

Clifton Community Board Plan
2026-2029

NPDC

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026



This Plan outlines the vision and aspirations for the Clifton Community Board area, reflecting what matters most to the local community. It helps guide New Plymouth District Council's decisions about where effort, investment and action are needed.

The Community Board sincerely thanks community members, Council officers and elected members who contributed their time, feedback and ideas during the development of this Plan.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026



Contents

Message from the Chair **2**

Meet the Board Members 2025-2028 ..... **3**

About Community Boards **4**

What Community Boards do 4

How Community Boards fit within Council 4

Community Board funding 5

Upcoming representation review 5

Developing our Plan **6**

Carrying out our Plan **6**

Clifton Community Board area **7**

Key statistics **8**

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework **9**

Our Vision and what we're focusing on **10**

Focus Area 1: Roading and transportation 12

Focus Area 2: Environmental 13

Focus Area 3: Recreation and leisure 14

Focus Area 4: Social assets 15

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Message from the Chair

A connected community is a healthy and resourceful community.

Firstly, for the wellbeing of all, we need to be connected with each other, be it via physical infrastructural assets or social organisations that bring our people together. And secondly our connection to the whenua and environment, where the resourcefulness of our people is dependent on the wellbeing of Papatūānuku (created world).

The Clifton region of north Taranaki is geographically dispersed and has rich pockets of communities where people chose to live, operate their businesses and participate in the rural community life. This Community Board Plan seeks to support the choice of those to live there and enhance the community they connect with.

And so, the roading network that physically connects people to whānau, hapū, each other, and to urban based services must be safe and resilient. Also, those who are physically unable to connect need to have some public services that enable them to meet their needs. It also means that to be a thriving rural community the social assets must be recognised and supported, be it community halls, sports clubs, marae, churches, recreational reserves, and community services that enable and encourage community connections.

Papatūānuku allows the resources we need to sustain our community, and in turn she relies on us to be good stewards of the whenua and environment so that mokopuna can access the same resources she richly provides. This means that the world we live in is not an infinite resource to exploit and abuse, but something that needs to be cherished and sustained.

And so, that with some latest data some resource allocation may need to be constrained, that with population growth in some communities existing infrastructure is preforming poorly and needs to be addressed, and that our communities need access to waste management and recycling services for that works for them. It also means that the many environmental service organisations that research, guide, protect, and restore the environmental impacts of activity needs to be recognised and supported. We must remember that we do not sustain Papa, but it is she that sustains us.

This Board Plan calls on us all to play our part in connecting Clifton communities and guides our elected members and fellow council officers to the call that comes from within to allocate resources that will enable our communities to thrive today and be resilient tomorrow.

Murray Seamark
Chair
Clifton Community Board]

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Meet the Board Members 2025-2028



Murray Seamark
Chair

Phone: 021 431 432
Email: murray.seamark@npdc.govt.nz



Tyla Nickson
Deputy Chair

Phone: [027 774 5257
Email: tyla.nickson@npdc.govt.nz



Ian Cummings

Phone: 0204 002 0868
Email: ian.cummings@npdc.govt.nz



Teresa Hayston

Phone: 027 253 3839
Email: teresa.hayston@npdc.govt.nz



Cr Gina Blackburn
Appointed North Ward Councillor

Phone: 027 926 5610
Email: gina.blackburn@npdc.govt.nz

The Clifton Community Board meets monthly at 10.00am, usually at the Urenui Community Centre, with some meetings held at other venues across the district.

These meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes for each meeting can be found on the Council's website at npdc.govt.nz/meetings

If you would like speaking rights at a Board meeting please contact NPDC's Governance Team by emailing governanceteam@npdc.govt or phoning 06 759 6060

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

About Community Boards

Community Boards play an important role in local decision-making. They are the main link between local communities and the New Plymouth District Council, helping ensure that local voices, issues, and ideas are heard.

There are five community boards in the New Plymouth District.

Community Board members and Councillors are elected every three years during local body elections. A ward councillors is appointed to each community board.

What Community Boards do

Community Boards focus on what matters to their local area. Their key responsibilities include:

- Representing and advocating for the interests of their community.
- Raising issues or reporting on matters referred to them by the Council, or anything of local interest.
- Keeping an overview of Council services in their area.
- Providing input into Council budgets by preparing an annual submission on local priorities.
- Connecting with community groups, organisations, and residents.
- Community Boards spend much of their time working directly with people in the community - listening, supporting, and helping raise matters with the Council.

How Community Boards fit within Council

Community Boards are not committees of Council. They are independent, unincorporated bodies that provide a strong voice for communities outside the New Plymouth city area.

Compared with Councillors, Community Board members typically spend more time on direct representation and local issues, and less on formal governance work.

Community Boards operate under the Local Government Act 2002, which sets out how they work and also places limits on what they can do, e.g. Community Boards cannot own or sell property, or appoint or manage staff.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Community Board funding

There are several ways Community Board initiatives can be funded. Council makes decisions on major investments, such as new facilities or major upgrades, including any large projects proposed by Community Boards.

Some projects may also require external funding. Council officers can assist Community Boards with preparing applications to external funders.

Each Community Board is allocated $150,000 per year of discretionary funding, in line with the Community Boards Discretionary Funding Framework, to support minor local projects and initiatives.

Upcoming representation review

Every council must review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. New Plymouth District Council last completed its review in 2021, and the next review will take place before the 2028 local elections.

The review looks at how Councillors and Community Board members are elected, including decisions on:

- Whether Community Boards should exist
- The boundaries of each Community Board area
- The number of members on each board
- Whether Community Board areas should be subdivided, similar to electoral wards

The review helps ensure fair and effective representation for all communities in the district.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Developing our Plan

Our draft Community Board Plan was shaped through careful consideration of your feedback. During May and June 2026, we sought your views on whether the draft plan reflected your needs and aspirations for the next three years, and how well the vision, key focus areas, priorities and advocacy topics aligned with what matters to you.

We engaged with individuals, groups and organisations across the community board area. The issues and aspirations you raised through conversations, workshops and submissions have helped us refine and finalise this plan.

We thank everyone who contributed their time, ideas and local knowledge. Your input has been essential in shaping a plan that reflects our community.

Carrying out our Plan

Delivering this plan requires many people working together – our communities, the Community Board, and the wider Council whānau. To bring the plan to life, we will:

- Prioritise budgets to focus on the initiatives in the plan.
- Make the best use of our local assets.
- Provide direction to Council staff who deliver projects and services.
- Work alongside community groups, partners and stakeholders to support delivery.

Where important projects fall outside the Community Board's available funding or decision-making powers, we will advocate on behalf of our community to the appropriate decision-makers, ensuring community views are clearly heard and supported.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Clifton Community Board area

The Clifton Community Board is part of the North Ward. Its geographic area extends from south of Mōkau encompassing the Mohakatino River, Tongapōrutu, Ahititi, Mt Messenger, Uruti, Pukearuhe, Ōkoki, Urenui and Ōnaero through to east of Waitara, including west side of Princess Street. The ward extends inland along the Waitara River encompassing Tikorangi.

The iwi within this rohe are Te Atiawa, Ngāti Mutunga (Urenui Marae), Ngāti Tama (Pukearuhe Marae) and Ngāti Maru (Te Upoko o te Whenua Marae).



Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Key statistics

This section provides an overview of key statistics for the Clifton Community Board area. Data is sourced from Census 2023, Regional Economic Profile 2025 and Real Estate NZ 2025 Data.

(Figures in grey are for the New Plymouth District as a comparison)

Population:

3,027

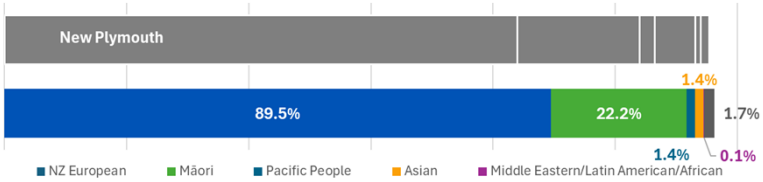
3% of District

348 More people Since 2018

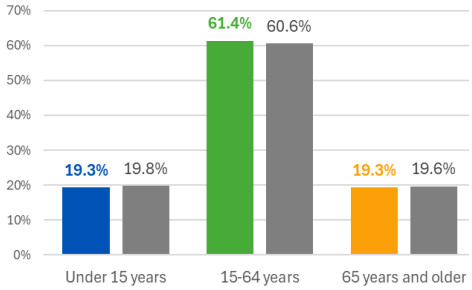
Median Age:

43 40.7

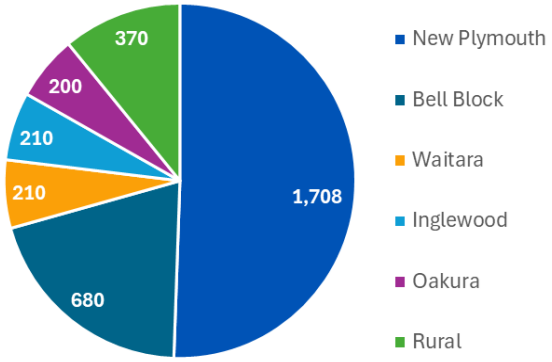
Ethnicity:



Age Profile:



Dwelling Growth next 10 Years:



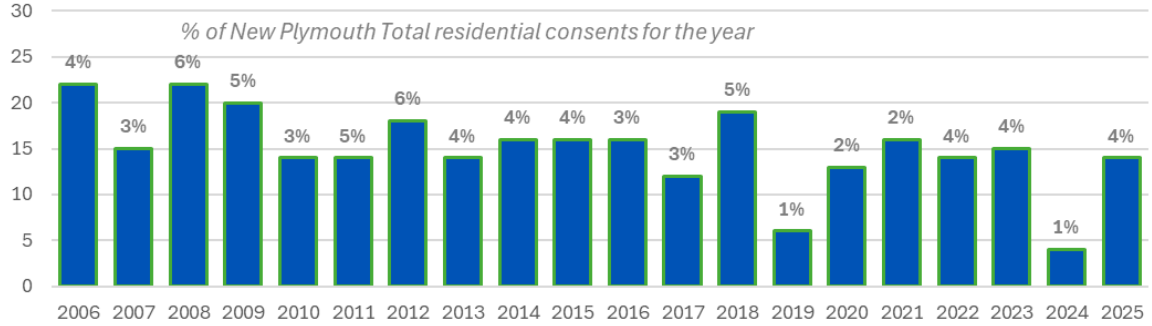
Median House Price:

$595,000 $680,083

Median Rent Price:

Insufficient Data $557pw

Residential Building Consents last 20 years



Median Household Income:

$86,200

$86,400

Top 3 Business Units by Industry:

40% Agriculture, forestry and fishing

20% Rental, hiring and real estate services

8% Construction

19% Rental, hiring and real estate services
13% agriculture, forestry and fishing
12% Construction

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework

NPDC's Strategic Framework outlines the Council's vision, mission and goals, which together represent the community outcomes. It is widely used across the organisation and is a key foundation for developing the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037. Community Board projects and initiatives are therefore expected to align with the Strategic Framework.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Thriving Today, Resilient Tomorrow
Matomato i te ao, Manawaroa i te pō

Goals (Community Outcomes)
Ngā whāinga (Ngā putanga mō te hapori)



People live well, now and into the future

Needs are met and people feel physically, socially and economically secure

Ka ora pai te iwi ināianei ā, haere ake nei

E whakatutuki ana ngā hiahia kia ora ai te taha tinana, te taha hapori me te ōhangatanga hoki



Core infrastructure is reliable and fit for purpose

Essential services are efficient, resilient and future-ready

He kaha, ā e hāngai ana ngā hanganga matua ki te pūtake

He rawe, he aumangea ngā ratonga matua haere nei te wā, haere nei te wā



A strong, diverse economy that is agile in a changing world

Employment, innovation, private sector partnerships and enterprise support people and businesses to thrive

He ōhanga kanorau e moruki ana i te ao hurihuri

Nā te mahi, te auahatanga, ngā hinonga me te rāngai tūmataiti, e ora ai te tāngata me ngā pakihi



Communities are connected, heard, and proud to live here

Our decisions reflect community voices, strong partnerships, and care for people, place and the natural environment

E honohono ana, e rangona ana, e whakahīhī hoki ana ngā hapori o te rohe

Ka whakaata ngā whakataunga i te reo o te hapori, ngā ara tūhonohono me te manaakitanga o te tangata, te whenua me te taiao

Our Vision and what we're focusing on

This section outlines Clifton Community Board's vision for the future and the key focus areas that will guide our work over the next three years.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

“With respect for each other, our environment and connections within our communities, we enable thriving today and resilience tomorrow through collaboration and responsible stewardship.”

The north Taranaki region of Clifton is a large rural area with a dispersed population made up by many small communities. While all communities have similar needs each is unique. Whether it’s the holiday community of Tongapōrutu, the arts valley of Uruti, or the community village of Urenui, each holds a special place for those who choose to live, draw income from, or holiday and recreate in.

While the remoteness of the Clifton region is what attracts people to it, it is also its remoteness that provides the largest challenges with the cost of infrastructure and public services being spread over a small population base. This therefore usually relies on support from the entire District Council to fund projects and programs that enable our communities to function.

However, all infrastructure, environmental and social projects also enable opportunities from within the communities affected. None more so than Te Ara o te Ata, (Mt Messenger bypass) where the completion of this roading infrastructure project will not only enable Taranaki to be more resilient, it will also bring growth and opportunities to the Clifton communities and we must be mindful and prepared for these.

It is the role of the Community Board to foresee future needs and advocate for our communities enabling resilience tomorrow while thriving today. This is achieved not by replacing the initiative of families, volunteers, businesses, marae, churches, clubs, and community organisations, but by empowering and supporting their efforts. The following are 4 focus areas that address this.

Each focus area includes a short description, the opportunities and challenges that influence progress, the Board’s priorities, areas of advocacy, and potential projects that may be supported through discretionary funding. Together, these provide a clear picture of where the Board intends to focus its efforts to achieve positive outcomes for the community.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 1: Roading and transportation

Our rural roading infrastructure provides critical links that enable economic activity of the region and allow our communities to connect with each other and with social services. A thriving community is a mix of all social demographics, and it is important that each can live and connect within their community so safe reliable access is essential.

Opportunities	• Improve safety and advocate for local improvements to build community trust.
Challenges	• Low use/volume roads, that have heavy traffic.
Priorities for the next 3 years	
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Roading network maintenance and renewal programme. • Sensible state highway speed adjustments in high hazard areas. • Community initiatives that provide public transport • Support targeted road safety improvements where hazards are identified. • Sealing of Hutiwai Road from the transfer station to the 3km mark. • Consider a local, low-cost solution to address issues affecting inland North Road.
Discretionary funding projects	Low-cost traffic safety improvements not otherwise prioritised to be considered.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 2: Environmental

The wellbeing of a community is dependent on people's connection with the whenua and environment. Te Taiao (environment), provides resources for whānau to thrive and in turn we must be good stewards so that future generations also thrive. With the environmental challenges currently confronting us, we need to find ways to adapt locally to be resilient tomorrow. The Board also recognises the special place tangata whenua have and works collaboratively with hapū and iwi to achieve outcomes together.

Opportunities	• Acknowledge and support the many local environmental organisations the research, guide, protect, and retore the environment. • Working with the community to develop a local adaptation plan.
Challenges	• Our river water quality needs improving.
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Climate Change** • Understand and communicate the local future challenges of the effects of climate change and support practicable community lead mitigation and adaptation. **Priority 2: Urenui Wastewater Project** • Continued support for the completion of the Urenui wastewater project, and advocate for the inclusion of a campervan black water dump station.
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Low-cost self-service rural rubbish and recycling service the meets community needs. • Review grazing management on paper roads, and in river/coastal reserves and consider identifying appropriate places where different management approaches will improve environmental outcomes.
Discretionary funding projects	• Restoration and planting projects.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 3: Recreation and leisure

It is through recreational and leisure activities individuals and whānau are able to connect with each other, enriching the lives of all and the wellbeing of the community. The large Clifton region encompasses many natural areas that are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, which includes many reserve areas, beaches, waterways and forests.

Opportunities	• Value our distinctive coastal and local reserves and their role in the community.
Challenges	• Low population base over wide spread area.
Priorities for the next three years	
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Bring forward, within the next two years, a full Review of the Tongapōrutu Reserve Management Plan, ensuring it reflects community needs, responsible environmental stewardship and sustainable long-term management. • Identify reserves and beaches where safe public access is a priority. • Urenui swing bridge replacement. • Support development of the Schnapper Flat area as the community recreation space that compliments the swing bridge project and encourages family and community use. • For a research project into operating the Clifton recreational reserves under a community led management model. • Freedom camping that respects private property, protects public spaces, and ensures users take responsibility for the places they enjoy. • Support simple horse track beach access where allowed, for horse riders with parking for vehicles and horse floats.
Discretionary Funding Projects	• Development of a pump track providing a safe place for young people to safely play and interact. • Share the Road signage on Inland North Road, to support the many cyclists who use this road. • Onaero Management Plan Stages two to four projects. • Outdoor park gym equipment.

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 4: Social assets

Social assets that are alive and thriving are an indication of a community wellbeing and are an important mechanism which allow and encourage social interaction within communities. Whether a council asset or owned by local organisations, most are operated by volunteers serving their communities.

Opportunities	• Local solutions to local issues.
Challenges	
Priorities for the next three years	
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Support the ongoing provision of the Urenui cemetery to meet the long-term needs of the community. • Community facilities such as halls, clubrooms and marae will need to comply with new drinking water requirements by 2028. As these facilities provide significant social and community benefits, we will advocate for Council to consider how it can support them to meet these obligations. This could include facilitating access to existing compliant systems where possible, providing technical guidance, and making funding available for any required infrastructure upgrades. • Recognise, advocate for and support the many volunteer organisations, community groups, marae and other local institutions that strengthen relationships, provide practical assistance and build resilient communities throughout the Clifton region. • Support community resilience at emergency hubs.
Discretionary funding projects	• Emergency resilience hubs provisions not provided by the Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO).

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026

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

Document Set ID: 9915680
Version: 3, Version Date: 12/11/2026