

TŌ TĀTOU TĀONE 2055

OUR CITY 2055

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE CITY STRATEGY FOR

TE AWA KAIRANGI KI TAI LOWER HUTT

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.

PROSPERITY

Prosperity goes beyond economic wealth, empowering people to lead fulfilling lives and create better futures for themselves and their whānau. A prosperous Lower Hutt is the foundation of a strong, secure community. To enable this, we must foster conditions where people and businesses 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 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.

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.

2055 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.

IN 2055, TE AWA KAIRANGI KI TAI LOWER HUTT IS A DIVERSE AND VIBRANT CITY

Our streets are alive with people of diverse ethnicities, – Māori, European, Pasifika, Asian, African, and from different countries around the world. All enjoying bustling markets, international cuisine, lively events, sports, music and art festivals – both day and night. Everyone is warmly welcomed here, with the city attracting both whānau and young professionals alike. Our Māori heritage is proudly celebrated and woven into the fabric of the city.

IN 2055, RESIDENTS ENJOY WARM, SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOMES IN THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Across the city, everyone has access to a wide choice of warm, dry and affordable housing. Residents live in safe, welcoming neighbourhoods that foster stability, connection and a strong sense of community. People have all they need to thrive within their own neighbourhood, including easy access to quality green spaces, public transport, digital connectivity, shops and schools.

IN 2055, OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS DRIVING PROSPERITY FOR ALL

Lower Hutt is a centre of innovation. With its strong collaboration in science and technology, manufacturing, construction and infrastructure, creative businesses continue to push boundaries and shape the city's future. There are abundant employment pathways and well-paid job opportunities that enable all to prosper.

IN 2055, PEOPLE ENJOY GOOD HEALTH, AND WELLBEING

Healthy choices are available for all with access to nutritious kai and opportunities to stay active. Preventative healthcare and early interventions help residents remain healthier for longer. Quality healthcare is accessible, especially for those with higher needs. Everyone is supported to meet holistic wellbeing, with health providers resourced to meet hauora needs. Our healthcare system is resilient and ready to meet future challenges.

IN 2055, EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE LOCAL EDUCATION TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Residents actively participate in local early learning, schools, kura and higher education. Our city encourages and supports people of all ages, cultures, languages and identities to engage in lifelong learning and upskilling and celebrates their successes. Children and young people are well supported by families, whānau and communities to lead meaningful and healthy lives. Strong pathways connect school leavers to higher education, training, and careers through

local businesses, manufacturing and institutions.

IN 2055, TE AWA KAIRANGI KI TAI HONOURS ITS PAST AND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Our shared history is deeply understood by all who live here, shaping our future through the principles of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga. Whānau are strong, connected, and empowered to revitalise reo, tikanga, and traditional practices. We actively protect our awa, and taiao, which supports the well-being of our entire community. Ākonga Māori (students) access quality education in their own language and culture—strengthening both Māori and the wider community.

IN 2055, LOWER HUTT IS A CITY CONNECTED TO NATURE | HONONGA

Once forested wetland, then a ‘garden city’, nature in Lower Hutt is thriving again. Vibrant urban green corridors link parks, reserves, neighbourhoods, streets and gardens. Guided by mana whenua, the mauri of Te Taiao is upheld, ensuring healthy waterways and thriving biodiversity for future generations.

IN 2055, OUR CITY HAS ACHIEVED NET ZERO EMISSIONS

Lower Hutt is at the forefront of the transition to a low-carbon, circular economy. Our businesses drive sustainable innovation, delivering affordable solutions that benefit our community. The city now runs on renewable low-carbon sources of energy. People readily navigate Lower Hutt on foot, by bike, public transport, or electric vehicles, making it a cleaner, greener city.

IN 2055, LOWER HUTT IS PREPARED FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Our communities are strong, connected and ready to face more frequent and extreme weather events, responding and recovering quickly together. We continuously adapt to change, integrating robust infrastructure with nature-based solutions to enhance resilience. We take proactive measures to protect and strengthen our city, and are resilient when disaster does strike.

IN 2055, CITY INFRASTRUCTURE IS EFFECTIVE, RELIABLE AND RESILIENT

Lower Hutt’s roads, railways, bridges, water networks, telecommunications, and power grid support a modern, growing city. Our robust infrastructure is strategically located and is protected against natural hazards. Through technology and smart planning, we reduce risks, safeguard the environment, and maximise efficiency of our infrastructure. Strategic investments are planned to meet future needs.

IN 2055, LOWER HUTT HAS A CONNECTED AND SAFE TRANSPORT NETWORK

People and whānau can easily move around within and between our communities, fostering a strong connection to our takiwā (place). Journeys by path, rail, road and ferry are safe and accessible. Efficient links to the region, along with seamless connections to economic and community hubs within our city, make Lower Hutt an attractive destination for business, visitors and new residents.

GOALS AND INITIATIVES

Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 – Our City 2055 consists of 8 goals and 32 initiatives to prepare Lower Hutt for the future. These goals reflect both our strengths as a city, as well as the significant challenges we must address. Each goal is supported by key initiatives to focus our collective effort. Together, they shape how we plan and invest in our city to meet our vision for 2055.

FLOURISHING NEIGHBOURHOODS –

where everyone has access to warm, safe, affordable homes in welcoming neighbourhoods.

THRIVING BUSINESSES – where Lower Hutt is a hub of innovation and collaboration, driving prosperity for all.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – where holistic wellbeing is supported, and everyone can access quality healthcare.

SUPPORTED LEARNERS – where every young person has access to supportive local education.

TREASURED HISTORY AND CULTURE –

where our shared history is understood, and shapes our future as a culturally vibrant city.

RESTORED TAIAO – NATURE – where Lower Hutt has healthy waterways and rich biodiversity.

CLIMATE READY CITY – where our city has zero emissions, and adapts to keep people safe.

SMART INFRASTRUCTURE – where city infrastructure supports a modern, growing, and resilient city.

THE CITY STRATEGY CONSISTS OF 8 GOALS AND 32 INITIATIVES

FLOURISHING NEIGHBOURHOODS	1. Support inclusive and accessible spaces and events that foster neighbourhood culture and connection.
	2. Create opportunities for more participation in sport, recreation, arts and culture.
	3. Ensure every suburb is an attractive place to live, with easy access to essential amenities and services.
	4. Advance the development of warm, safe, affordable homes.
THRIVING BUSINESSES	5. Deliver the full potential of Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink).
	6. Promote Lower Hutt as a hub of innovation and collaboration.
	7. Empower our business community to grow into the future.
	8. Increase workforce participation, growing skills and talent to fill well-paid jobs.
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	9. Support people to look after their holistic wellbeing, to stay healthier for longer.
	10. Develop Lower Hutt as a centre of healthcare excellence, attracting clinicians to live and practice here.
	11. Provide wrap-around support for Lower Hutt's most vulnerable families.
	12. Make it easy for people to access nutritious food choices and active lifestyles
SUPPORTED LEARNERS	13. Position Lower Hutt as a hub for outstanding learning and teaching.
	14. Work with whānau, schools and communities to ensure every young person is present, and thriving in their learning journey.
	15. Strengthen and sustain youth development initiatives that create positive wellbeing in our young people.
	16. Foster connections between schools, tertiary and vocational providers, and local businesses to strengthen career pathways.
TREASURED HISTORY AND CULTURE	17. Promote our unique Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai story.
	18. Celebrate our Māori heritage through public art, bilingual signage, and pūrakau (legends).
	19. Showcase Lower Hutt's diversity, as a welcoming, culturally vibrant city.
RESTORED TAI AO NATURE	20. Preserve and restore native ecosystems, controlling pest plants and animals.
	21. Improve the water quality of moana, awa and streams.
	22. Uphold the kaitiaki role of mana whenua in protecting the mauri of Te Taiao.
	23. Connect people to the natural environment.
CLIMATE-READY CITY	24. Increase solar generation and other local renewable energy sources.
	25. Drive business opportunities that reduce emissions and minimise waste.
	26. Accelerate adaptation efforts to protect our community and future generations from the impacts of climate change.
	27. Develop nature-based solutions across the city to manage excess storm water.
	28. Strengthen community and business preparedness for natural disasters.
SMART INFRASTRUCTURE	29. Develop water and waste systems that are clean, efficient and cost-effective.
	30. Strengthen infrastructure resilience to maintain essential operations in disasters.
	31. Develop a connected transport network that makes it easy and safe to bike, walk, or scooter.
	32. Increase shared and public transport services and connections.