Te Taiao Environment

In partnership with mana whenua, and working with the wider community, we are putting our collective effort towards the vision of a flourishing te taiao (natural environment).

We support the mauri (vital life-force energy) of our Region's unique taiao, and recreation opportunities within it. This includes protecting and restoring our freshwater quality, wetlands, coasts, native biodiversity, harbours and marine areas, air quality, soil and ecosystem health. We carry out restoration planting and control pests in regional parks, important ecological sites, and across the wider landscape with positive outcomes for native biodiversity, climate resilience and community connection.

We monitor the state of our regional taiao, create and enforce rules to protect it from the harmful effects of development. We educate and advocate for its restoration, promote safe recreation and use of our regional parks and harbours, and protect significant parts of the region from flooding events. Much of our work is done alongside others, including mana whenua partners, territorial authorities, conservation organisations, volunteers, and private landowners.

Capital Spending 2024-34	Operational Spending 2024-34	Funding Sources:	Rates contribution 2024/25
$302m	**$1.6b**	**Rates, Fees and charges, government grants and subsidies and debt**	**38 percent ($107m)**

Our new structure and catchment approach

The new structure and systems are designed to deliver outcomes more effectively for te taiao and people, and to build a more resilient region.

We are taking a catchment approach to consider how everything and everyone is connected and how the Environment Group's work can complement this. Our work will be delivered in a more holistic, integrated way within catchments and at a scale that is more meaningful for our mana whenua partners, communities, and other stakeholders. For example, partnering with mana whenua and working with local communities to restore waterways and wetlands. Together we can reduce the risk of flooding and provide a more diverse environment, helping mitigate the effects of climate change.

We are working with our mana whenua partners in new ways that reflect our shared priorities. We want to move to a high trust model that is driven by mutual interests. We will do this by seeking to collaborate based on a shared vision, sharing power, and building high quality relationships for the long-term.

The Wellington Region is comprised of five super catchments, known as 'whaitua', with many sub-catchments.

> A catchment-based approach to planning and delivery improves how we coordinate across our work programmes, helps us make better decisions, and supports us to deliver better outcomes for te taiao and people, in the places that need them.

Planning integrated work at a catchment scale

We take a catchment approach to our work in care of te taiao. A catchment is an area of land where rainfall flows into a water body, whether that be a river, stream, lake, harbour or coast.

Catchments are bound by hills or mountains and have unique climate, soil, waterways, coastlines, and ecosystems, all of which are important to the mana whenua and communities that live in them.

On the horizon

The environmental challenges we face are complex and urgent. No one party has all the answers.

Strengthening partnerships and collaborations with mana whenua and communities, as well as other stakeholders, will take time. Understanding the connections between the challenges we face, and co-creating solutions, will also take time. This will require the right resources, and dedication to new ways of working and thinking. If we deliver our work separately across the region, we risk duplication, and missing opportunities for our work to be complementary.

Our response

An integrated catchment approach will enable Greater Wellington's work to be more effective within catchments. It will be easier to find areas of duplication, gaps, and opportunities to achieve better outcomes. This approach allows for better communication with local mana whenua, communities, and other stakeholders. We will be able to form closer relationships and improve understanding between all involved. This will help to better identify priorities for action in a collaborative way.

The decisions we make about how we use land and waterways have a flow-on effect on the marine environment. For example, fine particles of sediment can enter waterways from land during high rain events and smother marine habitats. As we progress integrating our work across catchments, there will be opportunities to plan for restoring rivers, streams, wetlands and urban waterways in ways that more directly benefit the marine environment.

We will plan for the time needed to build strong partnerships. We cannot do it alone as the scale of the environmental challenge is great. We will need to strengthen collaboration with others in each of the five catchments so we can achieve more together. We will listen to community needs and aspirations and work together to find the best solutions.

Things we will be keeping an eye on

Planning, prioritising, integrating and delivering work on a catchment basis is a complex process that can take time and testing to get right. We are fully aware of this challenge and have dedicated a strong team to take the lead on this so that the right processes can be worked out with the mana whenua and communities involved.

There are no significant negative effects from this activity.

Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai

Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai[3] is a collaboration between Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, Greater Wellington, the Department of Conservation, and Kāpiti Coast District Council to revitalise the Waikanae Awa, acknowledging the connectedness of water and its people from mountains to sea.

The vision is of Waiora: the community working together, under a Treaty House partnership, to enhance the lifeforce, vitality and special nature of the whole of the Waikanae Awa. The river is a living whole of which the community is an intertwined part. By protecting the river, community identity, wellbeing and prosperity are also enhanced.

We are exploring ways to make this a real and active partnership that will enable iwi to implement this vision within their rohe. The awa is not just the water – it is the landforms, rocks and soils. It is the vegetation cover, the wildlife, and the habitats. It is the entire catchment above and below, the flows of the water from the sky, through the earth, and in the plants, animals and people. It is out to the sea. It is the tap water and the wastewater. It is processes like flooding, erosion, fish migration and seasons. And it is people, connections to the awa, spiritual values, the place to fish, the place to play, and knowledge handed down through generations and into the future.

Key projects		
Catchment planning	Carry out and implement catchment planning, working with our mana whenua partners, communities and other stakeholders to integrate the Environment Group's work in catchments.	Ongoing
Wairarapa Coast Whaitua Process[4]	Work with territorial authorities, mana whenua partners (Rangitāne ō Wairarapa Inc and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust) and the community to develop freshwater recommendations for the Wairarapa Coast Whaitua. Parts of this work will start in 2024.	2024-2027
Porirua Harbour Accord	A collaboration between Greater Wellington, Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and Wellington Water to restore the health of Te Awarua-o-Porirua.	Ongoing
Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai	We are working with Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust, Kāpiti Coast District Council, and Department of Conservation to coordinate actions towards the revitalisation of the Waikanae awa.	Ongoing
Whaitua implementation and reporting	Coordination of the Whaitua Implementation Programmes (WIPs) for Ruamāhanga, Te Awarua-o-Porirua, and Te Whanganui-a-Tara for freshwater and environmental outcomes. This will also include Kāpiti and Wairarapa Coast WIP implementation when their respective WIPs have been completed.	Ongoing

[3] https://www.waikanaeawa.org.nz/
[4] https://www.gw.govt.nz/environment/freshwater/protecting-the-waters-of-your-area/

Environmental restoration, recreation, and harbour safety

We protect and restore te taiao in the region, including forests, wetlands, rivers, coasts, harbours, and our eight regional parks. We do this by controlling impacts of pest plants and animals, planting native species, and protecting and restoring wetlands and waterways.

We support volunteer groups working on public land and provide advice to private landowners on protecting and restoring their land. We provide for, and promote, safe use of our harbours, parks, rivers and open spaces to provide connection to nature and economic benefit to the region.

On the horizon

Whenua, wetlands, waterways and urban coastal areas across our region are degraded or lost due to historical land use changes. Wetlands are in a critical state with less than three percent of their original extent remaining in our region.

Indigenous wildlife and plants are threatened throughout the region because their native habitats, such as forests, continue to be broken up or degraded.

Climate change and severe weather events will put further pressure on threatened species as habitats change and there are increased survival opportunities for pest plants and animals.

Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki and Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai can expect to progress the settlement of their historical Treaty grievance claims against the Crown during this Long Term Plan. This will enable them to exercise their rangatiratanga in the areas of significance to them.

Our response

We are responding to the karanga (call) from te taiao by working with mana whenua in their role as kaitiaki (guardians), city and district councils and communities to restore the whenua.

We will uphold Te Tiriti partnerships across the region.

As part of our catchment-based approach we will draw on a wider range of knowledge so that our collective decisions lead to better outcomes for people and te taiao.

We are implementing targeted pest management measures to reduce the impact of invasive herbivores (i.e. feral deer, goats, rabbits and hares) on our established native ecosystems and new restoration planting sites.

We will continue large-scale planting of formerly grazed areas of our regional parks and ending current grazing licences to support te taiao to flourish in our regional parks.

In the next three years, we will increase our efforts to improve marine biosecurity. This involves monitoring for invasive pests (such as Mediterranean fanworm) that can occupy space that should be available to native species, disrupt food webs, and damage vessels and infrastructure. We will also prepare pest incursion response plans and educate vessel users in how to reduce the risk of spreading marine pests.

We also promote wider understanding and care for the marine and coastal environment. This includes hosting summer events such as snorkelling, delivered with the Mountains to Sea Wellington Trust, and supporting Enviroschools Wellington which delivers a wide environmental education programme.

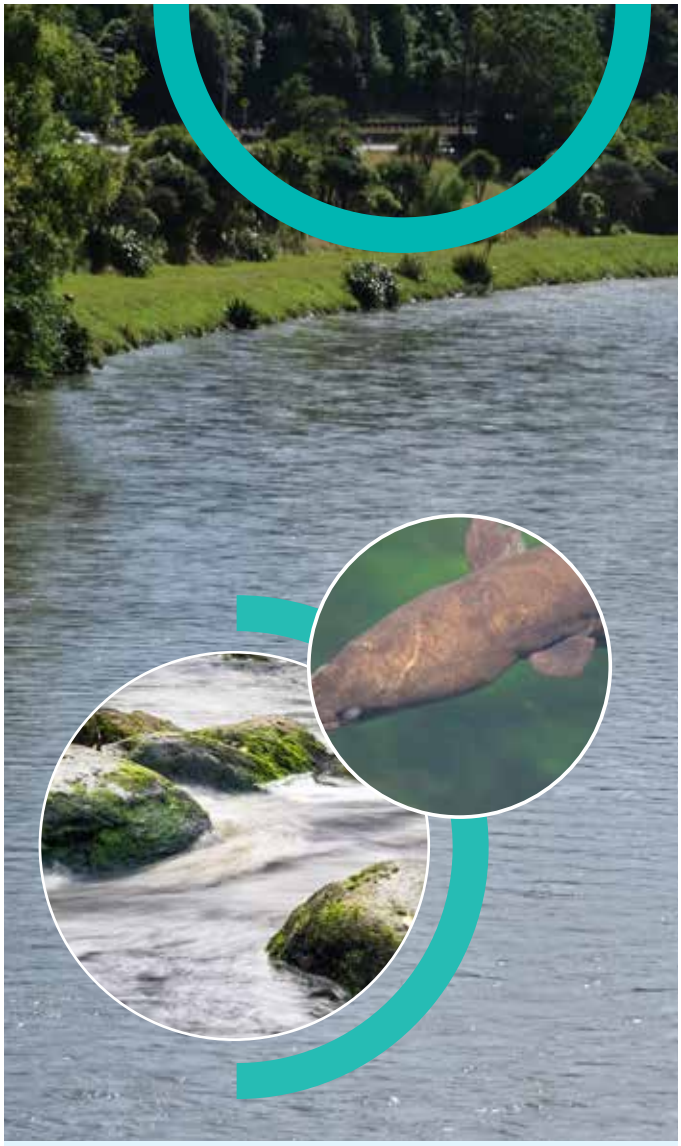
Key projects		
Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan implementation	Our long term vision for regional parks is to restore healthy ecosystems. It's a 10-year programme of work, delivered by many people in a wide variety of collaborations. Recloaking Papatūānuku is a key activity. Funded by Greater Wellington's Low Carbon Acceleration Fund, it delivers native planting to restore the formerly grazed areas of regional parks. Highlights include the collaborative work of the Roopu Tiaki group at Parangarahu Lakes, a joint management group established between Greater Wellington and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, in the East Harbour Regional Park. Also, working with the Rongoā Collective mātauranga and community groups in Queen Elizabeth Park.	2020-30
Parks asset management programme	This programme implements the Parks Asset Management Plan to maintain assets, support recreation experiences and protect natural and cultural values. Our focus will be on maintaining our existing facilities. There will be minimal development of new facilities during this Long Term Plan. Our work will include upgrades to meet new national standards, such as drinking water legislation, and support for restoration.	Ongoing
Freshwater Farm Plans	We will continue to support farmers to develop legislatively required farm plans that manage their farms' impact on freshwater. We will also provide general information and advice to the agricultural sector to encourage consistency and positive environmental outcomes.	Ongoing
Harbour channel improvement	Along with our Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code partner, CentrePort Limited, we have had an external review of how ships enter and leave Wellington Harbour, possible interactions, as well as options for improving this now and for future shipping changes. We are implementing some of these changes, starting with the routes in and out of the harbour and the associated navigation aids.	2024 onwards
Supporting kaimahi to deliver work on the ground	We will continue to provide support to mana whenua kaimahi (workers) to undertake environmental work within their rohe.	Ongoing

Things we are keeping an eye on

Pest plant and animal control activities can create risks for the environment, animals and people if not carried out carefully and safely. This can come from the use of toxins for controlling both plants and animals, and methods for trapping and killing pest animals. We will continue to monitor and assess best practices and cost-effective methods for controlling pests. We will remain vigilant and considerate towards animal welfare, unintended impacts of control methods, and the people and environmental health risks of the tools we use.

We will monitor the success of restoration planting by survival rate and resilience to events such as fires, not just numbers of plants in the ground. This prompts robust planting planning to ensure we get the best return on investment for planting and the most benefits for mitigating climate change.

There are no significant negative effects from our activities.



Harbour management

Greater Wellington looks after the region's harbours and coastal waters, so they are safe to use and navigate. We monitor harbour shipping movements, provide and maintain navigational aids, and work on improving how ships navigate Wellington Harbour. We promote the safe use of harbours and coastal waters by educating recreational users and operating a harbour ranger service. Additionally, in partnership with other organisations we plan, prepare and train to respond to oil spills to minimise the risk of environmental harm.

Fish passage remediation

The Improving Fish Passage in the Wellington Region project aims to identify, assess and remediate barriers to fish migration across the region. It is a five-year project co-funded by the Ministry for the Environment. In the Porirua area the project is partnering with Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira to deliver the work, which has enabled knowledge systems to be shared. So far, the team has improved 120 structures to make it easier for fish to migrate up and downstream. They have also delivered a series of training workshops, contributed to wānanga, undertaken monitoring, and provided consent advice. The project is set to run for another two years.

Wairarapa Moana restoration

The Wairarapa Moana project has been a good example of a strong working relationship between Greater Wellington, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust, Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc, Department of Conservation and South Wairarapa District Council

This project protects a wetland system through pest animal and plant management. Over 90,000 shrubs, trees, grasses and flaxes have been planted since July 2022. This wetland holds a rich history and significance for Māori and is recognised internationally as a Ramsar site. It is home to the nationally critical species, Matuku hūrepo/Australasian bittern where the population is thriving due to restoration efforts. With support, the local community has completed 10 years of annual surveys of the threatened and declining kākahi (freshwater mussel) species. Any future work in protecting and restoring the Wairarapa moana wetlands will come under the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board which is a joint governance initiative. The members are post-settlement governance entities, local authorities and the Department of Conservation established through the Ngāti Kahungunu Treaty settlement.

Flood resilience

We are responsible for managing the risk of flooding in the Wellington Region for people, their homes and property, and the region's infrastructure.

Our focus has shifted to incorporate more nature-based solutions to build flood resilience. For example, the development of our Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc highlighted the need to have more native plants along the river to reduce erosion and create healthier ecosystems.

On the horizon

Extreme weather is on the rise and as a result there is more emphasis on emergency management and planning.

There is an increased risk of extreme flooding in our region, approximately 197,000 people (31 percent of the population) are at risk of flooding now, and approximately 230,000 people (36 percent of the population) could be at risk by 2110.

It is getting more expensive to maintain our flood resilience assets, which need to be renewed, improved, and maintained to ensure the community is safe from increased extreme weather events.

The expectation from some of our mana whenua partners and our communities, is that we will better manage the negative effects of manipulating the natural river pathways.

Our response

We are increasing our budget in flood risk management so that we can continue to maintain our flood resilience assets and keep communities safe.

We are broadening our approach to not only include hard infrastructure like the rock structures that bound many of the region's river systems, but also more nature-based solutions such as increasing room for river movement, using more native species in riverbank planting and exploring the use of wetlands to slow water flow. Investing in nature-based solutions is a sustainable and cost-effective way to make our region more resilient to the rising risk of floods over time. It allows us to work with rivers in a more natural way that also improves the habitat for native plants and animals.

We will develop nature-based solutions with our mana whenua partners to include mātauranga Māori in taking care of our waterways. For example, we are working with Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc on a feasibility study for flood resilience options in the Waipoua River (funded by the Ministry for the Environment).

We will also plan for future flooding scenarios, provide information to the community and other councils about flood risk, and prepare to respond to floods.

Key Projects		
Maintaining existing flood protection assets and respond to legislation	Continue to meet new legislative requirements and maintain our existing assets (e.g. stop banks and rock structures) that protect our communities from flood events. We will make improvements to our dam safety processes to comply with new legislation and ensure public safety. Funding will increase to cover the rising costs of this work.	Ongoing
Te Wai Takamori Te Awa Kairangi – RiverLink	Partnership project between Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council, New Zealand Transport Agency, Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and Ngāti Toa Rangatira to protect Hutt City from significant flood damage and to revitalise Lower Hutt city centre. The project will widen the river corridor and create new stop banks to increase the level of flood protection, relocate Melling Train Station, construct a new interchange on State Highway 2, and build two new bridges over Te Awa Karangi/Hutt River (new Melling Bridge and City Link Bridge). We will be delivering the flood mitigation components of the project and the transport components will continue to be delivered by the New Zealand Transport Agency led Alliance.	2024-2028
Regional flood resilience projects	Constructing stopbanks and rock structures to improve flood resilience for the Hutt Valley, Kāpiti and Wairarapa. Greater Wellington is working with mana whenua to develop Floodplain Management Plans including the design, consenting and construction. We are working with Atiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki on Floodplain Management Plans related projects in Kāpiti and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira Inc in the Hutt Valley. Working with Rangitāne O Wairarapa Inc and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust on a nature-based solutions feasibility study for flood resilience options in the Waipoua (note this is funded by the Ministry for the Environment). In the Lower Wairarapa Valley, we will also be improving barrage gates, moving stopbanks and purchasing land in important river areas to make wetlands.	2024-2027
Flood hazard mapping, forecasting and warning	We are developing flood hazard models for Wainuiomata River, Porirua Stream, Ōtaki River, Waitohu Stream, Mangaone Stream, Waikanae River, Donalds Creek and Lower Wairarapa Valley to help us predict and assess the risk and impact of flooding. We will also develop flood forecast models, improve our flood monitoring network, and carry out flood response planning to improve our ability to predict and recover from flooding.	2024-2027

Key Projects continued		
Developing strategic direction for flood resilience	With our mana whenua partners and the wider community, we will complete or review Floodplain Management Plans for Waiwhetu (Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira Inc and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust), Ōtaki (Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki), Waitohu (Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki), Waikanae (Atiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust), Waipoua and Mangatarere (Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust). We are looking to partner with Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust, the scheme committee and other partners to start the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley scheme in the context of climate predictions and community aspirations.	2024-2027

Things we are keeping an eye on

Flood resilience projects take place within or alongside rivers that also provide habitat for native plants and animals. This means the projects can have negative effects on river ecology and natural character of rivers. We will minimise the effect on te taiao by following our Code of Practice, using methods such as riparian planting and linking our flood resilience work to other environmental restoration, and land-use planning work within catchments.

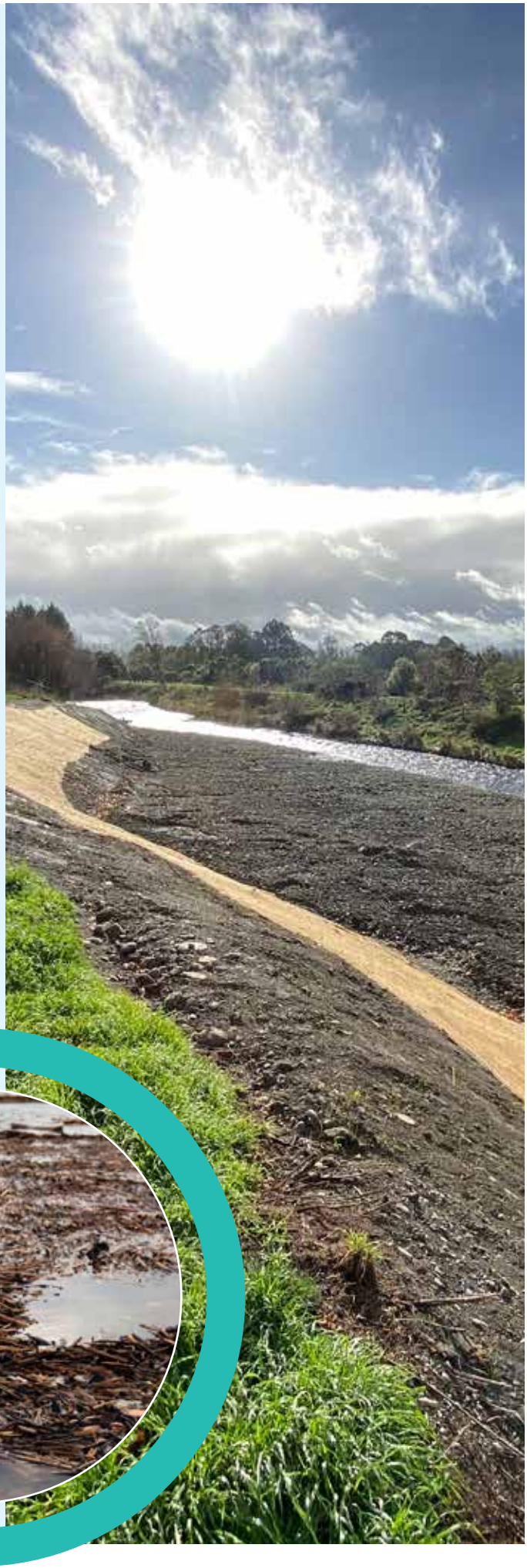
The way that we plan for land use is changing. National-level legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 and other key acts, are likely to require us to do more flood risk mapping and provide more advice to district councils about this. For example, we are currently developing flood hazard models for areas across the region such as Wainuiomata, Porirua Stream and Ōtaki.

We are keeping an eye on the outcome of national enquiries or reports on the recent North Island flood events, in particular Cyclone Gabrielle.

River Road with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc

Greater Wellington, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc are working together on the River Road project in Masterton. The project will protect an area along the Ruamāhanga river from flood and erosion, including the area from the closed landfill on Nursery Road, and keep the cemetery and residential properties safe from erosion.

Together with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Charitable Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc, we identified the main flooding risks to people and the environment in the area and developed a plan to address those risks. We have started construction, including native planting along the area by Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc. We are now working to implement the next stages of flood resilience for this area of the Ruamāhanga river.



Environmental strategy, policy, and protection

We are responsible for ensuring people use te taiao in a sustainable way. We will do this by creating and implementing environmental protection policies, identifying actions to be taken to improve the state of te taiao, and processing applications for resource consents. We will also ensure all our environmental activities are planned and delivered with a clear focus on achieving the right outcomes, and progress is measured to make sure what we do is effective.

On the horizon

Greater Wellington's Whaitua Programme has provided clear direction from mana whenua and communities about their aspirations for freshwater and land management. Programmes developed as a result, have been consistent with government direction. We are now in a period of changing direction which may result in reviewing some of this work while still meeting the aspirations of our partners and communities.

One example is the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme, which was completed in 2018. Since then, there have been several iterations of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and a new mana whenua partner settlement resulting in new structures and organisations in the whaitua.

Our response

As we plan to protect te taiao, we will maintain a strong regional position in response to shifting central government direction. This means we will take an integrated regional approach to tackle our environmental challenges by working closely

Key Projects		
Changes to the Regional Policy Statement	Make changes to the Regional Policy Statement to align with government direction, respond to emerging environmental issues and achieve outcomes from Greater Wellington's Whaitua Programme. This will result in better freshwater and environmental outcomes.	Annual to 2030
Changes to the Natural Resources Plan	Make changes to the Natural Resources Plan to align with government direction and achieve outcomes from Greater Wellington's Whaitua Programme and national direction. This will result in better freshwater and environmental outcomes.	Annual to 2030
Environmental consenting & compliance	Continue to issue, monitor, and enforce environmental resource consents.	Ongoing
Setting up for Fast-Track Consenting frameworks	Establish a team to contribute to central government decisions on 'fast-track' consent applications. These are usually for large infrastructure or development projects and in 2024, the Government is legislating a new consenting framework.	Ongoing

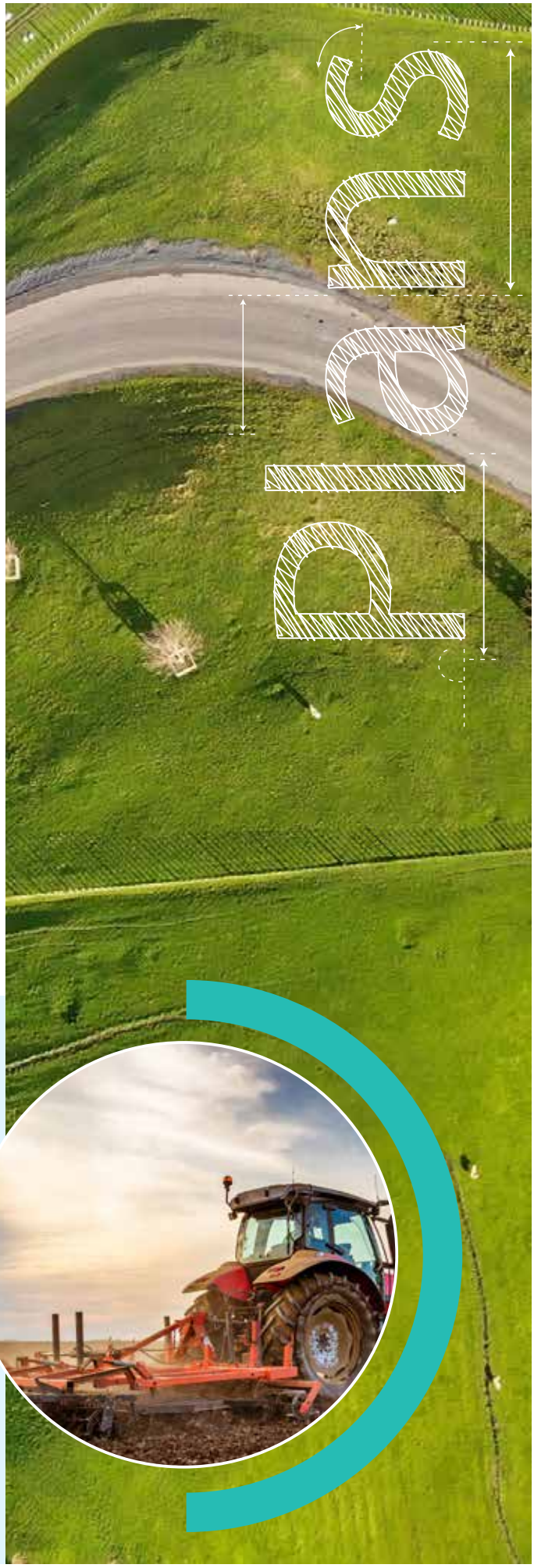
with our territorial authorities, our mana whenua partners, and our sector and industry stakeholders.

Through the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) we create policies to protect and improve coastal marine environments and in line with these policies we regulate activities that may cause harm. Urban development or infrastructure in the coastal marine area can damage coastal ecosystems, and activities at sea can harm sea floor and reef habitats. The Natural Resources Plan (NRP) for the Wellington Region describes how these activities should be controlled or restricted, and we process resource consent applications to determine what can and can't be done in the coastal and marine environment. The NRP also identifies sensitive areas of high biodiversity that may have stronger restrictions applied to them. In addition, we advocate for marine protection through statutory processes (such as district plan changes) in line with our RPS policies.

Things we will be keeping an eye on

Shifting Government direction has an impact on Greater Wellington's work, so we will keep a close eye on the different legislative changes coming our way and respond to them as efficiently and effectively as possible.

There are no significant negative effects from this activity.



Farm Plans

Many farmers in the region have created plans that outline how their farm impacts the health of the whenua and wai around them. We have been helping farmers to create and implement these plans since the 1990s.

Our future focus for Farm Plans is engaging with landowners in catchments that have the greatest need. Our whaitua implementation programmes, which outline aspirations from the community and mana whenua on freshwater in the areas, help to determine which catchments we should prioritise.

To find out more about Farm Plans visit our website.

Environmental knowledge and insights

We aim to use robust environmental science to inform our work for te taiao, and we are growing our capacity to work with wider knowledge systems, including mātauranga Māori and social science. We will collect and create knowledge and insights about land, air, water, soil, biodiversity and flood risk to ensure all the work that we do is evidence based. This means that we can deliver the right work for the best outcomes.

On the horizon

Our natural environment is changing rapidly. Our challenge is to find ways to monitor and measure these changes using new capability, tools and techniques. We are also building relationships to expand the sources of knowledge we use to inform our decisions.

Our response

We will regularly evaluate our work programmes to ensure they contribute to environmental and cultural, and social outcomes. We will support our mana whenua partners and communities to develop fit-for-purpose monitoring and research. We are developing systems that enable mana whenua to weave their mātauranga Māori into our decision-making, design and evaluation processes. We will also ensure that other knowledge systems such as social science, engineering and economics contribute to our programmes.

Key Projects		
Feasibility of nature-based solutions for mitigating flood risk	We are developing our understanding of how we could implement a suite of nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk, restore biodiversity, and enhance ecosystem services. Nature-based solutions might include wetland creation or restoration, restoring vegetation cover, soil management, and river naturalisation (giving the river room to move). This project is a co-development with mana whenua, communities and other stakeholders.	Ongoing
Kāpiti Whaitua collaborative monitoring programme	We are working with Kāpiti iwi – Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust and Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki to co-design and co-deliver a freshwater monitoring programme to fill data gaps identified during the Kāpiti Whaitua process. Over the next year or more, we will be working closely with iwi to ensure they have the equipment, training and support to monitor their rohe.	2024/25
Review of our monitoring networks and outcomes	We are looking at how we rebalance our current networks to include more co-design and co-delivery with mana whenua and communities, to deliver timely, outcome-focused monitoring and research. Environmental monitoring should demonstrate progress towards enduring outcomes.	Ongoing

Through our Marine and Coastal Programme, we monitor changes in the environment and identify regional marine biodiversity hotspots through our coastal habitat mapping. This allows us to keep track of how marine environments are being affected by human activity and identify rare or vulnerable species that might require further protection. We work with mana whenua (e.g. co-designed approach to the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour Accord). We also work with community groups and citizen science efforts to monitor and protect the marine and coastal environment, such as the three-yearly Guardians of the Pāuatahanui Inlet cockle survey.

As part of the Marine and Coastal Programme, we are also studying the impacts of climate change on our marine environment. We're considering how we can build resilience to climate impacts by maintaining marine potential for storing atmospheric carbon (e.g. seagrass beds) and dampening storm surge (e.g. kelp beds).

We will improve our communication so that we can more quickly influence outcomes. For example, we are trialling the use of 3D underwater photography to monitor and analyse our changing ocean environment. These systems help us to analyse information and create images that connect communities to our region's rich coastal habitats

Things we will be keeping an eye on

We will endeavour to shift away from a primary focus on monitoring the general state of and trends in the environment. We will move towards new types of monitoring that clearly inform the decisions we need to make about how local environmental work can deliver the best outcomes for people and te taiao.

There are no significant negative effects from this activity.

The climate hub

We monitor the region's climate, including rainfall, river flows, temperature, and soil moisture to decide what work we should be doing and where we should be doing it.

All our monitoring is publicly available in the climate hub which contains daily climate maps, shows the big drivers of the region's climate such as El Nino, and provides an interactive space showcasing how our climate is changing, including sea level rise and temperature increases.

Detailed information is available on our website (gw.govt.nz).

Ko ngā inenga mahi - Performance measures

Reference number	Community Outcome	Level of Service	Performance Measure	Baseline 2022/23	2024/25 target	2025/26 target	2026/27 target	2027-34 target
1	Thriving Environment	Water quality in the region is maintained or improved	Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) score is maintained or improved[5]	Achieved	Maintain National Objective Framework State[6] A = 6 sites (13%) B = 12 sites (27%) C = 19 sites (42%) D = 8 sites (18%)	Maintain National Objective Framework State A = 6 sites (13%) B = 12 sites (27%) C = 19 sites (42%) D = 8 sites (18%)	Maintain National Objective Framework State A = 6 sites (13%) B = 12 sites (27%) C = 19 sites (42%) D = 8 sites (18%)	Improve National Objective Framework State A = 8 sites (18%) B = 17 sites (38%) C = 18 sites (36%) D = 6 sites (13%)
2	Thriving Environment	Support landowners through incentive funding and advice to develop and implement Farm Environment Plan actions, which maintain or improve water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment discharges or enhancing biodiversity	Percentage of Greater Wellington incentive funding used to advance catchment context priorities or to enhance or protect threatened biodiversity, through completion of high impact actions on private land	94%	90%	90%	90%	90%
3	Thriving Environment	Deliver treatment programme on identified erosion-prone land to prevent sediment from entering streams and estuaries to maintain or enhance water quality	Erosion-prone hill country treated	1,405 ha	700 ha	650 ha	650 ha	650 ha

4	Thriving Environment	Provide effective environmental knowledge and information to stakeholders and communities	Stakeholders and communities are satisfied with the effectiveness of knowledge and information shared with them	New Measure – develop suitable communications processes to enable feedback and reporting.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
5	Thriving Environment	Monitor high risk/priority resource consents	Percentage of active resource consents identified as high risk and high priority are checked for compliance and marked with a compliance rating	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
6	Thriving Environment	Customer satisfaction for the resource consent service	Level of overall satisfaction with consent processing services	4.2/5.0	>4.0	>4.0	>4.0	>4.0

[5]Aquatic macroinvertebrates (i.e. animals without backbones that can be seen with the naked eye, e.g. shrimps, worms, crayfish, aquatic snails, mussels, aquatic stage of some insect larvae, such as dragonfly larvae, mayflies, caddisflies, etc.) are commonly used biological indicators for freshwater ecosystem health throughout New Zealand and around the world. Macroinvertebrates are widely used because they are abundant, easy to collect and identify, have relatively long life-cycles, and are sensitive to multiple pressures (e.g. pollution, habitat removal, floods, and droughts). This makes macroinvertebrate communities useful to identify where we need to improve our management of these pressures and to show when these pressures are sufficiently addressed.

[6] National Objective Framework contains the water quality criteria categorizing them from A as the highest water quality grade to D as the lowest.

Reference number	Community Outcome	Level of Service	Performance Measure	Baseline 2022/23	2024/25 target	2025/26 target	2026/27 target	2027-34 target
7	Thriving Environment	Protect and care for the environment, landscape and heritage	Indigenous species planted	158,000	350,000	200,000	250,000	250,000 per annum (to be confirmed in future plans)
8	Connected Community	Customer satisfaction and improved public access	Public satisfaction with experiences in Regional Parks	84%	85%	86%	87%	88%
9	Thriving Environment	Provide pest species control services across the region	Provide pest animal and plant management as per Regional Pest Management Plan Operational Plans	Not Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
			Provide pest species control services as agreed under Predator Free Wellington (PFW)	Achieved	Absence of PFW predators in phase 2 of the project	Working towards absence of PFW predators in phase 3 of the project	Absence of PFW predators in phase 3 of the project	Working towards absence of PFW predators in the remaining areas of Wellington.
10	Thriving Environment	Implement the objectives of the Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy	Biodiversity Strategy objectives are being actively progressed by Greater Wellington	Achieved 15 objectives progressed	All 15 objectives progressed	All 15 objectives progressed	All 15 objectives progressed	All 15 objectives progressed

11	Connected Communities	Collaboration at a catchment scale[7] is increased	Total number of catchment scale[8] collaborations for improving environmental outcomes	21	22	23	24	24
12	Resilient future	Progress towards completion of the RiverLink flood control works	Implement RiverLink in accordance with the Resource Consent Design and agreed Construction Programme	Construction started	Construction is progressed according to Programme	Construction is progressed according to Programme	Construction is progressed according to Programme	Completion of construction
13	Resilient future	Provide the standard of flood protection agreed with communities	Major flood protection and control works are maintained, repaired and renewed to the key standards defined in relevant planning documents[8]	Not achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

[7] This is a new Level of Service for the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Catchment-scale: is a scale intermediate between specific sites (e.g. a specific farm, specific park or single creek) and the wider Greater Wellington region ("regional" scale). For the purposes of this definition, a catchment-scale collaboration is any collaboration that spans at least one sub-catchment level (i.e. at least one biophysical catchment), recognising the importance of acting at a scale that creates impact.
[8] Non-Financial Performance Measures Rules 2013, Flood Protection and Control Works (DIA Mandatory Measure).

Reference number	Community Outcome	Level of Service	Performance Measure	Baseline 2022/23	2024/25 target	2025/26 target	2026/27 target	2027-34 target
14	Resilient future	Provide information and understanding of flood risk in the community	Percentage of Greater Wellington-managed watercourses with current flood hazard mapping	29%	54%	93%	93%	100%
15	Resilient future	Manage the safety of marine activities in the region's waters[9]	Maintain and operate our navigation aids to the relevant international standard for reliability in accordance with the Asset Management Plan	98.1%	100%	100%	100%	100%
			Meet criteria and consider recommendations of the self-assessment in compliance to the Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code	Achieved	Achieved	Receive positive feedback from 4-year external review	Achieved	Achieved

[9] This Level of Service has been revived from a previous LTP and included in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

Environment and Flood Protection Prospective Funding Impact Statement

For the year ending 30 June

	Annual Plan	Long Term Plan								
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Sources of operating funding											
General rates, uniform annual general charge, rates penalties	73,700	92,464	107,086	118,397	120,987	128,036	132,100	134,987	137,977	140,576	143,470
Targeted rates	12,745	14,825	18,203	21,912	22,945	25,403	26,806	27,066	28,074	28,705	29,423
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	3,160	2,699	1,333	910	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees and charges	3,587	214	218	223	228	233	237	242	247	252	256
Interest and dividends from investments	422	481	459	464	492	530	577	627	684	735	806
Local authorities fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	24,275	18,586	15,726	17,646	20,574	15,741	16,112	16,385	17,127	17,403	17,345
Total operating funding	**117,889**	**129,269**	**143,025**	**159,552**	**165,226**	**169,943**	**175,832**	**179,307**	**184,109**	**187,671**	**191,300**
Applications of operating funding											
Payments to staff and suppliers	70,581	90,466	96,521	103,562	101,544	101,209	103,560	106,291	109,115	111,258	113,360
Finance costs	11,076	13,586	16,964	19,481	20,536	21,525	22,491	23,035	23,486	23,882	24,558
Internal charges and overheads applied	23,092	28,275	30,359	32,354	33,578	34,908	36,418	35,543	36,176	36,756	37,567
Total applications of operating funding	**104,749**	**132,327**	**143,844**	**155,397**	**155,658**	**157,642**	**162,469**	**164,869**	**168,777**	**171,896**	**175,485**
Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding	**13,140**	**(3,058)**	**(819)**	**4,155**	**9,568**	**12,301**	**13,363**	**14,438**	**15,332**	**15,775**	**15,815**
Sources of capital funding											
Increase (decrease) in debt	58,226	61,300	110,806	12,703	21,719	502	3,222	554	(291)	(1,343)	1,942
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	138	527	666	746	811	747	813	824	753	755
Other dedicated capital funding	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sources of capital funding	**68,226**	**61,438**	**111,333**	**13,369**	**22,465**	**1,313**	**3,969**	**1,367**	**533**	**(590)**	**2,697**
Application of capital funding											
Capital expenditure—											
to improve the level of service	67,464	53,403	105,028	10,784	26,761	6,110	10,837	8,683	8,651	7,006	11,022
to replace existing assets	3,913	3,986	4,452	6,057	4,325	6,401	5,212	5,642	5,569	6,467	5,690
Increase (decrease) in reserves	9,367	310	375	19	255	373	506	653	761	777	794
Increase (decrease) of investments	622	681	659	664	692	730	777	827	884	935	1,006
Total application of capital funding	**81,366**	**58,380**	**110,514**	**17,524**	**32,033**	**13,614**	**17,332**	**15,805**	**15,865**	**15,185**	**18,512**
Surplus/(deficit) of capital funding	**(13,140)**	**3,058**	**819**	**(4,155)**	**(9,568)**	**(12,301)**	**(13,363)**	**(14,438)**	**(15,332)**	**(15,775)**	**(15,815)**
Surplus/(deficit) of funding	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Deprecation on council assets	4,782	4,521	4,771	4,885	4,896	4,916	4,869	5,049	5,120	5,155	5,384

Environment and Flood Protection Prospective Funding Information

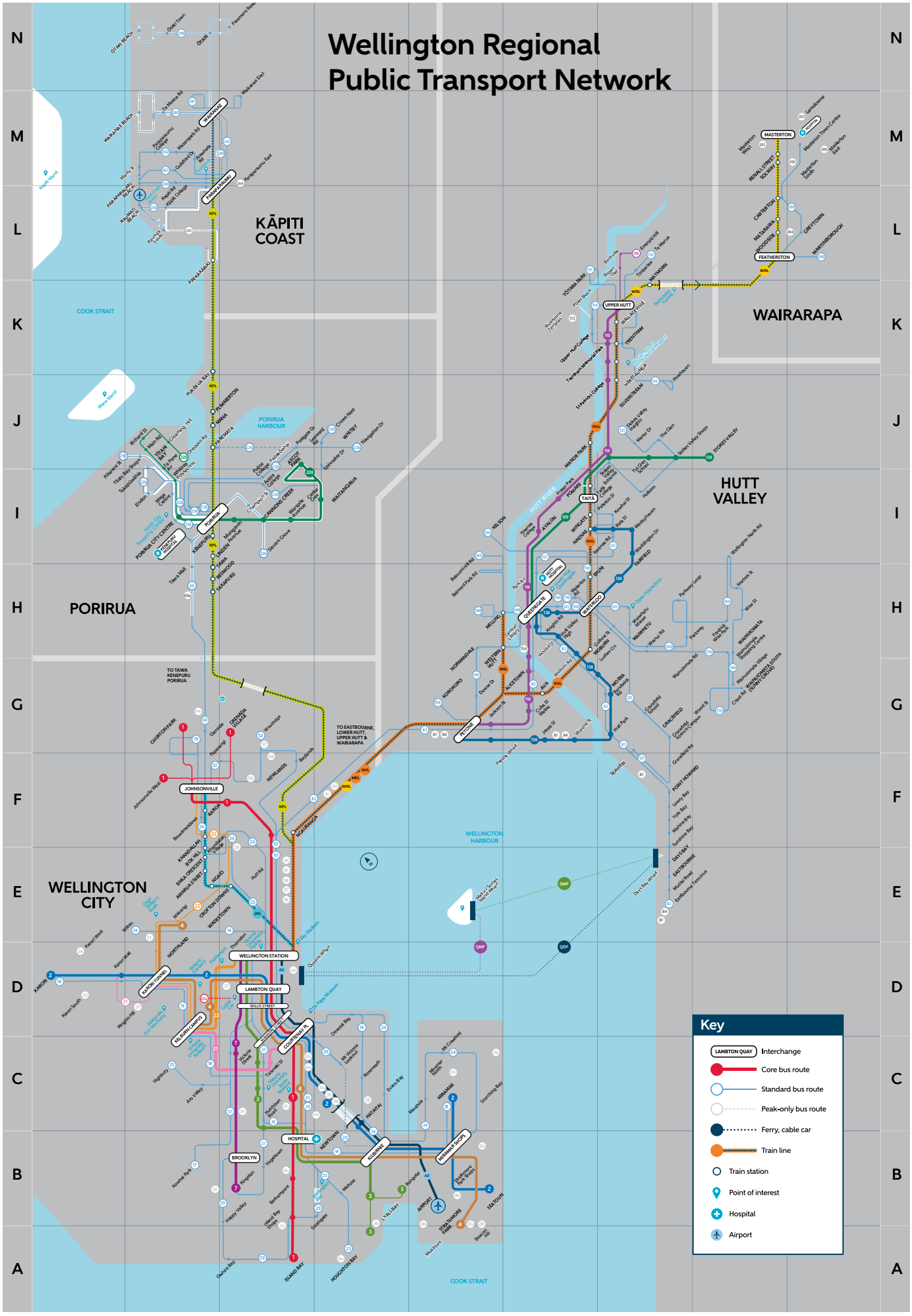
For the year ending 30 June

	Annual Plan	Long Term Plan									
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Sources of operating funding											
Regional parks	9,882	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resource management	31,139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land management	10,784	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biodiversity management	8,505	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pest management	9,919	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harbour management	2,661	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental restoration, recreation and harbour safety	-	42,173	45,872	50,167	55,422	53,489	55,259	57,104	58,550	59,680	60,679
Environmental strategy, policy and protection	-	21,070	23,669	24,600	21,232	21,698	22,279	22,752	23,174	23,585	24,036
Planning and prioritising integrated work at a catchment scale	-	6,151	5,930	6,041	6,203	6,386	6,557	6,579	6,700	6,818	6,950
Environmental knowledge and insights	-	19,899	21,603	22,458	23,117	24,062	24,804	24,996	25,424	25,863	26,300
Flood resilience	44,999	39,976	45,951	56,286	59,252	64,308	66,933	67,876	70,261	71,725	73,335
Total operating funding	**117,889**	**129,269**	**143,025**	**159,552**	**165,226**	**169,943**	**175,832**	**179,307**	**184,109**	**187,671**	**191,300**

Environment and Flood Protection Prospective Funding Information

For the year ending 30 June

	Annual Plan	Long Term Plan									
Applications of operating funding	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**2032**	**2033**	**2034**
	$000	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**	**$000**
Regional parks	12,562	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resource management	31,937	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land management	10,805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biodiversity management	8,515	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pest management	10,056	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harbour management	2,636	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental restoration, recreation and harbour safety	-	44,492	45,920	50,126	53,839	51,763	53,239	54,993	56,414	57,465	58,285
Environmental strategy, policy and protection	-	20,965	23,407	24,380	21,232	21,698	22,279	22,752	23,174	23,585	24,036
Planning and prioritising integrated work at a catchment scale	-	6,151	5,930	6,041	6,203	6,386	6,557	6,579	6,700	6,818	6,950
Environmental knowledge and insights	-	22,213	23,132	22,738	22,909	23,205	23,532	23,582	23,988	24,203	25,181
Flood resilience	28,238	38,506	45,455	52,112	51,475	54,590	56,862	56,963	58,501	59,825	61,033
Total application of operating funding	**104,749**	**132,327**	**143,844**	**155,397**	**155,658**	**157,642**	**162,469**	**164,869**	**168,777**	**171,896**	**175,485**
Capital expenditure											
Capital Projects	71,103	57,164	109,234	16,660	30,899	12,089	15,883	14,081	13,848	13,420	16,658
Plant and Equipment	274	225	246	181	187	422	166	244	372	53	54
Total Capital Expenditure	**71,377**	**57,389**	**109,480**	**16,841**	**31,086**	**12,511**	**16,049**	**14,325**	**14,220**	**13,473**	**16,712**


Wellington Regional
Public Transport Network
KĀPITI COAST
PORIRUA
WELLINGTON CITY
HUTT VALLEY
WAIRARAPA
COOK STRAIT
PORIRUA HARBOUR
WELLINGTON HARBOUR
TO TAWA KENEPURU PORIRUA
TO EASTBOURNE, LOWER HUTT, UPPER HUTT & WAIRARAPA
Key
LAMBTON QUAY Interchange
Core bus route
Standard bus route
Peak-only bus route
Ferry, cable car
Train line
Train station
Point of interest
Hospital
Airport