayed due to the extended scope of the Te Matatini exhibitions. Online access to the heritage collection met its target, with four new digital products or experiences provided.

Stormwater Management

We met all targets for stormwater management again this year. There were no flooding events, and no habitable floors were affected. The Council received no abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders, or convictions related to stormwater discharges.

Complaints about the stormwater system remained low at 3.36 per 1,000 connected properties (target eight or less), and the median response time to flooding events was 0.40 hours, well under the one-hour target. Resident satisfaction with the quality and safety of the district's stormwater system remained high at 90% (target 70%).

Transportation

We did not achieve the target for reducing fatal or serious injury crashes on the local roading network. There were 30 crashes, an increase of three from the previous year. The target for resurfacing sealed roads was also not met, with 4.1% resurfaced (target 5%), due to reduced funding and a focus on high-demand routes.

Smooth travel exposure improved slightly to 87% (target 85%), but resident satisfaction with the overall quality of roads remained at 60% (target 60%). Satisfaction with the cycle network declined to 67% (target 85%), with feedback linked to the Transport Choices project.

Footpath condition remained strong, with 94% of surveyed length in good or excellent condition (target >90%), and 3% recorded as failed (target ≤3% per cent). The percentage of roading and footpath service requests responded to on time met the 95% target.

Venues and Events

We did not meet the target of 1,000 events/bookings across all venues, with 810 events held. However, the attendee target was exceeded, with 342,695 attendees (target 280,000). The Festival of Lights attracted 155,000 attendees, with a notable increase in out-of-region visitors (new measure).

Resident satisfaction with NPDC's event venues reached 94%, close to the target of 96%, while satisfaction with NPDC's events was slightly below target at 90% (target 95%), with operational challenges and parking availability noted as contributing factors.

The number of pool patrons was below target at 342,695 (target 390,000), impacted by temporary indoor pool closures due to ventilation upgrades. However, satisfaction with NPDC's swimming facilities was strong at 90% (target 85%), showing improvement from the previous year.

Waste Management and Minimisation

Seven of the eight, district-wide waste minimisation targets were met. A 12.6% reduction in total landfill waste per capita was achieved (target 5%), but landfill waste per household increased by 4.5% (target 5% reduction). This continues a trend of rising household waste, likely influenced by changing work and lifestyle patterns.

No abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders or convictions were received, maintaining full compliance with environmental standards. The number of complaints about the Council's waste management and minimisation service was 0.97 per 1,000 customers, meeting the target of two or less.

A new measure showed 91% of residents were satisfied with the kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service (target >80%), indicating strong public support for core waste services.

Wastewater Treatment

Nine of the 10 wastewater treatment targets were met. There were 0.22 dry weather sewerage overflows per 1,000 connections (target 1.5), and the median response time to overflow callouts was 0.53 hours (target one hour or less). The median resolution time for sewers <250mm was 1.88 hours (target four hours or less), and there were no callouts for larger sewers.

No abatement notices, enforcement orders or convictions were received this year. An infringement notice was issued on 16 October 2024 for a discharge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to a creek via a stormwater drain on 23 June 2024.

The number of complaints about odour, faults, blockages, or Council response was 5.32 per 1,000 connections (target 13 or less). Resident satisfaction with the quality and safety of the wastewater treatment system was 93 per cent (target 80 per cent), up from 91 per cent last year.

Water Supply

We achieved full compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules 2022. This mandatory performance measure was updated by the Department of Internal Affairs following adoption of NPDC's LTP 2024. The updated measure now includes compliance with both the Water Services Regulations and the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

There was a 16.4% real water loss from NPDC's networked reticulation system (target 20% or less), an improvement from the previous year's result of 18%.

All faults and unplanned interruptions to the water supply network were responded to within target timeframes. The median response time for urgent callouts was 0.55 hours, and the median resolution time was 1.62 hours. Non-urgent callouts were responded to in 28.7 hours on average, with resolution achieved in 70.5 hours.

There were 18.34 complaints per 1,000 connections received in relation to our water supply service (target 16 or less). The largest single cause of complaints was a brown water event in Inglewood, triggered by high reticulation flows during firefighting efforts.

Resident satisfaction with the quality and safety of the district's water supply was 91% (target 80%).

The average consumption of drinking water per day, per resident was 285 litres, below the target of 300 litres per day.

There were no abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders or convictions received.

Financial Summary

Whakarāpopototanga ā-pūtea

Here's a quick look at how NPDC's finances shaped up over the past yeare, where the money came from, where it went, and how we're tracking overall.

The bottom line

We ended the year with a $29.2m surplus, slightly under the budgeted $32m. That difference mostly came down to things outside our control (like accounting adjustments and funds we manage on behalf of others), and some savings across different areas.

On the plus side, our investments, especially in the Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF) performed well. On the flip side, we had some unexpected costs like depreciation and losses from financial tools (called derivatives).

We also spent less than expected on upgrading our internal systems (like the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software), which helped balance out lower income from fewer land developments and commercial waste services.

Where the money came from

Council's income was $284.4m, $12.2m more than expected. That's thanks to:

- Strong returns from our investments (especially the PIF).
- Smart financial planning - like locking in better interest rates.

These gains helped make up for lower income from things like greenfield land development,the Commercial Sorting Depot Facility and delayed forestry harvest due to low log prices.

Rates **52%**	Investments assets **17%**
Fees, charges and other revenue **15%**	Grants and Subsidies **16%**

Rates

Rates are one of the main ways we fund the services and infrastructure that keep our district running, from rubbish collection and road maintenance to libraries and parks.

This year, the median residential rate (including GST) increased by 9.81%, which was in line with what we planned in the budget. The average residential rate increase was 11.3%, which is slightly below our target of 11.5%.

That means we stayed within the limits set out in our Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024–2034, while still delivering the services and investments our community needs.

Investment and borrowing

Here's how we managed borrowing and investments this year.

- We stuck to the rules. Council stayed within all the limits set by our Treasury Management Policy throughout the year.
- Strong investment returns. Our PIF finished the year at $404m, up $37m. Of that, $12m was used to help fund Council services and operations.
- Borrowing update. By 30 June 2025, our total borrowings were $383.5m. While this was a bit higher than the original cap of $374m in our LTP, it was still well within the revised limit of $406m approved by Council in May.
- Lower interest costs. Thanks to favourable market conditions and smart investment strategies, our net interest costs were about $2.4m less than expected.

How do we measure up?

We use a few key financial ratios to keep track of our financial health, which are included in the Management of Investments and Funding Activity on page 46 of the Annual Report. All measures are fully compliant with our LTP 2024 Financial Strategy, demonstrating that we're in a strong position to manage our borrowing costs.

Measure	Target	2024/25 results	2023/24 results
1. Net debt/revenue*	<135%	-45.1%	-58.4%
2. Net interest/revenue	<10%	4.9%	3.6%
3. Net interest/rates income	<12.5%	7.9%	5.8%
4. Liquidity/external debt	>105%	113.4%	108.1%

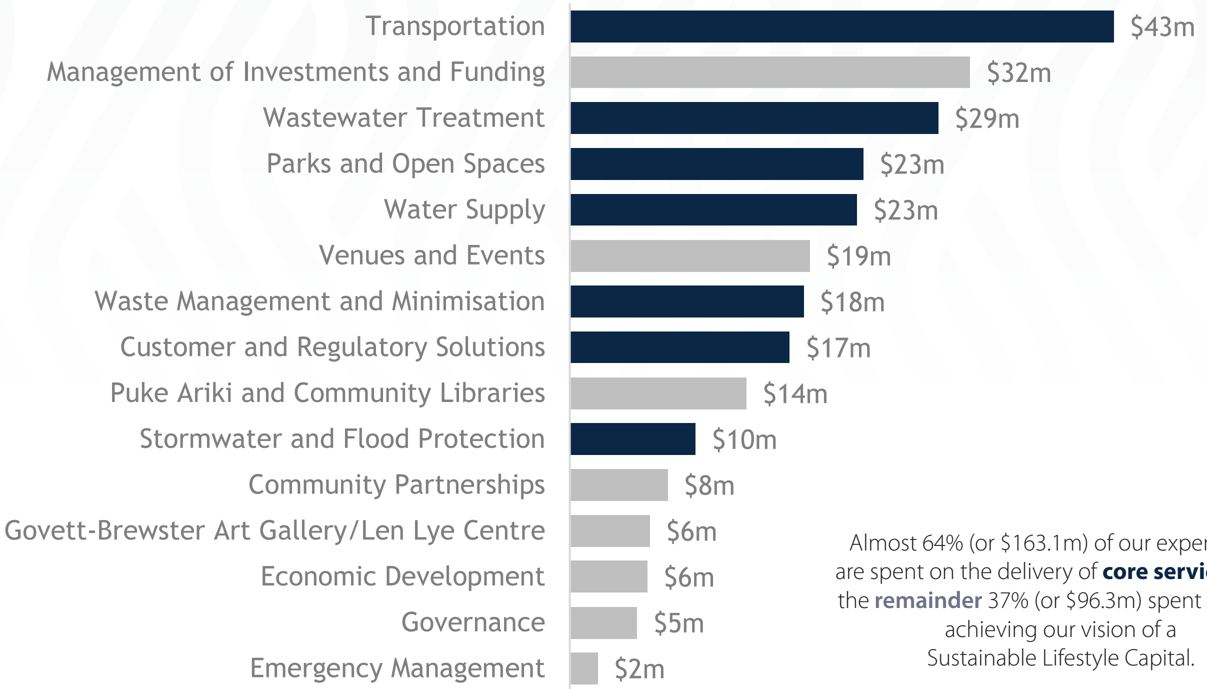
What we spent

We spent $254.8m running services and maintaining infrastructure - that's $14.8m more than budgeted. The extra costs were mostly due to:

- Accounting items like depreciation, asset write-offs and derivative valuation losses.
- Some planned expenses not going ahead as expected, such as forestry harvest delay and lower than anticipated ERP upgrade costs.

The graph below shows how spending was spread across different Council services and highlights the expenditure over our core functions.

Operating expenditure by activity (in millions)



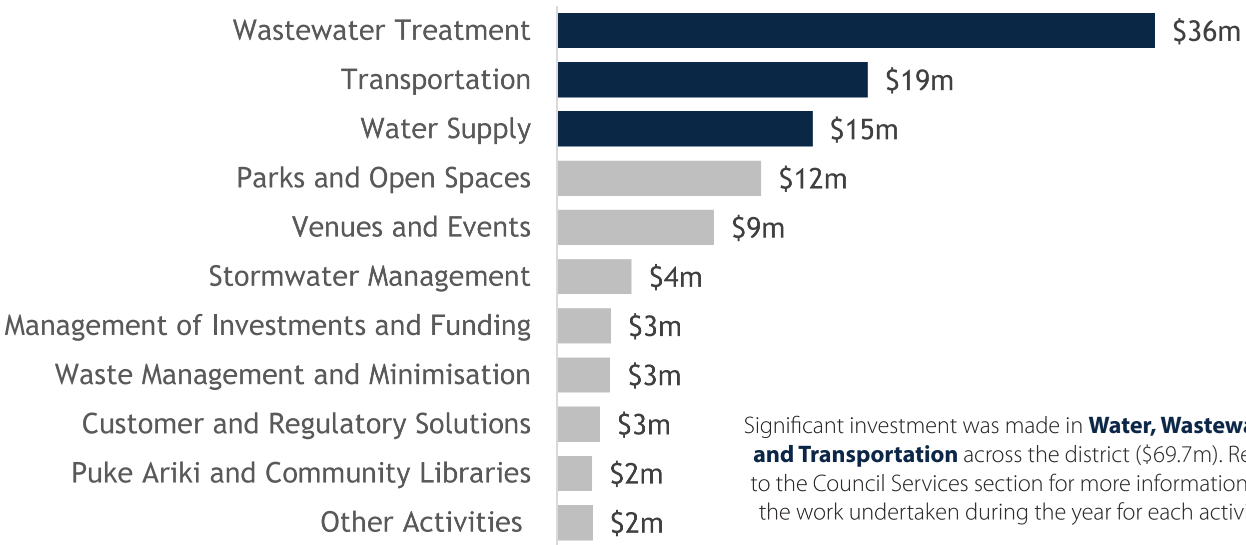
Almost 64% (or $163.1m) of our expenditure are spent on the delivery of **core services** with the **remainder** 37% (or $96.3m) spent towards achieving our vision of a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital.

Investing in the district

Council delivered $114.2m in assets during 2024/25, achieving 94% of the planned $121.7m capital programme, supporting the long-term well-being of our community.

This includes $108.9m in new assets through Council's renewal and capital works programme - everything from roads and pipes to parks and public buildings, and $5.3m delivered on behalf of partnering agency NZ Transport Agency.

Capital expenditure by activity (in millions)



Significant investment was made in **Water, Wastewater and Transportation** across the district ($69.7m). Refer to the Council Services section for more information on the work undertaken during the year for each activity.

Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2024/25 Actual $'000	2024/25 Budget $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000
Rates revenue	148,258	147,810	132,257	148,114	132,127
Perpetual Investment Fund (gains)	40,586	20,237	41,372	40,586	41,372
Other revenue	95,592	104,053	78,230	105,899	88,204
Total operating revenue	**284,436**	**272,100**	**251,859**	**294,599**	**261,703**
Interest costs	16,623	16,440	11,588	16,624	11,589
Perpetual Investment Fund (direct expenses)	3,327	2,834	3,069	3,327	3,069
Other expenses	234,930	220,846	218,896	242,480	226,497
Total operating expenditure	**254,880**	**240,120**	**233,553**	**262,431**	**241,155**
Share of joint venture surplus	(399)	-	23	(399)	23
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	**29,157**	**31,980**	**18,329**	**31,769**	**20,571**
Income tax (expense)/refund	-	-	-	(775)	(5,354)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AFTER TAXATION	**29,157**	**31,980**	**18,329**	**30,994**	**15,217**
Gain/(loss) on property, plant and equipment revaluations	303,977	252,120	2,179	309,461	2,179
Financial assets fair value movement (could be reclassified to surplus/(deficit)	150	-	(12)	150	(13)
Deferred tax on property revaluation	-	-	-	(1,534)	-
Total other comprehensive revenue and expense	**304,127**	**252,120**	**2,167**	**308,077**	**2,166**
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE	**333,284**	**284,100**	**20,496**	**339,071**	**17,383**

Summary Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2025

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2024/25 Actual $'000	2024/25 Budget $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000
Current assets	396,815	336,060	384,094	400,717	392,569
Non-current assets	4,007,522	3,998,830	3,638,325	4,034,825	3,652,689
Total assets	**4,404,337**	**4,334,890**	**4,022,419**	**4,435,542**	**4,045,258**
Current liabilities	147,903	129,440	125,986	152,120	129,208
Non-current liabilities	298,353	313,900	271,637	309,291	280,990
Total liabilities	**446,256**	**443,340**	**397,623**	**461,411**	**410,198**
TOTAL EQUITY/NET ASSETS	**3,958,081**	**3,891,550**	**3,624,796**	**3,974,131**	**3,635,060**

Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2024/25 Actual $'000	2024/25 Budget $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000
Equity at the beginning of the year	**3,624,797**	**3,607,450**	**3,604,300**	**3,635,060**	**3,617,677**
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	333,284	284,100	20,496	339,071	17,383
EQUITY AT THE END OF THE YEAR	**3,958,081**	**3,891,550**	**3,624,796**	**3,974,131**	**3,635,060**

Summary Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2024/25 Actual $'000	2024/25 Budget $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2023/24 Actual $'000
Net cash flows from operating activities	51,299	64,840	29,135	55,294	33,430
Net cash flows from investing activities	(90,446)	(105,680)	(121,819)	(99,557)	(123,649)
Net cash flows from financing activities	53,856	39,000	66,002	53,856	66,002
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 JULY	**14,709**	**(1,840)**	**(26,682)**	**9,593**	**(24,217)**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 JULY	**19,257**	**6,260**	**45,939**	**26,939**	**51,156**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE	**33,966**	**4,420**	**19,257**	**36,532**	**26,939**

Summary accounting policies

Part 6 section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires the New Plymouth District Council (the Council)to make publicly available a summary of the information contained in its Annual Report. The specific disclosures included in the summary financial report have been extracted from the full financial report adopted by the Council on 10 October 2025. However, the summary financial statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding.

The Council is a territorial authority, domiciled in New Zealand. It is governed by the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LG(R)A).

The Council's primary objective is to provide goods or services and benefit for the community rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, the Council designates itself and the Group as public benefit entities (PBEs). The full financial statements on which these summary financial statements have been based were prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP), applying Tier 1 PBE Accounting Standards. These summary accounts comply with PBE FRS 43 Summary Financial Statements.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand Dollars (NZD) and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($000), unless otherwise stated.

The summary has been examined for consistency with the full annual report and was audited by Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Auditor-General. The audited information, excluding the Council Services statement, received an unmodified audit opinion on 10 October 2025. The Council Services statement received a qualified opinion due to issues in the prior year with the recorded processing times for non-notified resource management consents not agreeing to underlying consent information. These issues were resolved this year.

Summary additional disclosures

Explanations for major budget variances from the Council budget figures in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 are shown in the table below. The table variances are from the detailed breakdown in note 2 of the full Annual Report.

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

	Council Actual $'000
BUDGET - SURPLUS BEFORE TAX	**31,980**
Variances are made up of :	
Non-cash items	
• Significant gains from the Perpetual Investment Fund contributed positively, reflecting a strong performance in this financial year	18,349
• Losses from derivatives due to inherent uncertainties not anticipated in the budget	(5,856)
• Depreciation was above budget due to uplift on asset base from revaluation	(5,280)
• Loss on disposal of assets as part of asset data cleansing in preparation for asset revaluation	(8,486)
• Lower vested assets received	(511)
Funds held on behalf	
• Increase in Waitara Lands Act gains and distributions sales	(1,704)
Operating items	
Revenue items	
• Reduced development contributions due to fewer greenfield developments than anticipated	(2,786)
• Lower revenue from off-street parking	(818)
• Lesser sales actvitiy. This includes lower revenue from the Commercial Sorting Depot Facility ($1.6m) and forestry harvest ($3.6m) delayed until 2025/26 as log prices remain low	(5,333)
• Lower expenses recovered for the New Plymouth Transfer Station ($190,000 actual vs $2.3m budgeted)	(1,994)
• Lower revenue for resource consents and building consents due to lower activity levels than budget	(160)
Expenditure items	
• Lower expenses due to forestry harvest delay ($2.6m), and Enterprise Resource Planning upgrade costs lower than anticipated ($4.2m)	6,223
• Software as a Service recognised as prepayments	1,401
• Net finance costs are less than budget due to improved interest revenue from investment strategies, such as prefunding and better rates for term deposit	2,355
• Other net operating cost savings	1,777
ACTUAL - SURPLUS BEFORE TAX	**29,157**

Statement of Financial Position

	Council Actual $'000
BUDGET - TOTAL NET ASSETS	**3,891,550**
Cash on hand includes ring fenced funds such as funds held for the Waitara Lands Act that cannot be utilised for operations.The higher cash on hand at year end is mainly due to funds held that are subject to restrictions ($30.4m).	29,546
Higher debtors include unbudgeted items such as accrued revenue of $3m for Thermal Dryer Facility and $4m GST refund for February.	6,782
Higher returns in investment, mainly the Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF) ($16.8m), combined with a higher opening balance for the PIF in the annual report when compared to budget ($26m), due to timing of forecast being based on workings November 2023.	58,591
Net decrease in derivatives liability due to hedged instruments approaching maturity.	(9,506)
Although actuals for Property, Plant and Equipment are lower than budget by $49m, the variance is only a decrease of -1.3% on the prior year and is considered minor given this is a revaluation year and larger property plan and equipment movements were expected.	(49,473)
Intangibles are higher than budget due to two new classes added for resource consents and water network models.	9,677
Higher investment in Council Controlled Organisations due to the timing of borrowing projections, mainly due to the budgets for Papa Rererangi i Puketapu Ltd borrowings in relation to the solar farm ($14m) and runway alignment ($4m) not being included in the LTP.	18,892
Creditors are lower due to lower thank expected outstanding June invoices.	10,055
Actual liability is above budget for Waitara Lands as budget was conservative due to low land sales.	(3,084)
Debt is higher than budget as it includes unbudgeted advanced to the Council Controlled Organisations.	(9,570)
Net change across several items	4,621
ACTUAL - TOTAL NET ASSETS	**3,958,081**

Contingent liabilities and assets

Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities include those items where a liability may be incurred if certain events or outcomes occur, or where a present obligation exists but the extent of the liability cannot be measured reliably for recognition in the financial statements.

Management consider the likelihood of a particular event or outcome occurring to determine whether a contingent liability should be disclosed. No disclosure is made when the possibility of an outflow of resources is considered to be remote. Where amounts are disclosed the amount shown is the maximum potential cost.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

The Council has 235.9 hectares (2023/24: 235.9 hectares) of pre-1990 forest land determined under the Climate Change Response Act 2002 (CCR). Under the ETS, the Council will incur financial penalties should the land be deforested as defined by CCR. There were no trees harvested in 2024/25 (2023/24: no trees harvested).

Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA)

The Council is both a shareholder and guarantor of the LGFA, which was incorporated in December 2011 with the purpose of providing debt funding to local authorities across New Zealand. Recently, LGFA's financial strength was reaffirmed with a domestic credit rating of 'AA+' from Fitch Ratings and 'AAA' from S&P Global Ratings, matching the credit rating of the New Zealand Government.

The Council is one of 30 local authority shareholders and 72 local authority guarantors of the LGFA. The aggregate amount of uncalled shareholder capital is available in the event that an imminent default is identified. Also, together with the other shareholders and guarantors, the Council is a guarantor of LGFA's borrowings. This is based on the Council's rates as a proportion of the total rates for all guaranteeing local authorities. At 30 June 2025, LGFA had borrowings totalling $25.6b (2023/24: $23b).

Financial reporting standards require the Council to recognise the guarantee liability at fair value. However, the Council has been unable to determine a sufficiently reliable fair value for the guarantee, and therefore has not recognised a liability. The Council considers the risk of LGFA defaulting on repayment of interest or capital to be very low on the basis that the Council is not aware of any local authority debt default events in New Zealand and local government legislation would enable local authorities to levy a rate to recover sufficient funds to meet any debt obligations if further funds were required.

Riskpool

NPDC was previously a member of the New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool Scheme ('Riskpool'). The Scheme is in wind down, however the Council has an ongoing obligation to contribute to the Riskpool scheme should a call be made in respect of any historical claims (to the extent those claims are not covered by reinsurance or where reinsurance is delayed), and to fund the ongoing operation of the scheme. The likelihood of any call in respect of historical claims diminishes with each year as limitation periods expire. However, following the Supreme Court decision on 1 August 2023 in Napier City Council v Local Government Mutual Funds Trustee Limited, which addressed the treatment of claims against Riskpool that involved a mixture of non-weathertightness and weathertightness defects (mixed claims), a number of proceedings against Riskpool, which were stayed pending the Supreme Court's decision in 2023, have since recommenced. Several member Councils have brought proceedings against Riskpool related to mixed claims. Two of these claims are currently listed for trial in September 2025. These cases are important in clarifying the scope of Riskpool's historical obligations and the interpretation of past Scheme terms. At this point the total potential liability of the outstanding claims against Riskpool is unable to be quantified.

A call for $100,000 was made by the board of Civic Liability Riskpool during the year to 30 June 2019. Further calls may be required until the Riskpool Scheme is wound up. A call of $34,402 was made during the year to 30 June 2025 (2023/24: $Nil). However, a provision of $98,070 was made in 2024/25 to reflect a payment made in August 2025.

Event underwriting

In May 2021 Council entered into an agreement to underwrite the Taranaki Arts Festival Trust for an one off payment up to $1.9m in case of a pandemic related cancellation of WOMAD between 2022 and 2026 inclusive. The underwrite is for a period of five years.

The cancellation of the 2022 WOMAD was funded by Central Government and no claims were made against the current agreement as at 30 June 2025.

Weather events

A large slip occurred on Council owned reserve land as a result of heavy rainfall events in July 2022, which has affected adjoining land owners' property. Council has completed a range of legal and geotechnical assessments and decided not to contribute to remediation of the slip. It is currently too early to determine whether any formal claim will be made against Council as a result, and what the financial exposure might be.

Aside from emails asserting that Council needs to act, no formal proceedings have been initiated since Council declined to financially contribute to any remedial works on the slipped land on 8 March 2023, and this matter will now be removed from these reports. Regular inspections and clearing of the fan drains is ongoing,

Construction defect

It is claimed a Code Compliance Certificate should not have been issued on a commercial property. On 27 March 2025 the Council was served with High Court proceedings relating to a commercial property, to which Council consented, inspected and issued a code compliance certificate. Alleged defects have materialised, and the building's owners have obtained an expert opinion that alleges non-compliance with the building code. Council has notified the insurers and filed a Statement of Defence denying that it was negligent. It should be noted that the claim against Council is not yet quantified however the Plaintiff has alleged remediation work to be over $4m. Council is to begin retaining experts shortly. It is likely that this matter will proceed to mediation as a first step and Council has indicated its openness for this to occur.

Environmental appeal

The Council is involved in an Environment Court proceeding involving a Site of Significance to Māori in its proposed District Plan. Mediation is currently ongoing with this matter. There remain a small number of outstanding topics that are yet to be resolved and/or involve ongoing mediation. These relate to the Hazardous Substances Chapter and some site specific heritage topics. There remains some risk that agreements are unable to be finalised and require escalating to the Environment Court. The Proposed District Plan appeals do not contain any financial claims or potential liabilities, other than the small prospect of an adverse costs award against Council. This would only occur if Council were unsuccessful, and the Court departs from its usual practice for plan review appeals which is to let costs lie where they fall.

There are no other known material contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2025 apart from those disclosed above (2023/24: nil).

Contingent assets

There are no known material contingent assets as at 30 June 2025 (2023/24: nil).

Events occurring after the balance date

Local Water Done Well

NPDC has undertaken a comprehensive review of water service delivery options in response to the Local Water Done Well framework. Following public consultation and detailed analysis, Council resolved on 22 July 2025 to establish a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) solely for the delivery of water and wastewater services, with stormwater management and asset ownership to remain in-house under Council control. This approach aligns with statutory requirements and supports the development of a financially sustainable Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), which was adopted by the Council on 12 August 2025 and submitted to central government on 28 August 2025. At the time of reporting, the WSDP has not yet been approved by the Secretary for Local Government and certain implementation arrangements, including the precise allocation of debt and related financial transfers, are still being finalised.

Community feedback was considered as part of the decision-making process, and Council's approach balances these preferences with the need for financial sustainability and compliance. The financial implications of the proposed model have been thoroughly assessed through Council's financial modelling. While the overall impacts are well understood and indicate that the model is financially sustainable and within Council's expectations, specific figures, such as the exact amount of debt to be transferred, will be confirmed as arrangements are completed and the WSDP progresses through the approval process. The financial impact is expected to remain within the bounds of Council's expectations, with projected savings and enhanced borrowing capacity supporting long-term affordability for the community.

Auditor's Report

Pūrongo Kaiarotake Pūtea

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of New Plymouth District Council and group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the New Plymouth District Council and group (the Council and group) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 10 to 16 and 19 to 24:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in net assets/equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service performance (in the "Overview of our non-financial performance" section of the summary annual report).

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the Council Services statement and an unmodified audit opinion on the other audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 in our auditor's report dated 10 October 2025. The basis for our qualified opinion on the Council Services statement is explained below.

Council Services statement: Our work was limited in the prior year with respect to the performance measure on the percentage of non-notified resource management consents processed within statutory timeframes

An important part of the Council's service performance is the percentage of resource management consent applications processed in accordance with statutory timeframes.

In the prior year, our audit testing of a sample of non-notified resource management consents identified issues with the recorded processing times not agreeing to underlying consent information. This matter is described on page 29 of the full annual report.

Due to the extent of the differences we identified, we are unable to determine whether the Council's reported result for this measure is materially correct.

As a result, our work was limited and there were no practical audit procedures we could apply to obtain assurance over the reported result for this performance measure for the year ended 30 June 2024, reported as comparative information.

These issues have been resolved for the 30 June 2025 financial year. As the issues cannot be resolved for the 30 June 2024 year, the reported performance for the performance measure for the 30 June 2025 year may not be directly comparable with the 30 June 2024 performance information.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 20 of the summary annual report.

Emphasis of matter - Future of water delivery

Our auditor’s report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to note 28 on page 147 of the financial statements in the full annual report, which outlines that in response to the Government’s Local Water Done Well reforms, the Council has decided to establish a wholly owned water organisation to deliver water and wastewater with stormwater management to remain in-house.

There is some uncertainty as the proposal is yet to be accepted by the Secretary for Local Government.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 24 of the summary of the annual report.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General’s Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to reporting on the summary and full annual reports, we have performed a limited assurance engagement related to the Council’s debenture trust deed, which is compatible with these independence requirements. Other than the audit, our report on the disclosure requirements, and this engagement, we have no relationship with, or interests in the Council and group.

Chris Webby
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand

16 October 2025

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