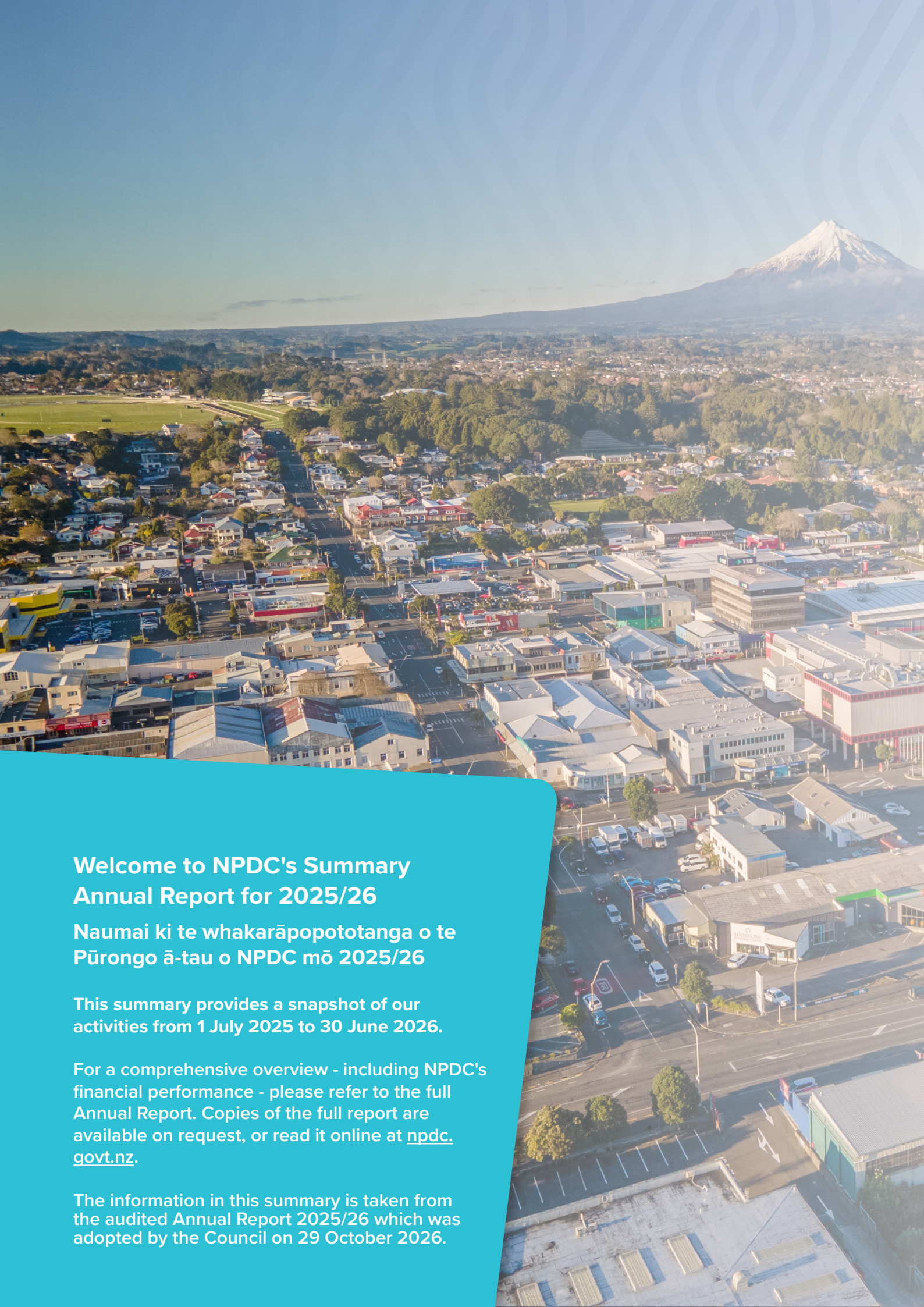


Summary Annual Report 2025/26

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



Welcome to NPDC's Summary Annual Report for 2025/26

Naumai ki te whakarāpopototanga o te Pūrongo ā-tau o NPDC mō 2025/26

This summary provides a snapshot of our activities from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

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 2025/26 which was adopted by the Council on 29 October 2026.

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Mayor's Message

Te Karere ā te Māngai ā-Kaunihera



This has been a challenging year for New Plymouth District, shaped by economic pressures felt across New Zealand and Taranaki and within NPDC itself. Those pressures have required us to think differently about how we deliver services, manage costs and plan for the future.

It hasn't been easy, but it has given the Council the chance to change how it works, strengthen its finances and prepare our district for the future.

Like households and businesses, councils are dealing with rising costs and ongoing economic uncertainty. For years, ratepayers have told us ongoing double-digit rates increases are not palatable. They have asked us to focus on our core responsibilities and spend less on the "nice to haves."

With a change in political leadership during the year, we have made a clear commitment to listening to that feedback and doing things differently. I asked the organisation to look closely at every dollar spent, find savings and focus on the services our communities rely on most, while reducing pressure on ratepayers.

This change has required adjustment from everyone but the organisation has embraced it. As a result, the forecast rates increase for 2026/27 was reduced from 10.5 per cent to 4.9 per cent. There is more work to do, but this is an encouraging start and sets a clear direction for the future.

Change driven by central government also continues. This year we've started working through proposed local government reform with very tight deadlines and looking down the barrel of regional spatial planning requirements and changes to the Resource Management Act.

A key theme this year has been our willingness to shake things up, and challenge established ways of working. When our previous Chief Executive, Gareth Green resigned, we took an innovative approach in appointing Taranaki Regional Council Chief Executive Steve Ruru to an interim joint leadership role across both organisations.

With local government reform already under way, it made sense to look at new ways of working together. Shared leadership has provided valuable insights and put both councils in a strong position for the changes ahead. Steve's extensive local government experience, in Taranaki and nationally, has helped guide us through an important period.

I welcome the chance to reduce duplication across Taranaki's councils and create simpler, more efficient local government arrangements that put residents first. I am determined that Taranaki helps shape its own future, rather than waiting for decisions to be made for us.

That same commitment to advocacy extends beyond local government reform. The ongoing closures of State Highway 3 through the Awakino Gorge have shown how vulnerable one of our most important transport links is, and how important a safe, reliable connection is for our communities, businesses and visitors.

I will continue to advocate strongly for New Plymouth District and the wider Taranaki region on issues that are critical to our future, including transport resilience, infrastructure investment and certainty for the energy sector. Energy has long been central to Taranaki's prosperity, and current uncertainty shows why we must support traditional energy resources which have been highlighted recently as being critical to New Zealand's economic survival. For Taranaki, it would keep people in jobs, encourage investment and build confidence.

That commitment to growth was one reason I established four standing committees at the beginning of my mayoral term, including the Going for Growth Committee and the Public Engagement Committee. These committees strengthen our focus on economic development, community involvement and long-term prosperity.

Despite the economic and structural challenges ahead, I remain optimistic about what New Plymouth District and Taranaki can achieve when we work together with purpose, determination and confidence. We are a resilient district. By making the most of these opportunities and staying focused on what matters most, we can build strong foundations for us all to thrive together in the years to come.

Max Brough, Mayor

Interim Chief Executive's Message

Karere ā te Tumu Whakarae Taupua



This has been another challenging year for NPDC, with change remaining a constant. Economic pressures, global uncertainty, new elected members, ongoing reform and day-to-day service demands have all stretched the organisation. Through this, our people have shown commitment, professionalism and resilience. I am proud of the way staff have continued to deliver for our community while adapting to significant change.

We have invested significant time, effort and funding in core infrastructure. In Urenui, we completed the final stage of replacing almost all the town's water pipes, addressing a long-standing issue with aged bursting pipes.

We have continued the major, multi-year upgrade of Inglewood's wastewater network to reduce overflows during heavy rain. We have also invested in Waitara's stormwater infrastructure to help lower the risk of flooding during storms.

In March 2026, we opened the new thermal drying facility at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant. The $75.4 million project, supported by $37 million from the Government's Infrastructure Reference Group Fund, will help future-proof wastewater treatment for the next 25 years.

The first stages of the Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy are also taking shape. The Metro Plaza has been demolished for the future opening up of the Huatoki Stream, while the West End Crossing is improving pedestrian access and amenity. Problematic alder trees have also been removed from parts of Devon Street to make way for native plants.

We are also delivering on our commitment to provide more affordable housing, with 12 new 'housing for the elderly' units under construction in Bell Block.

Reducing costs for ratepayers remains a major focus. Alongside reviewing our capital programme to reflect what we can realistically deliver, we have plans in place to reduce energy costs through two major solar projects.

In September 2025, Te Matakupenga (the new solar farm at New Plymouth Airport) came online, making the airport energy self-sufficient and supplying surplus power to Council facilities and events. The solar farms now provide about half of NPDC's electricity needs.We have also installed solar panels on the archives building and TSB Showplace, with each system supplying about 35 per cent of that building's electricity needs. Together, these projects form one of our largest energy-efficiency initiatives since 2019, when we replaced more than 11,000 streetlights across the district with energy-efficient LEDs.

There have also been major milestones this year. TSB Showplace marked 100 years, Pukekura Park marked 150 years, and the Len Lye Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Financial prudence remains a constant focus. When the Annual Plan 2026/27 was adopted in June, we had reduced the capital programme for the next 12 months from $149 million to $123.5 million, part of the puzzle that help keep the rates increase to just below five per cent.

In May, international credit rating agency S&P Global reaffirmed NPDC's AA/Stable/A-1+ credit rating, supported by the Perpetual Investment Fund, which broke the $400m mark this year, and confidence in the organisation's prudent management of budgets and borrowing.

We have also established Wai Hononga Water Services Ltd, the new water services company. Significant work is now under way as we prepare for the company to take over management of NPDC's water and wastewater networks from July 2027.

Big changes are also ahead in how people pay for water. Mock billing for volumetric charging is due to begin in October 2026, ahead of charging based on water use from 1 July 2027.

This work has taken place during a period of significant challenge, including higher fuel prices and increased costs for households, businesses and NPDC. While we can't control these pressures, we can plan carefully and respond where we can.

The coming year will bring further change, but we are well placed to meet it. Our focus remains on delivering reliable services, investing wisely, supporting our people and protecting what makes our district a great place to live.

Steve Ruru, Interim Chief Executive

Highlights during the year

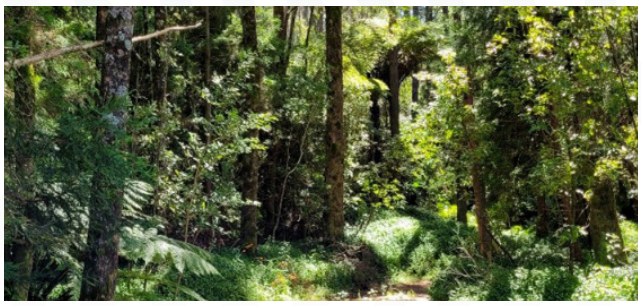
Ngā whakamiramira o te tau

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.



Len Lye Centre marked 10-year anniversary with musical theme

To mark a decade since one of New Zealand's most iconic buildings opened, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra - Te Tira Pūoro o Aotearoa performed ***A Score for Len Lye,*** by Swedish Albanian Australian artist and composer Mia Salsj. The August performance was part of a weekend of events.



Joe Gibbs Reserve planting nears completion

The transformation of Inglewood's Joe Gibbs Reserve continued during the year, with 1.7 hectares planted in native species. The wider six-hectare site is being restored as native forest and wetland and will include a new conservation centre, developed through a partnership between Council, Pukerangiora Hapū and the East Taranaki Environment Collective.



Destination Kāwaroa a winner

Destination Kāwaroa took out a national excellence award for placemaking at the 2026 LGFA Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards. Delivered with Ngāti Te Whiti, Taranaki Foundation and NP Partners, the coastal playground was celebrated by judges as a standout project that put people at the heart of planning and design.



TSB Festival of Lights sparks record economic boost for Taranaki region

Our TSB Festival of Lights delivered a record-breaking $11.8 million contribution to regional GDP this summer, according to a new BERL report, making it the festival's strongest economic result to date. The event attracted 45,000 out-of-region visitors and generated a record 86,327 visitor nights. providing a major boost to local businesses.



Century-old water pipes replaced

We replaced about 300 meters of cast-iron water pipes laid in the city centre in the 1930s. The new polyethylene pipes can keep up with rising water consumption and modern firefighting needs. The old pipes in Robe, Devon and King streets, were the very first public water pipes laid in central New Plymouth and had failed several times in recent years.



Preserving our heritage

Three historic buildings joined our list of protected heritage structures in the latest version of the District Plan.

The trio added were New Plymouth's Samoan Methodist Church, Waipuku Stream Rail Bridge and Deem and Shearer building (now Windsor Caffe) in Inglewood.



Pukekura Park celebrated150 years

In May, New Plymouth's much-loved green jewel marked an incredible 150 years with a packed weekend of celebrations, including park and fernery tours, historical walks, a public planting event, New Plymouth Brass playing at the country's oldest band rotunda, and colourful displays.



Major wastewater upgrade kicks-off in Inglewood

A $13 million, 10-year project to upgrade Inglewood's wastewater system began, addressing longstanding issues with the network being overloaded during heavy rainfall. Guided by our digital modelling and on the ground testing, stage one replaced a defective Carrington Street main with a larger pipe.



New thermal dryer facility opened

In March we opened a new thermal drying facility at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant, helping futureproof wastewater treatment for the next 25 years. Built over two and a half years to replace an ageing, hard to maintain dryer. The $75.4m project dries excess sludge from nearly 62,000 residents.



Future water services delivery

Council reached a major milestone in implementing the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms, establishing the framework for a dedicated Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation to deliver drinking water and wastewater services. The approval of key governance arrangements and service delivery plans positions the organisation for the planned transfer of water assets and operations from 1 July 2027.



Tarata Road upgrade

We kick-started a multi-million-dollar project to upgrade about 5km of Tarata Road between Inglewood and Purangi Saddle, a significant but deteriorating regional and economic road under pressure from increasing volumes of logging trucks.

The two-year project to make the road more resilient focuses on six high-risk sites. Construction was completed at the 1.4km Toro Road site and the 200m Tarata Saddle site. Construction also progressed on the Pukeho Road to Toro Road section, with the majority of physical works completed by 30 June.



Coastal Walkway extension works programme

In November 2025, the Brown Road intersection to Ōtupaiia Marine Park section of Te Pae o Te Rangi Coastal Walkway extension got underway work at Brown Road, including planting, completed during this year. We also continued preparation through to and near Battiscombe Terrace. Work in progress during this year include two large rest areas, which are nearing completion, informal paths and two smaller rest areas being built and completed piling for the timber bridge which is now being built.

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 2025/26, 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 $9.6m 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

The Proposed District Plan (publicly notified in September 2019) became the Part Operative District Plan in August 2025. After almost six years of two district plans being in play, this milestone resulted in streamlining the resource consenting process and reducing costs and complexity for applicants.

The Waitara Spatial Plan was formally adopted by Council on 28 May 2026, and the Bell Block Spatial Plan is under development. These local spatial plans establish an agreed spatial framework for future planning of these towns and surrounding areas, showing where growth should occur, what infrastructure is needed, and how cultural, environmental, and community values can shape decisions over the coming decades.

Improving Capital Delivery

We continue to strengthen the delivery of our capital works programme. In 2025/26, we delivered $105.5m - 78 per cent of the planned $135.6m.

Our capital delivery comprised of $100m of new assets through our renewal and capital works programme, and $1m 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). Throughout the year, we focused on improving contract processes and procedures to ensure readiness for the planned increase in renewal activity.

In 2025/26, we invested $14.9m in renewals. This included the resealing of 36 kilometres of road - approximately 3.2 per cent 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, $19.5m was invested in these renewals. This included $7.6m in renewing 4.3 kilometres of water pipes, an additional $9.3m to renew 3.8 kilometres of sewer pipes and $2.7m for stormwater pipe upgrades.

To support proactive maintenance, we carried out 16,745 metres of CCTV inspections across wastewater and stormwater networks, which led to the lining of 2,022 metres of pipe to prevent further degradation at a cost of $0.8m. 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 2026/27.

Boosting the Disaster Recovery Reserve

In line with LTP 2024 the Disaster Recovery Reserve was boosted in 2025/26 with the annual $0.5m top up and an additional $0.2m release from PIF. This shifted the opening balance of $2.4m to a closing balance of $3.1m as of 30 June 2026 with no withdrawals during the year.

Big Call 2
Sustainability



Climate Action Framework

Climate change planning

We undertook to reset our climate change (natural hazards) work programme this year. We agreed to combined our climate change plans into a single plan, and are intending to consult the community on this single plan early in 2026/27. We also removed several reporting requirements, including climate-related disclosures that were summarised into annual reports.

We began the Urenui and Onaero Local Adaptation Plan process, and will be engaging with the communities early in 2026/27 with an intention to adopt our first such plan by the end of next financial year.

Community Climate Action Fund

This year we undertook our first round of community funding for climate action. We granted $75,000 towards solar, electrification and climate education, rainwater harvesting, and wetland restoration planning.

Rohutu Block managed retreat support

We completed our agreed-to urgent support for the Rohutu Block, Waitara by demolishing the final of six houses under extreme coastal erosion risk, with the other five of the six houses demolished in 2024/25.

Sustainability Accelerator Fund

This year we undertook several projects, focused on reducing our energy costs. This included installing solar panels on the Archives Building and the TSB Showplace (which had been funded the previous year) and installing LED lights in buildings.

Planting our Place

Planting Our Place continued to build momentum this year, delivering native revegetation projects across Council reserves while strengthening partnerships with hapū, iwi, community groups, schools and volunteers. The programme remains a key part of climate change (natural hazards) work programme, helping to increase indigenous biodiversity, enhance carbon sequestration and create opportunities for community participation in environmental restoration.

We funded two community planting projects through Te Korowai o Tāne grants, and worked with numerous groups to support their planting efforts.

Three native plantings, totalling 1.5 hectares, were carried out within Council administered reserves - bringing the programme total up to 13.3 hectares of new native forest and wetland plantings to date.

Bus trial

We had to cancel the work to establish a high-frequency bus service trial in New Plymouth due to funding constraints. We will continue to work with Taranaki Regional Council and the NZ Transport Agency to improve bus frequency and services in New Plymouth

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 $500,000 in the 2025/26 year with a release from the PIF. The reserve balance at 30 June 2026 is now $750,000.

Tūparikino Active Community Hub

Construction continues to progress with enabling works now complete, all underground civil infrastructure installed and a section of the new car park already open for public use.

The indoor arena build is now underway, with foundation works for the structural steel frames in place. The community can now see the facility beginning to take shape as the vertical construction emerges from the ground. The next major milestones will be the installation of the roof, followed by the pouring of the concrete floor slab.

Local sports codes and active recreation groups are working together to raise funds for the equipment and fit-out required within the facility. Their collective efforts will help ensure the hub is fully equipped and ready to welcome users when it opens in 2028.

Brooklands Zoo

In the Annual Plan 2025/2026, Council approved combining Phases 1 and 2 of the zoo projects (aviary and otter habitats) that then align with Phase 3 (primates) following on from these. Detailed design has progressed in 2025/26 with reporting to Council on the proposed designs in September/October 2026, prior to 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, Council resolved on 22 July 2025 to proceed with a Single Council Water Services Council Controlled Organisation for delivery of drinking water and wastewater and the in-house delivery of stormwater. Water Service Delivery Plans were approved by the Department of Internal Affairs on 31 October 2025, and the transfer of drinking water and wastewater assets is on track to be completed 1 July 2027.

Housing for the Elderly

We completed a comprehensive review of our Housing for the Elderly service to ensure it remains effective, affordable, and sustainable for the future. The review considered a range of service delivery models, including the establishment of a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) or similar structure.

The findings confirmed that the portfolio and service are currently operating to an acceptable standard. While alternative delivery models were assessed, the review concluded that a CCO or similar structure would increase costs without providing significant strategic benefits compared with the existing model.

The review's recommendations were presented to Council and approved for further investigation and implementation. Ongoing work includes updating relevant policies, seeking opportunities to access central government funding, partnering with a Community Housing Provider to deliver new housing where appropriate, and collaborating with other organisations regionally to pursue shared opportunities and improve outcomes.

Caring for our people and environment

Youth engagement and services

Following Council's endorsement of a new youth engagement model in 2024/25, this year we procured and contracted two youth organisations to facilitate and support youth development and engagement. We continued to support through funding a dedicated youth space in the central business district to ensure there is an accessible hub for youth engagement. Alongside this, we engaged schools and youth organisations to help establish a Youth Advisory Group and then completed the co-design process with young people. The first Advisory Group meeting is scheduled to take place in Quarter 1 2026/27.

In partnership with our contracted providers, we helped facilitate youth participation in both the Waitara and Puketapu-Bell Block spatial plans.

Puke Arki social-history gallery refreshment

The project team is well underway with research, consultation, and concept development, with the aim of exploring the diverse perspectives, relationships, and events that have shaped Taranaki today, and will guide us into the future. As the concept develops, wider consultation will take place.

Mana Whenua Partnership funding

Through the Mana Whenua Partnerships Fund, $200,000 was allocated to support preparatory work for the construction of the Ngāti Te Whiti Marae, while a further $200,000 was invested in the digital enablement of the Pukerangiora Pā Project. Ngāti Te Whiti recently attracted $8.6m Government funding for their Marae build, significantly upscaling Council's investment. Pukerangiora Hapū recently reopened the Pā with Council funding supporting cultural narrative and design for the stunning Tomokanga (gate way), story panels and audio for authentic self-guided touring of this nationally significant Pā.

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 is nearing completion, with works scheduled for full completion in August 2026, providing a green, pedestrian-friendly, and accessible gateway to the city for the thousands of people working and visiting businesses, civic buildings and attractions, and the recently completed Ngāmotu House.

The Huatoki daylighting project has progressed with a private/public partnership that has seen demolition of the majority of the Metro Plaza building in 2026, the remaining floor slab is being retained on site to assist with adjacent building developments and then will be removed prior to stream works and development of public spaces and access.

Demolition of the Council-owned Metro Plaza building 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 provide a catalyst to building city centre vibrancy and economic development opportunities.

Destination Play

Phases 1, 2 and 3 of this destination playspace were completed on time and within budget. The playspace won a National Placemaking award, was a finalist in the playspace of the year award (with special recognition) and is a finalist in the playground category of National design awards. The space continues to be extremely well used by the community and is maturing well, with planting establishing.

Supporting growth and economic development

Ring Road and second Waiwhakaiho Crossing planning

Request for proposals to refine a scope for modelling and technical information for the Smart Road future urban zone and a potential second Waiwhakaiho crossing have been received. Officers are also in discussion with NZ Transport Agency on the broader requirements for SH3 corridor management planning between Waitara and New Plymouth and aligning technical work that might be required to inform those considerations.

Events Reserve

The Events Reserve Policy was adopted on 12 August 2025. The reserve opened with $200,000 from the 2024/25 financial year. There were no deposits or drawdowns for 2025/26.

Economic Development Reserve

In LTP 2024 $500,000 was allocated in each of the first two years to support economic growth opportunities. In 2024/25, three projects were funded, fully utilising the $500,000 allocation. In 2025/26, a different approach was taken, with the full $500,000 allocation directed to a single project: the Taranaki Alliance. This initiative brings together the region's unique engineering capability to support economic growth and development. A balance of $40,000 remains in the Economic Development Reserve.

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.

Improving accessibility at the Inglewood Swimming Pool

Project planning and design work has been completed and will continue to managed by the NPDC Project Management Office. Delivery of the project has been deferred to 2028/29 to align with the Inglewood Pool Heating Replacement Project. As the two projects are closely linked, coordinating their delivery will enable more efficient use of resources and help achieve the intended accessibility and facility upgrade outcomes.

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

Detailed investigations into the former Battiscombe Terrace Landfill have continued during 2025/26. These investigations are helping to inform assessments of potential management, remediation options and implications associated with any future options.

Improving Council's performance and growing non-rates revenue

Scholarships and internships

Between 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 five internships were awarded to university students.

Internships were 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 that reflect how Council operates and serves the community. Each activity includes specific performance measures and targets, with detailed results provided in the Council Services section of the Annual Report 2025/26.

Overall, NPDC performed well across its activities during the year despite a challenging operating environment.

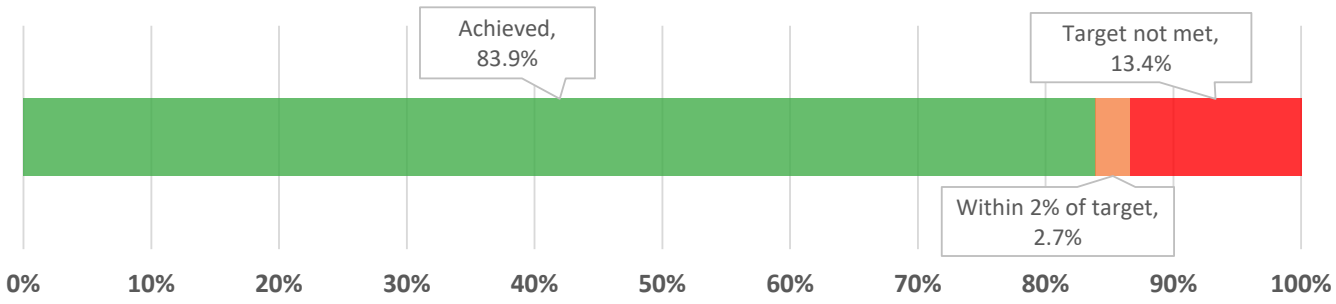
How we performed against our targets for the year

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

- 83.9% of performance targets were achieved (94 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%).
- 13.4% of measures (15 out of 112) were not achieved.

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

- Growing demand for community funding has reduced average grant allocations, and much of the support provided to community groups is not always visible to residents.
- Delays in responding to five official information requests.
- Non-payment of dog registration fees, potentially reflecting ongoing cost of living pressures.
- Delays in processing a small number of building consent applications.
- Processing timeframes for non-notified resource consents being affected by complex and older applications.
- Delays in identifying, assessing, and formalising Memoranda of Understanding for emergency centres, with only six of the target eight centres completed.
- Two community board agendas being released late due to a combination of process and technology issues.
- Ongoing challenges affecting the quality of urban landscapes and streetscapes across the district.
- Ongoing vandalism of public toilet facilities.
- Budget constraints limiting resurfacing of the local road network.
- Ongoing community discussions regarding aspects of the Transport Choices Programme.
- The ageing condition of pool facilities and associated accessibility issues.
- Lower satisfaction with events among older residents and residents of the North General Ward.
- The temporary closure of TSB Showplace for several months, combined with challenging financial conditions.
- Ongoing challenges to reduce household waste.
- One infringement notice for an overflow resulted in untreated wastewater being discharged to land and entering the Kurapete Stream.
- Ōākura water supply compliance with Taumata Arowai protozoal treatment requirements was 99.2 per cent, below the target level.



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

Key performance indicators achieved by funding recipients of NPDC's grants reached 100% (target 95%). Housing for the Elderly tenants satisfaction with the service provided reached 100% (target 90%).

Seven initiatives received 'start-up' financial support (target three). Partners satisfied with Council's advice and involvement in community initiatives reached 96% (target 95%).

Resident satisfaction with NPDC's advice and support to community groups reached 85% (target 90%). This was influenced by an increasing gap between applications and available funding, and partially attributed to low awareness about advice and support Council provides.



Customer and Regulatory Solutions

All dog attacks were responded to within the two hour target timeframe (target 100%). All alcohol licensing inspections were completed in accordance with statutory requirements (target 100%). Of the 398 official information requests received, 99% were completed within statutory timeframes (target 100%), with five requests exceeding the timeframe due to resourcing pressures and the complex nature of individual requests.

The percentage of residents satisfied with animal control activities (target 90%) was 91%, up from 84% last year. Similarly, 90% of formal complaints received an interim reply or were resolved within five working days (target 90%), an improvement from last years 83%.

Dog registration compliance (target 95%) dropped to 83% from to 92%. It is possible that cost-of-living pressures have negatively influenced compliance. In response Council is implementing alternative payment options and seeking to roll out an earlier infringement notice regime.

Building applications processed within statutory timeframes (target 100%) reached 99%, with 2,546 applications processed.

Non-notified resource management consents processed within statutory timeframes (target 100%) increased to 84% from last years 55%. Updated processes and technology have helped to improve this measure, although historic applications remaining in the system continue to affect the overall measure, which does not entirely reflect the current performance. A measure added last year where all decisions to extend timeframes met the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 was achieved (target 100%).



Economic Development

A total of 26 major events were attracted or retained (target six), up from 16 last year.

Additional funding secured for regional development programmes (target 20% of total funding) reached 26%, down from 34%.

The number of events, programmes or initiatives to drive change and support regional strategy objectives delivered was 24 (target 10). Client satisfaction remained high, with a Net Promoter Score of 78 (target 40+).

Across 27 external contracts, 96% of performance measures and reporting requirements were met (target: 90%). One contract was closed with outstanding performance requirements.

Emergency Management and Business Continuance

Emergency plans were reviewed and updated as per the review schedule.

The Emergency Operations Centre remained fit for purpose through monthly system checks and an annual capability audit.

Nine emergency exercises were completed (target two), including regional, community, and internal events.

Staff and volunteers capable of responding to an emergency (target 150) was 160, made up of 81 staff and 79 volunteers, down slightly from 163 last year.

Six Emergency Centres were formalised with Memorandums of Understanding (target eight.

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

Governance

Two meeting agendas were not made available within required timeframes (target 100%) due to a combination of process and technology issues. Hard copy agendas were publicly available on request.

The 2025 local elections were completed with full compliance and no process issues reported. Additionally, by-elections for Clifton and Kaitake Community Boards were initiated and completed on 22 December 2025.

Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, and Annual Report were all adopted on schedule (target full compliance).

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre

Seven exhibitions were delivered (target seven). The gallery welcomed 75,130 visitors (target 74,000). Down from 79,147 last year. A total of 88 audience engagement events were held (target 65). 78% of residents were satisfied with the service (target 65%), up from last years 65%.

Customer satisfaction measure by in-house surveys were taken of 358 exhibition visitors, with the overall experience measuring 86% (target 82%). Results reflect both 'satisfied' (17%) and 'very satisfied' (69%).

Management of Investments and Funding

The annual return from the Perpetual Investment Fund was 17.9% (target 3.3% + CPI + Fees and Costs), continuing strong performance above benchmark.

All debt level measures were fully compliant with the Liability Management Policy (target full compliance).

Parks and Open Spaces

Community satisfaction with parks and reserves, including the Coastal Walkway and Pukekura Park, achieved 95% (target 95%). Sports grounds achieved a satisfaction rating of 93% (target 90%). Playgrounds recorded 96% satisfaction (target 95%). Brooklands Zoo continued to perform straongly, with satisfaction of 97% (target 90%). Public toilet satisfaction was down to 77% (target 80%), with increased vandalism a significant contributing factor.

Satisfaction with the district's urban landscapes and streets remained at 86% (target 90%). Ongoing initiatives as part of the City Centre Strategy will continue to address this, and as landscapes mature and projects are completed it is expected that this measure will improve. Households within 500 metres of a park, reserve or neighbourhood open space was 89% (target 80%).

Playground compliance with NZ Safety Standards remained at 96% (target 90%). Independent audits are completed every three years, with the next audit due in 2027.

Puke Ariki and Community Libraries

On average, 1,482 customers visited Puke Ariki and the community libraries each day (target 1,000). The i-SITE Visitor Information Centre achieved 98% customer satisfaction (target 98%). The library collection held 3.02 items per capita (target 3 to 3.5 items). Free access to online information using public computing devices was available at all libraries (target free access at all libraries).

A total of 1,943 programmed learning opportunities were delivered (target 1,200), with 40,494 participants attending (target 29,000). This is a significant increase over last years 1.811 programmes with 34,503 participants. Satisfaction with these programmes also improved to 97% from 92% (target 95%) measured from feedback from 401 customers.

Two temporary exhibitions were delivered (target two), and four additional exhibitions were held in other gallery spaces (target four). One permanent gallery was refreshed (target one). Four new digital products or experiences were provided (target four).

Stormwater Management

No flooding events occurred (target zero), and no habitable floors were affected (target one or fewer per 1,000 connected properties). Council received no abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders, or convictions related to stormwater discharges (target zero).

Complaints about the stormwater system (target eight or fewer per 1,000 connected properties) was 4.81, up from 3.36 last year. This was calculated from 157 complaints from 32,672 connections). The median response time to flooding events was 0.40 hours (target one hour or less).

Resident satisfaction with the quality and safety of the district's stormwater system remained high at 89% (target 70%).

Transportation

The target of reducing fatal or serious injury crashes on the local roading network was achieved. There were 20 crashes, a decrease of eight from the previous year.

The target for resurfacing sealed roads was also not met, with 3.2% resurfaced (target 5%), this is down from 4.1% last year and is due to budget constraints and more, higher cost asphaltic concrete renewals being undertaken. 36 of 1,136 kilometres were resealed. Smooth travel exposure remained at 87% (target 85%). Resident satisfaction with the overall quality of roads remained at 60% (target 60%)

Satisfaction with the cycle network increased slightly to 71% (target 85%), with results suggesting a minor increase in acceptance of the Transport Choices programme.

Footpath condition remained strong with 96% of the surveyed network assessed as being in good or excellent condition (target >90%). The proportion of the network recorded as failed was 2.2%, achieving the target of no more than 3%. These results are based on surveys undertaken every three years, with the last survey carried out in 2025/26. The percentage of roading and footpath service requests responded to on time was 97% (target 95%).

Venues and Events

The target of 1,000 events/bookings across all venues was not achieved, with 800 events held. The attendee target was also below target at 254,060 (target 280,000), significantly less than last year's 342,695 attendees The challenging economic climate and the temporary closure of the TSB Showplace for refurbishment impacted events delivered and patronage.

The Festival of Lights attendance remained strong at 162,500 (target 145,000) up from 155,000 last year.

Resident satisfaction with NPDC's event venues reached 96% (target 96%), while satisfaction with NPDC's events was slightly below target at 93% (target 95%).

The number of pool patrons at 377,600 did not meet the target of 390,00, but was an increase on last years 342,695. The aging facilities, location and accessibility issues remain a challenge for the TEAC facility. Despite this, satisfaction with NPDC's swimming facilities was strong at 96% (target 85%), showing improvement from the previous years 90%.

Waste Management and Minimisation

A 12% reduction in total landfill waste per capita was achieved (target 5%), but landfill waste per household decreased by only 0.4% (target 5% reduction). This is, however, the first reduction since 2020.

No abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders or convictions were received, maintaining full compliance with environmental standard (target zero).

The number of complaints about the Council's waste management and minimisation service was 0.64 per 1,000 customers, meeting the target of two or less, down from 0.97 last year and reflects 20 complaints from 31,010 customers.

Resident satisfaction with the kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service was 92% (target >80%).

Wastewater Treatment

There were 0.19 dry weather sewerage overflows per 1,000 connections (target 1.5). The median response time to overflow callouts was 0.53 hours (target one hour or less). The median resolution time for sewers <250 diameter was 1.77 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 (target zero). One infringement notice was issued for a discharge into the Kurapete Stream (target zero).

The number of complaints about odour, faults, blockages, or Council response was 4.57 per 1,000 connections (target 13 or less). Down from 5.32 last year as reflected by 144 complaints from 31,532 connections.

Resident satisfaction with the quality and safety of the wastewater treatment system was 96% (target 80%).

Water Supply

We achieved partial compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules 2022 (target full compliance). Drinking water quality was not compromised, however a UV sensor issue was identified resulting in one measure not being met. Corrective measures have been implemented and enhanced monitoring and training has been undertaken.

There was a 14.1% real water loss from Council's networked reticulation system (target 20% or less), an improvement from the previous year's result of 16.4%.

The median response time for urgent callouts was 0.53 hours (target one hour or less), and the median resolution time was 1.65 hours for mains <250 diameter (target four hours or less) No callouts were received for larger mains. The median non-urgent callout response time was 27.06 hours (target 70 hours or less), with median resolution achieved in 68.76 hours (target 116 hours or less).

There were 14.45 complaints per 1,000 connections received in relation to our water supply service (target 16 or less), reflected by 430 complaints from 29,830 connections. Resident satisfaction with the quality and safety of the district's water supply was 80% (target 80%), significantly down on 91% last year.

The average consumption of drinking water per day, per resident was 237285 litres (target 300 litres per day), a significant reduction on last years 285 litres per day.

There were no abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders or convictions received (target zero).

Financial Summary

Whakarāpopototanga ā-pūtea

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

The bottom line

We ended the year with a $62.2m surplus, $50.8m more than the budgeted $11.4m. 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 $326.8m, $53m 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	Investments assets
50%	**26%**
Fees, charges and other revenue	Grants and Subsidies
14%	**10%**

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 12.68 per cent, which was in line with what we planned in the budget. The average residential rate increase was 9.9 per cent, which is slightly below our target of 10.3 per cent.

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.

- **Strong investment returns.** Our PIF finished the year at $464m, up $59m. Of that, $13m was used to help fund Council services and operations.
- **Borrowing update**. By 30 June 2026, our total borrowings were $429.8m. While this was a bit lower than the cap of $447.9m in our LTP.
- **Lower interest costs**. Thanks to favourable market conditions and smart investment strategies, our net interest costs were about $1.3m 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 pages 44 to 46. 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	2025/26 results	2024/25 results
1. Net debt/revenue*	<135%	-54.2%	-45.1%
2. Net interest/revenue	<10%	5.2%	4.9%
3. Net interest/rates income	<12.5%	7.9%	7.9%
4. Liquidity/external debt	>105%	113.8	113.4%

* Net debt to total revenue is well below our target of 135 per cent. The negative number means we actually have more in liquid assets than we owe, so our net debt is effectively zero.

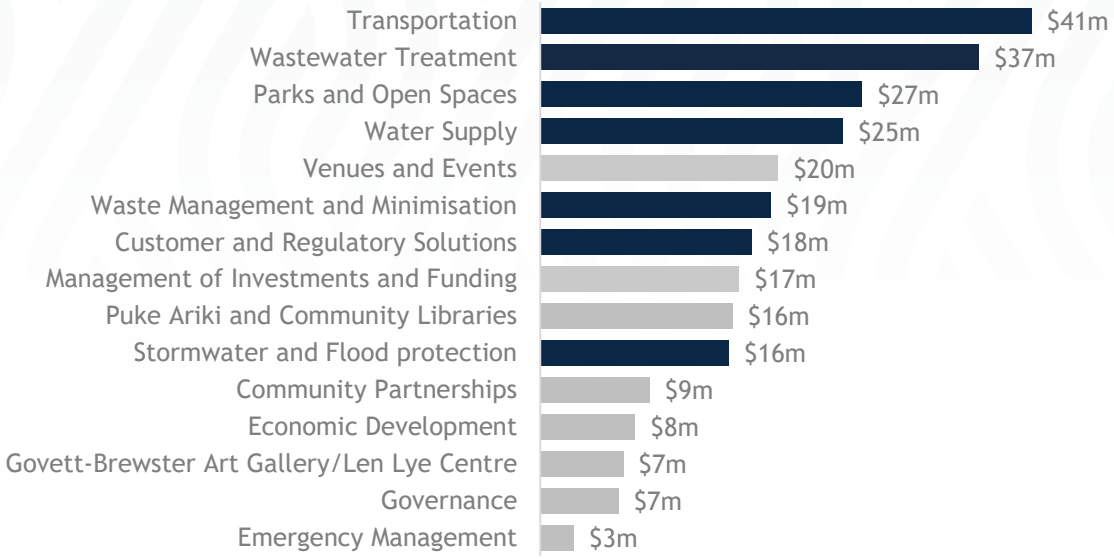
What we spent

We spent $263.6m running services and maintaining infrastructure - that's $1.2m more than budgeted. The extra costs were mostly due to accounting items like depreciation, asset write-offs and derivative valuation losses.

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

Operating expenditure including depreciation 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.

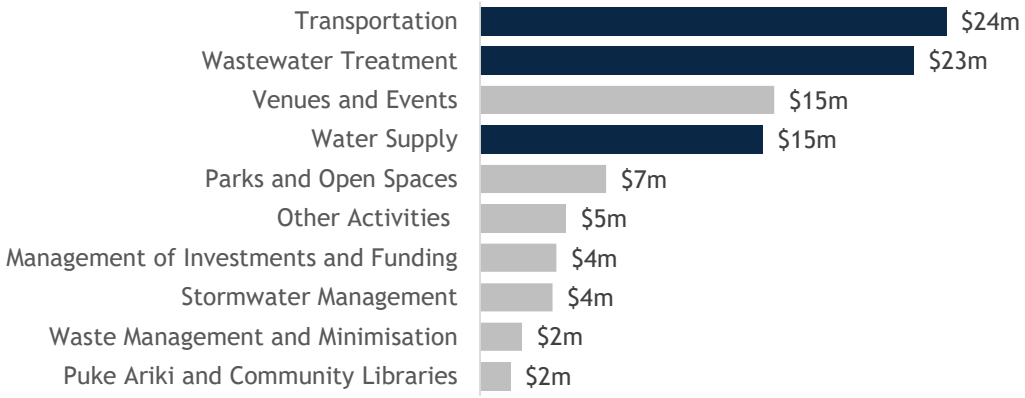


Investing in the district

Council delivered $105.5m in assets during 2025/26, achieving 78% of the planned $135.6m capital programme, supporting the long-term well-being of our community.

Capital expenditure by activity (in millions)

Significant investment was made in **Water, Wastewater and Transportation** across the district ($47.1m). 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 2026

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2025/26 Actual $'000	2025/26 Budget $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2025/26 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000
Rates revenue	162,321	160,970	148,258	162,173	148,114
Perpetual Investment Fund (gains)	77,621	20,728	40,586	77,621	40,586
Other revenue	86,892	92,122	95,592	98,170	105,899
Total operating revenue	**326,834**	**273,820**	**284,436**	**337,964**	**294,599**
Interest costs	16,290	18,320	16,623	16,290	16,624
Perpetual Investment Fund (direct expenses)	5,173	2,896	3,327	5,173	3,327
Other expenses	244,359	241,144	234,930	253,358	242,480
Total operating expenditure	**265,822**	**262,360**	**254,880**	**274,821**	**262,431**
Share of joint venture surplus	(340)	-	(399)	(340)	(399)
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	**60,672**	**11,460**	**29,157**	**62,803**	**31,769**
Income tax (expense)/refund	-	-	-	(796)	(775)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AFTER TAXATION	**60,672**	**11,460**	**29,157**	**62,007**	**30,994**
Gain/(loss) on property, plant and equipment revaluations	1,673	-	303,977	7,837	309,461
Financial assets fair value movement (could be reclassified to surplus/(deficit)	78	-	150	78	150
Deferred tax on property revaluation	-	-	-	(1,658)	(1,534)
Total other comprehensive revenue and expense	**1,751**	**-**	**304,127**	**6,257**	**308,077**
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE	**62,423**	**11,460**	**333,284**	**68,264**	**339,071**

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2026

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2025/26 Actual $'000	2025/26 Budget $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2025/26 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000
Current assets	467,393	371,340	396,815	474,299	400,717
Non-current assets	4,050,778	4,050,580	4,007,522	4,082,112	4,034,825
Total assets	**4,518,171**	**4,421,930**	**4,404,337**	**4,556,412**	**4,435,542**
Current liabilities	220,547	152,390	147,903	223,186	152,120
Non-current liabilities	277,120	391,790	298,353	290,510	309,291
Total liabilities	**497,667**	**544,170**	**446,256**	**514,017**	**461,411**
TOTAL EQUITY/NET ASSETS	**4,020,504**	**3,877,740**	**3,958,081**	**4,042,395**	**3,974,131**

Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2026

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2025/26 Actual $'000	2025/26 Budget $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2025/26 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000
Equity at the beginning of the year	**3,958,081**	**3,866,270**	**3,624,797**	**3,974,131**	**3,635,060**
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	62,423	11,460	333,284	68,264	339,071
EQUITY AT THE END OF THE YEAR	**4,020,504**	**3,877,730**	**3,958,081**	**4,042,395**	**3,974,131**

Summary Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2026

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	2025/26 Actual $'000	2025/26 Budget $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000	2025/26 Actual $'000	2024/25 Actual $'000
Net cash flows from operating activities	63,528	54,590	51,299	69,209	55,294
Net cash flows from investing activities	(101,002)	(118,960)	(90,446)	(104,125)	(99,557)
Net cash flows from financing activities	46,285	64,000	53,856	46,285	53,856
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 JULY	**8,811**	**(370)**	**14,709**	**11,369**	**9,593**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 1 JULY	**33,966**	**4,420**	**19,257**	**36,532**	**26,939**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE	**42,777**	**4,050**	**33,966**	**47,901**	**36,532**

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 29 October 2026. 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 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 the Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor-General. The audited information, excluding the Council Services statement, received an unmodified audit opinion on 29 October 2026.

Summary additional disclosures

Explanations for major budget variances from the Council budget figures in the Annual Plan 2025/26 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	**11,460**
Variances are made up of :	
Non-cash items	
• Significant gains from the Perpetual Investment Fund (PIF) contributed positively, reflecting a strong performance in this financial year	56,340
• Gains from derivatives due to inherent uncertainties not anticipated in the budget	816
• Greater vested assets received	218
• Depreciation was lower than budget due to lower uplift on asset base from revaluation	739
• Loss on disposal of assets as part of asset data cleansing	(4,664)
• Vested assets to third parties greater than budget	(3,264)
• PIF management fee greater than budget due to strong performance	(2,497)
• Share of a joint venture surplus/(deficit)	(340)
Funds held on behalf	
• Increase in Waitara Lands Act gains and distributions sales	(687)
Operating items	
Revenue items	
• Water rates greater than budget due to increased usage	1,351
• Reduced development contributions due to fewer greenfield developments than anticipated	(7,044)
• Lower revenue from off-street parking due to reduced activity	(1,152)
• Lesser sales actvitiy - this includes lower revenue from the Commercial Sorting Depot Facility ($1.6m) and forestry harvest ($3.6m) delayed until future years as log prices remain low	(5,323)
• Greater grant funding recognised for capital grants which were budgeted for 2025/26	7,921
• Greater expenses recovered than budgeted for NZ Transport Agency and TSB Showplace offsetting Transfer Station under-recoveries	524
• Waste levey rebate greater than budgeted	443
Expenditure items	
• Higher personnel costs due to additional resourcing required across ERP project, procurement and overall projects portfolio	(2,105)
• Unbudgeted Fringe Benefit Tax payment required to ensure historic compliance	(385)
• Lesser insurance premiums than budgeted	676
• Lower expenses due to forestry harvest delay	3,587
• One-off rates remission was provided to ratepayers to correct average residential rates increase	(3,038)
• New water source ($1.2m), Delivery and Enablement project costs ($1.2m) and CCO establishment ($0.7m) were lower than budget	3,127
• Transfer Station disposal costs less than budget due to reduced activity	1,577
• Business cases for ring road and river crossing projects not progressed	413
• Net finance costs are less than budget due to improved interest revenue from investment strategies, such as prefunding and better rates for term deposit	2,323
• Other net operating cost savings	(345)
ACTUAL - SURPLUS BEFORE TAX	**60,672**

Statement of Financial Position

	Council Actual $'000
BUDGET - TOTAL NET ASSETS	**3,877,760**
Cash on hand includes ring-fenced funds such as those held for Waitara Lands Act that cannot be utilised for NPDC operations ($33.4m).	38,727
Actual accrued revenue at 30 June 2026 includes $3m grant funding for Thermal Drying Facility retention, quarter four water billing and Tangaroa Restoration	4,599
Favourable investment market fluctuations throughout the year to 30 June 2026	68,425
Net increase in derivatives liability due to hedged instruments approaching maturity	(9,073)
Although actuals for Property, Plant and Equipment are lower than budget by $24.6m, the variance is only a decrease of 0.6 per cent on the prior year and is expected due to the revaluation of library and museum assets and data cleansing work	(24,589)
Intangibles are higher than budget due to two new classes added for resource consents and water network models	10,076
Higher investment in CCO's due to the timing of borrowing projections for Solar Farm and Runway Alignment projects, with actual opening balance in the Annual Report $18.9m greater than budget	2,580
Forestry harvest budgeted for year to 30 June 2026 deferred to future year	1,127
Previously unbudgeted deferred lease costs recognised through lease agreement entered in the current financial year	2,477
Creditors are lower due to lower than expected outstanding June invoices	8,499
Actual liability is above budget for Waitara Lands as budget was conservative due to low land sales	(579)
Debt is lower than budget due to capital expenditure under delivery	39,355
Net change across other items	1,120
ACTUAL - TOTAL NET ASSETS	**4,020,504**

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 235.9ha (2024/25: 235.9ha) 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 not trees harvested in 2025/26 (2024/25: Nil).

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 74 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 2026, LGFA had borrowings totalling $26.55b (2024/25: $25.53b).

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 previously obtained public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover as a member of the New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool scheme until 30 June 2017. Riskpool operated as a mutual fund where each member made an annual contribution to obtain cover, however, should claims exceed contributions then calls can be made on the members of that fund year, for the shortfall amount. The scheme is in wind-down. The council has an on-going obligation to contribute to the scheme should a funding call be made in respect of historical claims (to the extent those claims are not covered by reinsurance or where reinsurance recovery is delayed), and to fund the on-going operations of the scheme. Ongoing litigation involving other Council members of Riskpool has introduced a high level of uncertainty about both the level of the council's potential financial exposure and its timing. At this stage, Riskpool cannot quantify the total potential liability associated with these matters.

A call of $34,402 was made during the year to 30 June 2026 (2024/25:$34,402 with a provision of $89,070 made 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 2026.

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.

Reasonable care

Claim 1: It is claimed that Council has not exercised reasonable skill and care and is liable for costs to remediate construction defects and associated damage to a residential building. A Statement of Defence was filed on 1 September 2023. The Plaintiff appealed to the Court of Appeal. In February 2026, the Plaintiff abandoned their appeal and the Court ordered for costs to fall where they lay. Subsequently, the Plaintiff has now advanced a claim for $50m in negligence damages against Council. Council has notified the insurers and engaged in external advice.

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 $3.1m. 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 the Hazardous Substances Chapter and some site specific heritage topics. A one day hearing is scheduled for July 2026.

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 2026 apart from those disclosed above (2024/25: nil).

Contingent assets

There are no known material contingent assets as at 30 June 2026 (2024/25: nil).

Events occurring after the balance date

Simplifying Local Government Reform

In November 2025, the Government announced plans to simplify local government by creating more unitary authorities, organisations that carry out both regional and district council functions. NPDC and Taranaki Regional Council began looking at what that could mean for Taranaki, with the aim of working collaboratively with all four councils in the region.

In May 2026, the Government announced the Head Start Pathway. If councils did not take part, or if their proposals were rejected, the Government would make the decision through the Backstop process after the 2028 local body elections. Council and Taranaki Regional Council developed the 'Pathfinder' proposal which was submitted to the Government on 7 August 2026 to contribute to the Head Start discussion. Pathfinder does not meet the official Head Start criteria, because an outline proposal can only be made by at least two district councils. However, the proposal is intended to help inform the Government's next steps for Taranaki.

On 24 September 2026, the Government announced that Head Start proposals would not be considered until early 2027. As such, the outcome and timing of the reforms is uncertain. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis due to the uncertainty over the outcome and timing of any change.

The Audit Office
Te Mana Arotake

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of New Plymouth District Council's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the New Plymouth District Council (the Council and group) for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 10 to 15 and 18 to 23:

- the summary statement of financial position of the Council and Group as at 30 June 2026;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows of the Council and Group for the year ended 30 June 2026;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary (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 an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026 in our auditor's report dated 29 October 2026.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to the following disclosure in the full annual report.

Simplifying Local Government reform

The government has announced it wants to simplify local government, including reducing the number of local authorities by amalgamations within regions. As described in note 30 on page 151 of the full annual report, the Council is not yet part of an amalgamation proposal and any future change may be determined through a backstop process following the 2028 local elections. The eventual outcome for the Council is dependent on future cabinet decisions and enactment of enabling legislation. Because of the significant uncertainty about the outcome and timing of any future reorganisation, the financial statements have continued to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 23 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.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Council or the Group.



The Audit Office
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand

17 November 2026





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