

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai
Lower Hutt

TŌ TĀTOU TĀONE 2055 OUR CITY 2055



**Ehara ko te ia o te wai
Ehara hoki ko te pupuhi o te hau
Engari ko te whakatika kē o ngā rā
Ka tae ora te waka ki uta**

**It is not the direction in which the current flows
Nor is it the direction in which the wind blows
Rather it is the setting of the sails
That enables a canoe to reach its destination**

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Introduction

Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 Our City 2055 is a shared vision for the future of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. Looking 30 years ahead from 2025, it sets out the goals we want to achieve and invites us all to take action to create a strong, connected, and inclusive city, for everyone who lives here now and for generations to come.

Our city has a rich history, from the welcoming of the first settlers by Te Wharepōuri and Hōniana Te Puni in 1840, to today's diverse community of over 113,000 people. We are home to innovators, changemakers, and a strong spirit of collaboration, from the first kōhanga reo to world-class research institutes, and local community initiatives that make a difference in the lives of our residents every day.

Like cities worldwide, we face major challenges: climate change and sea-level rise, ageing infrastructure, unaffordable housing, and social and economic pressures. No single organisation can tackle these alone. This strategy aims to unite the city to respond to these issues and harness opportunities and that will positively shape our future.

Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 was created with and for the people of our city. Hundreds of voices shaped this strategy. Residents, Mana Whenua, community groups, rangatahi, local leaders, and organisations all contributed through hui, workshops, and the inaugural Lower Hutt City Summit, answering the question:

"What can we do today that future generations will thank us for?"

This strategy sets out the path, and collective action will create the impact. By working together, we can create a strong, connected, and future focused Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt for generations to come.

"Being a part of this mahi has been a huge privilege — an opportunity I am so grateful for. Often, we as Rangatahi feel like our input isn't valued or that our voices don't matter. But being at the decision-making table taught me how crucial our voice is: we make up 17 percent of today and 100 percent of tomorrow. Without us, there is no tomorrow.

What has inspired me the most is seeing how much potential there is in Te Awa Kairangi Ki Tai — not just in the people, but in the natural beauty that surrounds us, and all the little things that make this place so vibrant and welcoming. Being involved in this mahi has shown me the importance of creating space where everyone has an opportunity to lead.

My hope for the future is that we become a place where everyone, regardless of their age, culture, or background, is supported and given the opportunity to prosper and thrive. Together, we can create a place where each of our differences is celebrated and where we truly honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Hāpaitia te ara tika, pūmau ai te rangatiratanga mō ngā uri whakatipu.

Foster the pathway of knowledge to strength, independence, and growth for future generations."

Keelan Renata, Wainuiomata High School student and City Leadership Group member

"I'm optimistic for the future. We have a great awareness and a city of capable people who want to enact change and collaborate. There are challenges, but the kōrero has begun!"

Attendee, Lower Hutt City Summit, September 2024



Values

These values guide our long-term planning for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt — driving us to build a prosperous and equitable city while upholding our responsibility as kaitiaki of the natural environment and our city for future generations.

Oranganui Prosperity

Prosperity enables people to lead fulfilling lives and shape positive futures for themselves and their whānau. A prosperous Lower Hutt is the foundation of a strong, secure community. To achieve this, we must foster conditions where people, businesses, community organisations and marae can thrive, supporting growth, learning, and employment opportunities that allow everyone to enjoy a high quality of life.

Karawhiua Agent of Change

Karawhiua is our call to action — an invitation to lead the change we want to see in our city. Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt has a proud history of bold decisions, from Te Wharepōuri Te Kakapi o Te and Hōniana Te Puni, welcoming the first European settlers to Pito One in 1839, to today's entrepreneurs and changemakers, pushing boundaries and leading innovation. Meeting challenges like unaffordable housing demands the same boldness — seizing opportunities and taking proactive action to create the future we aspire to achieve.

Mana Taurite Equity

Equity underpins a fair and just Lower Hutt. It means upholding the mana of every person and ensuring that everyone has access to opportunities, no matter who they are or where they come from. Too many in our city face daily struggles — keeping whānau fed, housed, and safe. By applying an equity lens to our decisions and actions, we can focus our efforts where they are needed most.

Taonga Tuku Iho Future Generations

Taonga tuku iho reminds us of our intergenerational responsibility — to care for the city today so it can be gifted to those who follow. It is about creating lasting, positive change, not just for those who live here now, but for our mokopuna and the generations to come. This calls for long-term thinking, strategic planning, and investments that support sustainable growth as our population increases.

Kaitiakitanga Guardianship

Kaitiakitanga is our commitment to protect the natural environment, which supports the wellbeing of our entire community. For mana whenua, our rivers, mountains, and tributaries are ancestors and taonga (treasures) to be respected and protected. As we confront the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, we must act to restore te taiao and reduce our impact on the land and water.



Vision

These vision statements create a picture of what we want Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt to be like in the future. They describe our shared aspirations for 2055, providing direction on where we want to head as a city, and guiding the choices we make today to achieve a brighter future for everyone.

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt in 2055:

People enjoy good health, and wellbeing

Honours its past and creates opportunities for future generations

Residents enjoy warm, affordable homes in connected neighbourhoods

Is a vibrant city of diverse cultures

Is prepared for the impacts of climate change

Has achieved net zero emissions

Is a city connected to nature | Hononga

Everyone has access to supportive local education to achieve their full potential

Our business community is driving prosperity for all

Has a connected and safe transport network

Infrastructure is effective, reliable and resilient



Strategy Overview



In 2055, Lower Hutt will have:



CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

**Where everyone has access
to warm, affordable homes in
welcoming neighbourhoods.**

As neighbourhoods are an important source of social networks and support, we will strengthen opportunities for people of all ages and cultures to build connections within their local communities and across the wider city. As our population continues to grow, it is vital that our city delivers more high-quality housing while improving affordability. We are committed to enabling people to live, work, and play locally — with access to the services they need, quality parks and public spaces in every suburb.

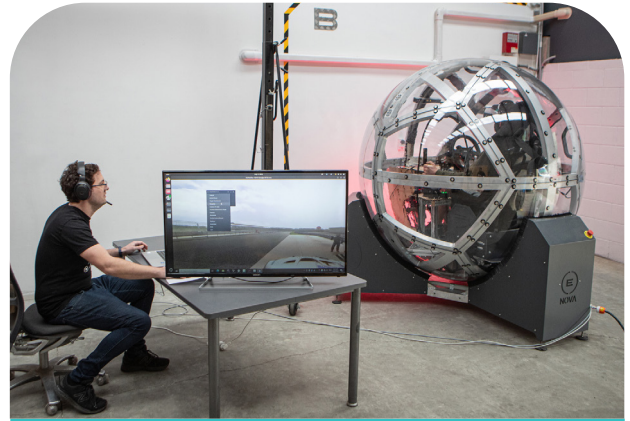
→ Initiatives

Bring people of all ages and cultures together to connect and build relationships.

Create opportunities for more participation in sport, recreation, arts and culture.

Ensure every suburb is an attractive place to live, with easy access to essential amenities and services.

Advance the development of warm, affordable homes.



THRIVING BUSINESSES

**Where Lower Hutt is a hub of
innovation and collaboration,
driving prosperity for all.**

With its strong manufacturing base, technology and science sectors — alongside a pipeline of infrastructure investments, Lower Hutt businesses are well positioned for future growth. We will foster a well-connected business ecosystem, promoting Lower Hutt as a centre of innovation that produces world-class products and services. We will grow skills and talent by developing local talent and attracting skilled migrants. The city will also harness the transformative potential of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) in revitalising the heart of our city.

→ Initiatives

Deliver the full potential of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink).

Promote Lower Hutt as a hub of innovation.

Nurture collaborations and partnerships.

Increase workforce participation, growing skills and talent.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Where holistic wellbeing is supported and everyone can access quality healthcare.

While the majority of Lower Hutt residents report good physical and mental health, significant disparities remain. Māori, Pacific peoples, individuals with disabilities, and those living in high-deprivation areas continue to experience poorer health outcomes. We are committed to directing our collective efforts toward supporting the city's most vulnerable families. There will be a focus on enabling people to care for their holistic wellbeing — including physical, mental and emotional, family and social, and spiritual. As part of our vision, Lower Hutt will be developed into a centre of healthcare excellence, attracting top clinicians and making our city a hub for health and wellbeing.

→ Initiatives

Support people to look after their holistic wellbeing, to stay healthier for longer.

Develop Lower Hutt as a centre of healthcare excellence, attracting clinicians to live and practice here.

Provide wrap-around support for Lower Hutt's most vulnerable families.

Make it easy for people to access nutritious food choices and design our city for healthy, active lifestyles.



SUPPORTED LEARNERS

Where quality local education is available to all.

Lower Hutt is well positioned to be a leading hub for learning and teaching, supported by a proud community and dedicated educators. However, we also face challenges — including high rates of school suspensions and stand-downs. We will work closely with whānau, schools, and communities to ensure every young person is thriving in their learning journey. Improving outcomes for Māori and Pacific learners will be a key focus, alongside strengthening youth development initiatives. By fostering strong connections between educational providers, and local businesses, we aim to create inspiring career pathways for young people.

→ Initiatives

Position Lower Hutt as a hub for outstanding learning and teaching.

Work with whānau, schools and communities to ensure every young person thrives in their learning journey.

Strengthen and sustain youth development initiatives that create positive wellbeing in our young people.

Foster connections between schools, tertiary and vocational providers, and local businesses to strengthen career pathways.



TREASURED HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Where our shared history
is understood, and shapes
our future as a diverse city.**

We will promote the unique story of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt, honouring the cultural and historical significance of this land and its people. Our city will celebrate its rich Māori heritage through public art, bilingual signage, and the sharing of pūrākau (histories), bringing mana whenua narratives to life. At the same time, we will showcase Lower Hutt's diversity, strengthening our identity as a welcoming, culturally vibrant city where all communities feel valued, and connected.

→ Initiatives

Promote our unique Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt story.

Celebrate our Māori heritage through public art, bilingual signage and pūrākau (histories).

Showcase Lower Hutt's diversity, as a welcoming, culturally vibrant city.



RESTORED TAI AO — NATURE

**Where Lower Hutt has
healthy waterways
and rich biodiversity.**

Our country's incredible variety of native plants and animals make us unique globally, but that biodiversity is under threat. Across Aotearoa New Zealand, and here in Lower Hutt, lowland forests have been cleared, wetlands drained, and native species lost to urban development, agriculture, pollution, and invasive pests. Guided by mana whenua, we will uphold the mauri of Te Taiao — restoring native ecosystems and improving the water quality of our moana (coastal waters), awa (rivers) and streams, while connecting people to the natural beauty of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. These efforts will ensure lasting benefits for generations to come.

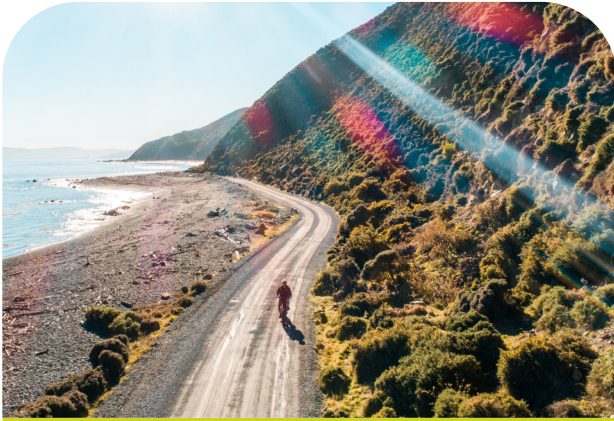
→ Initiatives

Preserve and restore native ecosystems, controlling pest plants and animals.

Improve the water quality of moana (sea), awa (rivers) and streams.

Uphold the kaitiaki (guardian) role of mana whenua in protecting the mauri (life force) of Te Taiao (nature).

Connect people to the natural environment.



CLIMATE-READY CITY

Where our city has zero emissions and adapts to keep people safe.

The world's climate is changing, with rising sea-levels and more extreme weather events posing a major threat to Lower Hutt. We need to urgently cut greenhouse gas emissions to slow global warming, — increasing solar and renewable energy, switching to low-carbon options, and driving business opportunities that reduce emissions and waste. We will accelerate adaptation efforts and develop nature-based solutions to help manage excess stormwater. We will also prepare communities, so that they can get through natural disasters and recover quickly.

→ Initiatives

Increase solar generation and other local renewable energy sources.

Drive business and community opportunities that reduce emissions and minimise waste.

Accelerate adaptation efforts to protect our community and future generations from the impacts of climate change.

Develop nature-based solutions across the city to manage excess water.

Strengthen community and business preparedness for natural disasters.



SMART INFRASTRUCTURE

Where infrastructure supports a modern, growing and resilient city.

Historic underinvestment in water infrastructure has left critical systems in urgent need of renewal. To meet the demands of a growing population, we must prioritise the development of clean, efficient, and cost-effective water and waste systems. We need to build and maintain infrastructure that both supports growth and resilience. By making it easier for people to bike, walk or use scooters, and by expanding shared and public transport services and connections, we will offer residents more sustainable travel choices while reducing pressure on our roads and the environment.

→ Initiatives

Develop water and waste systems that are clean, efficient and cost-effective.

Build and maintain infrastructure that supports growth and resilience.

Develop a connected transport network that makes it easy and safe to bike, walk or scooter.

Increase shared and public transport services and connections.

Aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all countries at the United Nations, provide a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

The aim of SDGs is to end poverty and other forms of deprivation, while advancing strategies that enhance health and education, reduce inequality, and drive economic growth — while also addressing climate change and protecting the world's oceans and forests.

By aligning Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 — Our City 2055, to SDGs, we demonstrate how Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is working towards globally agreed goals, now and into the future.

SDGs appear in each chapter to demonstrate how Lower Hutt's initiatives align with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Challenges and Opportunities

Opportunities and challenges for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt is changing. Our population is growing and becoming more diverse. We are seeing exciting economic development alongside real pressure on affordability, housing, infrastructure, and the environment. These shifts bring both opportunities and challenges. How and when we respond to these challenges, will shape the future of our people, places, and city.

Our population is growing, diversifying, and ageing

Lower Hutt’s population is expected to grow from 113,000 in 2024 to nearly 150,000 by 2053. The number of households will also grow, from 43,000 to 60,000. As Lower Hutt grows so does its diversity. Lower Hutt’s community comprises over 170 ethnicities, with more than half identifying as Māori, Pacific, or Asian, and 28% were born overseas. Our rainbow community makes up more than 5% of the population. This diversity is what gives Lower Hutt its strength and vibrancy.

Our population is also ageing. The number of residents aged 70 and over is projected to double in the next 30 years. At the same time, fertility rates are falling across New Zealand. In Lower Hutt, there are already fewer children aged 0–9 than there were ten years ago.

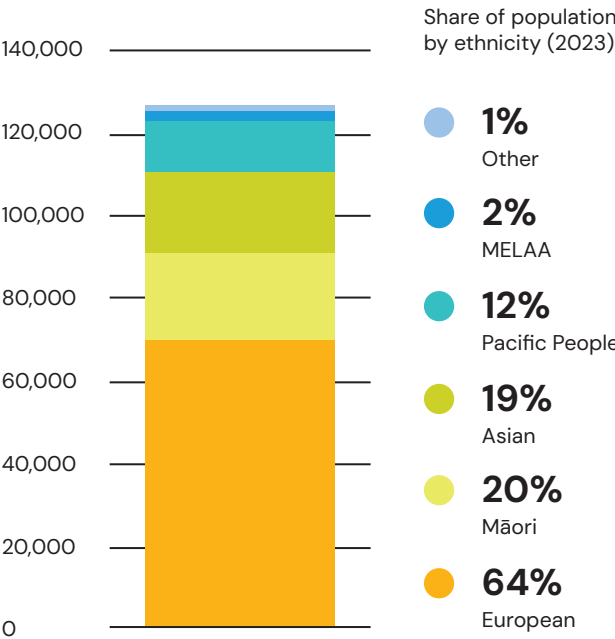
What this means

It is important our city is an inclusive home for our growing population. That includes the services and infrastructure we invest in, the way we design housing, and the support we offer schools, health services and communities.

Lower Hutt population projections

Year	Population (50th percentile)
2028	116,500
2033	121,800
2038	126,900
2043	133,200
2048	139,900
2053	149,500

Lower Hut ethnic groups



Infrastructure needs to support our growth

We are growing faster than many other parts of the region. Since zoning changes were introduced in the late 2010s, Lower Hutt has accounted for 36% of new dwelling consents across Wellington, up from just 13% previously.

Growth is focused on central and northern areas like Naenae (Te Ngaengae), Taitā, and Avalon, where land is flat and well connected. Areas like Petone (Pito One) and Seaview face flooding and sea-level rise risks, while neighbourhoods in the western hills, bay areas, and in Wainuiomata, need continued support to remain connected and resilient.

● What this means

Growth needs to be carefully managed. We need to support neighbourhoods that are ready for change with infrastructure, housing, transport connections, and green spaces, while supporting our communities outside the valley floor.

We are a residential, commercial, and industrial hub

Lower Hutt is the Wellington region’s second-largest economy, contributing \$7.47 billion to GDP in 2024. Employers provide 52,500 jobs across construction, healthcare, education, manufacturing, professional services, tech, and creative industries — with around 40% of roles being highly skilled.

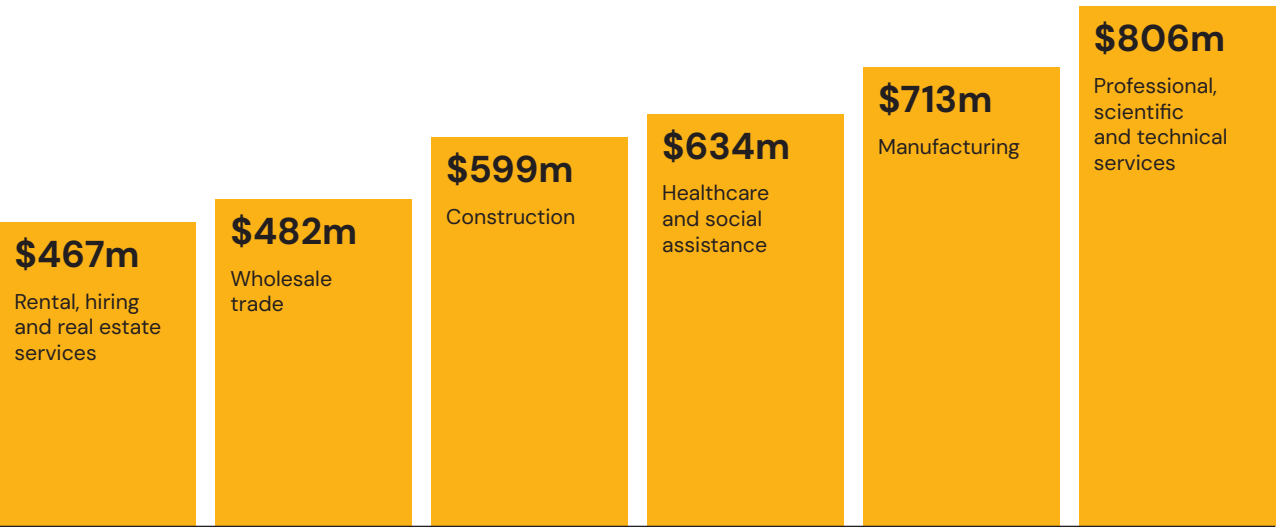
The city is home to New Zealand’s largest trades training facility, key industrial areas like Seaview/ Gracefield, major retail centres, and leading research organisations. New housing, infrastructure, and transport projects — including Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink) — are expected to add 4,500–6,750 more jobs over the next decade.

● What this means

By supporting innovation, growing skills, and delivering on major projects, we can strengthen our position as a driver of prosperity for the whole region.

Top industries by GDP

Source: Infometrics 2023



We provide essential services for the region

Lower Hutt delivers infrastructure and services that the wider region relies on. We're home to Hutt Hospital, which cares for people across the Hutt Valley and provides some specialist treatments for the wider region. The Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant serves around 160,000 people across Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt, while the Seaview Wharf and its pipeline are vital to fuel supply for Wellington and the lower North Island.

A significant proportion of the region's freshwater comes from Lower Hutt, sourced from rivers and aquifers in our city. State Highway 2 and the rail network run through Lower Hutt, connecting Upper Hutt and the Wairarapa to the capital and beyond.

What this means

Maintaining and investing in these critical services helps keep our communities healthy, our economy moving, and our region resilient.

Cost pressures are affecting our people

The cost of living continues to rise. Our residents report that the ability of their income to meet their everyday needs has dropped across the city between 2022 and 2024. Businesses are concerned about supplier costs, regulatory compliance costs, and squeezed margins. A rising cost of living also puts pressure on wage expectations.

Lower Hutt has attracted new residents through comparatively more affordable housing costs than Wellington City. However, average weekly rent has increased 25% in five years and mortgages now account for 42% of a household's income on average. Businesses may struggle to attract potential employees if they are unable to afford suitable housing.

More people are turning to social housing. This shows that market rents are unaffordable for many. With high housing costs, families have less to spend on food, healthcare, and transport.

What this means

Everyone should be able to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home. Making this possible will improve health, reduce inequality and support a stronger community.

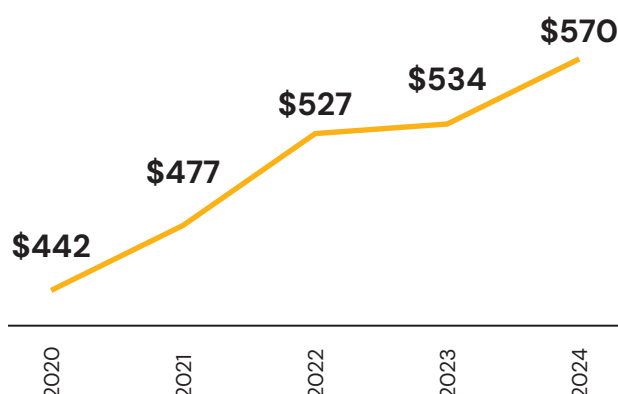
Ability of income to meet everyday needs in Lower Hutt

Source: 2024 Quality of Life Survey

	2022	2024
Have ability	53%	39%
Have little ability	31%	41%
Have no ability	12%	17%

Median rent increase in Lower Hutt 2020-2024

Source: DOT Loves Data, Tenancy Services



We need to tackle inequality in our city

Many people in our city face barriers others do not. In 2023, 39% of residents lived in areas of high deprivation. Taitā, Moerā, and Naenae are some of the most affected, and these are also the areas where more Māori and Pacific residents live.

In 2023 (Census), there were 4,659 homeless people (severe housing deprived) living in Lower Hutt. Of these, 1,500 were Māori, 1,458 were European and 1,224 were Pacific peoples. Disparities are also reflected in education outcomes, with 70% of Asian students in Lower Hutt leaving school in 2023 with NCEA level 3 or above, compared to 38% of Māori students.

● What this means

Residents in areas of high deprivation are more likely to face multiple socioeconomic challenges, such as lower incomes, higher unemployment rates, overcrowded housing, food insecurity, inadequate heating and reduced financial stability. To become a fair city, we must work together across housing, health, education, and community services to improve outcomes for all.

Water infrastructure is under strain

Like many cities, Lower Hutt has ageing water infrastructure, which has been neglected for many years. About a third of the network is at the end or beyond the end of its life span, with around 233 km of pipes needing replacement. The system is leaking and failing, and cannot keep up with extreme weather or population growth. Overflows are impacting our rivers and coast.

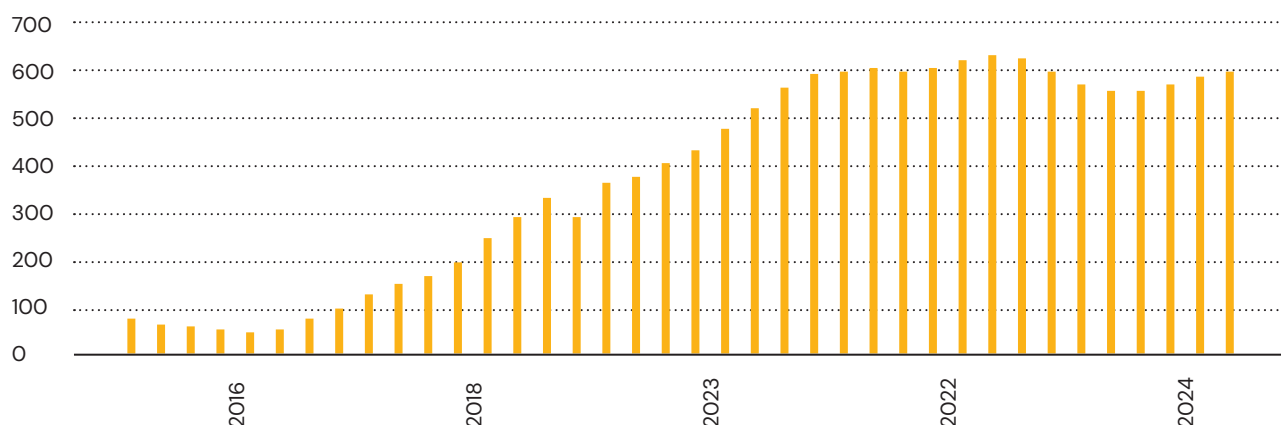
The infrastructure is now failing, with frequent leaks, stench from the Seaview Wastewater Treatment plant, overflows into our streams and harbour, and the storm water unable to cope with more frequent and extreme weather events. Water infrastructure is a regional challenge, with Wellington Water estimating a cost of \$1 billion each year for the next 10 years to fix the region's water system.

● What this means

Water is essential to life. We need long-term, sustained investment to fix the system and prepare it for the future.

Housing register applications Annual average, Lower Hutt

Source: Infometrics, Lower Hutt City, June 2024



We are facing a climate emergency

Climate change is already affecting Lower Hutt. We are a low-lying coastal city on a floodplain, and parts of our land are sinking. Areas like Petone and Seaview face increased flood and storm risk. Extreme weather events are already more frequent — higher seas, stronger storms, flooding, slips, landslides, and erosion. These events will increasingly impact our people, health, economy, and quality of life, especially for our most vulnerable communities.

Insurance costs are rising with partial and full 'insurance retreat' possible in some areas within 15–20 years. Saltwater intrusion is threatening our water supply.

Lower Hutt is working to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Our city emitted 475,520 tCO₂e total gross emissions in 2021/22. Our biggest sources were transport, energy and waste. Carbon stored in forests helped bring net emissions to 409,435 tCO₂e net emissions.

● What this means

Lower Hutt is not alone in facing this challenge but we must act now to protect people and places, reduce emissions, and prepare our city for the future. This will make our homes, neighbourhoods and environment healthier and more resilient.





Measuring Progress

To track the progress of Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 — Our City 2055, the following high level indicators will be monitored, to see whether we are on target, and course-correct as needed. Some of these indicators cut across goals and the work of any one agency, reflecting the interconnectedness of the actions required to achieve our vision of Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt in 2055.

CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
Sense of community experienced (Quality of Life Survey)	43% 2024	Increase
Rent affordability (average weekly rent as % of average household income) (Infometrics)	20.8% 2025	Decrease
Crime rate (criminal proceedings per 10,000 residents) (Infometrics)	206 2025	Decrease

THRIVING BUSINESSES

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
GDP (Infometrics)	7.47b 2024	+35% by 2035
Productivity (Infometrics)	\$148,793 2024	+16% by 2035
Highly skilled jobs	21,236 2024	+18% by 2035

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
GP Enrolment		95% enrolled with a GP 2055
% of children fully immunized at 2 years (Hutt Valley)	82.3% 2024–2025	95% by 2055
People experiencing homelessness in Lower Hutt (Census)	4,659 2023	<1000 by 2055

SUPPORTED LEARNERS

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
NEET Rate (aged 15–24 not in employment education or training) (Infometrics)	10.8% 2025	5% by 2055
% of students who leave school with a NCEA qualification (Education Counts)	85% 2023	95% by 2055
School attendance (students attending more than 90%) (Education Counts)	66% 2025	80% by 2030

TREASURED HISTORY AND CULTURE

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
Perceptions of racism / discrimination in city (percentage who consider it an issue) (Quality of Life Survey)	49% 2024	10% by 2055
Perceived acceptance of identity in city (agree that people in Lower Hutt accept and value them and others of their identity) (Quality of Life Survey)	68% 2024	90% by 2055
Te Reo Māori speakers (Census)	5.1% 2023	20% by 2055

RESTORED TAIAO — NATURE

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
Safe swimming sites (% of summer season swimming sites that are safe for swimming) (Infometrics/LAWA)	84% 2024	All Hutt rivers safe to swim in 2055

CLIMATE-READY CITY

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
Net greenhouse gas emissions	409,435 tCO2e 2021/2022	Net Zero 2050

SMART INFRASTRUCTURE

Indicator	Latest Data	Target
Average drinking water consumption per resident per day	401 Litres 2025	155 Litres by 2055
Household resources/waste is returned, recycled or composted	25.1% 2024/2025	85–90% by 2055



Our History

Ka mua, ka muri looking back to look forward

Te Awa Kairangi — Hutt River, once ran through a valley covered in dense kahikatea forest, flowing into a vast estuary before entering Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington Harbour.

The river was abundant in fish and the surrounding forest had amazing birds, forest fruits and tall trees — earning Te Awa Kairangi its name, which means “the river full of good food” and “the source of life.”

Over the centuries, different iwi settled in the area, including Ngāti Māmoē, Ngāi Tara, Ngāti Ira, Rangitāne, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rangatahi, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, and Te Āti Awa. Māori mainly settled along the estuary, and most of the pā and kāinga up the valley were located close to Te Awa Kairangi or along its main tributaries.

1820s

Te Āti Awa and their iwi relations, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Taranaki and Ngāti Ruanui, settled throughout the region after a series of migrations that took place from their original homelands located throughout Taranaki.

1840

The first European settlers arrived on the ship, Aurora on 22 January 1840. Mana Whenua of Te Whanganui-a-Tara (34 Rangatira) signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi on 29 April 1840. European settlers initially lived in Pito One (Petone), close to the pā of Hōniana Te Puni, the paramount Te Āti Awa chief. Within months of their arrival, the settlement was flooded and many settlers moved to Thorndon.

1846

On May 16, Te Mamaku and 200 other Ngāti Hāua te-Rangi warriors retaliated against the loss of their lands. A tauā (war party) attacked the garrison of troops stationed at Boulcott's farm.

1855

A massive earthquake struck the region, lifting the land up a metre or more. It drained the swamps of Petone and changed the Hutt Valley's estuaries and shoreline.

1856

Nuku Tewhatewha (a pātaka whakairo — carved storehouse) was commissioned by Wiremu Tako Ngātata and built as a symbol of support for the Kīngitanga (Māori King) movement.

1870s–1900

The Hutt Valley was a remote agricultural settlement, until road and rail lines were constructed in the late 19th century. First measures were taken to protect the valley from floods and enable large scale settlement.

In 1874 the Wellington–Wairarapa rail line was opened as far as Petone. This area became established as a hub for industry within the region, which included businesses such as Gear meat works and railway workshops.



Image credit: huttcity.recollect.co.nz

Early 1900s

Schools were established in new settlements, such as Korokoro (1904), Wellesley College (1914) and Hutt Valley High School (1926). More factories started up, producing everything from biscuits, to soap, to cars, including General Motors. A 'tank farm' for petrochemicals was established at Seaview.

1940s–1950s

Was a period of substantial growth, with the population increasing from 14,000 in 1931 to 44,000 in 1951. Lower Hutt became a city in 1941. There was an expansion of industry, which included production of gun carriers during the Second World War. Although Lower Hutt was a city, much of the land was still in bush, farms or market gardens in the early 1940s. This changed in the 1950's during the forced migration of Māori from rural areas (mainly East Coast) to the city for the purpose of increasing

workforce in local factories. New suburbs, including Te Ngaengae (Naenae) and Taitā were developed, with the construction of thousands of new state houses. New amenities and services were developed for the city, including Hutt Hospital, which opened in 1944. In the post-war period, Lower Hutt was at the forefront of Modern Movement architecture.

1960s–1980s

Our city continued to grow, including our Pacific population, which started settling in Lower Hutt from the 1960s. There were large celebrations with the official opening of Waiwhetū Marae in 1960. The Dowse Art Gallery was built in 1971, and Queensgate shopping centre was opened in 1986. The country's first kōhanga reo (Pukeatua Kōhanga Reo) was opened in Pukeatua, Wainuiomata in 1982. Avalon was the home to New Zealand's television industry.

1989

Lower Hutt, Petone, Wainuiomata and Eastbourne amalgamated into one city as part of local government reforms.

1990s–early 2000s

WelTec opened in Petone. Crown Research Institutes were established in Gracefield. Our city's population reached 100,000.

“Our history is not just a record of what has been; it is our greatest guide to what must come. We honour the past by forging ahead with new and revitalised energy, ensuring that our children and grandchildren inherit a world where they can flourish.”

Kara Puketapu Dentice, Chief Executive of Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika, Lower Hutt City Summit, September 2024



Glossary

Ākonga Māori

Māori learners or students.

Awa

River or stream.

Hauora

Health and wellbeing — encompassing physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing.

Hononga

Connection, relationship, bond.

Kai

Food or meal.

Kaitiakitanga

Guardianship, stewardship — especially of the natural environment.

Karawhiua

A call to action, encouragement to be bold and proactive.

Kura

Māori-medium school or educational institution.

Mana Whenua

Iwi or hapū with territorial rights, power and authority over land and resources.

Manaakitanga

Hospitality, kindness, respect and care for others.

Mauri

Life force, vital essence — the intrinsic energy or vitality of people, places or things.

Mokopuna

Grandchildren

Taiao (Te Taiao)

The natural environment.

Taonga

Treasures — can be tangible or intangible (e.g., language, land, cultural practices).

Taonga tuku iho

Treasures passed down through generations; intergenerational responsibility.

Takiwā

Region, district, area, or zone.

Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai

Lower Hutt — referring to the Hutt River (Te Awa Kairangi) that flows to the sea (ki Tai).

Tikanga

Customary practices, protocols, rules or correct way of doing things.

Tuākana

Older sibling or senior relative of the same generation; also ancestors.

Whānau

Family, extended family or community.



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