

**DRAFT**

**10-year plan: Innovative and growing city strategy**

**(July 2021-June 2024)**

**City growth plan**

**Housing and future development chapter**

**Urban design chapter**

**Economic development plan**

**Economic development chapter**

**International relations chapter**

**Transport plan**

**Strategic transport chapter**

**Active and public transport chapter**



## **Palmerston North vision**

He iti rā, he iti pounamu

Small city benefits, big city ambition

Palmerston North is the heart of the Manawatū region. We are a small city with a lot to offer, and we're ambitious about where we're going.

Palmerston North has many small city advantages - a great quality of life and easy access to services. We embrace our Rangitāne o Manawatū heritage and celebrate the diversity of our communities. We know that the talents and efforts of our whole city will help create the future we want.

To fulfil the vision Council has adopted five goals and strategies.

Goal 1: An innovative growing city

Goal 2: A creative and exciting city

Goal 3: A connected and safe community

Goal 4: An eco city

Goal 5: A driven and enabling Council

## **Goal 1: An innovative and growing city**

Palmerston North is a growing city, and we need to plan for this growth. We need to make it easy to get around, and to make sure we cater for everyone's needs as the city expands.

Our goal is for a productive local economy that supports community wellbeing. We want new industries to create employment to expand our city's opportunities. We want to drive innovation by providing support and infrastructure to enable diversification. Palmerston North will stand out by becoming a low carbon economy.

The nature of work is changing and there will be many different types of work in the future. We must work with enterprises, small and large, to enable traditional industries to evolve and new industries to emerge. The natural advantages of Palmerston North will support innovation and the development of new industries. We will position Palmerston North to take advantage of new jobs in research, development and creative industries. Palmerston North will take advantage of change to encourage sustainable growth and wellbeing.

### **Target: 12,000 more jobs in Palmerston North by 2031**

This **Innovative and growing city strategy** describes Council's 10-year plan vision for goal 1.

Three plans sit beneath this strategy and describes Council's activities for the first three years of the 2021-2031 10-Year Plan: **City growth, Economic development and Transport.**

## **Introduction**

### ***Community wellbeing***

The purpose of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future. The Innovative and growing strategy focuses on the economic wellbeing of our communities, although we intend that this strategy will impact on all aspects of wellbeing.

### ***Innovative and growing community***

Palmerston North is the major economic hub for the Manawatū–Whanganui region for education, health services, retail, business services, government administration, agribusiness and logistics. Council's goal is to build on these current strengths and create new ones to ensure the city has a strong, diverse, and sustainable economy. Efforts to grow the economy will make the most of new technologies and promote careful environmental stewardship.

Increasing economic wellbeing will depend on Council working well with businesses, support agencies, central government and other local authorities. The Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA) will support business development and retention and will promote a diverse economy. CEDA will focus on helping young people develop the skills they need for the changing jobs market.

Palmerston North is growing, and a clear planning framework will promote good urban development. It will also provide certainty for public and private investors. Council will work closely with the development community and other partners who share our goals for

sustainable development. We will support the development of a greater range of housing choices.

Integrating land use planning and infrastructure can be a powerful economic development tool. Council will provide infrastructure in a timely way. We will manage the financial risks of duplicating or providing too much infrastructure in many locations. A ready supply of land to support the city's growth will ensure Council can harness new development opportunities

We need to ensure the city grows in ways that support Council's goals for a creative and exciting city, a connected and safe community, and an eco-city. We will measure our success by the increase in employment and wealth, and in the improved quality of life and prosperity of our community.

This strategy sets out our six priorities to support a strong and productive local economy that supports community wellbeing.

### **Priorities**

- 1. Create and enable opportunities for employment and growth**
- 2. Provide infrastructure to enable growth and a transport system that links people and opportunities**
- 3. Support the development of more housing that meets community needs**
- 4. Support the diversification of the economy to reduce reliance on traditional industries**
- 5. Support an 'innovation economy' to underpin growth into the future**
- 6. Transform the economy to a low carbon economy**

### **Economic development**

Community wellbeing and increasing living standards are supported by a productive and sustainable local economy. A strong local economy will bring higher incomes and greater wealth to share throughout the community.

#### ***Business and employment***

Skill development is critical for improving competitiveness and productivity. More skills can lead to higher participation in work, more opportunities and a better standard of living. We want to ensure that young people can move readily from school to training, higher education, and work. We want more young people to find the work they want in Palmerston North. A partnership between CEDA and Talent Central will help address the barriers to workforce participation experienced by young people.

Many Palmerston North businesses and other organisations are competent in digital business and able to compete with national and international competition. Some others need help to develop the skills and capability to grow and thrive in the future. Through CEDA, Council will encourage employers to increase their focus on skills development and training for their employees.

By supporting local businesses and industries to grow and develop, Council will encourage new opportunities to attract investment to Palmerston North and the Manawatū region.

Through CEDA, Council's will work to attract businesses to invest in Palmerston North. We will provide new investment partners with the services and support they need to thrive.

### ***City reputation***

Events and festivals contribute to several of our strategic goals. We want to bring economic benefits to the city through major events and connect our communities through local, programmed and iconic events. We classify events as:

- Local: events providing social benefits for residents, with the potential for growth
- Programmed: the core business for many of the region's venues e.g. theatre and museum programmes
- Major: large-scale events which attract significant benefits for the city through interest, profile or visitation [refer to the Economic development plan under Goal 1]
- Iconic: events that attract national interest and define Palmerston North's identity

Because local, programmed and iconic events contribute primarily to other goals, details of actions are described elsewhere. See the Events and festivals chapter of the Connected communities plan for details of the actions we will to provide and support events and festivals.

The Conference and Function Centre, Holiday Park, Visitor Information Centre and other services for visitors all contribute to economic benefits for Palmerston North. We want to ensure that we compete effectively for our share of domestic and international visitors. We will market our city with our new 'Palmy' identity and, through CEDA, implement a regional visitor strategy.

### ***Priority and growth sectors***

Palmerston North's largest sectors are health services, government administration and defence, education, logistics, retail, construction and professional, scientific and technical services (including a focus on agritech). These are also the biggest contributors to growth in jobs and earnings. We will support these sectors and help them grow.

Palmerston North already has a significantly diversified economy and is not overly dependent on any one industry. This is a strong starting point for future growth. Council's goal is to build on the already diversified economy and develop new growth sectors by capitalising on the city's strengths. The city's natural advantages include its central location in the North Island, the availability of key infrastructure (for example, the road and rail hub and the airport's 24-hour freight operations are key factors in the growth of the city's logistics sector), the highly qualified workforce, and the relative affordability of land. These advantages form a basis for Palmerston North's case for regional, national and international investment and partnerships.

### ***Innovation economy***

An innovation economy enables and promotes the development and use of new or better products or services. Commitment to developing technology and innovation capabilities is

crucial for businesses to maintain a competitive edge and to improve the cost-effectiveness of all organisations. Moving to a sustainable low carbon economy will require innovation and increasing the use of a range of low carbon technologies by individuals and businesses. We want to contribute to programmes to build business capacity, skill development, a global perspective, and an environment in which innovation can flourish. Through CEDA, we will explore strategic international city partnerships that support shared research interests and strengths and promote opportunities for cross-border innovation. We will help businesses in the priority sectors work more efficiently and transition to low carbon technologies throughout their operations. We will encourage the growth of new sectors that embrace new technologies and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We will:

- Support economic wellbeing through the Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA)
- Achieve a positive city reputation

See the Economic development chapter of the Economic development plan for more detail.

### **International relations**

Palmerston North has strengthened its long-standing Global City partnerships with Missoula (USA), Guiyang (China), Kunshan (China) and formalised relations with Mihara (Japan). Co-operation with Wageningen (The Netherlands) is also being developed, focusing on a shared strength in agri-food science. Prior to 2021 around 20% of Palmerston North-based students at Massey University, UCOL and IPU were international students. We contribute to the international education role of the region through the Regional International Education Strategy 2016-2020, International Education Leadership Group, and scholarships.

We want to build relationships within the international community and promote the reputation and economic interests of the city. We will continue to strengthen international partnerships, including Sister Cities, to support the city's priority sectors and to encourage students and other visitors to Palmerston North. We will support our partners to recover from the impact of the global pandemic.

See the International relations chapter of the Economic development plan for more detail.

### **Housing and future development**

The National Policy Statement for Urban Development requires Council to provide enough land to meet the expected demand for development. Well-designed and connected city development will contribute to more affordable housing and long-term prosperity.

#### ***Housing***

Our main role is to make sure land and infrastructure are available to accommodate growth and provide market choice while responding to changing demographics and needs. For the past 20 years, the main forms of housing development have been greenfield, infill subdivision and lifestyle blocks. Greenfield housing occurs at the edge of the city on large sections, most recently at Kelvin Grove and Aokautere. Infill housing creates new smaller sections among existing housing, with recent development in Hokowhitu and the central

city and hospital areas. Lifestyle blocks occur in rural areas, with recent development on the foothills of the Tararua Ranges and elevated land north-east of the city. The District Plan discourages lifestyle blocks on productive farmland.

There is strong demand for housing and new residential sections in Palmerston North. In recent years we have made changes to the District Plan in to enable more housing choices. For example, multi-unit developments are encouraged close to the city and suburban centres, and minor dwellings are intended to meet the demand for small and affordable rental accommodation. Uptake of new housing typologies has been slow, although infill housing is now the most prevalent (50% of new housing in 2019). We want Government, Council and privately owned land to be developed for housing. We want to protect valuable productive land to maximise potential for sustainable food production. We will discourage the provision of urban services in rural areas because it is an inefficient form of infrastructure investment. We will identify opportunities for appropriate development and reduce barriers to city centre living and brownfield development. We will work with developers to reduce risks and uncertainty over design and consents, and to encourage more housing choice.

### **Business**

The formal planning framework for future growth in office, retail, and industrial development is well established. New office and retailing activities are directed to the city centre within one of the established business zones. Large-format retailing is directed to land to the north of the city centre and Rangitikei Line, but large land holdings remain vacant. The north-east of the city is zoned for large-format freight, distribution and logistics activities and has recently been extended. KiwiRail has announced a 180ha regional freight hub will be developed near Bunnythorpe. We want the Kiwirail regional freight hub to form part of an integrated central New Zealand distribution hub linked to the North East Industrial Zone, Airport, and regional freight ring road. This will require genuine collaboration with landowners and other stakeholders. Industrial land has also been made available at Longburn, which is best suited to wet or processing industries.

We will:

- Provide enough development capacity to meet expected demand for housing and business in the short, medium and long term
- Perform the regulatory planning role under the Local Government Act and Resource Management Act

See the Housing and future development chapter of the City growth plan for more detail.

### **Urban design**

Good urban design provides attractive and vibrant places to encourage development investment, attract and retain talent, and promote the health and wellbeing of communities. Good urban design enhances the quality of our neighbourhoods, streets, buildings and open spaces, and creates new opportunities for the city to prosper and grow sustainably.



Urban design principles are incorporated into District Plan expectations for the residential and business zones. We will take a multi-disciplinary approach to improving the quality, planning, and delivery of major catalyst projects. We will work closely with the development community to improve their understanding of the principles and value of good urban design. This will include collaboration on major private developments, urban design training opportunities for the private sector and a pre-application process for strategic developments.

We will:

- Provide public spaces (streets, open spaces, civic and community buildings and infrastructure) that are sustainable, connected, diverse, integrated, adaptable, interesting, comfortable and safe
- Work with the development community to increase knowledge and influence urban design outcomes

See the Urban design chapter of the City growth plan for more detail.

## **Transport**

### ***Strategic transport***

Palmerston North has a network of roads, footpaths, cycleways and shared pathways and a diverse range of users. The network needs to accommodate freight transport, recreational users, and commuters. The strategic roading infrastructure needed to support the growth and development of Palmerston North is well researched and understood.

We want to develop infrastructure in an integrated way that is efficient and focused on the future needs of the growing city. We need to improve regional transport links for all modes of transport – rail, road and air. The city needs a regional freight ring road to optimise links between the city, the region and wider markets, accommodate growth, and remove traffic from congested urban corridors. This Palmerston North Integrated Transport Improvement Project needs central government investment to be completed. We will continue working towards the completion of this project.

The hierarchy between local streets and inter-regional routes is currently unclear; there is too much choice in the transport network which means streets and roads are trying to cater for competing user demands. The number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads is increasing. High traffic speeds contribute to harm caused by crashes and discourage active transport. We will ensure that all decisions about the transport network contribute to all our objectives – for safety, ease of movement, and a clear hierarchy between local streets and inter-regional routes.

We will:

- Provide an integrated multi-modal transport network that connects people and goods with destinations in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner and evolves to meet new transport demands with less reliance on private motor-vehicles

See the Strategic transport chapter of the Transport plan for more details.

### ***Active and public transport***

Active and public transport have health and environmental benefits for our city. Walking and cycling are the most common forms of active transport, but there are also micro-mobility options like scootering and skateboarding. Public transport in the city consists of the urban bus service and bus connections to surrounding towns and villages.

Historically, transport investment prioritises and promotes private motor vehicle use over other modes. We want to encourage and enable more people to choose active and public transport options. The transport system needs to cater for the lowest level of mobility and physical capability, so that all people feel comfortable walking or cycling about the city. In many cases this will mean reallocating existing street space, such as on-street parking and traffic lanes, for another purpose. We will remove barriers to public and active transport choices. We will make decisions about the transport network that prioritise safety and promote an active and public transport culture.

There are important links between our actions to improve transport outcomes and our environmental goals. Transport is the biggest contributor to carbon emissions in Palmerston North. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our transport system will contribute to Goal 4: Eco city.

We will:

- Provide an integrated multi-modal transport network that connects people and goods with destinations in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner and evolves to meet new transport demands with less reliance on private motor-vehicles

See the Active and public transport chapter of the Transport plan for more detail.

### **Rangitāne o Manawatū partnership**

Council will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū and:

- identify opportunities to unlock the potential of local iwi businesses, workforce and investment
- develop major city events and promotions that acknowledge and express Māori values and perspectives
- identify opportunities for Māori business and cultural exchange through international relationships
- incorporate Rangitānenuiarawa<sup>1</sup> into city design
- implement citywide urban design principles and practices that acknowledge and express Te Ao Māori and which reflect and enhance the values and aspirations of Rangitāne o Manawatū
- provide urban design support and professional development opportunities to ensure Rangitāne o Manawatū are supported to realise their own development aspirations throughout the city, especially for sites of significance

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<sup>1</sup> Rangitānenuiarawa is the Rangitāne expression of kaitiakitanga, or customary authority and guardianship, and affirms their customary leadership in ensuring the health and regeneration of their tribal rohe.

- involve Rangitāne o Manawatū early in major strategic transport and active management transport projects
- support opportunities to provide business and employment opportunities and improved health and social benefits for Māori through transport activities

### **Measures of success**

Council will monitor these measures of success and report on these through the City Dashboards:

- Number of jobs
- Index of socio-economic deprivation
- Median salaries and wages
- Total earnings (salaries, wages and self-employment income)
- Growth rate for median salaries and wages
- People registered for MSD job seekers benefit
- Labour force participation
- Employment in key sectors
- School leavers with NCEA Level 2 or higher
- GDP
- Ratio of rent to median household income in Palmerston North
- Ratio of house price to median household income in Palmerston North
- Number and type of new houses
- Location of new rural subdivisions
- Housing density
- Business and housing land supply
- Number of international students
- Building occupancy in the city centre
- Annual rail freight volume for Manawatū-Whanganui region
- Domestic and international visitor spending
- Digital maturity of businesses
- Public and active transport

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**10-year plan: Creative and liveable strategy**

**(July 2021-June 2024)**

**Active communities plan**

**Arts and heritage plan**

**Arts chapter**

**Heritage chapter**

**City shaping plan**

**Citymaking chapter**

**Placemaking chapter**



## **Palmerston North vision**

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Goal 1: An innovative growing city

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Goal 5: A driven and enabling Council

## **Goal 2: A creative and exciting city**

Our goal is for Palmerston North to be a creative and exciting place to live. We want to offer a great lifestyle in a city that reflects the diversity of city communities.

We want to support the arts to flourish and our cultural institutions to thrive as they respond to our communities' needs and interests. We want everyone to have opportunities to be active and to experience the advantages of a big city without hassle and cost. We understand that we will need to work with our partners to achieve our shared goals.

### **Target: Palmerston North scores above 65 in the Creative Cities Index by 2031**

This **Creative and liveable city strategy** describes Council's 10-year plan vision for goal 2.

Three plans sit beneath this strategy and describes Council's activities for the first three years of the 2021-2031 10-Year Plan: **Active communities, Arts and heritage** and **City shaping**.

## **Introduction**

### ***Community wellbeing***

The purpose of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future. The Creative and liveable strategy focuses on the cultural wellbeing of our communities, although we intend that this strategy will impact on all aspects of wellbeing.

### ***Creative and liveable city***

Palmerston North has already made some important steps towards creating an environment where liveability underpins city planning and decision making. We acknowledge the vital role of the city centre in shaping city perception and understand how the design of our public spaces can lead to better community outcomes. We know that our city's diversity is a strength, and that we need to provide arts, recreation, play and events opportunities that meet a broad range of needs.

Our goal is to continue to move to a more creative city-making approach<sup>1</sup> for Palmerston North. This strategy sets out our five priorities to be a creative and liveable city.

## **Priorities**

### **1. Create a city that has great places for all people**

## **Citymaking**

Citymaking provides many opportunities to develop a more creative and liveable city. Cities around the world are trying to turn around decades of disjointed city planning to provide better outcomes for communities. Council is well positioned to connect local groups and sectors to maximise the collective impact of both public and private projects. We want to

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<sup>1</sup> Landry, Charles (2007). *The art of city-making*.

maximise the impact of citymaking projects by working with our partners towards shared goals.

We will:

- Promote multidisciplinary working on Council and community projects to drive outcomes that deliver on multiple Council objectives
- Implement City shaping plan actions in partnership with other agencies

See the Citymaking chapter of the City Shaping plan for more detail.

### **City centre**

The city centre plays a key role in creating the perception of any city. A successful city centre creates places that people can connect to emotionally. Some New Zealand city centres have been weakened by mall-development in outlying areas, suburban sprawl, and natural constraints. Palmerston North has a stable city centre, supported by the retention of The Plaza and Downtown Shopping Centre, the centre-based office and retail hierarchy within the District Plan, the compact nature of the city, and investment in quality public space design. However, our city centre has potential to become more vibrant with more accessible and welcoming places for people.

To support our city centre we will design public spaces that are pedestrian-friendly, intimate, and that support social interaction. The new Business Improvement District (BID) will promote city centre improvements. We have further opportunities to curate successful places through hardware (infrastructure) and software (people and events), rather than waiting for them to emerge naturally. We will emphasise place-based infrastructure design and support community-led place-based activations in the city centre.

We will:

- Implement the City Centre Streetscape Plan to increase city centre vibrancy and improve the perception of the city

See the City centre chapter of the City shaping plan for more detail.

### **Placemaking**

The Project for Public Space describes great public spaces as accessible, comfortable, providing opportunities to socialise, and where people are engaged in activities. Placemaking is a community-based approach for the creation of public space. It provides opportunities for community leadership and participation.

In Palmerston North Placemaking started by promoting simple ideas such as moveable furniture, planter boxes, parklets and outdoor dining. With growing community leadership, Placemaking has expanded and people have begun to take the lead to help define the identity of places within the city. We will continue supporting landowners and tenants, to invest in activities that reinforce place identity. Although the city centre will remain the



focus of placemaking activities, other placemaking opportunities exist in suburban centres, parks and streets. We want to co-create more opportunities for placemaking with our partners. We will strengthen then the links between placemaking and our other objectives, such as promoting active communities and developing accessible streetscapes.

We will:

- Provide seed funding and support for people to lead public space projects to develop accessible, active, comfortable and social public places

See the Placemaking chapter of the City shaping plan for more detail.

## **2. Celebrate the city's history and diversity, and build on the strength of being a city of many cultures and languages**

### **Heritage**

Our city heritage includes places, objects, stories, memories and traditions. The heritage of the city contributes to our identity and sense of belonging. Retention and celebration of the city's heritage is crucial in shaping the character of the city. We have opportunities to share and celebrate local history through the delivery of Council services.

We want the history and aspirations of Rangitāne o Manawatū to be expressed in the city landscape and to work with Rangitāne to protect significant sites. We want to provide opportunities for the community to use and appreciate the value of heritage buildings. We will make expressions of cultural heritage more visible in our landscape, for example, by affirming the significance of military heritage to the city.

We will:

- Work closely with Rangitāne o Manawatū to support it to be kaitiaki of its heritage places and to increase the wider community's understanding and appreciation of Rangitāne o Manawatū heritage
- Promote and celebrate local history
- Invest in cultural heritage buildings and places to give the community the opportunity to use and appreciate their heritage values

See the Heritage chapter of the Arts and heritage plan and the Connected communities plan for more detail.

## **3. Be a creative city that nurtures and celebrates the arts**

### **Arts**

'The arts' refer to expressions of creativity, and encompass craft and object art, visual arts, ngā toi Māori, Pacific arts, theatre, dance, literature, music and film. The arts bring the city to life, challenge ideas, and generate excitement about future possibilities. Communities of identity, interest and place express cultural identity through the arts; for example, by coming together to design a neighbourhood mural or to perform a traditional dance.

Our city is home to artists, community groups and organisations who are passionate about being part of a creative city. Many people work in arts-related jobs, and city organisations rely on people with creative skills. Many of the region's key arts facilities are based in Palmerston North, such as Te Manawa, Regent on Broadway, Square Edge and Centrepont Theatre, New Zealand's only provincial professional theatre company. It is also the host city for the National Young Performer Awards.

The opportunity to participate in the arts contributes to all aspects of health; te whare tapa whā. The city needs the arts to attract people and help make the Palmerston North a creative and interesting place to be. We want to support artists and the arts community to co-ordinate activities, promote their work, encourage cooperation and share information. We want to make the arts a more central focus of Palmerston North.

We will:

- Provide support to community organisations, cultural Council-Controlled Organisations and individuals to help make Palmerston North a creative and exciting city
- Maintain and enhance cultural facilities that provide a range of opportunities for people to access and participate in the arts

See the Arts chapter chapter of the Arts and heritage plan for more detail.

#### **4. Develop a national reputation as an exciting city with plenty to do at night and on weekends**

##### **Events and festivals**

Events and festivals provide opportunities for the community to gather, to be entertained, and to participate in new experiences.

We classify events as:

- Local: events providing social benefits for residents, with the potential for growth
- Programmed: the core business for many of the region's venues e.g. theatre and museum programmes
- Major: large-scale events which attract significant benefits for the city through interest, profile or visitation [refer to the Economic development plan under Goal 1]
- Iconic: events that attract national interest and define Palmerston North's identity

Events and festivals contribute to several of our strategic goals. We want to bring economic benefits to the city through major events and connect our communities through local, programmed and iconic events. Because these events contribute primarily to other goals, details of related actions are described elsewhere.

See the Events and festivals chapter of the Connected communities plan and the Economic development chapter of the Economic development plan for details of the actions we will to provide and support events and festivals.

#### **5. Be one of the most active communities in New Zealand**

## Active communities

People are generally healthier and happier in places where decision-makers prioritise physical activity. Being active contributes to includes all aspects of health, te whare tapa whā. The most common reasons adults in the Manawatū region give for taking part in sport and recreation are enjoyment, and fitness and health.

Palmerston North people consider that there are many opportunities to be active in our community<sup>2</sup>. The city has more than 170 reserves and sports fields to enable and encourage active communities. Central Energy Trust Arena (CETA) is the city's sports and events hub and provides a variety of indoor and outdoor venues. The Lido Aquatic Centre, Freyberg Community Pool and Splashhurst provide opportunities for competitive swimming, learn-to-swim, and recreation. There are many other recreation facilities and opportunities provided throughout the city by schools, Massey University, private providers and membership clubs.

We recognise the importance of play and informal recreation alongside organised and formal sports opportunities. We want to continue to support our communities to be more active in whatever ways they choose. We will ensure that recreation planning is responsive to community needs and is a co-ordinated city approach.

We will:

- Provide a wide range of accessible and well-maintained play, active recreation and sports facilities to increase levels of physical activity and participation in sport and active recreation and meet a diverse range of local communities. (Note: these facilities are city reserves, suburb reserves, local reserves, sports fields, the Central Energy Trust Arena, walkways and shared paths, and swimming pools)
- Work in partnership with external recreation organisations, and facility providers, to help increase levels of participation in play, active recreation and sport

See the Active communities plan for more detail.

## Rangitāne o Manawatū partnership

Council will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū and:

- collaborate on city development and placemaking opportunities
- reflect the significance of historic and cultural places and features, such as Te Marae o Hine, in the cityscape
- ensure Rangitāne o Manawatū history and aspirations are expressed in the landscape of the city, for example, through art in the Streets for People upgrades
- involve Rangitāne o Manawatū early in major active community projects, including the development of parks and reserves
- protect iwi sites of significance
- co-manage some reserves

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<sup>2</sup> Palmerston North City Council. (2019). Residents' Survey.

- ensure Rangitāne o Manawatū history and aspirations are expressed in the city landscape
- protect cultural concepts, values, practices and the taonga of Rangitāne
- provide for diverse expressions of Toi Māori which acknowledge and celebrate Māori culture and artistry

### **Measures of success**

Council will monitor these measures of success and report on these through the City Dashboards:

- Measurement on the Creative Cities Index
- Participation in the arts
- Heritage buildings retained and strengthened
- Street engagement
- Attendance at events
- Sites of significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū protected
- Performance against national benchmarks for swimming pool provision, parks area and sports grounds
- Availability of publicly accessible playgrounds and opportunities for leisure
- Use of CET Arena indoor facility
- People who meet physical activity guidelines

**DRAFT**

**10-year plan: Connected communities strategy**

**(July 2021-June 2024)**

**Connected communities plan**

**Community facilities chapter**

**Community development chapter**

**Social housing chapter**

**Healthy communities chapter**

**Events and festivals chapter**

**Safe communities plan**



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### **Goal 3: A connected and safe community**

Our goal is for Palmerston North to be a city where everyone feels connected and included. We want to be a safe city, where people have access to the housing they need and opportunities to connect with others. We want communities to have access to accessible and appropriate social support.

We understand that we need to work with our partners towards achieving our shared goals. We can achieve better outcomes with our communities by working effectively together.

**Target: More than 75% of people consider Palmerston North is a welcoming and inclusive city with a good standard of living**

This **Connected communities strategy** describes Council's 10-year plan vision for Goal 3.

Two plans sit beneath this strategy and describe Council's activities for the first three years of the 2021-2031 10-Year Plan: **Connected communities** and **Safe communities**.

#### **Introduction**

##### ***Community wellbeing***

The purpose of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future. The Connected communities strategy focuses on the social wellbeing of our communities, although we intend that this strategy will impact on all aspects of wellbeing.

##### ***Diverse city communities***

The city's iwi and Māori heritage provide the foundation for the increasingly diverse community. Rangitāne o Manawatū has mana whenua status for Palmerston North and maintains strong relationships with other iwi in the Manawatū, including Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Apa, and Muaūpoko. There is also a wider Māori community in Palmerston North who do not have strong whakapapa connections to this region.

The city's iwi and Māori heritage provides the foundation from which the increasingly diverse community now grows. Māori, Pasifika and Asian people are projected to make up a growing proportion of the population, so this diversity will continue to increase. Since 2004, Palmerston North has become home to former refugees from the Republic of Congo, Burma, Bhutan, Syria, and Afghanistan. Palmerston North has a significant defence workforce, large numbers of transient tertiary students, and a strong connection to the wider Manawatū-Whanganui and Wellington regions. The city's population of 90,400 people is relatively young; by 2043 our projected average age is 37 - five years younger than for New Zealand overall. Our fastest growing age group is people aged over 65 years. While Palmerston North will be home to an increasing older population, there will continue to be growth in other age groups. Families with children make up 41% of city households, while one person households now make up almost a quarter of all households (23%). Our city population is projected to increase to 110,700 people by 2043.

Palmerston North is generally perceived to be a safe and caring city, with a positive community spirit. However, our communities are less certain that the city embraces from



different cultures.<sup>1</sup> Many people in our city struggle to find appropriate and affordable housing, and people are not always able to access the services they need. This strategy sets out our four priorities to support safe, connected and inclusive communities.

## **Priorities**

- 1. Develop, provide, support or advocate for services, facilities, and events that create connected, welcoming and inclusive communities**

### ***Community facilities***

Community facilities in our city include libraries, community centres, Hancock Community House, cemeteries, public toilets and CET Wildbase Recovery. User rates and satisfaction with community facilities are consistently high.

Community facilities provide opportunities for people to participate in their communities. Opportunities to take part are encouraged when community facilities are planned and delivered in partnership with the communities they serve.

We will develop, support, and advocate for community facilities where they are most needed. This means working to identify gaps, as well as new opportunities to promote and develop community connections. We acknowledge the Enabling Good Lives<sup>2</sup> principles and will strive to integrate them into our service delivery. We will work with our partners to ensure we respond to the changing needs of all communities, to promote inclusion and prosperity.

We will:

- Provide the City Library that collects, curates and provides access to knowledge, ideas and works of the imagination that are primarily focused on meeting the needs of communities with the greatest needs and reflect the diverse and changing needs of communities
- Provide library programmes that support the development of literacy in all its forms
- Provide public toilets throughout the city, to a standard that meets public expectations
- Support community centre management groups to provide community centres that are responsive to the needs of their communities
- Provide Wildbase Recovery Centre in partnership with Massey University
- Provide cemetery services that are responsive to community needs

See the Community facilities chapter of the Connected communities plan for more detail.

### ***Community events and festivals***

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<sup>1</sup> Findings from the annual residents' survey are available on the City dashboards on the Palmerston North City Council website: [www://pncc.govt.nz](http://www://pncc.govt.nz)

<sup>2</sup> The Enabling Good Lives principles are self-determination, beginning early, person-centred, ordinary life outcomes, mainstream first, mana enhancing, easy to use, and relationship building  
<https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/>

Community events take many forms, including gala days, cultural and religious festivals, fund-raising events, art exhibitions, project launches, and national day and New Year celebrations for the many different groups living in the city.

We classify events as:

- Local: events providing social benefits for residents, with the potential for growth
- Programmed: the core business for many of the region's venues e.g. theatre and museum programmes
- Major: large-scale events which attract significant benefits for the city through interest, profile or visitation [refer to the Economic development plan under Goal 1]
- Iconic: events that attract national interest and define Palmerston North's identity

Community events include local, programmed and iconic events. They bring significant benefits to Palmerston North people by supporting community identity and celebrating our city. Over the past few years, Palmerston North has made progress towards having a full events calendar that reflects the interests and identities of our communities. A stand-out example of this is the Manawatu Multicultural Council Festival of Cultures, which, with council support over 20 years, has grown from a local event to a weekend of events that attracts more than 17,000 participants.

A strong events sector enables these benefits to be realised. We will work to support, facilitate, and deliver responsive and inclusive community events.

We will:

- Provide, fund and support events so that Palmerston North has a full events calendar that caters well for different sectors of the city's population

See the Events and festivals chapter of the Connected communities plan and the for more detail.

## **2. Ensure the city has a healthy community where everyone has access to healthy, safe and affordable housing and neighbourhoods**

### ***Social housing***

Access to adequate housing is a major public health issue in New Zealand. Poor quality housing is associated with negative social outcomes for individuals and for communities.<sup>3</sup> Inadequate and insecure housing affects participation in education, puts physical and mental health at risk, and makes social connections harder to maintain.

Social housing provider waiting lists shows there are many people in Palmerston North who do not have secure housing. We recognise that there is not a single solution to this complex problem. We want to increase our role as a social housing provider and work with partners to advocate for warm, safe and accessible and affordable social housing. We will also

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<sup>3</sup> Telfar-Barnard, L., Bennett, J., Robinson, A., Hailes, A., Ombler, J., & Howden-Chapman, P. (2019). Evidence base for a housing warrant of fitness. SAGE open medicine, 7, 2050312119843028.

advocate on issues that can contribute to good housing outcomes. We will work with community partners, such as Te Tihi, to develop comprehensive and caring responses to housing needs.

We will:

- Provide warm, safe and accessible social housing for older people, people with disabilities, and other people on low incomes who experience barriers to renting in the private market

See the Social housing chapter of the Connected communities plan for more detail.

### ***Healthy communities***

Community wellbeing includes all aspects of health, te whare tapa whā, and includes the promotion of physical wellbeing. The ‘determinants of health’ is the term used to describe the things that influence people’s health. The determinants of health include; the social and economic environment, the physical environment, and a person’s individual characteristics and behaviours. Community venues, events, and public spaces all provide opportunities to improve the health of communities.

We are committed to helping provide better access to health services. We will promote healthy lifestyles, including smokefree, eco-design advice, sun-smart, and healthy food guidelines. We want to work with partners to improve the community response to health issues and improve the overall health of communities.

See the Healthy communities chapter of the Connected communities plan for more detail.

## **3. Support communities to achieve their aspirations**

### ***Community development***

Palmerston North is home to diverse communities of identity, interest and place.

Community development is “the process of enabling diverse groups to share concerns, plan for the future, capitalise on opportunities and strive toward wellbeing”<sup>4</sup>. Empowered and well-connected communities, served by sustainable for-purpose organisations<sup>5</sup>, can support every person to thrive.

Almost 2,000 organisations make up the city’s extensive voluntary and community sector, ranging from large social service agencies with numerous employees to small and informal support groups with just a few members. Local people volunteer at a slightly higher rate than in the country overall, and the past decade has seen co-ordinated and concerted efforts to grow and support this volunteer workforce and the sector that they support.

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<sup>4</sup> Department of Internal Affairs. (November 2002). *A Framework for Developing Sustainable Communities: Discussion Paper* (November).

<sup>5</sup> “For-purpose organisations” are charities, social enterprises and other non-governmental entities that deliver a community benefit and reinvest surplus funds into achieving their goals. The term is used in place of “community groups” to distinguish communities from formalised organisations.

For-purpose organisations are sustainable when they have funding, volunteer support, and the time to build relationships and learn from others. We support community-led initiatives with a focus on those led by Māori, Pasifika, ethnic communities, former refugees, people with disabilities, children, young people, and older people. We will work to ensure that Council processes are inclusive and welcoming. We want to continue the city's high rate of volunteering, and to continue building the skills and experience volunteers need to do their important work.

We will:

- Support and fund communities and for-purpose organisations to build community, neighbourhood and organisational capacity and capability

See the Community development chapter of the Connected communities plan for more detail.

#### **4. Be a city where people feel safe and are safe**

##### ***Safe communities***

Community wellbeing includes all aspects of health, te whare tapa whā, and includes safety. Safety is a fundamental human right, and wellbeing is dependent on being free from harm and from the threat of harm. The perception of safety impacts on the way people feel and interact in their communities.

Palmerston North is recognised by the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network as an international safe community. This accreditation reflects a city safety focus in public design, city streets, readiness for natural disaster, alcohol-related harm, and family/whānau wellbeing. We will work with communities, businesses, local government, government agencies and others to promote safety. As part of the Safety Advisory Board we will work towards communities being safe and feeling safe.

See the Safe communities plan for more detail.

##### **Rangitāne o Manawatū partnership**

Council will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū and:

- support community development activities
- encourage increasing responsiveness of the wider community sector to Māori
- engage early with Rangitāne o Manawatū in all planning and development for new and changing community facilities, including social housing
- collaborate with Rangitāne o Manawatū on events and festivals, particularly in the city centre and at the Manawatū River Park
- acknowledge the wealth of knowledge and experience held by Rangitāne o Manawatū about community wellbeing
- support Rangitāne representation on the Safety Advisory Board as a key partner in community safety

These commitments will guide the implementation of all aspects of this strategy.

### **Measures of success**

- Index of socio-economic deprivation
- Perception of community spirit in Palmerston North
- Perception of how well Palmerston North embraces different cultures
- Te reo Māori speakers
- Participation in volunteering
- Participation in general and local body elections
- Crime victimisation
- Perception of safety
- Accreditation as a Safe Community
- Participation in neighbourhood support networks
- Use of community facilities
- Satisfaction with community facilities

Council will monitor these measures of success and report on these through the City Dashboards.

**DRAFT**

**10-year plan: Eco city strategy**

**(July 2021-June 2024)**

**Climate change plan**

**Environmental sustainability plan**

**Sustainable practices chapter**

**Biodiversity chapter**

**Manawatū River plan**

**Resource recovery plan**

**Waters plan**

**Wastewater chapter**

**Water supply chapter**

**Stormwater chapter**



## **Palmerston North vision**

He iti rā, he iti pounamu

Small city benefits, big city ambition

Palmerston North is the heart of the Manawatū region. We are a small city with a lot to offer, and we're ambitious about where we're going.

Palmerston North has many small city advantages - a great quality of life and easy access to services. We embrace our Rangitāne o Manawatū heritage and celebrate the diversity of our communities. We know that the talents and efforts of our whole city will help create the future we want.

To fulfil the vision Council has adopted five goals and strategies.

Goal 1: An innovative growing city

Goal 2: A creative and exciting city

Goal 3: A connected and safe community

Goal 4: An eco city

Goal 5: A driven and enabling Council



## Goal 4: An Eco city

We understand that Palmerston North has a responsibility to respond to climate change for the benefit of everyone. Our goal is for Palmerston North to decrease carbon emissions and reduce our ecological footprint. We want to protect and enhance our natural and built environments, accommodate growth through intensification, and support active transport. We will work with our partners towards achieving our shared goals.

### Target: 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in Palmerston North by 2031

This **Eco city strategy** describes Council's 10-year plan vision for goal 4.

Five plans sit beneath this strategy and describes Council's activities for the first three years of the 2021-2031 10-Year Plan: **Climate change, Environmental sustainability, Manawatū River, Resource recovery** and **Waters**.

## Introduction

### *Community wellbeing*

The purpose of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future. The Eco city strategy focuses on the environmental wellbeing of our communities, although we intend that this strategy will impact on all aspects of wellbeing.

### *Climate change*

The Ministry for the Environment states that “[e]missions are changing the climate, and the changing climate is affecting us and our wellbeing. The native biodiversity of New Zealand and the places where we live, enjoy recreation, and make a living are also being affected.”<sup>1</sup>

The challenge of mitigating climate change is a global one, and Palmerston North needs to play its part in reducing emissions. The task of lowering the city's carbon footprint requires everybody to identify inefficiencies and improve the way we do things. This strategy sets out our seven priorities to respond to climate change and be a more environmentally sustainable city.

## Priorities

### 1. Respect and enhance the mauri of the Manawatū River

The Manawatū River forms the geographic, recreational, and spiritual heart of the city and the wider region. The river is of great historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne. The name ‘Manawatū’ refers to a pūrākau (story) of Hau, a significant ancestor in the region, whose heart stood still when he beheld the beauty of the river. The river's flow connects the people of Norsewood to those of Foxton Beach, linking all who live between. The tributaries of the river connect the city with its neighbours, the mountain ranges, and the sea.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry for the Environment. (2020). *Our atmosphere and climate*.

The Manawatū River is the heart of the city and region, and the mauri of the river is a reflection of our values. The Manawatū River Leaders Accord sets out the commitment to working in collaboration to improve the mauri of the river. We acknowledge the significance of the entire river system to the wellbeing of the city. We will collaborate with mana whenua to develop the best practical option for wastewater discharge, plant river banks, improve the city's stormwater network, re-establish wetlands, improve public access to the river, and undertake cultural monitoring of the quality of waterways. We want all these efforts to improve the mauri of the River.

We will:

- Understand the relationship Rangitāne o Manawatū has with Manawatū River
- Increase use of the Manawatū River environment for passive and active recreation
- Increase the health and amenity of the river environment through increased biodiversity

See the Manawatū River chapter of the Eco city plan for more detail.

## **2. Work with the community to reduce carbon emissions**

### **Climate change**

There is a growing international commitment to reduce carbon emissions in recognition of the threat posed by climate change. Public awareness about climate change is also growing, and in 2019 local students joined the international School Strike for Climate action. The New Zealand Government declared a climate emergency in December 2020 and committed to a carbon-neutral government and public sector by 2025. Palmerston North is a signatory of the New Zealand Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration. This declaration establishes our commitment to addressing climate change in decision-making in the interests of community wellbeing.

Understanding the emissions profile of our city was a critical first step to developing plans for emission reduction. The 2018 citywide emissions inventory<sup>2</sup> found that Palmerston North emits roughly 500,000tCO<sub>2</sub>e each year, or approximately 5.7 tonnes per person. We want to lead by example and respond to opportunities to reduce organisational emissions through a new 'low carbon fund'. We will work with residents and other city partners to reduce citywide emissions. We will reduce electricity, natural gas, and fuel usage, and reduce waste. Reducing emissions will often reduce costs, while improving air quality and other environmental outcomes.

We will:

- Foster sustainable practices and behaviours so that city residents and organisations become more sustainable

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<sup>2</sup> Palmerston North City Community Carbon Footprint 2016/17

- Develop policies and plans and work with city stakeholders to achieve the target of a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 and continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council's own activities

See the Climate change chapter of the Sustainable practices plan for more detail.

### **3. Regenerate native biodiversity**

#### **Biodiversity**

The Turitea Reserve is one of the most well-preserved podocarp forests in the Lower North Island. Following the announcement of the national Predator Free 2050 vision, Council became involved in trial projects supporting Rangitāne and the wider community to control introduced predators. In recent years, pest control has led to bush regeneration and a significant increase in birdlife.

Planting the gullies and rapid regeneration of the streams between the city and the Turitea Reserve improves water quality and provides corridors for native birds to move between the ranges and city. This planting also reduces erosion and provides habitats for eels and other native fish. This work has the potential to transform the way residents and visitors experience the city.

As more urban intensification occurs, we will identify other trees for protection to ensure the city's urban canopy is safeguarded for future generations. We want to build on existing community achievements by extending the green corridors programme into neighbouring gullies and streams to create a network of links from the Turitea Reserve to the Manawatū River and city. The link could eventually extend along the Manawatū River pathway to Te Apiti and the Ruahine Ranges and provide the missing link from Wellington to East Cape – a corridor along the Central Range. We will plant more trees along streets and in city parks to ensure native birds, once down in the city, have adequate year-round food sources.

We will work with our environmental partners to achieve greater coordination of community efforts. We will plant native bird-friendly trees in urban areas and control predators, such as rats, possums and stoats. Increasing protection for the native wildlife throughout the city is an important part of Council's vision to have thriving native biodiversity within the city. We will also encourage native plantings where practical and provide guidance on which plants are most appropriate in different places.

We will:

- Work with iwi and community groups to re-establish bush, particularly along waterways, and to control introduced predators

See the Biodiversity chapter of the Sustainable practices plan for more detail.

#### **4. Invest in infrastructure that services to protect, enhance and preserve the environment**

#### **5. Use Council's legislative powers and policies to ensure urban development is sustainable now and into the future**

#### **Resource recovery**

To meet its obligations under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to “promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation”, Council must carry out a waste assessment and then adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP). We reviewed the WMMP in 2019 and this plan forms the basis for our actions in the 10-year plan.

The 2018 waste assessment found that in 2017 the city sent around 45,000 tonnes of waste to landfill. Almost half (48%) of this waste could have been reused, recovered, recycled or composted instead. Timber is the single largest type of waste (by weight) that could be diverted from the waste stream. The next largest type of waste going to landfill is organic waste, with food waste present in all kerbside rubbish collection systems.

We have begun working with communities to minimise the waste going to landfill. For example, we provide education on how to reduce waste, run an annual Hazardous Waste Day, and support actions towards zero waste community events. We want to protect public health and minimise the harm to the environment from our resource recovery activities. We will focus on waste-reduction in Council purchasing, support community-led resource recovery initiatives, and provide new resource recovery services.

We will:

- Ensure the city’s solid waste is adequately and affordably managed
- Maximise the proportion of waste diverted from landfill (e.g. through recycling and composting)
- Manage hazardous waste in an environmentally responsible manner.

See the Resource recovery chapter of the Eco city plan for more detail.

### **Wastewater**

As a member of the Manawatū River Leaders Accord, Council recognises its role in improving the health and mauri of the Manawatū River. Palmerston North and its surrounding villages discharge treated wastewater into the Manawatū River via the Totara Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. In recent years we have reduced the environmental impact of wastewater by following regional policy and complying with resource consents. The number of council wastewater discharge points into the river has reduced to one.

We have brought forward the wastewater resource consent review by five years to consider how the city can contribute to improving the health and mauri of the Manawatū River. The upcoming review will identify ways to improve the city’s wastewater management. We will consider what improvements are needed to the current system and where the cities discharge will go. Options include either going to land, the River or the coast. We need to consider the long-term effects of putting treated wastewater on these environments. We will actively engage with the community in the lead-up to the decision-making process to help identify possible future treatment options.

Significant parts of the city’s wastewater network are at capacity during major wet weather events due to infiltration from the stormwater network. The primary causes of this are damaged infrastructure and private property owners either accidentally, or deliberately, diverting their stormwater into the wastewater network. Renewals will need to be

prioritised to target critical trunk sewers. The leakiest parts of the network also need to be targeted to exclude stormwater infiltration.

The city's wastewater consent review is taking into account the city's growth over the next 30 years. New growth areas may need a different approach to managing wastewater. Extending the network as it currently exists in parts of the city could create problems at the treatment plant. New pressurised sewer technologies could provide cost-effective reticulated services with increased storage control.

We will:

- provide wastewater services for the safe collection, treatment and disposal of the city's wastewater
- provide water services for the provision of safe and readily available water

See the Water chapter of the Eco city plan for more detail.

### **Water supply**

Palmerston North City Council owns and operates four water supplies: Palmerston North, Ashhurst, Bunnythorpe and Longburn. A safe and reliable water supply is essential for everyone in our city and Palmerston North's water quality is currently very high. Recent amendments to the Health Act mean more emphasis on water safety and a significant change in expectations for managing drinking water supplies.

The Government is implementing a package of reforms to the three waters regulatory system, including the establishment of Taumata Arowai, the new Water Services Regulator. For now, our strategic documents assume that we will remain responsible for water assets and the delivery of services. However, the service delivery model for water supply is likely to change in future.

Water for Palmerston North is primarily sourced from the Turitea Dam and supplemented by bores. Daily water use has declined in recent years, and city residents have lower daily water consumption than in New Zealand overall. While the city has a generally good water supply, summer droughts mean we need to conserve water.

In recent years some other councils have faced critical water system failures. A 2019 review found we don't have good information about the condition and capacity of the city's pipe networks. We want to improve our resilience and ability to recover from a significant natural disaster. We will increase ability to deal with potential seismic event failures or mechanical faults. We will also increase resilience by providing a second pipeline across the Manawatū River and strengthening the trunk main network across the city.

We will

- provide water services for the provision of safe and readily available water

See the Water chapter of the Eco city plan for more detail.

### **Stormwater**

Urban development has increased the amount and speed of rainwater that goes into urban waterways. This means there are greater peak flow rates and more soils and other contaminants going into the Manawatū River system. Horizons Regional Council is the lead agency for managing flood hazards, and the Council manages localised stormwater ponding issues and drains.

Intensification of development in the existing urban area and more urban development on the fringe of the city will generate even more stormwater for pipes and streams to cope with. Climate change will also bring higher intensity rainfall events, which will increase the frequency of nuisance flooding on roads and properties and the flooding of habitable dwellings.

In recent years we have taken a more naturalised approach to managing stormwater. This is apparent in Norton Park, where a trial wetland has been established, as well as the nearby Edwards Pit Park, where wetlands have been developed to reduce pollution, illegal dumping, and damage to critical assets and habitats. The District Plan includes water-sensitive design principles, and is now required in the North East Industrial Zone and the Whakarongo Residential Area. Water-sensitive design principles will be applied to other parts of the city when the District Plan is reviewed or new growth areas are proposed. We will look for more opportunities to transform drainage corridors and urban waterways, to improve biodiversity, and more sustainably manage stormwater.

We are working with Horizons Regional Council to develop a stormwater management framework that identifies effective and sustainable stormwater solutions. We will continue to explore alternative approaches to ensure there is a more sustainable response to growth. These approaches will include water-sensitive design approaches to development and a wider use of tools such as water tanks, green roofs, swales, rain gardens and detention ponds.

We will:

- provide stormwater services to protect buildings from inundation from flooding in major events

See the Water chapter of the Eco city plan for more detail.

**6. Educate the community, and in particular, property owners, on the benefits of investing in sustainable building design and green buildings**

**7. Demonstrate leadership and best practice by developing and implementing an environmental sustainability plan for the Council, Council-run events, and facilities**

### **Sustainable practices**

There are opportunities for individuals and organisations to incorporate more sustainable practices into the way we live. Our homes and businesses can be warmer, drier, and more efficient. We can minimise the use of resources and reduce waste generation. We can choose more energy efficient transport and services. The Council can make these choices alongside the Palmerston North community.

In recent years we have made progress in encouraging more sustainable practices throughout the city. We support environmental education in schools and early childhood centres that are centred around living landscapes, zero waste, energy, water, and the ecological design of buildings. We have also done our own stocktake and used this information to improve Council practices. For example, we work with event organisers to ensure that events held on Council land or funded by Council are “zero waste”. We facilitated the provision of electric vehicle charging stations in the City Centre. The District Plan promotes energy-efficient design for major new commercial buildings and multi-unit residential developments, and enables more renewable energy generation.

For the city to be successful and sustainable, Council must lead the way in sustainability. We also want to educate the community alongside our service delivery, to make sure people understand how to make more environmentally responsible decisions. We will develop a culture of sustainability within our organisation. We recognise the value that mātauranga Māori adds to sustainability efforts. We will improve our own practices and share the lessons we learn with the community.

We will:

- Foster sustainable practices and behaviours so that city residents and organisations become more sustainable

### **Rangitāne o Manawatū partnership**

Council will work in partnership with Rangitāne o Manawatū and:

- Provide support to Rangitāne o Manawatū to achieve their own climate change aspirations
- Work with Rangitāne o Manawatū to understand the impacts climate change may have on Māori
- support Rangitāne o Manawatū in the retention and expression of mātauranga Māori and Rangitānenuiarawa<sup>3</sup>
- identify and pursue shared environmental aspirations
- strengthen Māori community involvement in biodiversity projects
- acknowledge the River is a significant cultural feature in the rōhe of Rangitāne o Manawatū
- collaborate and partner with Rangitāne o Manawatū on activities along and within the River
- provide opportunities for Rangitāne o Manawatū to be involved in project delivery to achieve the best outcomes for the River
- support Rangitāne o Manawatū in the retention and expression of mātauranga Māori and Rangitānenuiarawa
- reflect mātauranga Māori and Rangitānenuiarawa in resource recovery

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<sup>3</sup> Rāngitanenuiarawa is the Rangitāne expression of kaitiakitanga, or customary authority and guardianship, and affirms their customary leadership in ensuring the health and regeneration of their tribal rohe,

- collaborate with Rangitāne o Manawatū on the wastewater Best Practicable Option review [note – this will expand to include other iwi as the selection of the preferred option progresses]
- collaborate on urban waterway improvement projects
- reflect Rangitānenuiarawa in the city's approach to water management

These commitments will guide the implementation of all aspects of this plan.

### **Measures of success**

Council will monitor these measures of success and report on these through the City Dashboards:

- Citywide CO2e emissions
- Council CO2e emissions
- Citywide electricity consumption
- Native bird numbers
- Water consumption
- Water quality
- Waste sent to landfill
- Waste diverted from landfill



