

TE PŪRONGO O TE TAU ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2023/24



NGĀ RĀRANGI TAKE

CONTENTS

HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA O TĀ TĀTAU TAU

He karere taihonotanga	4
Te whakaaweawetia e te huripari gabrielle me nga waipuke	6
Tā tātau rautaki	7
Tā tātau tau	8
Ā tātau pūtea	9
Tā tātau rohe whānui	12
Tā tātau Kaunihera	13
Tā tātau Kāhui Amokura	16
Tā tātau kaimahi	17
Tā tātau mahi	18

NGĀ TAUĀKĪ PŪTEA

He tauākī pūtea whiwhi me te pūtea whakahaere	21
He tauākī tu pūtea	21
He tauākī mana taurite	22
He tauākī kapewhiti	22
He tauākī kaupapa here mō te kaute me ngā pitopito kōrero ki ngā tauākī pūtea	23

SUMMARY OF OUR YEAR

Joint statement	4
Impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle and flooding events	6
Our strategic direction	7
Our year at a glance	8
Our finances at a glance	9
Our district	12
Our Council	13
Our senior leadership team	16
Our staff	17
What we do	18

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expense	21
Summary statement of financial position	21
Summary statement of changes in equity	22
Summary statement of cashflows	22
Statement accounting policies and notes to the financial statements	23

Each year, local authorities are required to present an annual report that includes a set of audited financial statements. Our Annual Report 2023/24 was adopted by Council on 31 October 2024, with an unmodified audit opinion.

Copies of the full Annual Report 2023/24 and this summary are available at www.wairoadc.govt.nz

Wairoa District Council is a public benefit entity for financial reporting purposes. The financial statements within the

Annual Report were prepared in accordance with and comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and comply with Public Sector Public Benefit Entity Accounting Standards (PBE accounting standards) for a Tier 1 entity.

The financial statements in this summary of the 2023/24 Annual Report do not include all of the disclosures provided in the full report and therefore cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding of the Council's financial position.



HE WHA KARĀPO POTOTANGA O TĀ TĀTAU TAU

SUMMARY OF OUR YEAR

This section details the Council's performance during the year. It presents Council-only results including financial highlights. For Group results please refer to the financial statements.

JOINT STATEMENT

Tēnā tātau and welcome to the Wairoa District Council's 2023/2024 Annual Report.

The last year can be described as a roller coaster ride for Wairoa District Council, its communities, and New Zealand as a whole. Weather events, climate change, government reforms, inflation, service delivery cost increases and moving from cyclone recovery to resilience are front of mind as some of our key challenges.

The Wairoa District suffered devastating effects from Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 with the recovery from this expecting to take several years. Less than 18 months later, our district suffered further flooding on June 26, 2024, when a State of Emergency was declared and around 400 properties on the southern side of our township, near the Wairoa River mouth were impacted by flooding. As a District we cannot undertake and fund the recovery required for these two events on our own. We have signalled to external agencies and the NZ Government that we can fund some recovery activities but will still require major external financial support. Our recovery needs to focus on rebuilding while also ensuring we work together on solutions to become more resilient in the future.

A major focus is repairing the extensive damage to our roading and bridge network to keep our communities well connected and accessible. Climate change effects and weather events have, and will continue to, impact our infrastructure, and affect Council's ability to deliver its levels of service.

Council aims to deliver its services in an affordable way, but we face challenges in spreading the cost over a small number of ratepayers. We have continued to experience significant cost increases this year, as has every household and business in New Zealand, particularly due to inflation being higher than what was planned for.

Significant cost increases have occurred in the three waters and roading spaces due in part to legislative and compliance requirements, as well as recovering from the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, weather-related events, and the June flooding. More frequent and intense weather events will increase the risk and damage to Council's infrastructure and activities.

Our planning is helping us identify key risk areas, recognise impacts in asset and financial modelling and

prioritise funding for recovery to resilience. We continue to monitor local and regional trends in weather, identify at risk assets and monitor flooding, slips and erosion. At the same time, we are undertaking spatial planning to further understand our district's hazards and how to manage and mitigate them and participating in national climate change programmes.

On November 22, 2023, a new Coalition Government was formed after the National Party reached an agreement with Act New Zealand and New Zealand First. The new Government is conducting a wide range of legislative reforms, some of which focus on local government activities. These include changes to the Resource Management Act and the Future for Local Government review.

The delivery of three waters services has been a focus for both the current, and previous governments. The Local Water Done Well reforms will impact water services management. Wairoa District Council is exploring options for a regional approach to the delivery of water services. Council will continue to provide drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services until decisions are made regarding water services.

In early 2023, our Chief Executive initiated a staffing organisational review to ensure we have the right structure and skills in place to deliver on Council's future work programme. Having the right people in place is particularly important as the work ahead of us is some of the largest and most complicated the Wairoa District Council has experienced in many years.

As part of the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme, the Wairoa District Council received \$4,660,000 which supported local government to invest in the wellbeing of their communities via a range of improvement projects. This was known as the Three Waters Better Off Fund and is made up of capital and operational support funding.

Wairoa District Council previously identified the regeneration of the central business district area as a top priority for investment. The main street initiative "Te Wairoa E Whanake" was developed to stimulate economic development and regenerate the town centre of Wairoa. Redeveloping the burnt-out building site (Gemmell's building) and purchasing the neighbouring Winter's building were key aspects of the redevelopment

and both sites were purchased by Council in January 2020. The Ahi Kōmau/Gemmell's on Parade redevelopment opened in December 2023 with three commercial spaces established to house a mix of hospitality and retail.

In May 2024, a brand-new state-of-the-art laser projector was installed at the Gaiety Theatre. The new projector has four times the picture resolution of the old projector and can produce a more vivid picture due to its state-of-the-art laser light source.

On behalf of Council and the management team, we wish to acknowledge the contribution of staff and contractors for the achievements outlined in this Annual Report. The Wairoa District Council continues to adapt its operations to be best placed for the uncertain social and economic environment ahead, as it works to maintain infrastructure, deliver core services and plan for Wairoa's future in an affordable and meaningful way.



C Little

Craig Little

Te Kahika
Mayor

K Tipuna

Kitea Tipuna

Te Tumu Whakarae
Chief Executive Officer



TE WHAKAAWEAWETIA E TE HURIPARI GABRIELLE ME NGA WAIPUKE

IMPACTS OF CYCLONE GABRIELLE AND FLOODING EVENTS

Cyclone Gabrielle, subsequent weather events and the June flooding and State of Emergency on the south side of town have caused tens of millions of dollars in damage to the Council’s infrastructure and placed enormous pressures on people’s homes, businesses, farms, and livelihoods.

Connectivity and reliable, resilient roading underpins Wairoa’s recovery. Our local roading network has been severely impacted by landslips, dropouts, flooding, silt, and debris. Roothing connectivity will be a crucial focus of spending over the next three years, and while emergency works are 100% government-funded now, it is unlikely this will continue.

As a result of Cyclone Gabrielle, Wairoa lost its aged care facility to flooding, Idea Services closed, and schools, marae and kohanga reo were flooded. Community assets, including the town’s community centre, camping ground, children’s playground, skatepark and picturesque riverbank reserve, were severely impacted. The cyclone created significant waste disposal issues. In March 2023, around three times the annual average tonnage was deposited at the landfill, dramatically impacting our future capacity. This was further compounded by the June 2024 flooding. These weather events and flooding have had a significant impact on our three waters and there has been limited additional funding available to help us with these increased costs.

Flooding has had a massive impact on significant sites, whenua, awa, and impacted our community’s social fabric through the loss of community facilities.

Cyclone Gabrielle impacted around 350 homes and an additional 120 homes were yellow stickered because of the June 2024 flooding event.

During Cyclone Gabrielle, Wairoa attracted \$2 million worth of donations to the Mayoral Relief Fund, which has been distributed to those most in need. This fund was reinstated for the June 2024 flooding and again people have dug deep with generous donations demonstrating the aroha people have for our district.

Another area of significance is developing flood protection for our township. The government has ring-fenced \$70 million for flood mitigation works to help protect our town in the future. Different options are being worked through and we now need to consider the June 2024 flooding and the Government inquiry into the management of the Wairoa River mouth. As we travel the road to our recovery, we are mindful of

the district's total recovery, as well as the specific needs of our flood impacted North Clyde community and the more recently impacted south side of town.

Mayoral Relief Fund

Mayoral Relief Funds provide Councils with the ability to quickly distribute funding during emergency responses. The Wairoa Mayoral Relief fund was utilised following Cyclone Gabrielle and again following the June 2024 flooding. Donations totaling \$2,054,000 were received via givealittle as well as directly into the fund. There is no administration costs attributed to this fund meaning 100% of all donations reach those who it was intended for. Councils can also ringfence funds for specific recovery-based projects. As of 30 June 2024, 414 funding applications totalling \$1,086,000 have been distributed.

Total Amount donated to Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund	\$2,054,000
Total Amount Distributed	\$1,086,000
Balance	\$969,000

Impacts of Extreme Weather Events

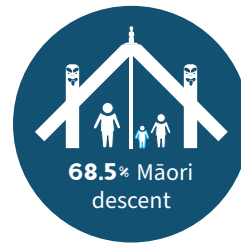
Cyclone Gabielle and the June 2024 as well as other extreme weather events over the past two years have resulted in substantial amounts of damage to homes and properties across our region as well as council services and infrastructure (damage to parks and reserves as well as roads, bridges and water services).

The tables below attempt to quantify the damage our region has suffered and show that even with the amount of donations, subsidies and grants we have received there is still a shortfall in required recovery funding which is having to be covered by the ratepayers of the Wairoa District.

	Cyclone Gabrielle – February 2023	June 2024 Flooding
Damage to Council Services and Infrastructure		
Damage to Roads and Bridges	\$61 Million	\$40 Million
Damage to Water Services	\$1.7 Million	
Damage to Residential Properties and Businesses		
Number of properties damaged	350	400
Yellow Stickered Homes	146	128
Red Stickered Homes	2	
Donations/Grants/Subsidy's received		
Donations distributed from Mayoral Relief Fund	\$1,027,000	\$372,000

TĀ TĀTAU RAUTAKI

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION



OUR MISSION

To support the Wairoa Community through decision-making that promotes the cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the district now and in the future.

OUR VISION

Desirable Lifestyles, Thriving Economy, Treasured Environments, Connected Communities.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



Social Wellbeing

Our **four outcomes** reflect the importance of the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our community.

Each of the outcomes connects to a corresponding wellbeing, which provides a strategic match between our community's interests and Council's wellbeing focus.

We want the Wairoa district to grow and prosper and to ensure that this growth is sustainable. To enable Wairoa to thrive we need intergenerational decision-making that aligns with our ngā pou e whā/community outcomes.



Economic Wellbeing



Cultural Wellbeing

Our future activities need to blend Council's daily activities with our recovery and encompass:

- He Oranga Ōhanga – a thriving growing economy
- He Oranga Hapori – a vibrant, healthy and innovative community
- He Oranga Taiao – a protected, restored and connected environment
- He Oranga Tikanga – a culturally prosperous community



Environmental Wellbeing

*‘Mā te tini me te mano, ka rapa te whai oranga’
‘By working together we will prosper’*

TĀ TĀTAU TAU

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



346
rates rebate applications assisted with
Last year: 330



33,158
library visits
Last year: 41,740



2,639
Service requests issued by
our customer service team
Last year: 2,950



301 TONNES
of waste diverted from landfill
Last year: 143 tonnes



13KM
sealed road resurfaced
Last year: 13.65km



\$19.12 MILLION
value of building consents issued
Last year: 17.7m



1,514
Landings at Wairoa Airport
Last year: 2059



3KM
Wastewater pipes relined
Last year: 3km



13,349M³
maintenance metal applied to roads
Last year: 12,000m³



98%
of users satisfied with the museum
Last year: 99%



107
building consents issued
Last year: 124



2,923
dogs registered
Last year: 3,092

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

The figures presented here are Council-only. For Group results please refer to the financial statements.

\$75.8 MILLION
COST OF RUNNING THE DISTRICT

Our total operating expenses for the year were \$75.8 million. (Last year \$59 Million). This spend supports our district by providing the funding for council activities.

\$11 MILLION
BORROWING POSITION

This is a decrease of \$8 Million from last year and equates to \$1,249 per person in the district. (Last Year \$19 Million). We use borrowing to spread the cost of new facilities or infrastructure over multiple generations that will benefit from the projects. We believe this is the fairest way to do things.

\$21.7 MILLION
CAPITAL SPEND

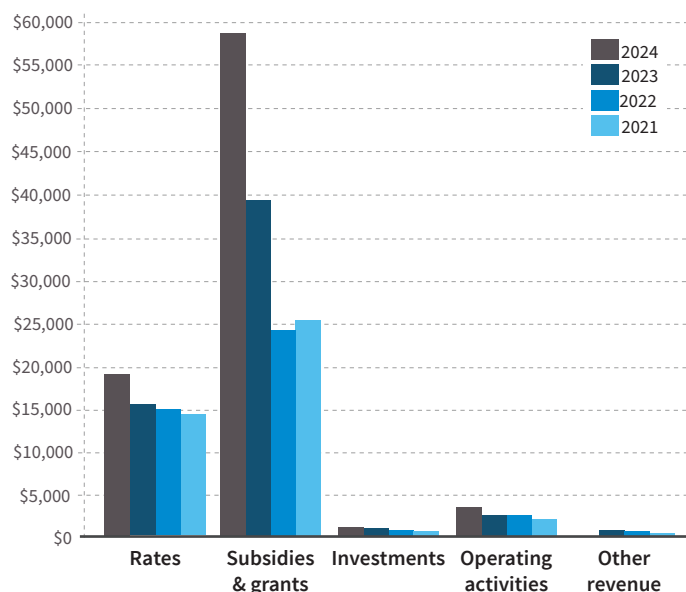
We spent \$21.7 million on new assets for the district. (Last Year \$12.8 Million). We completed several initiatives in our transport, Three Waters and leadership and governance activities, with total spending close to our planned \$28 million. Funding from New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Crown Regional Holdings Limited (formerly known as the Provincial Growth Fund), and the Department of Internal Affairs supported several of these projects.

\$499 MILLION
OF ASSETS

The Council provides services to the district through a range of infrastructure networks and facilities (Council assets). These have been built up over many generations and equate to around \$56,537 net worth of value for every person in the district. (Last year's asset value was \$455 Million).

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

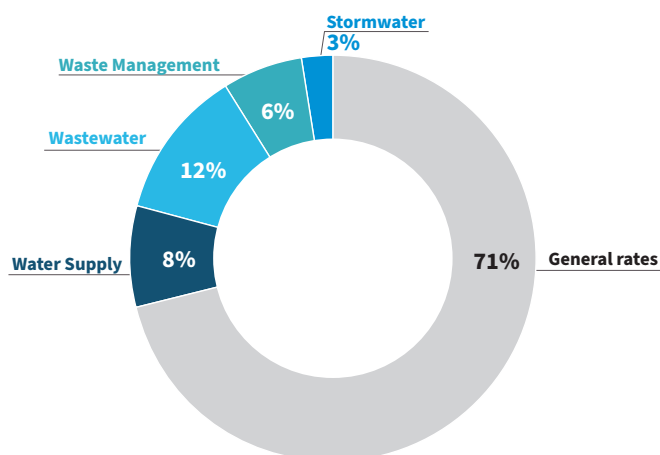
Overall Sources of Revenue (\$000) for the Past Four Years



The above graph shows how our revenue sources have changed, with subsidies and grants now our main source of funding (70% in 2024 compared to 66% in 2023). This reduces the proportion of rates revenue (24% in 2024 compared to 27% in 2023) used to fund our projects. We also receive revenue from operating activities (including user fees) and investments.

The spike in subsidies and grants for 2024 shown in this graph is mostly due to the receipt of a \$42 million NZTA grant to complete bridge and roading repairs following the extreme weather events of the past 2 years. This amount of subsidy is not expected to continue.

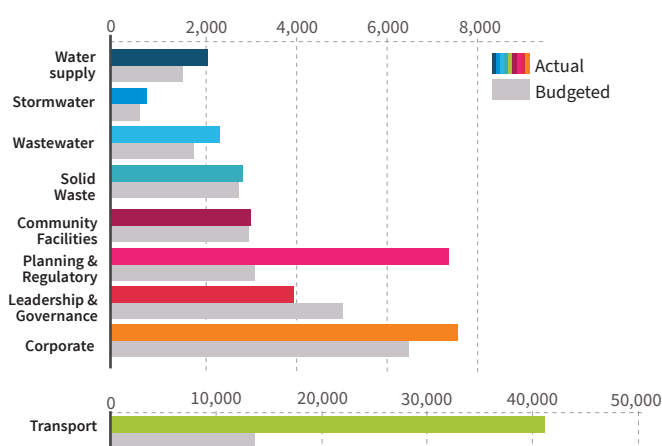
Components of Council Rates Revenue for the Year



The above graph shows the allocation of the Council's rates revenue for the year (based on the Long-Term Plan). During 2020/21, the Council conducted a rating review seeking a simple, affordable, and appropriate approach. The new rating system addresses the issues of consistency that we saw in the previous system, but it is still about the distribution of rates, not the total amount.

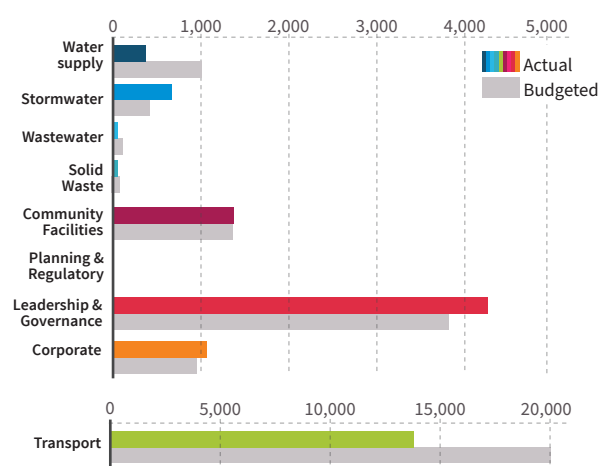
WHERE OUR MONEY GOES TO

Difference Between Actual & Budgeted Operating Expenditure (\$000)



The above graph summarises the difference between the actual and budgeted operating expenditure for each group of activities. It shows how the Council has prioritised its spending to support the operational and strategic direction that has been set during the Annual Plan process.

Difference Between Actual and Budgeted Capital Expenditure (\$000)



The above graph shows capital expenditure by activity group. We have a comprehensive renewal and upgrade programme for our assets and have completed \$21.7M of capital expenditure during the 2023/24 year.

OUR PERFORMANCE IN DETAIL

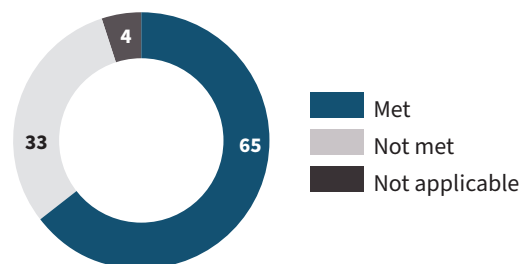
Most of the work we do, the budgets we adhere to and the services we provide are in the nine activity areas set out in this section. Our key performance measures and their targets are how we track and assess the delivery of Council services.

These targets were set in our Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and include both technical measures, such as the percentage of our roading network not suitable for 50MAX Vehicles (trucks to carry up to 50 tonnes) and perception-based measures, such as residents' satisfaction with various services. This is the final year reporting against measures set out in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. Measures for the 2024/25 year are set out in section 2 of the 2024/2027 Long Term Plan.

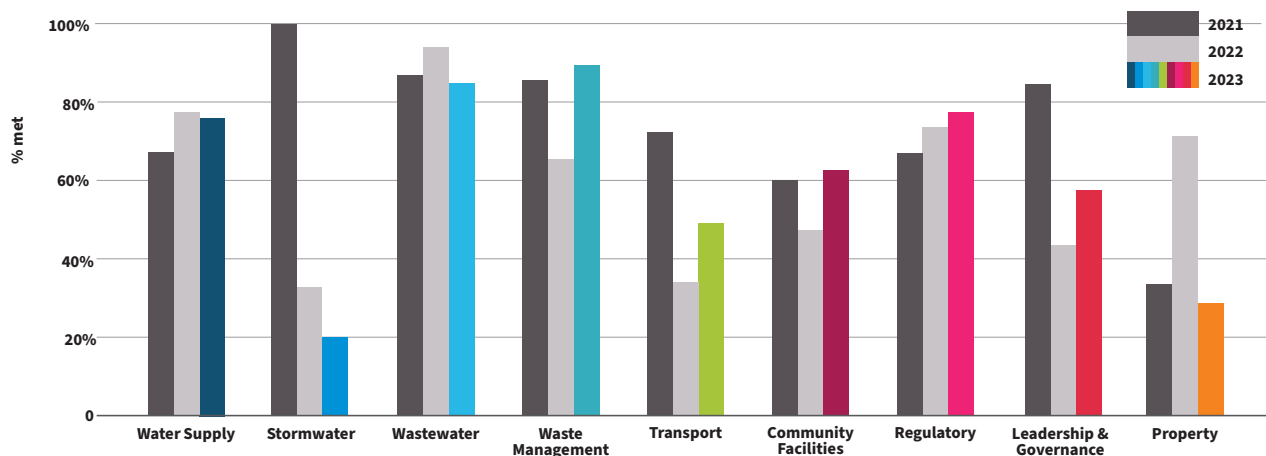
Met	✓
Not Met	✗
Not Measured	⊖

Individual performance measures are recorded as either: Measures recorded as "not applicable" reflect those measures where we could not record the result e.g. the stormwater activity includes a measure "Compliance with Council's resource consents for discharge from its stormwater system". Due to not having a current consent the four performance measures could not be reported on.

For the 2023/24-year, 33 measures or 32% of our performance measures were not achieved.



% key performance measures met: 3 year trend



This graph shows the percentage of measures met by activity over last 3 years. By displaying trends in performance measures, we can gain a sense of which of councils' services are performing as expected and which services require further attention to bring these up to the level our community expects.

During the assessment of our performance over the past year, the following themes have emerged:

- The rebuild from the devastation our region suffered through Cyclone Gabrielle and other extreme weather events still impact our performance, particularly in meeting our land transport performance measures.
- The impact of these weather events is evident in the results of our quality-based measures which are measured through our resident's satisfaction surveys.

These themes are discussed further below.

Our 2023/24 Performance Measure year end results are in line with last year's results across most activity groups. Stormwater was the only area in which a decrease in overall results was seen. While results show only 20% of

the measures in this area were met these results were impacted by the June 2024 floods. Without these floods results for this area would be closer to 80% of measures being met.

Areas impacted by the June 2024 floods include Transport and Waste Management amongst others, without these floods the Wairoa Airport measure would have been met as well as all Waste Management measures. Community Facilities performance measures have been impacted by the ongoing effects of Cyclone Gabrielle as well as the June 2024 floods with these measures relating to council facilities such as parks and reserves which are still very much recovering from the effects of these weather events.



TĀ TĀTAU ROHE WHĀNUI OUR DISTRICT



8,826 residents*



68.5% Māori descent
highest rate nationally



19.9% of population
speaks te reo Māori



\$92,872
median household income



13% of population
over 65



4,341 households



2.03 persons per
household
(average)



31.8 years
median age
(increasing over time)

WHERE WE LIVE



4,119km²
area of district



130km
of coastline



871km
of roads



51km
of footpaths



KEY INDUSTRIES
Agriculture, Forestry, Primary
production and public services
(GDP contribution)

Local Statistics have been taken from the 2023 Census Usually Resident population results - The Census Usually Resident Population Count has a Quality rating of very high. Median Income results have been taken from the Household Labour Force Survey

OUR COUNCIL

Our elected members set the direction and priorities for the district and provide oversight of the organisation. Wairoa District Council is made up of six elected members and a mayor. Along with all other local authorities in New Zealand, the Council is elected every three years. The mayor is elected 'at large,' meaning by all the district's residents. Three Councillors are elected by voters from the Māori roll and three Councillors from the general roll. The next election is in October 2025.

Setting the direction

Elected Members have the responsibility to set the direction and priorities for the district and provide oversight of the organisation. The Council appoints the Chief Executive Officer to deliver the programme and services needed to fulfil its direction. Under the Local Government Act 2002, certain powers are reserved for the elected Council. They include setting bylaws and rates, setting the Council's budget through Long-Term Plan and Annual Plans, making decisions about borrowing money and buying or selling assets, setting up and giving powers to Council committees, determining how Council meetings will be run, setting an Elected Member Code of Conduct, and adopting Annual Reports. Subject to these powers, day-to-day management of Council services and operations is delegated to the Chief Executive, with Councillors monitoring progress.

Community advocates

Elected Members are responsible for providing representation to those from the ward that elected them. This involves meeting people and organisations and advocating on their behalf or addressing any issues they may face. However, when Councillors come together to make decisions in the Council or a Council committee or subcommittee, they are required to put aside local interests and exercise their powers in the best interests of the entire district.

Making the tough decisions

Whatever decisions the elected members make, some people will like it better than others – that is the nature of democracy. Council decisions are made in a climate where public organisations are scrutinised more than ever before.

Before elected members make any decisions, they, with advice from Council staff, examine situations from every angle. They think about the wellbeing and collective needs and aspirations of the Wairoa District's people, as well as legal requirements and contractual obligations, how it fits with the Council's strategic direction and policies, and whether it is a sensible use of ratepayer funding. Elected members will often ask for information to be presented to them such as: How much will it cost? How can it be funded? Can someone else do the work if we do not? Will



the benefits be significantly less or the costs significantly greater if we wait? And are there any risks involved?

Council engages with our community on many matters requiring decisions, ensuring people can have their say, contribute, and influence how their district is shaped. Altogether, Council strives to ensure decision-making processes are fair, robust, and transparent.

Standing committees and subcommittees

Council conducts its business at open and publicly advertised meetings. The Mayor (as required by section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002) puts in place the current structure of committees and subcommittees and Council retains the power to revisit the structure if needed.

The Council's committee structure ensures that all decisions take account of the wider issues facing the district. All services are linked, so it makes good sense to consider them all together. Our decision-making structure ensures that all elected members are aware of the full range of issues facing the district. The beginning of each meeting is set aside for members of the public to have their say on any item within the agenda.

The structure adopted for the 2022-2025 triennium comprises several committees and panels as follows:

- Strategy, Wellbeing & Economic Development Committee.
- Finance, Assurance & Risk Committee.
- Infrastructure & Regulatory Committee.
- Licensing Committee.
- Māori Standing Committee.
- Conduct Review Committee.
- Wairoa Youth Council
- Chief Executive Review Panel.

Council also has representatives on four joint committees with other Councils in the region. The Mayor is an ex-officio member of all Wairoa District Council committees.

Elected Members meeting attendance.

The meeting attendance figures relate to Council and committee meetings (excluding pre-meeting briefing sessions and workshops) of which the Councillor is a member. The meeting attendance figures provided do not include Councillors' attendance at external meetings, including for boards of Council-controlled organisations, community boards, working parties, advisory groups, and other external bodies. Such meetings can conflict with Council meeting times and as such impact on these attendance figures.

2023-2024 Meeting Attendance (Committee and Council Meetings)

Current Council	Number of Council Meetings Attended	Number of Committee Meetings Attended
Craig Little <i>Mayor</i>	13/17	20/31
Denise Eaglesome-Karekare <i>Deputy Mayor</i>	17/17	30/30
Jeremy Harker <i>Councillor</i>	17/17	17/17
Roslyn Thomas <i>Councillor</i>	17/17	14/17
Melissa Kaimoana <i>Councillor</i>	14/17	9/9
Benita Cairns <i>Councillor</i>	13/17	15/19
Chaans Tumataroa-Clarke <i>Councillor</i>	12/17	5/8

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Declarations of interest

At the start of the triennium, all elected members declared their potential, perceived and actual interests, and follow-ups occur to ensure that elected members keep their register up to date and comply with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968, which covers financial interests, and with other requirements relating to non-pecuniary conflicts of interest. At Council and committee meetings, members are asked to declare any interest in relation to any items or reports on the agenda. If an elected member declares an interest, they will not vote or speak to the item or may remove themselves from the discussions.

Code of Conduct

A copy of the Elected Members' Code of Conduct was provided as part of the induction process at the beginning of the triennium and covered the following: roles, responsibilities, relationships, behaviours, compliance, and review. The Code of Conduct provides guidance on the standards of behaviour that are expected from the mayor and elected members.

The Code of Conduct also applies to elected members in their dealings with each other, the Chief Executive, all staff, the media, and the public.

All complaints made under the code must be made in writing and forwarded to the Chief Executive. On receipt of a complaint the Chief Executive must forward the complaint to the Mayor/Chair or, where the Mayor/Chair

is a party to the complaint, an independent investigator, drawn from a pool of names or agencies agreed in advance.

Any allegation is considered in a manner that is fair to all parties involved, including ensuring that due process is respected.

Advisory Groups

Forums and advisory groups help specific sectors of the community to have their say and guide us in our work. Our advisory groups consist of members from the community with specialist knowledge in a specific area. Their role is to help their communities understand Council processes and participate in the Council's decision-making processes, and to help the Council understand the needs of their communities and how those needs may be addressed. They are not seen as representing all views on their specialist areas or communities in Wairoa.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met four times in the 2023/24 year. The selected members represent localities within the Wairoa District.

Chair: Trevor Waikawa

Members: Hinetaipatu Moeaiki, Te Rawhitiora, Manaia Hall, Piripi Ropitini, Lily Verner, Kyara Kaaho, Christina Stockman.

Council representatives: His Worship the Mayor, Roslyn Thomas, Denise Eaglesome-Karekare.

Māori Standing Committee

The Māori Standing Committee met three times in the 2023/24 year. The representatives are selected from each takiwā and serve a term of three years. The Māori Standing Committee members were endorsed at an Ordinary Council meeting on 22 August 2023.

Chair: Henare Mita

Members: Theresa Thornton, Erena Hammond, Fiona Wairau, Amanda Reynolds, Whai-ora Maindonald.

Council representatives: His Worship the Mayor, Benita Cairns, Roslyn Thomas.

OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Mayor and Councillors employ and delegate the management and delivery of Council services to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is the sole employee of the elected Council and is the employer of all other staff. The Chief Executive manages Wairoa District Council under approved Annual and Long-Term Plans, legislation, policies, and guidelines. The Chief Executive is responsible for the efficient and effective implementation of the Council's decisions within agreed parameters. The Chief Executive employs the Council's staff to help with these responsibilities.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) supports the Chief Executive to provide advice to the Council, manage the Council organisation and implement Council decisions. The Chief

Executive also provides independent and impartial advice to the elected Council before decisions are made. Advice is tested among Council staff and reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure all realistic options have been considered and risks have been identified and assessed before the advice is presented to the Council for consideration and decision-making.

The Chief Executive ensures the Council has effective systems to monitor financial and service level performance and recommend changes where appropriate. The Chief Executive's performance is regularly monitored by the Council's Chief Executive Review Panel.

As at the 30 June 2024 the Senior Leadership Team and their responsibilities comprised of:



Kitea Tipuna

*Te Tumu Whakarae
Chief Executive*

Kitea has responsibility for the, stakeholder engagement, election services, governance, community development, events, legal compliance, official information, policy, and human resources.



Mike Hardie

*Te Pouwhakarae Hua Pūmau
Group Manager Assets and
Infrastructure*

Mike has responsibility for the infrastructure team delivering roads, streets and bridges, cemeteries, sports grounds, reserves, airport control, water supply, sewerage, stormwater drainage, waste management, street lighting, traffic management, public toilets, footpaths, and property.



Juanita Savage

*Pouwhakarae
Rātonga Hapori me te
Whakawhanake
Group Manager Community
Services and Development*

Juanita has responsibility for Governance, community engagement, emergency management, economic development, election services, Wairoa archives, Wairoa Centennial Library, Wairoa Information Centre (i-site) and The Gaiety Theatre.



Hinetaakoha Viriaere

*Pouwhakarae Whakamahere
me te Waeture
Group Manager Planning
and Regulatory*

Hine has responsibility for district planning, building compliance, animal control, environmental health, resource consents and bylaws.



Gary Borg

*Te Pouwhakarae Pūtea me te
Tautāwhi Rangapū
Group Manager Finance and
Corporate Support*

Gary has responsibility for the team delivering accounting services, financial management, revenue collection, rating, risk management, financial planning and reporting, treasury services, tax compliance and strategic planning.

OUR STAFF

We work to ensure that the Council is an attractive place to work, to attract and retain skilled and qualified people.

Of the 85 employees at Wairoa District Council (a further 64 are contractors), Women make up 61 percent. 83% percent of our staff are permanent employees and 17 percent of our employees work on a part-time or casual basis. The rich mix of people who work at the Council has a positive impact on our work culture and productivity.

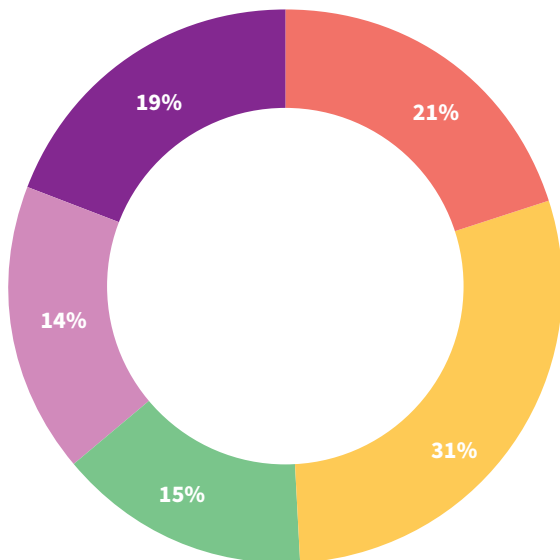
Staff numbers have increased slightly since the 2022/23 Annual Report which can be attributed to the establishment of the Wairoa Recovery Office. Total head count increased from 81 in 2022/23 to 85 in 2023/24 with total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers increasing from 73 to 77.

The graphs and tables in this section show which areas our staff work in, their gender, and type of employment as at 30 June 2024.

BREAKDOWN OF STAFF BY ACTIVITY AREA AND CONTRACT TYPE

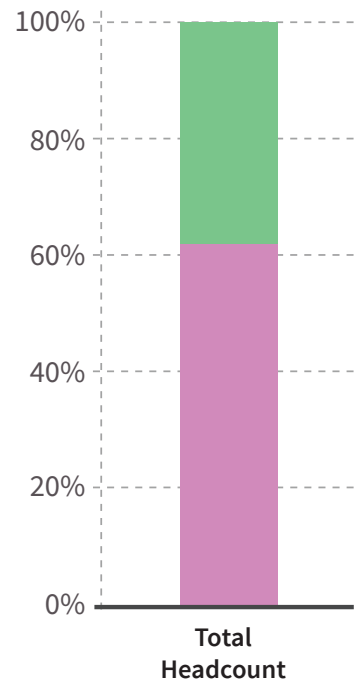
	PERMANENT		FIXED TERM		Casual	Head Count	FTE
	Full-Time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time			
Community & Engagement	14	0	3	0	1	18	15
Community Assets & Services	22	1	2	1	0	26	25
Finance and Corporate Support	13	0	0	0	0	13	13
Information & Customer Experience	8	4	0	0	0	12	11
Regulatory & Compliance	10	1	2	0	3	16	13
Total	67	6	7	1	4	85	77

FTE BY ACTIVITY



- Community & Engagement
- Community Assets & Services
- Finance and Corporate Support
- Information & Customer Experience
- Regulatory & Compliance

GENDER BREAKDOWN









- Women
- Men

TĀ TĀTAU MAHI

WHAT WE DO






Wairoa district's infrastructure is key to ensuring Council can provide the services our community needs and expects. Delivering these services and activities helps us look after the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our people and the district.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REPLACEMENT VALUE
TRANSPORT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 871km road (323km sealed) • 174 bridges • 448 retaining structures • 54km footpaths • 7.4km cycleways • maintenance of an operational airport • streetlights • maintenance of Marine Parade CBD 	\$631M As at July 2024
WATER SUPPLY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three water supply networks • 118km water pipes • numerous valves • hydrants • water reservoirs 	\$166M As at July 2024
WASTEWATER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 wastewater networks • 59km of wastewater pipes • numerous manholes • treatment plants • wastewater pump stations 	\$57.8M As at July 2023
STORMWATER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41km stormwater pipes • 24km of channels and drains • sumps 	\$38.4M As at July 2023
WASTE MANAGEMENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kerbside waste collection • management of transfer stations • landfill management • litter bins • recycling services 	\$1.1M As at July 2023
PENSIONER HOUSING 	We have 32 pensioner flats across 6 locations. These consist of 16 bedsits, and 10 single and 6 double units.	\$8.96M As at July 2023

TĀ TĀTAU MAHI

WHAT WE DO

Wairoa district's infrastructure is key to ensuring Council can provide the services our community needs and expects. Delivering these services and activities helps us look after the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of our people and the district.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
COMMUNITY FACILITIES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• public toilets• lighthouse• civic buildings/halls• cemeteries• playgrounds• library• sports parks• Gaiety Theatre• gardens• street trees• Wairoa Community Centre• rural transfer stations
GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITY 	Provide for community representation and support community participation in democracy. Provide support and development in the areas of emergency management, community engagement, economic development, archives, and records. Develop relationships with tangata whenua and facilitate Māori participation in decision-making.
CORPORATE SERVICES 	Provide corporate services (incl. customer services, finance, administration, rates services, legal compliance, policy development) and property services for Council-owned properties. Hold investments and manage funds to support Council activities.
PLANNING AND REGULATORY 	Regulatory activities including resource planning, environmental health, building control, alcohol control, dog and livestock control, and general bylaw enforcement.
RECOVERY 	Wairoa's recovery focus is to rebuild our homes, businesses, infrastructure and wairua in the wake of damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and the June 26, 2024, flooding event. There is a focus to build back better and support our community to be more prepared and resilient for the future.



NGĀ TAUĀKĪ PŪTEA

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HE TAUĀKĪ PŪTEA WHIWHI ME TE PŪTEA WHAKAHAERE

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSE

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	COUNCIL				GROUP	
	Actual 2024 \$000	AP 2024 \$000	LTP 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
Total revenue	82,115	52,534	34,059	60,117	99,078	70,261
Total expense (excluding finance expense)	(74,513)	(35,612)	(30,826)	(58,183)	(87,916)	(66,174)
Total finance expense	(1,318)	(705)	(771)	(347)	(1,539)	(466)
Net surplus / (deficit) before taxation	6,284	16,217	2,462	1,587	9,623	3,620
Subvention income	-	-	100	1,000	-	-
Taxation	-	-	-	-	(2,548)	(666)
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year	6,284	16,217	2,562	2,587	7,075	2,954
Other comprehensive revenue and expense						
Fair value movement – property, plant and equipment	39,789	-	-	142,927	39,789	142,927
Fair value movement in financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year	46,073	16,217	2,562	145,514	46,864	145,881

HE TAUĀKĪ TU PŪTEA

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2024

	COUNCIL				GROUP	
	Actual 2024 \$000	AP 2024 \$000	LTP 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
Current assets	19,521	9,110	5,265	27,660	22,721	31,083
Non-current assets	516,360	344,680	349,719	465,201	523,736	470,863
Total assets	535,881	353,790	354,984	492,861	546,457	501,946
Current liabilities	24,202	9,490	7,416	27,916	24,062	29,564
Non-current liabilities	9,614	18,105	22,870	8,953	14,366	11,217
Total liabilities	33,816	27,595	30,286	36,869	38,428	40,781
Total equity	502,065	326,195	324,698	455,992	508,029	461,165

HE TAUĀKĪ MANA TAURITE

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	COUNCIL				GROUP	
	Actual 2024 \$000	AP 2024 \$000	LTP 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
Total equity - opening balance	455,992	309,478	322,136	310,478	461,165	315,284
Net surplus (deficit) for period	6,284	16,217	2,562	2,587	7,075	2,954
Other comprehensive income	39,789	-	-	142,927	39,789	142,927
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	46,073	16,217	2,562	145,514	46,864	145,881
Total equity - closing balance	502,065	325,195	324,698	455,992	508,029	461,165
Equity - closing balance						
Ratepayer's equity - closing balance	172,032	179,970	174,611	163,798	177,005	167,980
Special funds - closing balance	22,706	20,614	13,668	24,656	22,706	24,656
Revaluation reserves - closing balance	307,327	124,611	136,419	267,538	308,318	268,529
Total equity - closing balance	502,065	325,195	324,698	455,992	508,029	461,165

HE TAUĀKĪ KAPEWHITI

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	COUNCIL				GROUP	
	Actual 2024 \$000	AP 2024 \$000	LTP 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
Net cash flows from operating activities	17,858	13,298	8,792	13,044	19,556	14,617
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(21,239)	(19,082)	(11,479)	(12,691)	(24,548)	(16,684)
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities	(8,000)	3,186	1,868	9,026	(6,906)	11,191
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(11,381)	(2,598)	(819)	9,379	(11,898)	9,124
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	13,688	4,309	2,782	4,309	14,866	5,742
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	2,307	1,711	1,963	13,688	2,968	14,866

HE TAUĀKĪ KAUPAPA HERE MŌ TE KAUTE ME NGĀ PITOPITO KŌRERO KI NGĀ TAUĀKĪ PŪTEA

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Reporting Entity Statement and Preparation of the Financial Statements	23
2. Transactions with related parties	25
3. Contingencies	25
4. Commitments	26
5. Significant Events	26

1. REPORTING ENTITY STATEMENT AND PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements of the Council and group have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA and the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 (LG(FRP)R), which include the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Policies (NZ GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with PBE Accounting Standards.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, rounded to the nearest thousand (\$000), unless otherwise stated.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements comprise the financial statements of Wairoa District Council (the Council) and its subsidiary Quality Roding and Services (Wairoa) Limited (QRS) Collectively the Group as at 30 June 2024.

Controlled entities are those over which the Council (the controlling entity) can govern the financial and operating policies to obtain benefits from their activities. All significant inter-entity transactions, balances and unrealised gains are eliminated on consolidation. The Council has a 100% interest in QRS (2023: 100%), a company incorporated in New Zealand (**refer note 14 of the full annual report**). When necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring their accounting policies into line with the Group's accounting policies.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

All amounts in the financial statements are exclusive of GST, except for receivables and payables that are stated as GST-inclusive. When GST is not recoverable as an input tax then it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

BUDGET FIGURES

Long Term Plan 2021-2031

The Long-Term Plan for 2021-2031 was adopted by Council on 30 June 2021. The reporting period ended 30 June 2024 is the third year of this plan and has been replaced by the 2024/27 Long Term Plan from 1 July 2024. The budget figures were prepared in accordance with NZ PBE FRS-42, using accounting policies

consistent with those adopted by Council for the preparation of the financial statements.

The Long-Term Plan budget figures included in these financial statements are for the Council as a separate entity. The budget figures do not include budget information relating to the controlled entity.

These figures do not include any additional expenditure subsequently approved by the Council outside the Long-Term Plan process. The Long-Term Plan figures have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted by the Council for the preparation of these financial statements. Explanation of major variances between actual results and forecasted figures is provided in **note 26 of the full annual report**.

COMPARATIVES

To ensure consistency with the current year, certain comparative information has been reclassified:

- where classifications have changed between periods.
- where the Council has made additional disclosure in the current year.
- where a greater degree of disaggregation of prior year amounts and balances is therefore required; and
- where there has been a change of accounting policy (there has been no change in the 2023/24 year).

OVERHEAD COST ALLOCATION

The Council has derived the cost of service for each significant activity, as reported within the Statements of Service Performance, in the following way:

Direct Costs

Direct costs, which can be traced directly to a specific significant activity, are expensed directly to the relevant activity.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs relate to the overall costs of running the organisation and include staff time, office space and information technology costs. Indirect costs are allocated as overheads across all activities. Indirect costs are charged to activities using appropriate cost drivers such as actual usage, staff numbers and floor area.

CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

For the Group's capital management, the Group's capital is its equity (or Ratepayer's Funds), including accumulated comprehensive revenue and expense and all equity reserves attributable to the Council. Equity is represented by net assets.

The Council manages its capital largely as a by-product of managing its revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities, and general financial dealings. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to manage its revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities, and general financial dealings in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. In addition, The Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 set out a number of benchmarks for assessing whether the Council is managing its revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities prudently.

The primary objective of the Group's capital management is to achieve intergenerational equity, which is a principle promoted in the Local Government Act 2002 and applied by the Council.

Intergenerational equity requires the Council to spread the funding of the cost of its assets over the current and future generations of ratepayers, such that:

- Current ratepayers are required to meet the cost of using the assets, but not the full cost of long-term assets that will benefit ratepayers in future generations and
- Ratepayers in future generations are not required to meet the costs of deferred asset renewals and maintenance.

To achieve this overall objective, the Council has in place asset management plans for major classes of assets, detailing renewals and programmed maintenance to ensure that future generations of ratepayers are not required to meet the costs of deferred renewals and maintenance.

An additional objective of capital management is to ensure that the expenditure needs identified in the Council's Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan are met in the manner set out in these plans. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to make adequate and effective provision in its Long-Term Plan and in its Annual Plan to meet the expenditure needs identified in those plans. The factors the Council must consider when determining the most appropriate sources of funding for each of its activities are in the Local Government Act 2002. The sources and levels of funding are set out in the funding and financial policies in the Council's Long-Term Plan. The Council monitors actual expenditure incurred against the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan.

No changes were made in the objectives, policies, or processes for managing capital during the year (2023: nil).

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions concerning the future that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets

and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed as follows.

1. Classification of property

The Council owns a number of pensioner housing units. The receipt of rental income from these properties is incidental to holding them. The properties are held for service delivery objectives as part of the Council's social housing policy. The properties are therefore accounted for as property, plant, and equipment rather than as investment property. **Refer note 11 and 15 of the full annual report.**

2. Landfill aftercare provisions

Note 18 of the full annual report discloses an analysis of the exposure of the Council in relation to the estimates and uncertainties surrounding the landfill aftercare provision.

3. Infrastructural asset valuation

There are assumptions and estimates used when performing depreciated replacement cost valuations over infrastructural assets. These include:

- The physical deterioration and condition of an asset, for example the council could be carrying an asset at an amount that does not reflect its actual condition. This is particularly so for those assets which are not visible, for example stormwater, wastewater and water supply pipes that are underground. This risk is minimised by Council performing a combination of physical inspections and condition modelling assessments of underground assets.
- Estimating any obsolescence or surplus capacity of an asset.
- Estimates are made when determining the remaining useful lives over which the asset will be depreciated. These estimates can be impacted by the local conditions, for example weather patterns and traffic growth. If useful lives do not reflect the actual consumption of the benefits of the asset, then WDC could be over-or-under estimating the annual depreciation charge recognised as an expense in the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense.

To minimise this risk WDC's infrastructural asset useful lives have been determined with reference to the NZ Infrastructural Asset Valuation and Depreciation Guidelines published by the National Asset Management Steering Group and have been adjusted for local conditions based on past experience. Asset inspections, deterioration and condition modelling are also carried out regularly as part of WDC's asset management activities, which give WDC further assurance over its useful life estimates. Accredited independent valuers perform Council's infrastructural asset revaluations, refer to **Note 11 of the full annual report.**

4. Classification of costs

Judgement is used over the classification of costs between capital and maintenance. Items are reviewed regularly to ensure the cost allocation is reasonable.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

No changes in accounting policies.

2. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

Related parties arise where one entity has the ability to affect the financial and operating policies of another through the presence of control or significant influence. Related parties include all members of the Group (Council and controlled entities) and key management personnel. Key management personnel include the Mayor and Councillors as elected members of the governing body of the Council reporting entity, the Chief Executive and all members of the senior leadership team, being key advisors to the Council and Chief Executive.

There were close family members of key management personnel employed by the Council and Group. The terms and conditions of those arrangements are no more favourable than the Council and Group would have adopted if there was no relationship to the key management Personnel.

Material related party transactions - key management personnel of Council

During the year, key management personnel, as part of normal local authority relationships, were involved in transactions with the Council such as payment of rates and purchases of rubbish bags or other Council services. These transactions were on normal commercial terms. Except for these transactions no key management personnel have entered into related party transactions with the Group.

- The Mayor and Councillor's disclose their personal interests in a register available on the Council website.
- There are no commitments from Council to key management personnel.

Material Related Party Transactions - QRS

Council's purchase of services and sales income from QRS for the year were as follows:

	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Revenue received by Council for services provided to QRS	177	88
Expenditure payments made by Council for services provided by QRS	34,538	25,465
Dividend received from QRS	100	0
Subvention payment from QRS	0	1,000
Current receivables and recoverables owing to the Council from QRS	55	3
Current payables owed by the Council to QRS	4,756	4,967
Contract retentions	1,719	849

The receivable and payable balances are non-interest bearing and are to be settled on normal trading terms and conditions, except for \$6,474,775 (2023: \$848,885) of contract retentions which are payable at closure of defects liability period.

No related party transactions were forgiven or written off during the period (2023: nil).

3. CONTINGENCIES

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are disclosed at the point at which the contingency is evident. Contingent liabilities are disclosed if the possibility they will crystallise is not remote. Contingent assets are disclosed if it is probable the benefits will be realised.

CONTINGENT ASSETS

A contingent asset is a future expected cashflow arriving out of council operations that has an inherent factor of uncertainty.

The Council entered into a 30 year targeted capital rating repayment plan for the connections of private individual's properties to a centralised wastewater network owned by the Council in the Māhia and Ōpoutama catchment areas. In terms of repayment of that cost, ratepayers were eligible to select an upfront payment, or to nominate between 3 and 30 years to repay the cost, plus interest through rates. The ordinary recovery of capital under a capital rating scheme is an instalment charged as a targeted rate, set with each year's rating resolution. In addition, an early repayment policy was adopted in 2016/17 for ratepayers to clear the remaining cost, exclusive of any future interest charges. The costs for the work commissioned by the Council on behalf of the ratepayers for these schemes were capitalised in the 2014/15 financial year.

The calculated value represents the amount owed and repayable under the scheme as at 30 June:

	Council		Group	
	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Balance at 1 July	779	856	779	856
Less: Charged through rates this financial year	(88)	(86)	(88)	(86)
Add back: Interest charged in rates	26	25	26	25
Less: Early repayment policy payments	(14)	(16)	(14)	(16)
Balance at 30 June	703	779	703	779

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

A contingent liability is a debt that may be incurred in the future, but for which there is no current actual liability owing or an event giving rise to an obligation.

There were no contingent liabilities at 30 June 2024.

4. COMMITMENTS

FUTURE CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

	Council		Group	
	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Capital commitments				
Infrastructural assets - Water system	2,776	-	2,776	-
Infrastructural assets - Roading network	16,233	-	3,709	-
Other	2,805	-	2,805	117
Total capital commitments	21,814	-	9,290	117
Operational commitments				
Maintenance and service contracts	-	194	-	194
Total operational commitments	-	194	-	194
Total contractual commitments	21,814	194	9,290	311

At balance date, QRS had a capital commitment of \$133,196 for two excavators. (2023: \$117,932 for a grader).

The capital commitments above represent signed contracts in place at the end of the reporting period. The contracts will often span more than one financial year and may include capital expenditure carried forward from previous years.

NON-CANCELLABLE OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Council leases photocopy machines and a building in the ordinary course of its business. New leases for each were negotiated in the current year for a 5 year term. Leases are generally renewable at the end of the lease period at market rates.

The leases have the following characteristics:

- The lease does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership;
- The lease does not transfer ownership to the Council or Group at the end of the lease term;
- The leased asset is not of a specialised nature that only the lessee can use without modifications;
- The lessee cannot cancel the lease unilaterally unless the lessor is in material breach of contract, and gains and losses in the value of the equipment remain the risk of the lessor.

The amount of minimum payments for non-cancellable operating leases is recognised as an expense in **Note 3 of the full annual report**. The future expenditure committed by these leases is analysed in the following table:

	Council		Group	
	2024 \$000	2023 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
Office equipment and vehicles				
Up to one year	25	34	25	168
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	25	-	309
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
Buildings				
Up to one year	21	32	21	32
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	21	-	21
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
Total non-cancellable operating lease commitments as lessee	46	112	46	530

5. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Local Government Reform

In the past financial year, central government has announced three tranches of local government reform. These reforms may have impacts on the Wairoa District Council responsibilities, operations and financial statements in future periods.

Local Waters Done Well

The Water Services Reform Legislation (Three Waters) was repealed in February 2024 and replaced by the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) programme by the Coalition Government with a strong focus on water quality and infrastructure investment, ensuring that water services are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The most recent legislation, Local Government (Waters Services Preliminary Arrangements), enacted in September 2024 requires Council to draft a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) which needs to be consulted upon and submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by September 2025.

A third Bill, the proposed Local Government Water Services Bill, is planned to be introduced to Parliament in December 2024 which will set out a range of changes to the water services delivery system and to the water services regulatory system. These new rules for water quality, including wastewater and stormwater discharges, will be developed and enforced by Taumata Arowai. These rules will set standards for acceptance discharges and mitigate environmental risks to rivers and beaches ensuring that water management practices meet the highest environmental standards.

For more information on the programme, please visit Water Services Policy and Legislation - www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-and-Legislation

Resource Management Reform

Over the last two years the Government has been on a journey to reform Aotearoa New Zealand's resource management system. The Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act

were passed into law on 23 August 2023. These Acts have since been repealed with the Resource Management Act 1991 in place while replacement legislation is developed.

Implementing a new resource management system comes at a time of change. The severe weather events in 2023 and 2024 demonstrated the reality of climate change, how widespread and costly the impacts can be, and the urgency to both reduce emissions and help communities be better prepared for the future. These events also underscored the importance of taking an integrated approach to effective resource management, climate mitigation and adaptation, and infrastructure planning to protect communities.

Local Government Reform

Central Government has indicated a need to rethink the form, function and funding of local government in New Zealand. This is as a result of the impact of the Resource Management and Water

Reforms on local government responsibilities, combined with the need for a cohesive long term response to COVID-19, climate change and the opportunities that technological change present. It has been indicated that this reform will aim to incentivise and empower local government to work in partnership with central government to drive regional development, improve environmental outcomes and deliver on the wellbeing needs of communities.

This may result in new services, activities or responsibilities for Council. At this stage the outcome is uncertain, and the annual report has been prepared on the basis that the delivery model will not change in the foreseeable future.

For more information on the Local Government Reform, please visit <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Future-for-Local-Government-Review>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL AND GROUP'S SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of Wairoa District Council and Group (the District Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 2, 11 and 21 to 27:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service provision.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 in our auditor's report dated 31 October 2024.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have carried out an assurance engagement in relation to the District Council's debenture trust deed reporting, which is compatible with independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council or its controlled entity.



David Borrie
Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand
19 November 2024

GETTING IN TOUCH

Your feedback plays a big role in making our district a better place to live, work and play. We are keen to hear from you, and welcome your ideas and comments.

Here's how you can get in touch:



www.wairoadc.govt.nz



[@wairoadistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wairoadistrictcouncil)



info@wairoadc.govt.nz



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