

Kaitake Community Board Plan

2026-2029

NPDC

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This Plan outlines the vision and aspirations for the Kaitake 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.

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Message from the Chair

The Kaitake Community Board Plan is shaped by more than 25 years of listening to our community, along with fresh feedback gathered through surveys, social media, public meetings, and face-to-face conversations.

It builds on earlier plans by keeping important unresolved issues in view, while also recognising the new and ongoing challenges we face. The plan reflects the voices, hopes and priorities of people right across our community – including our young people, retirees, sports clubs, local businesses, and the rural sector. It also includes independent perspectives from key people with insights and a strong understand of the Kaitake Ward.

Together, these contributions help guide a plan that supports the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our whole community.

As Chair, I know how important it is that the Board hear directly from you. We can only respond to issues that we know about. Your input helps us see what's working well, what needs attention, and where we should focus our efforts.

When issues are raised through the right channels, such as the Antenno App, they can be directed to the right Council teams and can be addressed quickly and effectively.

The current Board is committed to listening, engaging, and responding constructively and without judgement. We want you to feel heard, rebuild trust and confidence, and strengthen the connection between our community and your elected representatives.

Together, we can protect what makes Kaitake special and keep it welcoming, connected, and thriving.

As stated in the previous Kaitake Community Board Plan, "a Community Plan serves to provide Council with a basis to understand who we are, and to respond meaningfully, through policy and investment, to the opportunities and challenges as they arrive."

New Zealand's democratic system supports the rights and freedoms of everyone, and the Kaitake Community Board is here to represent your voice as the New Plymouth District Council plans for the next ten years, and beyond.

We are committed to improving what we can, advocating where it matters, and continuing to listen so your voice is heard.

This is your plan, and our role is to support it and help turn it into action.

Mike Anderson
Chair
Kaitake Community Board

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Meet the Board Members 2025-2028



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The Kaitake Community Board meets monthly on a Monday at 11am, at the Kaitake Community Sports Hub,and also, from time-to time at other locations around the Kaitake Ward.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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 family. 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.

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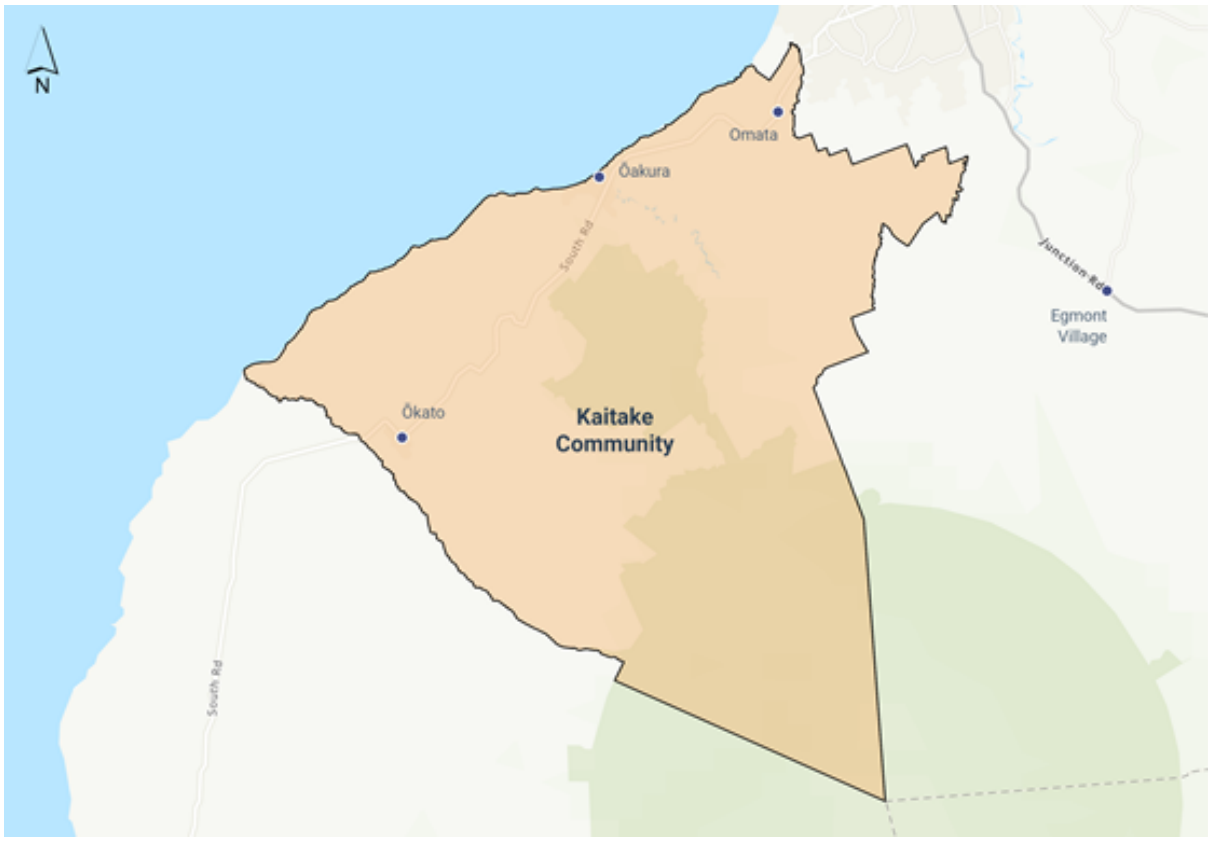
Kaitake Community Board area

The Kaitake Community Board is part of the Kaitake-Ngāmotu Ward. Its geographic area encompasses the coastal and rural communities of Ōmata, Ōākura and Ōkato, along with the surrounding rural hinterland. The area extends from the western edge of New Plymouth through to the coastal settlements and inland toward the Kaitake Range and adjoining rural areas. It includes established townships, coastal environments, productive rural land, lifestyle blocks, and communities with strong connections to agriculture, horticulture, and the natural environment.

The hapū within this rohe are Ngā Māhanga and Ngāti Tairi.



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Key statistics

This section provides an overview of key statistics for the Kaitake 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:

6,759

8% of District

825

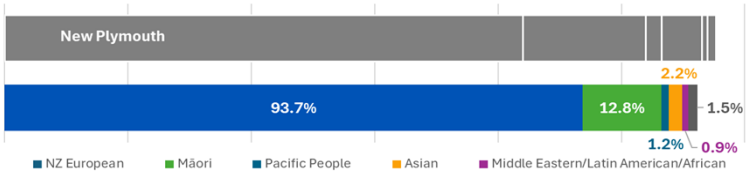
More people Since 2018

Median Age:

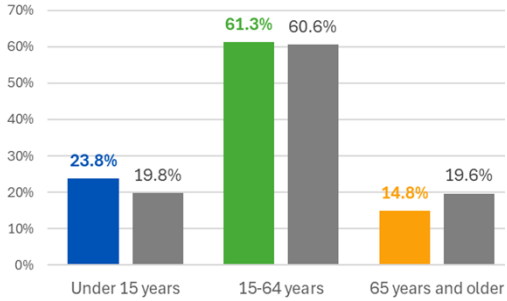
41.6

40.7

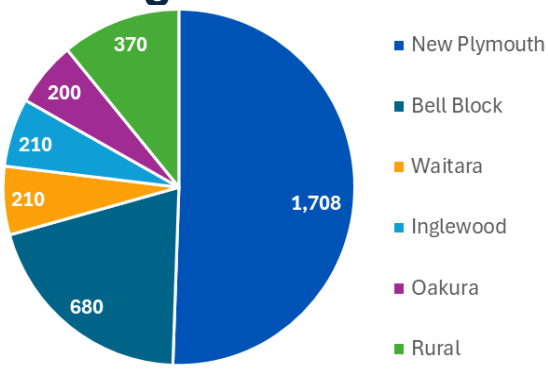
Ethnicity:



Age Profile:



Dwelling Growth next 10 Years:



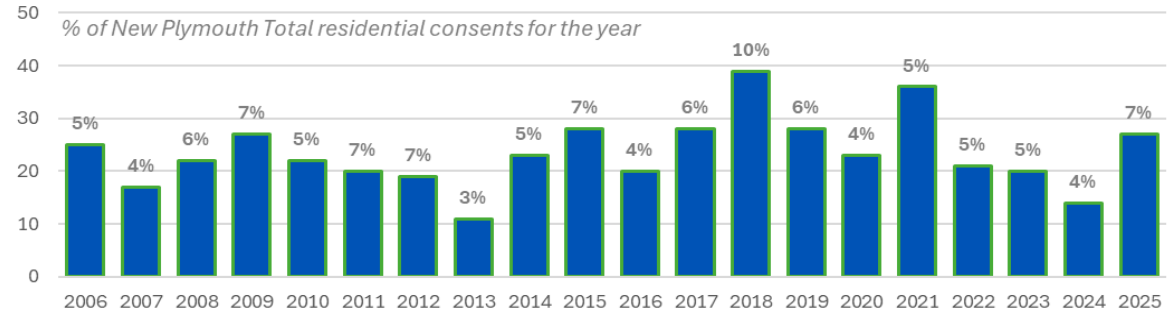
Median House Price:

$990,000 $680,083

Median Rent Price:

$800pw $557pw

Residential Building Consents last 20 years



Median Household Income:

$108,700

$86,400

Top 3 Business Units by Industry:

22% Agriculture, forestry and fishing

20% Rental, hiring and real estate services

11% Professional, scientific and technical services

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

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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.

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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

To create a strong and sustainable community that grows at a level that is appropriate and practicable, and that improves the quality of life for all, within the carrying capacity of our community and environment.

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Focus Area 1: Infrastructure

Support safe, resilient and well-managed local infrastructure by focusing on:

- Water supply, water quality, wastewater disposal and stormwater management;
- Footpaths, movement, accessibility, traffic safety and speed control;
- Safe beach access, parking and safer community design; and
- Waste management and other services that support community well-being.

Opportunities	**Investigate the feasibility of establishing an additional water source to improve the resilience of the Ōkato water supply.** • Community engagement to be included as part of the Ōkato water conservation and supply investigation. • Water shortages continue, possibly due to water leaks or inefficiencies, increased housing development and agriculture demands. **Improve Ōākura water quality.** • Reduce silica/calcium levels in the water supply. **Reassess the Ōkato wastewater management and feasibility study to understand the current situation and its environmental impact.** • Advocate, on behalf of the Ōkato Community, to connect Ōkato to the New Plymouth wastewater carousel plant. • Review the Oākura stormwater catchment plan to protect waterways from sewage outflows. • The stormwater catchment management plan for Oākura, provides insufficient information to manage the results of stormwater through future urban development. • Complete the linking of footpaths in and around Ōākura and Ōkato. **Note the footpaths to be installed or completed, are as follows:** • Oxford Road Ōkato, from Hickford Place to Oxford Road pedestrian crossing. • Holloway Road Ōmata, from South Road to Waireka Road East. • Footpath to be installed on the southern side of Messenger Terrace, from Pitcairn Street to McFarlane Street. • Build a footpath/shared pathway from the Kaitake Golf Course to Wairau Road to provide safe non-motor vehicle access to the Kaitake Golf Course. As part of new subdivision. **Traffic calming and speed controls.**

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Focus Area 1: Infrastructure

	• Install a roundabout at the southern end of Ōkato, SH45/Hempton Road intersection. • Extend the 50km speed zone in Ōākura to the substation in the west and to east of Victoria Road. • Address the Hurford Road SH45 intersection • Address the speeding and traffic issues on Koru Road • Improve transport links from Ōkato through to New Plymouth. • Ōkato buses are overcrowded. • Ōkato needs a specific bus shelter. **Review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2023 to assess effectiveness in application of household organic waste, commercial/ industrial waste management, recyclables and hazardous wastes.** • Review the local organic waste management systems and continue to encourage community composting initiatives and/or biogas generation. • The Board will continue to engage with the Kaitake community to assist their waste services requirements, with a focus on the rural community. • Investigate the opportunity for a waste to energy plant to be installed in Taranaki.
Challenges	**Ōkato residents need to be supported and encouraged to adopt water usage guidelines** For example: • Not flushing toilets with reticulated, drinking water. • Implement rainwater tank and greywater reuse systems. T**he Ōkato residential area is in a high-water table environment. Many of the household septic tanks are old and compromised, threatening the environment and human health. Such threats are growing over time and with population growth.** • Council needs to take action now to avert a health and environment issue. • The Ōākura community still experiences flooding so the stormwater management team need assistance to improve on what has already been achieved as more development is happening quite quickly and impacting the main drainage water courses. • Wastewater infrastructure needs to sustain growth to support future development.

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Focus Area 1: Infrastructure

	Traffic calming and speed controls.
	• NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) existing models to be reinterpreted to become specific applicable options.
	
	Waste Management.
	• Illegal Dumping:
	  – Pitone Road beach end at Fort St George and Katikara rivermouth.
	  – Roadside verge on all roads and SH 45.
	  – Timaru and Greenwood Road beach end.
	• Waste management and recycling education especially in respect to plastics what is and is not acceptable.

Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Ōkato Water Supply.** • Act on the report for the secondary water supply option for the village as usage is escalating. • Investigate Council support for water storage options and greywater disposal. **Priority 2: Ōkato Wastewater system.** • Implement a plan to alleviate current pressures on the system and action a plan to connect to Ōākura with the NPDC wastewater carousel plant system. **Priority 3: Ōkato southern roundabout.** • SH 45/Hempton Road and potential new road extension for subdivision opportunity. The current intersection has a 100km incoming from south, a 50km into the village and a dangerous poor visibility turn off to Hempton Road which is where the transfer station is and thus has a high traffic volume on open days. **Priority 4: Ōākura speed zone extension.** • Extend 50km speed zone from Victoria Road in the east to the substation in the west. **Priority 5: Koru Road traffic management** • As raised by concerned residents the traffic volume has increased significantly with Green school and expanding resident population. **Priority 6: Big Belly bins** • Increase the availability and correct use of these bins specifically in Ōkato Village centre. • Include a recycling station in Ōkato similar to the one in Ōākura.

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Focus Area 1: Infrastructure

	• Increase educational signage on waste and recycling stations. **Priority 7: Illegal dumping of waste** • Surveillance camera option. • Police action.
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Continue as a Board to establish a relationship with Wai Hononga and continue to advocate for the following 2-waters aspects: – Water done well - Ōkato Wastewater. – Ōkato water usage and conservation education and support. – Water done well - Ōkato water supply secondary source installation. – Water done well - Ōākura Wastewater continued upgrades. – NPDC - Ōākura water quality improvement. • NPDC – Ōkato & Ōākura all concrete footpaths. Provide a comprehensive council report to capture areas of priority. • NZTA for Ōkato roundabout. • NZTA for Ōākura speed extension. • NZTA for Hurford Road/SH 45 intersection solution. • NPDC for Koru Road solution. • NPDC - Waste and recycling educational signage posted. • NPDC - Install a recycling station in Ōkato CBD. • Dover Road and Kaihihi road speed reductions.
Potential discretionary funding projects	• Koru Road speed signage. • Include extra big belly bins at each beach location of significant use, i.e. Greenwood Road, Kaihihi Road and Leith Road.

Focus Area 2: Recreation

Develop connected recreational walking trails, cycle way, and bridle paths that are sustainable and safe throughout the Kaitake Ward.

Opportunities The following projects have been identified as important to this network.	• Provide enhanced recreational assets. • Explore opportunities for additional walkways and pedestrian connections within the Ward area, such as:

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Focus Area 2: Recreation

	– Completion of the coastal trail from the Timaru Stream to Fort St George. – Establish a walkway loop track from Ōkato village centre along SH45 south, across the Kahihi stream SH45 bridge along to Kahihi Road by Farmsource then heading inland towards the domain and swing bridge returning to Ōkato Village Centre. – Develop a path to link up both sides of Waireka Road, West and East utilising the existing paper road to connect both parts of the Road. This would enhance safety of cyclists and walkers by avoiding the piece of road past Hurford Road corner. – Investigate the establishment of more trails on the paper roads on Hampton and Leith Roads. – Develop a safe walking track from Mace Terrace to Kaitake Community Sports Hub. – Explore a revised scope for components of the Kaitake trail, with emphasis on consultation with all invested parties. • Review Bridleway options with the Ōākura and Ōkato Pony clubs. • Ōkato Domain management Plan. Input required from Iwi/Hapū. • Support Kaitake Community Sports Hub. • Hardcourt area for multisports - futsal, netball, basketball, pickleball. • Beach changing pod Ōākura. • NPOB surf equipment washdown pad.
Challenges	• Protection of sites of significance, community education. • Navigation of these trails and walkways around existing roading. • Consultation with landowners and impacted groups. • Consultation with Iwi and their Hapu representatives. Both Iwi need full engagement and inclusion to all aspects of planning. • Avoiding cost over runs by ensuring pathways are installed utilising low-cost aggregate and engineering, i.e. gravel vs concrete, use of existing bridges etc.

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Focus Area 2: Recreation

Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Comprehensive planning for walking and connectivity within both Ōkato and Oākura** • Develop a Kaitake Ward Walkway/Connectivity strategy, that explores opportunities for additional walkways throughout the area to inform prioritisation of projects and opportunities, including information to more formal walkway opportunities. • Work in partnership with key stakeholders including Taranaki Trails Trust. • Include the following considerations: **Ōkato walkways** – Circuit walk for residents to keep up with growing population and maintaining vibrancy. **Coastal Walkway** – Revisit high tide pathway from Timaru stream bridge through to Greenwood Road, including consultation with all landowners and stakeholders. **Kaitake Golf Course Walkway** – Footpath/shared pathway from the Kaitake Golf Course to Wairau Road, including NZTA crossing considerationscomponents on SH 45. – NPDC - Safe access route around SH45 corner at south end of village (may be incorporated into a round about which would be NZTA responsibility). – NPDC - Gravel track up Kaihihi Road past Domain and linking existing footbridge. **Priority 2: Additional recreation opportunities** • Support provision for future large scale recreation reserve in western Oākura through the Regional Spatial Plan work and subsequent planning.
Potential Discretionary Fund Projects	• Explore potential of a BBQ at Ōkato skatepark in partnership with Lions. • Development of a Kaitake Walkway/Connectivity strategy. • Sports hub hardcourt/half court area • Beach changing pods at Ōākura • Washdown pad for NPOB surf lifesaving.

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Focus Area 3: Environment and Community

Interaction with natural environment and impact of human activities.

Opportunities	• Enhance the natural environment. • Support efforts on predator control. • Support restoration and maintenance of natural habitats. • Beach management plan, stream management, dune management and restoration. • Katikara beach development. • Assist with protection of native animals in particular Oi, Blue Penguin (Korora), Kiwi and NZ Dotterel (Tuturiwhatu). • Cultural story boards. • Community resilience emergency hubs and supporting communities to make community resilience plans – prioritising resourcing hubs. • Supporting young people and events.
Challenges	• Engagement. • Ensuring all relevant parties and groups, Hapu and Iwi are consulted. • Disconnected rural communities with no social connection opportunities.
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Support WFT habitat protection schemes** • Continue involvement with “Wild for Taranaki” key personal to assess where they may need support. • Ensure that community is advised and onboard with the projects as they are presented to KCB. **Priority 2: Oakura Beach management** • Ongoing maintenance is required to ensure stream bed avoids threatening residential property and coastal erosion. **Priority 3: Cultural storage boards and signage** • Continue to investigate historic places of interest and install story boards for information and signage to preserve.
Advocacy Areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Local communities support such as street art festivals and other events. • Public art opportunities in smaller rural communities. • NPDC Parks – Coastal management.

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Focus Area 3: Environment and Community	
	• Coastal Care Groups – voluntary – maintain interaction. • Iwi – consultation. • DOC – predator control.
Discretionary Funding Projects	• WFT projects as they are presented. • Beach planting, coastal erosion and wilderness maintenance. • Katikara beach planting, fencing and traffic control. • Cultural Story boards. • Liaise with DOC to maintain predator control measures. • Support any additional requirements for community hubs not provided by TEMU. • Support community event initiatives. • Public art project. • Explore location for more fruit tree/community orchard.

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Focus Area 4: Growth and Energy Plan

Ōākura and Ōkato Spatial Plan.
Renewal energy options.

Opportunities	• Continue to work with developers and Council in regard to ensuring growth in the Kaitake ward matches infrastructure, recreational, traffic and movement upgrades. • Ensure that the community remains informed and listened to in the growth path we follow from the basis of this plan and the long term plan for Kaitake ward and out into the Taranaki greater area. • Develop a Kaitake-wide distributed renewable energy system. • Transition to a zero-carbon economy is a central and regional government policy. • Renewable energy generation and distribution at household and community levels are key with smart grid tied “green energy”, battery storage, electric vehicles and hydrogen options are incorporated into the system. • Provide a generator in Ōkato for Civil Defence (Coastal Taranaki School). • Encourage and assist the installation of solar panels and grid tied electric systems. • Keep up to date with exploration of alternative energy sources for the region that might be applicable.
Challenges	• Communication between developers, surveyors, Iwi, council, compliance issue and community. • Community Education about Civil Defence. • Education seminars required to inform and discuss energy alternatives to fossil fuel and the way forward. • Cost. • Use of grid power and how “green” that is?
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Domestic and rural solar installations** • Grid tied solar systems. Focus to encourage over-sized systems for best advantage and future proofing. • Electric cars. • Wind generators to trickle charge off grid battery inclusive systems. **Priority 2: Growth and development** • Maintaining checks and balances as the population, residents and businesses grow and expand.
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• NPDC – educational seminars. • NPDC – system installation subsidies.

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Focus Area 4: Growth and Energy Plan

Discretionary funding projects	Not applicable.

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Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
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