

# Community Facilities

## Community Outcomes

Mana Mauri / Cultural well-being - Creative, diverse communities that enhance the mauri of our people.

Mana Tangata / Social well-being - Safe, connected communities where people feel happy and proud of where we live.

Mana Oranga / Economic well-being - Flourishing communities with a diverse economy, innovative people and resilient infrastructure.

Mana Taiao / Environmental well-being - Sustainable communities that manage resources in a way that improves our environment for future generations.

## Why we do it

We provide a range of attractive and accessible facilities for our residents, families and visitors. Parks and reserves, public spaces, pathways, halls and swimming pools deliver facilities for people to be active, socialise, interact and have fun. These facilities are delivered to enhance the social, health and cultural wellbeing of our communities. In support of these activity-based facilities are a number of campgrounds that give visitors opportunities to stay, visit and support our local communities, and public toilets for the convenience of people when they need them. We provide housing options for older people who are unable to access suitable housing in the private sector. We own and maintain a number of cemeteries to support the social and cultural wellbeing of our communities by providing areas to bury, visit and remember those who have passed away.

## Parks, Reserves and Public Spaces

### What we do

We own and maintain parks and reserves across the entire District varying in size from neighbourhood 'pocket parks' and playgrounds, small roadside and main street gardens to sports fields, premier parks and a large scenic reserve, Lake Rotokare (240ha). We own and maintain 38 playgrounds across the District.

We have a wide range of active and passive open spaces that makes the South Taranaki District unique and are not necessarily formal parks or reserve areas. These open spaces are areas of land which the public has a relatively free right of access. They can serve a variety of purposes from recreation, amenity and preservation to providing and being part of views, protecting significant landscapes, sites and community identities and providing a focal point for a local area. Examples of these are the Ōpunakē Beach Esplanade, Campbell and Korimako Lanes in Hāwera and freedom camping sites around the District.

### Freedom Camping

Our Freedom Camping Bylaw identifies the locations in the District where freedom camping is allowed and the types of camping permitted at each site. There are three categories of freedom camping – certified self-contained, non-self-contained and tenting. The Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 introduced stricter rules around the certification of vehicles, which has no impact on our Freedom Camping Bylaw.

## Looking Ahead

At this stage, there is little demand for additional parks because the existing stock provides enough recreational space across the District for the current and projected population. However, we received feedback from the community on providing for improved maintenance of parks and gardens particularly through the townships.

We predict that there will be a continued need for the Council to support and provide informal recreational spaces for our communities and visitors. Life expectancy is increasing, and we are becoming more aware of the need to keep fit and healthy and enjoy our retirement and independence for longer.

In October 2023 the Council adopted the Collaborating for Active Spaces and Places Strategy, a regional approach to providing an integrated and connected recreational facilities network. The Strategy was co-developed in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders in the Taranaki Region, including providers and potential funders, operating as the Taranaki Facilities Consortium. This will see the preservation of local autonomy while ensuring good practice in planning for facility development and funding co-ordination.

The impacts of climate change on some of our community facilities are possible. Flooding/inundation and erosion are the most likely impacts. Particularly at risk are our campgrounds and other reserves and properties along the coast and adjacent to rivers.

## What negative impacts this might have

Activity	Well-being	Effect	Mitigation
Vandalism of Council parks and property assets	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	Vandalism or damage of Council assets can make people who live in the area or park users feel unsafe as they could become targets of crime.	Vandalism can be mitigated by applying 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' principles in design - features such as improved lighting and open space, security notices and dealing with incidents of vandalism quickly (removal within 24 hours) so that these assets do not become a target. Contractors or in-house staff remove graffiti, depending on the location. CCTV as a tool for surveillance and monitoring to keep our communities and shared facilities safe from harm.
Noncompliance of playground equipment	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	Personal injuries to playground users could occur because of faulty playground equipment which could range from minor to severe on scale.	This can be mitigated by investing in good quality design as well as safety audits and on-going monitoring. Our standard operating procedure for any reports about faulty playground equipment is as soon as possible.
Freedom Camping	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being, and;	Freedom camping can create nuisance effects on the surrounding or adjacent landowners or occupiers	We have Kaitiaki (Ambassadors) who monitor freedom camping sites over the summer to ensure that the Freedom Camping Bylaw is being adhered to.

	Mana Taiao/Environmental Well-being	with excessive noise, smell (from inappropriate disposal of solid waste) or squatters.	
--	-------------------------------------	--	--

## Recreation Centres

### What we do

We own and manage nine halls across the District. In addition there are 29 privately owned halls managed by local communities who are eligible to apply for funding support from the Council's Rural Halls Grant Fund.

We also own and operate the TSB Hub multi-function facility in Hāwera, which is open all year round for recreation, entertainment, social events, functions, programmes and regular sports code competitions. We provide an annual repairs and maintenance grant to the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre in Ōpunakē.

A partnership between the Hāwera Memorial Theatre Friends Trust and the Council was formed in 2011. The Trust is able to seek external funding for specified projects including funding to allow school students the opportunity to be involved in experiencing the theatre environment through the school curriculum. It also raises funds that are re-invested to enhance the theatre and the user experience.

A major challenge continues to be the cost of maintaining the current stock and condition of halls through user charges and contributions. User fees and charges contribute only a small amount of the annual cost of maintaining halls.

### Looking Ahead

Demand for the halls is expected to remain at the current level or reduce over the life of the Plan and we have no plans over the next ten years to build or acquire additional halls. South Taranaki's population projections are for static to minimal population increases and the current capacity of our halls can accommodate a significant increase in users, should that happen in the future.

The Manaia Town Hall and the Manaia Sports Complex were both found identified as an earthquake risk and have been closed for some time. The Council and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine have partnered to explore the possibility for an Iwi-community multi-purpose space in Manaia. This could mean a large-scale development on one site, or this may mean multiple sites developed and phased over a longer period of time. Working together potentially presents greater benefits for Iwi and the Manaia community than if the projects were completed separately.

To help the project proceed, the Toi Foundation funded a business case which is due to be completed by the end of May 2024. The business case will help Council make a decision on the next steps of the project. The Council has already committed \$1 million towards replacement of the facilities and \$2 million for the Manaia town revitalisation project.

The Eltham Town Hall is used for a number of different functions and events and currently meets 34% of the new building standard (NBS). However, while the Hall is not identified as an earthquake risk, it does mean the Hall is categorised as 'earthquake prone'. There are other planned repairs and upgrades, however we are taking the opportunity to ask the community if the Hall should be strengthened to 67% NBS, while the

planned works are being undertaken. Due to the costs associated with the project and the significance of the Hall to the Eltham community this will be a key topic included in the consultation document.

## Swimming Pools

### What we do

We provide and operate the Aquatic Centre in Hāwera and six other community pools across the District. An annual grant is also made towards the operation of the public community pool at Ōpunakē High School.

The community pools open mid-December and close after Taranaki Anniversary weekend in March. These pools have free access during advertised public sessions and are staffed by qualified lifeguards. All of these facilities feature main pools suited to adult use, plus learners' and toddlers' pools. We have increased the staffing levels at our summer community pools in order to ensure the continued safety of our users and staff.

The Hāwera Aquatic Centre has an indoor complex that runs year-round. It includes a 25 metre six lane main pool, a learners' pool plus a children's splash park, giant hydro-slide and a thermal pool. The outdoor complex opens the first weekend of December through to the last weekend in March and includes a 50 metre seven lane pool and a children's pool with novel play features. All pools are heated. The Hāwera Aquatic Centre is an accredited Poolsafe© facility. Qualified instructors deliver programmes that cater to all ages and abilities. Programmes include Learn to Swim, Aquatots, AquaFit and School lessons.

### Looking Ahead

Year on year, pool use across the District remains steady, although the outdoor community pools are subject to seasonal weather variations. Daily attendances are recorded and reported through the Facility Usage report presented at each Community Board meeting.

A programme of varying upgrade works was completed at most of the summer pools, with the exception of the Kaponga Pool, which is programmed to have plant upgrades during the period of this LTP. A focus is to further improve the reach and effectiveness of swim and survive programmes at all operational sites and to South Taranaki schools.

A project within this Long Term Plan is to replace and upgrade some of the filtration and circulating plant at Kaponga Pool.

### Significant Negative Effects

Activity	Well-being	Significant Effect	Mitigation
Harm to a pool user	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	Accidental injury to a pool user, or even death, by drowning or activity related injury or stress.	Qualified lifeguards are employed to supervise the pools and respond to emergencies that may arise when the pools are open for public use. All staff employed at Council operated pools are required to hold current First Aid Certificates and all lifeguards hold current Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificates. We have increased the number of lifeguards at each of

			community pools to two, to enhance supervision and protection of users.
Contamination from water borne contaminants and water treatment chemicals	Mana Taiao/Environmental Well-being	Chemicals commonly associated with swimming pool water treatment may pose a risk to the environment through accidental spillage, and;  Environmental impact through the transmission of water borne contaminants.	Chemicals commonly associated with swimming pool water treatment may pose a risk to the environment through accidental spillage.  Pool Water Risk Management Plans address a range of potential risk elements that may arise in conjunction with provision and operation of the pools. The Risk Management Plan for the Hāwera Aquatic Centre is reviewed annually, prior to the annual Poolsafe review.

## Public Toilets

### What we do

We own and maintain 3 public toilets at locations across the District. Additionally, we have three re-locatable toilet pods at Denby Road and Nowell's Lakes, Hāwera and at the Cape Egmont Boat Club on Cape Road, Warea. There are five dump stations across the District (for motor homes to dispose of waste).

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga (the new Culture, Heritage, Library and Information centre) in Hāwera includes public toilets. Whilst they are not open 24 hours per day, they are presented to a much higher standard than the current toilets. 24 hour access to toilets is still available at King Edward Park and the Hāwera Water Tower Grounds.

While visitor numbers are not monitored, there is evidence of higher public toilet use during the summer months (particularly in coastal areas), school holidays and during events. At these times, we keep in close contact with the cleaners to make sure the toilets are clean and meeting demand.

### Looking Ahead

The key issue for our public toilets is the significant demand for new or improved facilities across the District. With a total of 37 public toilets across the District and a static population, we do not anticipate a demand for more toilets. Our resources will continue to ensure that our existing facilities are clean, accessible and useable for our local communities.

### Future Projects

We have allocated funding to replace the public toilets at Ōhawe Beach (2024/25), Egmont Street in Pātea (2026/27), Ōpunakē Lake (2024/25-2025/26) and Rāhotu (2027/28).

## Significant Negative Effects

Activity	Well-being	Significant Effect	Mitigation
----------	------------	--------------------	------------

Vandalism of public toilets	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	Vandalism or damage of Council assets can make people who live in the area feel unsafe as they could become targets of crime.	Vandalism can be mitigated by applying 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' principles in design - features such as improved lighting and open space, security notices and dealing with incidents of vandalism quickly (removal within 24 hours) so that these assets do not become a target. Contractors or in-house staff remove graffiti, depending on the location. CCTV as a tool for surveillance and monitoring to keep our communities and shared facilities safe from harm.
Contamination from sewage spill	Mana Taiao/Environmental Well-being	Environmental and health impacts from a potential sewage spill from a public toilet.	Regular condition inspections, monitoring and maintenance, close liaison with wastewater service engineers and prompt response to customer requests.

## Campgrounds

### What we do

We provide seven campgrounds at Ōpunakē Beach, Kaūpokonui Beach, Hāwera, Pātea Beach, Waverley Beach and Waiinu Beach, and Lake Rotorangi (Pātea Dam).

The management and operation of these facilities varies. Ōpunakē and Pātea Beach campgrounds are leased to private operators; Waverley Beach, Waiinu Beach and the Hāwera campgrounds are managed in-house and we employ a part time custodian at Waiinu over the summer period when demand is high.

The Kaūpokonui Beach Motor Camp is supported through a partnership with the Kaūpokonui Beach Society, which manages this facility and reinvests the income from the bach rentals in the development of the reserve.

The Hāwera Holiday Park facilities were upgraded in 2013 and patronage has increased steadily as a result.

### Looking Ahead

The primary concerns impacting the demand for camping grounds include a growing demographic of mobile retirees utilising motor homes, heightened competition for leisure time placing upward pressure on Taranaki residents' patronage of local holiday parks, a preference for alternative venues not owned by the Council, and a rise in freedom camping throughout the District.

Little data is available on historical user statistics, as visitor nights are not recorded at most of the campground, with the exception of the Hāwera Holiday Park. There is adequate capacity to meet an increase in demand at most times throughout the year.

### Significant Negative Effects

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Well-being</b>	<b>Significant Effect</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Natural hazard risk including severe weather events	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	Due to the location and reliance on waterbodies or the coast, these areas can be prone to natural hazard risk from flooding, slips and isolation.	We contribute funding to Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) who continuously monitoring severe weather events to determine where any vulnerable areas are. We also continue to monitor any effects climate change may have on these areas.

## **Cemeteries**

### **What we do**

We actively manage ten cemeteries across the District and own the Armed Constabulary Cemetery on the bank of the Ōpunakē Lake. We own the land at the Rāhotu and Waverley Cemeteries, which are managed by trusts, and we provide an annual grant to the Waverley Cemetery Board, which manages and maintains the cemetery.

As well as the land for burials we also manage the associated roading, car parks, toilet blocks, rubbish bins, concrete berms and lowering devices required for proper management of cemeteries.

### **Looking Ahead**

Based on expected demand we have space available across the District's cemeteries for a further 50 years. The number of interments is about the same annually, with cremations trending upwards. If this continues over the next ten years less land will be used, offsetting the demand for more land to be developed as cemetery.

As the ethnic profile of the District diversifies further there will be a need to be more culturally sensitive about the provision of our services.

We are proposing to establish an Urupā Maintenance Fund to assist local Iwi and hapū with the maintenance of Urupā attached to their Marae.

### **Significant Negative Effects**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Well-being</b>	<b>Significant Effect</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Discrepancies in the allocation of burial plots	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being  Mana Mauri/Cultural well-being	Discrepancies in the allocation of burial plots can have a significant negative effect on public confidence in the Council's management of cemeteries, as well as a direct impact on the families involved.	Maintaining accurate, up-to-date records including an annual programme of checking and cross-referencing burial data to make sure it is correct (cemetery surveys). Maintaining close working relationships with contractors and funeral directors.

## Housing for the Elderly

### What we do

We provide safe, comfortable and affordable accommodation for older people in 72 housing units across the District. All units have a separate bedroom and meet the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019.

We manage the tenancies and provide a support service to help tenants live independently in their communities. This includes regular visits to tenants and support to access appropriate health and social services.

### Looking ahead

Demand for units has been strong over the past three years and occupancy levels are high in all communities. The number of South Taranaki residents aged over 65 years is expected to increase from 5,374 in 2024 to 6,921 in 2034 (Infometrics projections). Other factors that are likely to increase demand are declining levels of home ownership and the number of older residents returning to the District on retirement.

Funds raised from the sale of old and unsuitable units are redirected into the Housing for the Elderly activity for future purchases and development. We purchased two residential properties in Furlong Street and one in Princes Street, Hāwera as potential sites for future housing for the elderly.

A Taranaki Regional Housing Strategy has been developed and Toi Foundation has committed to provide funding to support the establishment and first two years of operation of the Taranaki Housing Initiative Trust. We are working in partnership with the Trust, investigating the existing community housing options, identifying the needs within the community, and pinpointing areas where additional housing developments could be established.

### Future Projects

Ceiling and floor insulation has been installed in the 58 units with accessible ceiling and floor cavities and a further four will be insulated in conjunction with roof replacements.

Interior upgrades of 53 units, including the installation of accessible showers, have been completed and 8 of the remaining 10 units will be refitted as the units are vacated.

### Significant Negative Effects

Demand for older people's housing is projected to increase and housing is often not available at the time when potential residents need it, which can create social issues. There are also sometimes issues between residents.

Activity	Well-being	Significant Effect	Mitigation
Lack of pensioner housing	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	We have an aging population and the demand for pensioner housing continues to increase. The number of housing we offer cannot cater for the demand.	The Council have strategically purchased properties in Furlong and Princes Streets with the purpose for future development of housing for the elderly.  We are working with the Taranaki Housing Initiative Trust to identify



			areas of future need in the community.
--	--	--	--

## Key Projects

Description	Year	Total (\$)
<b>Parks &amp; Reserves</b>		
Soft fall replacement for all playgrounds	Years 2, 5, 8	\$703k
Playground Upgrades	Years 2, 4, 6, 8, 10	\$681k
<b>Recreation Centres</b>		
TSB Hub – Renewals	Years 1 to 10	\$1.9m
Eltham Town Hall Building Upgrade	Years 1, 2 and 3	\$1.95m
<b>Swimming Pools</b>		
Rural Pools Plant Renewals	Years 1 to 10	\$395K
Hāwera Aquatic Centre Renewals	Years 1 to 10	\$686k
<b>Public Toilets</b>		
Pātea Beach Amenity Block	Year 3 and 4	\$802k
Pātea Public Toilets	Year 3 and 4	\$388k
Ōhawe Beach Toilets	Year 1	\$205k
Ōpunakē Lake Toilets	Year 2 and 3	\$230k
<b>Housing for the Elderly</b>		
Housing Renewals	Years 2 to 10	\$906k

## Non-financial Performance Measures

### Community Facilities

#### Parks and Public Spaces

Level of Service	Performance Measure	Target	Target	Target	Target
	<i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Years 4 - 10
Parks and public spaces are tidy and well maintained.	(C) % of customers satisfied with the level of maintenance in Council parks, reserves, playgrounds and public spaces.	97%	97%	97%	97%

#### Swimming Pools

Level of Service	Performance Measure	Target	Target	Target	Target
	<i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Years 4 - 10
Customers are satisfied with services.	(C) % of users satisfied with services at Hāwera Aquatic Centre.	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%

#### Public Toilets

Level of Service	Performance Measure	Target	Target	Target	Target
	<i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Years 4 - 10
Toilets are clean and well maintained.	(C) % of residents satisfied with cleanliness and maintenance of Public Toilets.	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	≥ 80%

#### Cemeteries

Level of Service	Performance Measure <i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Years 4 - 10
<b>Cemeteries are tidy and well maintained.</b>	(C)% of customers satisfied with the tidiness and level of maintenance at Cemeteries.	≥ 95%	≥ 95%	≥ 95%	≥ 95%

#### Housing for the Elderly

Level of Service	Performance Measure <i>C=customer measure</i> <i>T=technical measure</i>	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Years 4 - 10
<b>Council will provide well maintained and fit for purpose Housing for the Elderly.</b>	(C) % of tenants satisfied with the standard of their unit.	95%	95%	95%	95%