

# WAITARA COMMUNITY BOARD PLAN: A THIRTY YEAR VISION



June  
2017

## Waitara: A connected, cohesive community

The Waitara Community Board Plan sets out the visions and aspirations of the community. The Plan has been developed by the community for the community. The Plan provides the New Plymouth District Council with an insight about the matters that are important to the Waitara community board area, and where investment and action is needed.

# Waitara Community Board Plan: A thirty year vision

## WHAKATUAKĪ

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua

Care for the land, care for people, go forward.

## PREAMBLE

whai (to follow) tara (the dart) – Whaitara

The name of Whaitara (Waitara) town is said to come from the story of Whare Matangi, the estranged son of local Ariki (chief) Ngārue, and his quest to be reunited with his father. Whare Matangi was given a dart (tara) imbued with magic that his mother foretold would lead him to his father. His first four throws landed elsewhere but on the fifth throw, the tara struck Ngārue’s house at the mouth of a river, thereafter known as Te Whai-tara-nui-a-Ngārue (follow the dart of Ngārue) (Ron Lambert, Puke Ariki, 2013).

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## WELCOME

The Waitara story is one that of tragedy and triumph. The community throughout history is known for its strength, its resilience, its community and its environment. Waitara was a site of significant battles during the New Zealand wars and remains the subject of much grievance. Many of the pains of the past remain unresolved which remains a persistent source of hurt for many in the community. Today, Waitara is a community rich in talent and natural assets and it is a community of strength and beauty and pride.

This Plan is a first for the Waitara community and Community Board. For many years we have represented and advocated for Waitara to be fairly represented in Council decision making processes and investment decisions. The New Plymouth District Council's commitment to supporting the community to develop this Plan is testament to how far we have come. In asking the Board to develop this Plan, the Council is showing that they respect our community, value our perspective and will listen to the issues and aspirations as identified by this community. This is a plan for our community, by our community, and the things that matter to the people that we have spoken to are reflected in this document.

We are proud of this short journey that we have taken that has led to the development of the Plan, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside Council and community to ensure that the priorities that the Community Board have set out become a reality for our board area.

**Jonathan Marshall (Waitara Community Board Plan Chair) and Andrew Larsen (Waitara Community Board Chair)**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between February and June 2017 the Waitara Community Board facilitated a process that led to the development of its first Community Board Plan. The Plan was developed by the Waitara Community Board supported by a focus group of community members who were invited to participate by the Community Board. The Waitara Board Plan was developed in parallel to plans in the Kaitake, Clifton and Inglewood board areas.

The Waitara Board Plan has been informed by community feedback and a series of conversations, conversations with members of the community via an online survey and drop in sessions at Waitara Library and the Lepperton Community Hall, a conversation with some of the student leaders from the Waitara High School, a hui with the mana whenua of the community board area and dialogue with representatives from the New Plymouth Positive Ageing Trust. Each of the conversations asked the participating members to consider the following: The issues within the Waitara Community Board area, the aspirations for the area and the vision for the future.

The community feedback generated substantial information about the issues and aspirations for the community. Some of the issues and aspirations that were identified are beyond the scope of Council activity, thus a partnership with community and social services organisations, iwi and business will be required to further consider the action required in these areas. There are however a number of issues that the Community Board can take to the Council for their consideration – issues where Council has the potential to effect a change through its investment and policy decisions.

This Community Board has considered in detail the results of the consultation and based on the feedback from this process and its' broader, informed understanding of the issues and aspirations that require attention in the community, the Community Board have identified and recommended a list of priority areas for the Council to consider. The actions are presented at a high level; once Council has considered these recommendations the next stage of the process will be for Council, the Community Board and community network to work together to develop the detail.

The Community Board has endeavoured to respond to the priorities of the groups and individuals who have participated in this process; however it has not been possible to reflect all of the aspirations as Board recommendations. The hope of the Community Board is that over the life of the Long Term Plan many more of the community's identified priorities can be addressed.

The priorities that are recommended to the Council cover: district planning and land use, infrastructure improvements and enhancements, recreation and cultural opportunities, environmental and cultural protections, environmental enhancements and representation in decision making forum.

## Mission

The statement that resonated most strongly from the feedback that the Community Board received as part of this process is:

Inclusive, vibrant and culturally relevant to all.

## Values

The values that underpin our collective aspiration for the Waitara Community Board area and support the achievement of this mission are:

Community / Hapori – People are at the centre of everything we do.

Cultural / Ahura – The collective cultures of the community are honoured and respected.

Capital / Taonga – Strength and growth come from the resources and skills within our community.

## Our priorities

The priorities that the Community Board would like to see furthered as part of the Long Term Plan commitments are detailed below.

STRATEGIC FIT	ASPIRATION	TIMEFRAME
<b>YEARS 1-3</b>		
Development and growth	District plan rules to provide for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Papakaigna housing</li> <li>- Managed growth in Lepperton to protect rural character</li> <li>- Waitara area zoning (residential and commercial)</li> <li>- Increased protection of green spaces</li> <li>- Increased protection of sites of cultural significance</li> </ul>	1-3 years
Development and growth	Stormwater and wastewater upgrades in the Waitara and Lepperton townships	1-3 years
Development and growth Transport and movement	Curb and channelling upgrades throughout the two main townships (Waitara and Lepperton) to improve movement and ensure that they are safe and accessible for all mobility types.	1-3 years
Recreation Community Environment	Planning and completion of the Walkway connection between Waitara (West Quay) and New Plymouth (starting from Waitara)	1-3 years
Business and economy Community Recreation	Enhancement of community amenities throughout the two key townships (rubbish bins, shelter, seats up and upgrades, BBQ areas)	1-3 years
Community Environment Recreation	Environmental enhancements, (river, walkway and beach clean-up, planting, signage, environmental enhancement programmes)	1-3 years

Community Culture	Equitable funding for urupa (to align with revenue and finance policy for cemetery and crematorium)	1-3 years
Community Culture	Signage across the community board area to be bilingual with all new names culturally relevant to Māori and Pākehā	1-3 years
<b>YEARS 3-5</b>		
Community	Review and enhance the representation and governance arrangements for Māori across all tiers of Council organisation and authority.	3-5 years
Community Recreation	Upgrade and enhancements to play and recreation spaces (Waitara township and Lepperton)	3-5 years
Transport and movement	Cycleway and walkway development (river track to Bertrand Road bridge, bypass walkway and clip on bridge, Lepperton river tracks)	3-5 years
<b>YEARS 5-10</b>		
Community Culture	History and heritage trail, Waitara history centre / museum	5-10 years
Community Business and Economy Recreation Environment	West Quay development (boardwalk, retail and recreation space, amenities, art and sculpture, stories, signage)	5-10 years
Community Business and Economy Recreation	Regional water centre (to provide a home for waka ama, canoeing, rowing and other river based water activities)	5-10 years



<b>10+ YEARS</b>		
Community Business and Economy Recreation Environment	Marine Park development (retail and recreation space, amenities)	10+ years

## WAITARA COMMUNITY

In order to understand the Waitara board area, a brief demographic snapshot is provided. The data has been obtained from Stats NZ (Quick Stats). Compared to the district overall, the board area has an average median age but is slightly older. The Waitara West and East areas have a large population who identify as Māori. Residents from Lepperton have higher levels of education and income than Waitara East; Lepperton is more similar to the New Plymouth in this regard. Lepperton has a higher number of households with children than Waitara East, West and New Plymouth, and has higher levels of access to the internet and home ownership. Car ownership is consistently high across the board area.

Population			
	Total	Female	Male
Waitara East	2811	1314	1497
Waitara West	3672	1761	1191
Lepperton	2379	1215	1161

Dwellings (occupied)			
Waitara East	1101		
Waitara West	1511		
Lepperton	846		

Age			
	Median Age	Over 65s	Under 15s
Waitara East	40.3	18.70%	16.80%
Waitara West	40.7	18.80%	16.80%
Lepperton	41.4	11.50%	21%
New Plymouth	40.6	16.80%	20%

Ethnic Group			
	European	Maori	Pacific Island
Waitara East	71.50%	41.90%	2.50%
Waitara West	74.60%	38.40%	2%
Lepperton	92.90%	12.60%	0.90%

\*15.7% of the New Plymouth district population identify as Māori

Qualifications		
	Formal qualification	Bachelor degree or higher
Waitara East	58.60%	5.30%
Waitara West	53.50%	4.60%
Lepperton	75.60%	11.40%
New Plymouth	74.70%	14.40%

Income		
	Median Income (individual)	Income less than \$20,000 (individual)
Waitara East	\$22,700	44.80%
Waitara West	\$22,100	45.20%
Lepperton	\$35,800	19.70%
New Plymouth	\$29,100	36.30%

Family Type		
	Couples with children	One parent families
Waitara East	32.30%	28%
Waitara West	32.90%	29.40%
Lepperton	45.60%	6.60%
New Plymouth	38.40%	17.00%

Business and employment					
	Unemployment	Most common employment	Business Units	Paid employees	Top five industries
Waitara East	8.50%	Labourers	94	240	Education and training; healthcare and social assistance; construction; administrative support and assistance; other services
Waitara West	11.50%	Labourers	195	840	Manufacturing; retail; accommodation and food services; construction; transport, postal and warehousing
Lepperton	3.70%	Managers or professional	441	630	Agriculture, forestry and fishing; transportation, postal and warehousing; manufacturing; education and training; construction
New Plymouth	5.60%	Professional	8906	34,470	Health care and social assistance; manufacturing; retail trade; construction; education and training

Access			
	Internet	Vehicle	Home ownership
Waitara East	60.80%	95%	66.50%
Waitara West	52.30%	94%	61.10%
Lepperton	83.80%	96%	77%
New Plymouth	73.90%	96%	69.80%

Source: StatsNZ (Census 2013, Quick Stats)

## WAITARA COMMUNITY BOARD

The Waitara Community Board helps make our community a better place to live by advocating on key issues on behalf of the community. The community board geographic area is from the airport to Lepperton and the area to the eastern boundary of the Waitara urban area.



The Community Board, supported by a focus group of local representative has developed this Plan to set a future direction (a 30 year vision) for the communities within the ward. Setting a long term direction will help ensure that assets and resources are made available in the area of greatest need and want.

The Waitara Community Board Plan sits alongside the Inglewood, Clifton and Kaitake Community Board Plans setting out the vision, issues and aspirations of each community. This is the first time that the New Plymouth District Community Boards have been afforded the opportunity to set out our vision for the future.

The Plan is a plan for the whole community – young and old, Māori and Pākehā, men and women, businesses and employees, families and more. The vision for our community can only come to life because it is innovative, forward looking, focused and cohesive.

The hope of the Community Board is that the issues and aspirations of the community, as set out in this document will be translated into action and investment by the New Plymouth District Council. This is a 30 year plan and the community know that it will take this length of time for the investments into the community to be made. The Board recognize that the community cannot expect to get everything that is wanted in the short term. However, it is important that the Council consider the views of the community and invest in the areas that have been identified as important.

## CONNECTING TO THE BLUEPRINT

The New Plymouth District Council Blueprint is reflected by eight key directions that will be the Council’s focus for planning during the next 30 years. To aid the Council with its decision making, the Waitara Community Board priorities have been organised, where practical, to align with the eight areas (although slightly different language has been used in the priority table).

1. Environment – Enhance the natural environment with biodiversity links and clean waterways.
2. Communities – Strengthen and connect local communities.
3. Citizens – Enable engaged and resilient citizens.
4. Growth – Direct a cohesive growth strategy that strengthens the city and townships.
5. Industry – Strengthen and manage rural economy, industry, the port and the airport.
6. Talent – Grow and diversify new economies that attract and retain entrepreneurs, talented workers and visitors.
7. Central City – Champion a thriving central city for all.
8. Destination – Become a world-class destination.



The focus group asked itself what the Blueprint meant for Waitara. Specifically it considered:

- Where growth and development should be focussed.
- How a district vision aligns to Waitara’s aspirations.
- How the Waitara board area can physically connect to the rest of district (north and south).
- The services and infrastructure that are needed to service the present and future resident population.
- The services and infrastructure that are needed to grow and support business.
- How the CBD, townships public places and streetscapes can be enhanced.
- The environmental enhancements that should be prioritised.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Community Board has facilitated a process of engagement with the community. The Board members have encouraged the community to share their ideas about the things that matter to them. The development of this Plan has taken place with the support of a strategic



focus group. This group comprised of individuals from across the community board area (see acknowledgements).

Between February and June the focus group met on seven occasions. The conversations were rich and lively and challenging. What was immediately clear was that everyone who sat around the table was committed to contributing their energy to make the Waitara Board area the best and strongest place that it could be.

In addition to the steering group meeting, the wider community were encouraged to participate in the conservation. Based on the emergent ideas of the steering group a questionnaire was developed. The questionnaire was circulated via the steering group members to their networks and associations; it was emailed to sports groups, schools, hapū, marae, community groups and businesses across the ward area. The questionnaire was promoted by the New Plymouth District Council via their website and Facebook, and was promoted via several Waitara Facebook pages.

Individual feedback was also sought, and targeted conversations took place with mana whenua via a hui at Owae Marae, Waitara High School student leaders the Waitara residents via a drop in session at the Waitara Library and Service Centre and a drop in session for Lepperton residents in the Lepperton community hall.







Across all of the conversations we asked the community:

- What current issues are the main concerns within the Waitara Community Board area.
- What the future aspirations are for the Waitara Community Board area.
- The 30 year vision for the community.

The feedback gathered from the people who offered their ideas and contributions via the questionnaire and community conversations is reflected in this plan.

In parallel to this Community Board process the Department of Internal Affairs and Waitara Alive undertook a process with the community to identify the assets within the community and the aspirations – aspirations that extend beyond the scope of Council operation. 42 people participated in the original Conversations on the Couch. Where relevant to this Plan, the outcomes from this process are also reflected in this document.

### Focus Group issues and aspirations

Throughout the focus group discussions, a range of issues and aspirations emerged from the participants. These ideas formed the basis of the conversation with the community.

#### FOCUS GROUP IDENTIFIED ISSUES

These issues that the Community Board consulted on were:

- Stormwater across the Waitara central area
- Inadequate flood defence
- Poor environmental quality – particularly the waterways
- An lack of a cohesive cycleway and walkway network
- A lack of recreational facilities
- Poor quality road infrastructure and dangerous intersections (Princess Street)
- Economic development and the need for more support to grown business and industry across the area
- Availability of land for affordable housing
- Inadequate public transport (particularly in the evenings and weekends)





## FOCUS GROUP IDENTIFIED ASPIRATIONS

These aspirations that the Community Board consulted on were:

- Marine Park development (parking, signage, toilets, showers, retail, access, eateries, recreation and entertainment space etc.)
- West Quay development (parking, signage, BBQ area, seats, entertainment area, retail, boardwalk access, eateries etc.)
- Regional water centre (waka ama, canoe, rowing, kite surfing, surfing etc.)
- Cycleway and walkway development (river track to Bertrand road bridge, bypass walkway and clip on bridge, connection to Lepperton, Urenui, Bell Block and Pukearuhe)
- Heritage and history trail
- Land availability for business / economic development
- Destination playgrounds and skateparks
- Land availability for housing
- Protecting sites of cultural and historical significance
- Signage (entrance to Waitara, Te Reo and English signs, heritage signs, promoting economy)
- River, beach and walkway clean ups, native planting, community orchards and environmental enhancements
- More amenities (toilets, BBQ areas, seats, rubbish bins)
- Green / woodland burial areas
- Economic development incentives (rates holidays, grants, enabling planning environment)
- Design guidelines for CBDs and key townships (Lepperton)
- Pedestrian / cycle friendly community
- Mono rail to New Plymouth
- Papakaigna housing
- Parking improvements
- More parks and reserves and green spaces
- Recreation development and enhancement (Clifton Park, Manukorihi)
- Waipapa Road motorbike track
- Cultural amenities - Waitara museum / improved information centre
- Lepperton infrastructure improvements (stormwater, parking, street lighting, traffic management, walkways, parks and reserves, shops and businesses)

## Waitara High School

A conversation with the Waitara High School leaders revealed their enthusiasm about the future of the Waitara area. The students talked about their pride in their school and their community and their aspirations for the future. After spending time travelling and furthering their studies, the students expected to come home to their community to raise a family.



When asked about the issues that were important to them as they thought about the future, the following issues and aspirations emerged:

- Improve the perception of Waitara
- A lack of diverse activities for older youth (youth club, water activities)
- Concern that waka ama was not allowed on the river. Rowing club believe they control access to the river.
- More family events
- Upgrade outdoor spaces so people want to come together
- Skatepark at Clifton Park
- Artificial hockey turf
- More hospitality businesses for tourists and locals – café and restaurants and West Quay and Marine Park
- Utilise the river
- Pedestrianize West Quay
- Better signage across the district – let everyone know what Waitara has to offer.
- More cycle ways – prioritise the cyclist and pedestrian
- Walkway upgrade – add colour, design, tables, benches
- Showcase the history of Waitara in the town and in the open spaces

### Positive Ageing Trust

Representatives from the Positive Ageing Trust attended a meeting of the Community Board to inform about the challenges of Waitara’s ageing community and to seek their support for ensuring that the services and infrastructure within the board area are safe and accessible for all ages and mobility types.

The Trust highlighted a number of issues that they identified would improve the lives of the ageing community in Waitara. These include:

- Pavements (on both sides of the road) and curb and channelling upgrades to ensure that people of all mobility types can move freely and safely
- Improved transport connections for those who have a lesser ability to drive
- Retaining services and supports that enable ageing people to age well and safely in their homes
- More pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures
- Improved street lighting
- Land availability for kaumātua housing and the development of smaller dwellings (close to services and amenities)
- Directory of services and supports to keep people connected.



### Hapū hui



A mana whenua forum was held at Owae Marae. The hui was open to iwi across the New Plymouth district. Mana whenua from a number of hapū from across the board area attended: Otaraua, Manukorihi, Puketapu and Pukerangiora and Ngati Te Whiti. A broad conversation was held about the issues and aspirations that are important to iwi within the Te Atiawa rohe, a number of issues were highlighted:

### Water

- Freshwater quality is impeding traditional cultural practices and gathering of kaimoana
- Access to the reef is restricted because of developments
- Need to minimise the rate of abstraction from rivers and streams – all houses should collect rain water and have greywater re-cycling systems.

### Recognition of culture and heritage

- Protecting our cultural and historical footprint.
- The stories of the past and the stories of tupuna need to be shared, understood and celebrated.
- Recognise what Māori have provided and continue to provide in the community.
- Protect Māori heritage from adverse development.
- Understand the history of the area – looking back helps us to understand how to best move forward.
- Urupa funding model needs to mirror council run cemetery model – currently there is no financial support for urupa.
- Providing education opportunities for the community

### Engagement and participation

- Our voice needs to mean something
- Representation review needs to revisit Māori wards
- Māori are needed at the decision making tables at Council and community board level
- Current community ward boundaries do not make sense to hapū boundaries
- Community boards must consider how to support iwi and hapū in decisions and discussions with Council
- Want shared decision making that counts - a real partnership
- Build capacity and systems to allow Māori to engage on Māori terms

### Housing and development

- Ensure that housing developments remain affordable for the next generation
- Land allocated for papakainga housing
- Spatial planning that protects the natural environment

#### Environmental protection

- Managing and minimising waste in the community
- Ensuring that waste disposal is affordable for those on the lowest incomes
- Protect our reserves and green spaces from development

#### Recreation

- Safe playing areas for tamariki and rangatahi
- Range of recreation opportunities

#### Identity

- Define a shared community identity
- Preserve the unique character of the area

### Conversations on the couch

As part of a project with the Department of Internal Affairs, Waitara Alive ran a ‘conversations on the couch’ drop in session. At the session, they encouraged the community to respond to the following questions:

1. The three things that people loved about Waitara
2. Their wishes for Waitara



Of the forty two people who took part in a conversation, a number of responses were made of relevance to the Community Board Plan. Waitara Alive and the Department of Internal Affairs have allowed us to use this additional data in support of the Community Board Plan.

#### TOP THREE THINGS ABOUT WAITARA (TOP FIVE ISSUES)

1. People (25 respondents)
2. River (18 respondents)
3. Beach (17 respondents)
4. Activities and lifestyle (9 respondents)
5. Community (8 respondents)

#### WISHES FOR WAITARA (TOP FIVE WISHES)

1. More jobs (8 respondents)
2. Positive opportunities and activities for youth (8 respondents)

3. Community activities (7 respondents)
4. More retail and shops (6 respondents)
5. Make Waitara great again (6 respondents)

*Note: for a copy of the full report contact Waitara Alive.*

## Lepperton Feedback



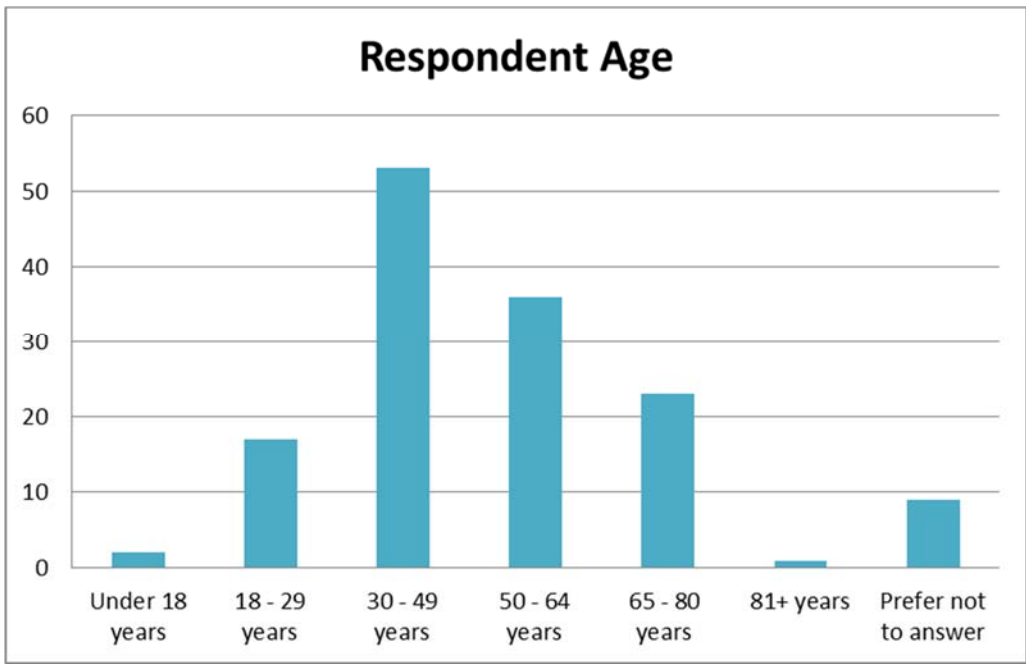
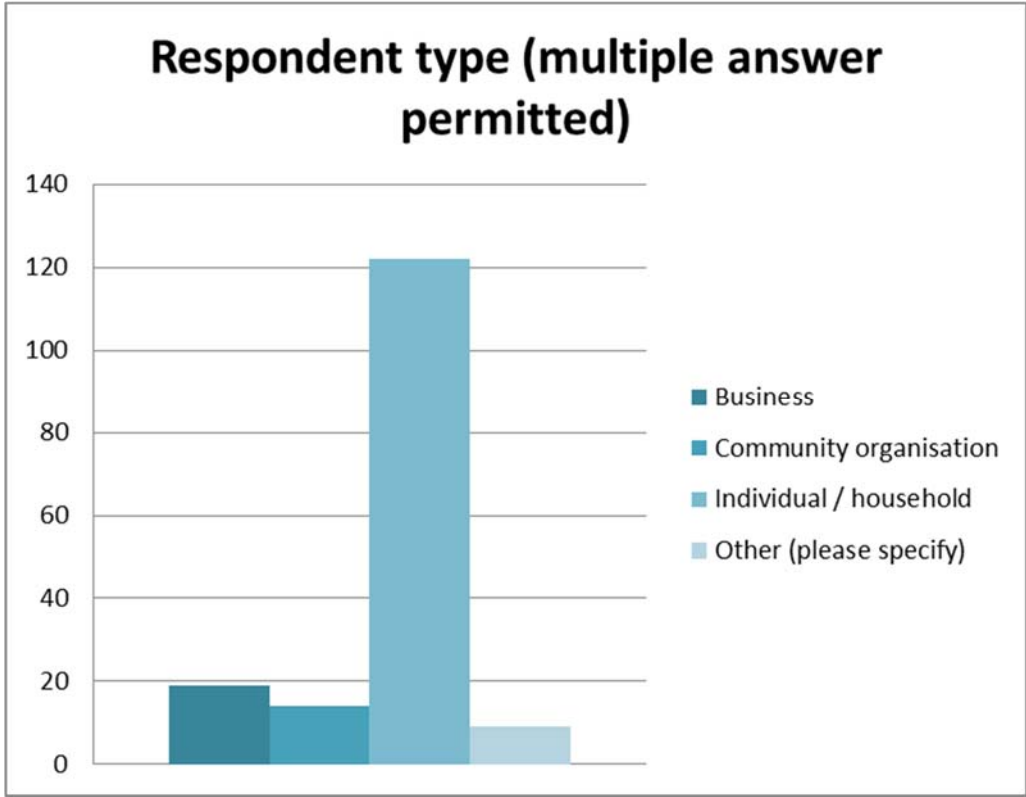
The Waitara Community Board’s second largest township is Lepperton. Whilst the bulk of the board’s population reside in Waitara and its immediate surrounding area, Lepperton is a growing community and it has been important to specifically identify the needs and aspirations of the Lepperton community. Feedback from Lepperton was gathered via a drop in session at the community hall and the survey. A wide range of issues and aspirations were

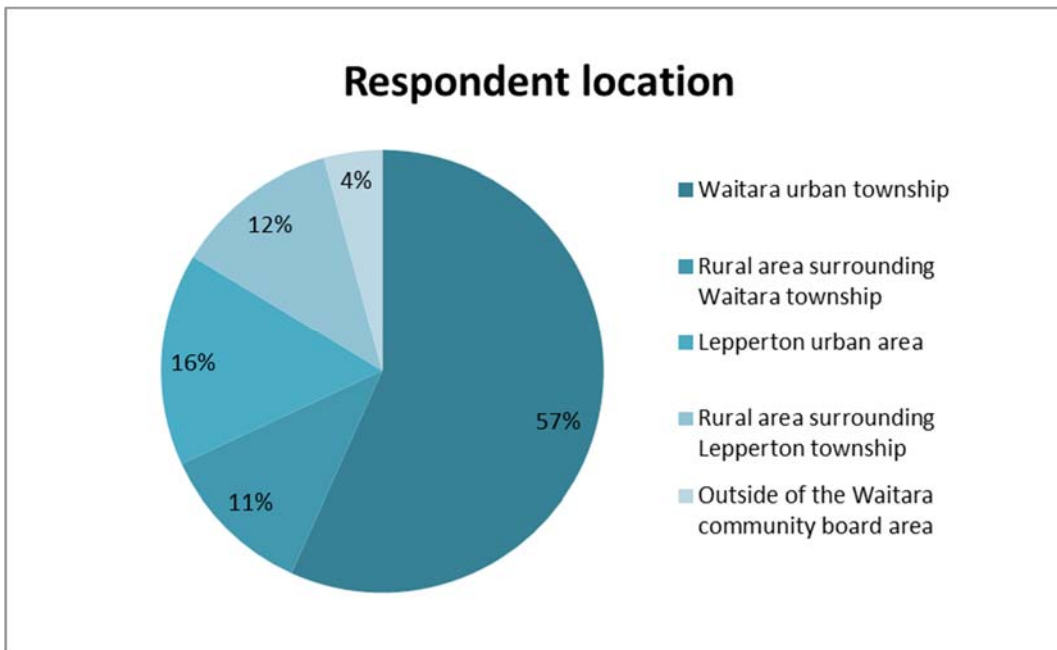
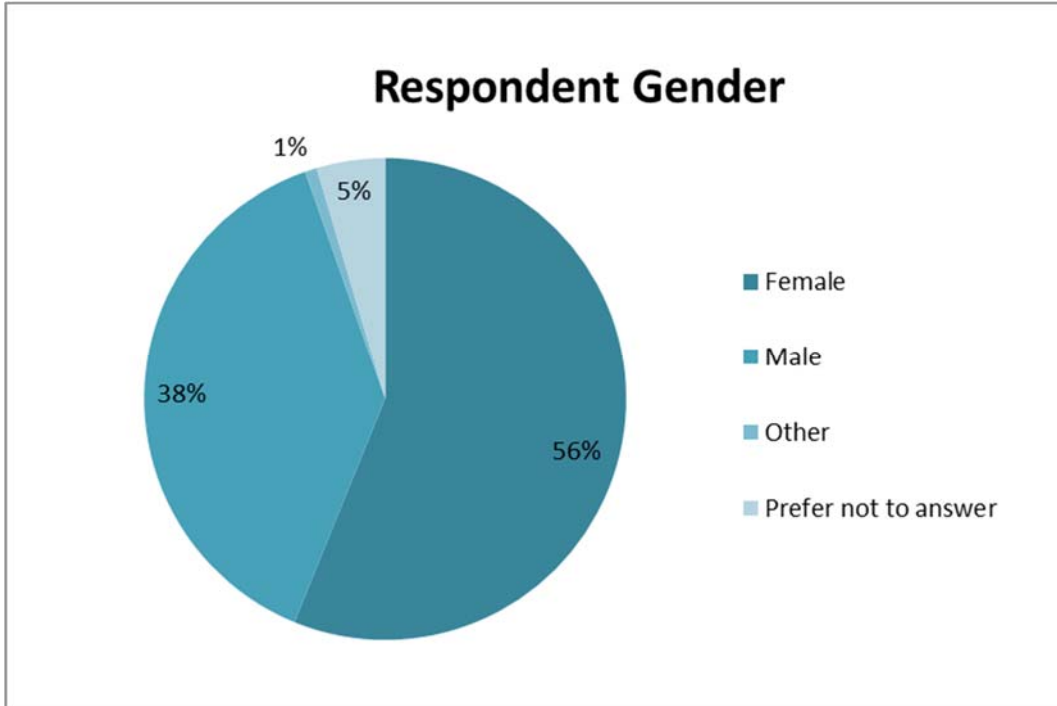
raised by the Lepperton community. These included:

- Considered development that retains the rural character of Lepperton
- Providing green space, playground and public toilets at the Community Hall site
- Wastewater connections to accommodate growth
- Traffic calming footpaths, curb and channelling and parking
- Walkway connections
- Art / sculptures
- Create a centre to the township – development on main street

## Community Survey

141 people responded to the Community Survey. Respondents covered a broad demographic profile from across the Waitara Community Board area.



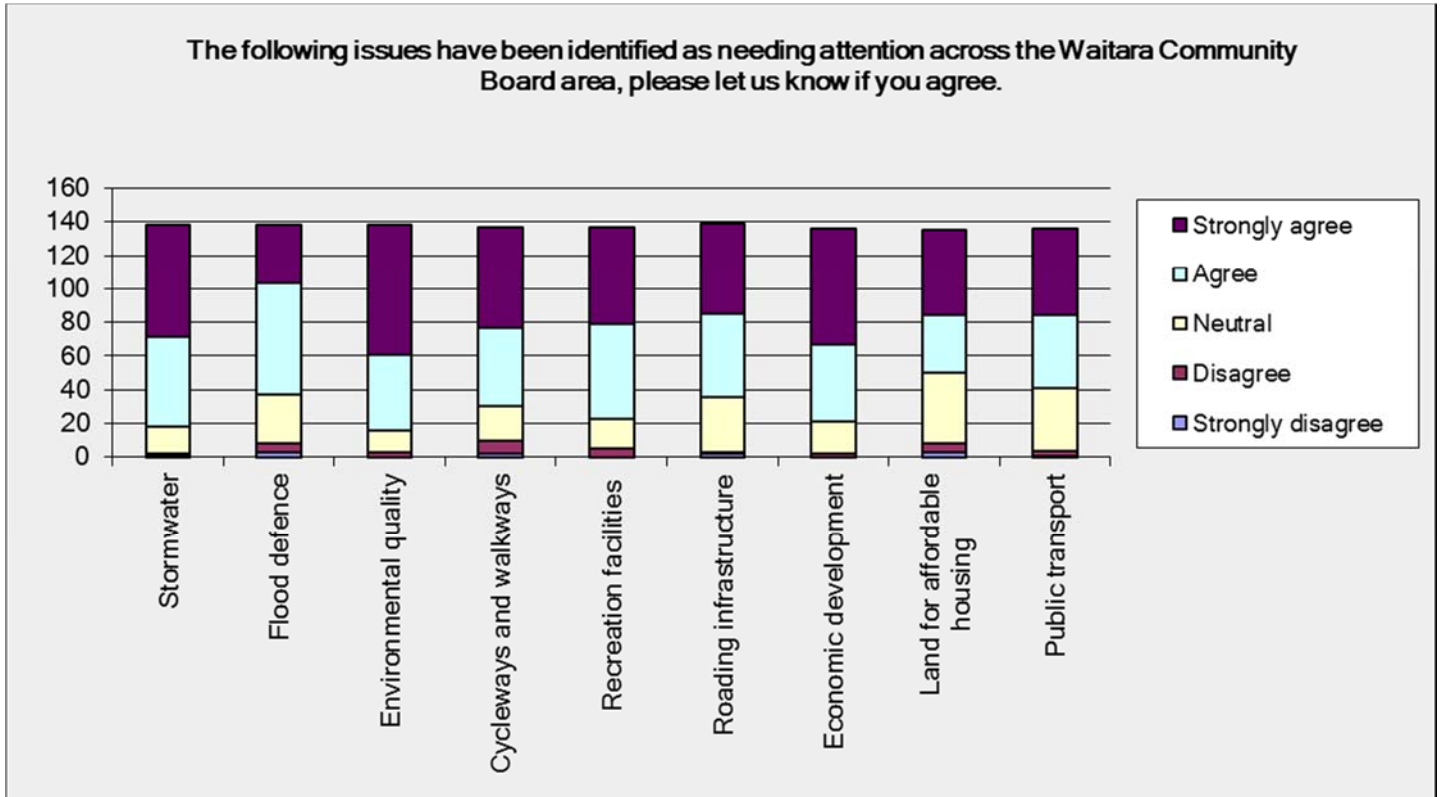


The survey asked two core questions. The two questions were in relation to the issues that exist across the Board area and the aspirations for the Board area. The survey provided proposed statements and asked the respondents to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the draft issues. In addition to the questions, the survey provided opportunities for respondents to provide additional commentary about the issues or other matters that were not identified.

ISSUES

As was to be expected all of the issues that were proposed were perceived as being important for the Waitara community board area. When considering the issues that the respondents strongly agreed and agreed with, the three more important issues were:

1. Stormwater,
2. Environmental quality and
3. Economic development.



88 individual respondents provided additional comment about the issues that they were concerned about. The comments largely aligned to the major issues, however more detail and clarity was provided about the meaning of the particular issue. The full verbatim comments are available in a separate document. The notable issues relate to:

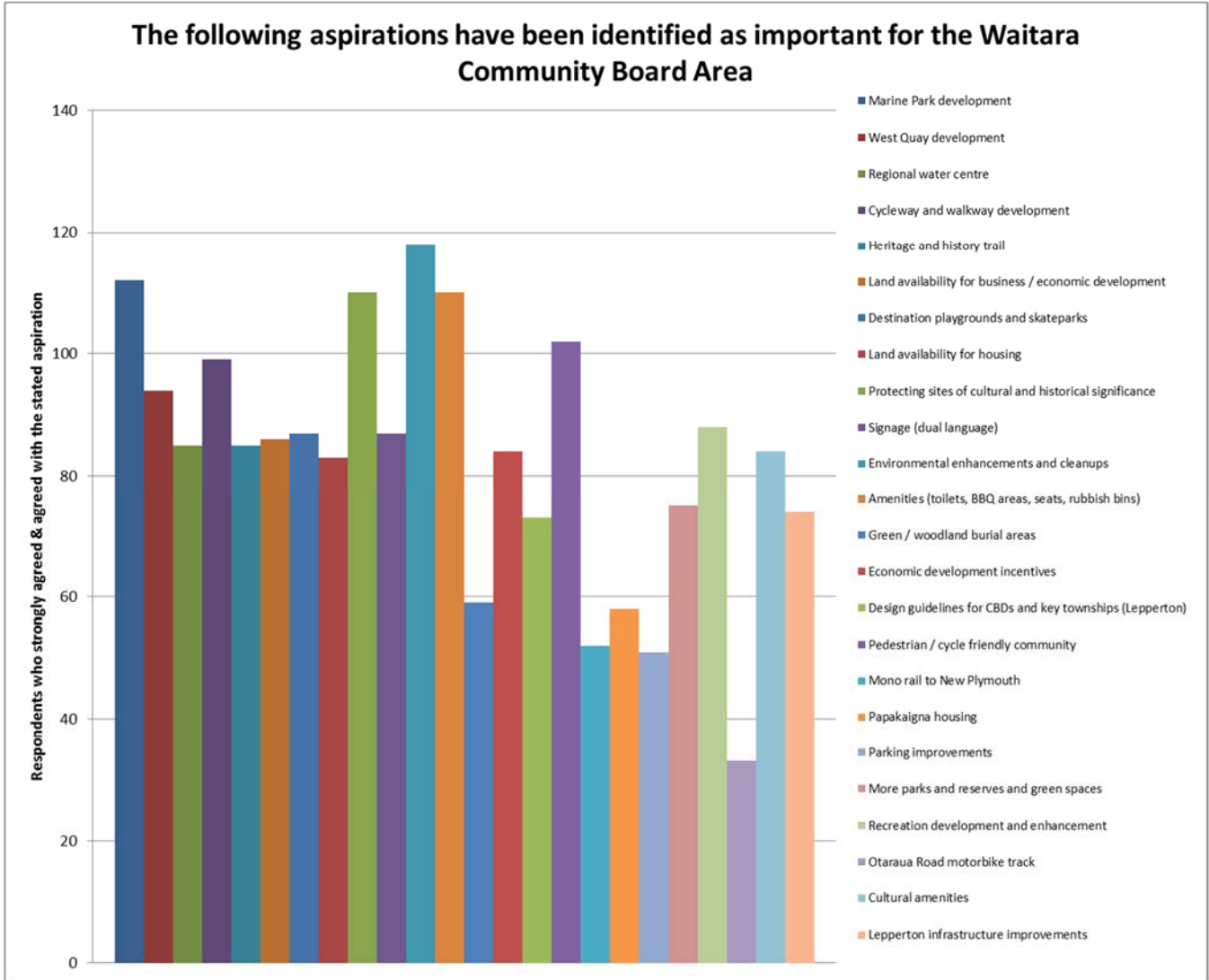
- Water quality
- Upgrading the CBD and providing an enabling environment for business and economic growth
- Improved walkways and cycleway connections in Waitara and Lepperton
- Recreation and cultural opportunities and facilities particularly for youth and families
- Safety, wellbeing and cooperation at a community level
- Improved infrastructure
- Managed growth and development that allows character of the communities to be retained



## ASPIRATIONS

The community was asked to signal their support for 23 aspirations that had been identified by the steering group. The ten aspirations that received the highest level of support were:

1. Marine Park development
2. Environmental enhancements and clean-ups
3. Protecting sites of historical and cultural significance
4. Amenities (rubbish bins, toilets, seats etc.)
5. Cycleways and walkways / pedestrian and cycle friendly community
6. West Quay development
7. Recreation enhancement and development / destination playgrounds and skateparks
8. Land available for business and economic development
9. Heritage and history trails / history centre / museum
10. Regional water centre



76 individual respondents provided a range of comments to this question. The comments provide additional detail about the possible projects associated with the aspiration. The full comments are available in a separate document.

The issues that generated the most comments were around business and economy, community and recreation.

1. Economy and business: town centre upgrades, improving facilities for residents and visitors, incentives for business development and growth, supporting iwi economic development, employment opportunities for all (but particularly youth), diversity of industry, building a great visitor destination.

2. Community: fairness, equity, cooperation, collaboration, safety, inclusion, respect, representation, improving the community, engaging the community in conversations and decision making.
3. Recreation: art and cultural events, more walkways, improved parks and playgrounds, skate parks, providing for more than just sporting pursuits, all year round access to the pool, BBQ areas, places to meet.

#### VISION

Respondents were asked to signal their vision for the area. 69 individual responses were received. The full comments can be found in a separate document. A broad range of descriptions and adjectives were provided and there was considerable commonality among those who provided comments. Some key statements that demonstrate a desired vision for Waitara are:

- To become a thriving community again
- Inclusive, vibrant and culturally relevant to all
- A growing, healthy, safe, happy, economically vibrant community.
- To move forward together
- Culturally diverse, strong business, strong sports, strong community
- Clean, green sustainable
- A destination, not just a place
- A greener, safer, wealthy viable community
- Colourful, vibrant and connected
- Visually appealing, easy flowing and function
- Enhance what we have
- Community, culture and capital
- Living the lives we value and have reason to value

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Whilst the development of this Community Board Plan has been a relatively short process, the process has been positive and has sought to be as inclusive as possible given the time constraints.

The Community Board recognise that this Plan is the first step in the journey; this is a living document and a living process. The process has allowed us to open up a conversation with schools, iwi and hapū, community organisations, communities of interest and geographical communities.

In addition to the issues that have been highlighted in this plan, the Community Board are aware that their role extends far beyond advocating for infrastructure and service improvements. There is a strong leadership and community advocacy role that the Community Board are looking forward to. There are many issues where the Council may not have direct control, but because the Community Board is the elected group closest to the people, there is an expectation that we will be a voice for the community. We are therefore committed to advocating for the wider issues that were raised – transport, economic development, reduction in crime, community and wellbeing and environmental protection.

In working towards the mission and the aspirations that have emerged from this process, the Community Board are looking forward to the next stage of the journey; a journey that will afford them opportunities to work in close partnership with their fellow community board members in Kaitake, Clifton and Inglewood, with iwi and hapū, with business and community organisations and groups across the board area and with the dedicated and committed individuals that chose to call the Waitara Board area their home.

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