



PAPAIOEA
PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ **COMMITTEE**

2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2024

TAIWHANGA KAUNIHERA, PAPA TUATAHI | COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR,
WHAKAHAERE TŪMATANUI | CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
TE MARAE O HINE, PAPAIOEA | 32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

MEMBERS

Mr Wiremu Te Awe Awe (Chair)
The Mayor Grant Smith (Deputy Chair)
Cr Vaughan Dennison
Cr Roly Fitzgerald
Cr Debi Marshall-Lobb
Cr Billy Meehan
Cr Karen Naylor
Cr Kaydee Zabelin
Ms Danielle Harris
Mr Chris Whaiapu

AGENDA ITEMS, IF NOT ATTACHED, CAN BE VIEWED AT

pncc.govt.nz | Civic Administration Building, 32 The Square
City Library | Ashhurst Community Library | Linton Library

Waid Crockett

Chief Executive | PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ COMMITTEE MEETING

10 April 2024

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Karakia Timatanga

2. Apologies

3. Notification of Additional Items

Pursuant to Sections 46A(7) and 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to receive the Chairperson's explanation that specified item(s), which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded, will be discussed.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7) must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

Any additions in accordance with Section 46A(7A) may be received or referred to a subsequent meeting for further discussion. No resolution, decision or recommendation can be made in respect of a minor item.

4. Declarations of Interest (if any)

Members are reminded of their duty to give a general notice of any interest of items to be considered on this agenda and the need to declare these interests.

5. Public Comment

6. Confirmation of Minutes Page 5
 That the minutes of the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee meeting of 28 February 2024 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

7. Te Āpiti Masterplan Update Page 9
 Memorandum, presented by Aaron Phillips - Activities Manager Parks.

8. Manawatū River Framework: Progress Report Page 19
 Memorandum, presented by Kathy Dever-Tod – Group Manager – Reserves and Parks.

9. Te Whiri Kōkō - Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū Page 49
 Memorandum, presented by Todd Taiapa - Poutoko Aporei Principal Māori Advisor.

10. Work Schedule for Paenga-whāwhā April 2024. Page 53

11. Karakia Whakamutunga

12. Exclusion of Public

To be moved:

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting listed in the table below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Ngā meneti o te wāhanga tūmatanui o te hui o Rangitāne o Manawatū, i tū ki te Taiwhanga Kaunihera, i te papa tuatahi o Te Whare Whakahaere o te Kaunihera, Te Marae o Hine, Papaioea, i te 28 o Hui-tanguru 2024, tīmata ake i te rua haora me te rima meneti i te ahiahi.

Minutes of the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee Meeting Part I Public, held in the, Council Chamber, First Floor, Civic Administration Building, Te Marae o Hine, 32 The Square, Palmerston North on 28 February 2024, commencing at 2.05pm

Members Present: Wiremu Te Awe Awe (in the Chair), The Mayor Grant Smith, Danielle Harris, Chris Whaiapu and Councillors Vaughan Dennison, Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor and Kaydee Zabelin.

Non Members: Councillors Pat Handcock and Brent Barrett

Karakia Timatanga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb opened the meeting with karakia

1-24 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the minutes of the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee meeting of 18 October 2023 Part I Public be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Clause 1-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Wiremu Te Awe Awe, Grant Smith, Vaughan Dennison, Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, Kaydee Zabelin, Danielle Harris and Chris Whaiapu.

2-24

Te Motu o Poutoa/ ANZAC Park Development Project Update

Memorandum, presented by Kathy Dever-Tod, Group Manager Parks and Logistics.

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Te Motu o Poutoa/ ANZAC Park Development Project Update' presented on 28 February 2024.

Clause 2-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Wiremu Te Awe Awe, Grant Smith, Vaughan Dennison, Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, Kaydee Zabelin, Danielle Harris and Chris Whaiapu.

3-24

Te Whiri Kōkō - Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū

Memorandum, presented by Todd Taiapa - Poutoko Aporei Principal Māori Advisor.

Officers corrected an error in the last sentence of paragraph 2.20 (page 72) which should read:

'Included in the glass-panelled roof will show 2 ancestral mapmakers in our region, *Haunui-a-Nanaia* and JC Stewart.'

Moved Debi Marshall-Lobb, seconded Grant Smith.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receive the report titled 'Te Whiri Kōkō - Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū' presented to the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee on 28 February 2024.

Clause 3-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Wiremu Te Awe Awe, Grant Smith, Vaughan Dennison, Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, Kaydee Zabelin, Danielle Harris and Chris Whaiapu.

4-24

Work Schedule for Hui-tanguru February 2024

Moved Grant Smith, seconded Debi Marshall-Lobb.

The **COMMITTEE RESOLVED**

1. That the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee receive its Work Schedule dated Hui-tanguru February 2024.

Clause 4-24 above was carried 10 votes to 0, the voting being as follows:

For:

Councillors Wiremu Te Awe Awe, Grant Smith, Vaughan Dennison, Roly Fitzgerald, Debi Marshall-Lobb, Billy Meehan, Karen Naylor, Kaydee Zabelin, Danielle Harris and Chris Whaiapu.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb closed the meeting with karakia.

The meeting finished at 2.51pm

Confirmed 10 April 2024

Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee

MEETING DATE: 10 April 2024

TITLE: Te Āpiti Masterplan Update

PRESENTED BY: Aaron Phillips - Activities Manager Parks

APPROVED BY: Chris Dyhrberg, Chief Infrastructure Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ COMMITTEE

- 1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Te Āpiti Masterplan update' presented to the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee on 10 April 2024.**
-

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 In August 2022 Council received a report outlining the process that was undertaken to prepare the Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Masterplan ('the Masterplan').
- 1.2 This memorandum provides the Committee with an update on progress to implement the projects identified in the Masterplan (Attachment 1). It identifies matters that will require Council decisions in the future and will be the subject of future reporting.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Council has been involved with the maintenance and development of Te Āpiti, since the Manawatū Gorge Biodiversity Group was created in 2006. It was created to coordinate previously informal collaborations across a variety of agencies and individuals to maintain and enhance the area¹.
- 2.2 In 2016 the Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Governance Group (the Governance Group) was formed.
- 2.3 Council is a member of the Governance Group, represented by the Mayor, and has been a key participant in the Masterplan development process, including officers taking the lead in writing the document. The Masterplan was formally adopted by the Governance Group in May 2022.

¹ The area includes the bush within Ashhurst Domain.

- 2.4 The Masterplan sets out a policy and project framework to protect, preserve and enhance the large area, and contains eleven key projects. Te Āpiti website provides a tourism and collective action [Te Āpiti - Manawatū gorge, New Zealand \(teāpiti.co.nz\)](https://www.teapiti.co.nz) and the [Masterplan](#) and its key projects are also available.
- 2.5 Council contributes \$47,500 per annum in general funding to a pooled fund that contributes to the maintenance and enhancement of Te Āpiti². Council also budgeted \$105,000 of operational funding in 2023/24, within Programme 1486, to contribute to Masterplan projects³.
- 2.6 Additionally, Council owns and maintains the toilets that serve Te Āpiti, these cost \$21,000⁴ per year. This is on top of the \$47,500 grant contribution and excludes allowances for renewals.

3. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 Attachment 1 contains a brief update on the projects within the Masterplan.
- 3.2 Specific matters particularly relevant to Council are discussed with more detail in the following sections.

Ashhurst (3 Bridges) Loop Track

- 3.3 Project One of the Masterplan is the Ashhurst (3 Bridges) Loop Track (the Loop Track) shown in Figure 1. Palmerston North City Council is identified as the project lead.
- 3.4 The Loop Track encompasses:
 - the new highway bridge,
 - the current Ashhurst Bridge (new pedestrian/cycle facility discussed in Section 0),
 - the Ashhurst Domain,
 - the Ashhurst terrace walkway,
 - McCrae's Bush and associated terrace escarpment,
 - the Saddle Road Bridge
 - the 'haul road' created by Waka Kotahi from the Saddle Road Bridge to the Te Ahu a Turanga Highway.

² Horizons Regional Council contribute \$253,735, Department of Conservation \$20,000, Manawatū District Council \$5,500 and Tararua District Council \$5,500.

³ When the 2023/24 Annual Plan was adopted, it was uncertain whether the Council contribution would need to be a capital or operational programme. This may need revision as projects develop.

⁴ Cleaned daily with an annual allowance of \$1,000 for reactive maintenance.

3.5 Council has been progressing The Loop Track through the \$1 million Recreation Path Fund, set up as part of the Te Ahu a Turanga Highway project.

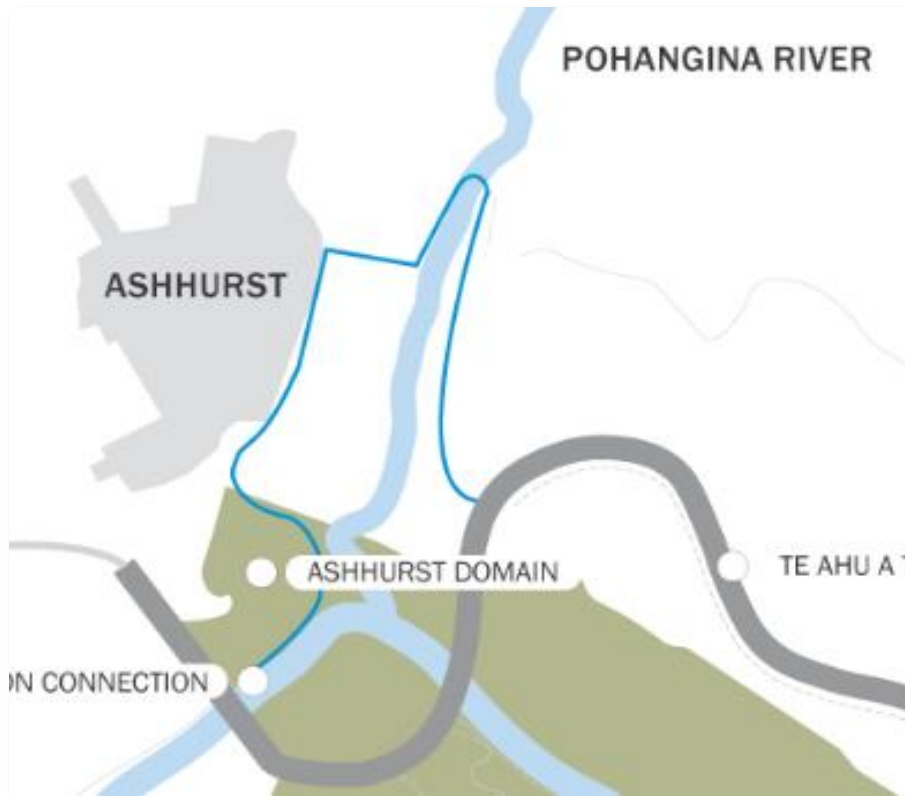


Figure 1: Ashhurst (3 Bridges) Loop Track

3.6 The Strategy and Finance Committee received a report on the Loop Track in April 2022 and an update in September 2023. The September 2023 resolution was:

58-23 Ashhurst Te Apiti Three Bridges Loop Track Investigations Budget & Waka Kotahi Fund Update

Report, presented by Aaron Phillips, Activity Manager – Parks.

Moved Vaughan Dennison, seconded Karen Naylor.

The **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

1. That Council adds a new operating programme titled 'Ashhurst Te Apiti Three Bridges Loop Track Investigations'.
2. That Council approves an increase in operating revenue and expenditure budget of \$156,875 for the investigations and design phase of the Te Apiti Three Bridges Loop Track programme, this budget to be 100% funded by Waka Kotahi subsidies.
3. That Council instruct the Chief Executive to report back at the conclusion of the Te Apiti Three Bridges Loop Track investigations and design work with a view to applying to Te Ahu a Turanga Recreation Fund for implementation works.

3.7 The consultant investigations into the three key 'choke' points have been completed and a report is being prepared for the 10 April 2024 meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee. The following matters will be included in the report.

- The Pembroke overbridge is not expected to have any significant barriers but will require KiwiRail approval and land access.
- Reinstatement of the old pony trail (ramp down the Terrace at McCrae's Bush) is significantly more expensive than previously assessed. The report will consider this and alternatives.
- The Saddle Road overbridge options are limited and the preferred option, an on-bridge raised and separated lane for walkers, will require narrower vehicle lanes than is standard. Exemption permissions from the roading authorities, Palmerston North City Council, Manawatū District Council and NZ Transport Agency- Waka Kotahi ('Waka Kotahi') would be required if this option was pursued.

3.8 Council direction will be sought on the use of the \$105,000 operational funding within Programme 1468 as part of the report to the Strategy and Finance Committee.

Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge – Ashhurst – Tu Ahu a Turanga

3.9 A clip-on structure was planned on the Ashhurst Bridge to provide safe walk/cycle access. However, detailed investigations found fatal flaws in the clip-on methodology due to geotechnical/structural constraints. Planning is underway for an alternative, stand-alone 'Network Arch Bridge'.

3.10 An example of a Network Arch Bridge is Whanganui's Upokongaro Cycle Bridge. Figure 2 provides a render of what the Ashhurst bridge is anticipated to look like.



Figure 2: Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge at Ashhurst

- 3.11 Waka Kotahi have been engaging with the various parties involved on the new bridge and associated shared path for the separate pedestrian/cycle bridge.
- 3.12 Waka Kotahi officers note the bridge is 'subject to funding approval by the Minister' but a safe separate crossing of Ashhurst Bridge is locked in as a legal requirement of the project.

Gateway Park

- 3.13 As part of the development of Te Ahu a Turanga, a new carpark and entrance area to Te Āpiti, the Manawatū Gorge walking tracks and the Department of Conservation estate will be created. The designs are shown in Figure 3.

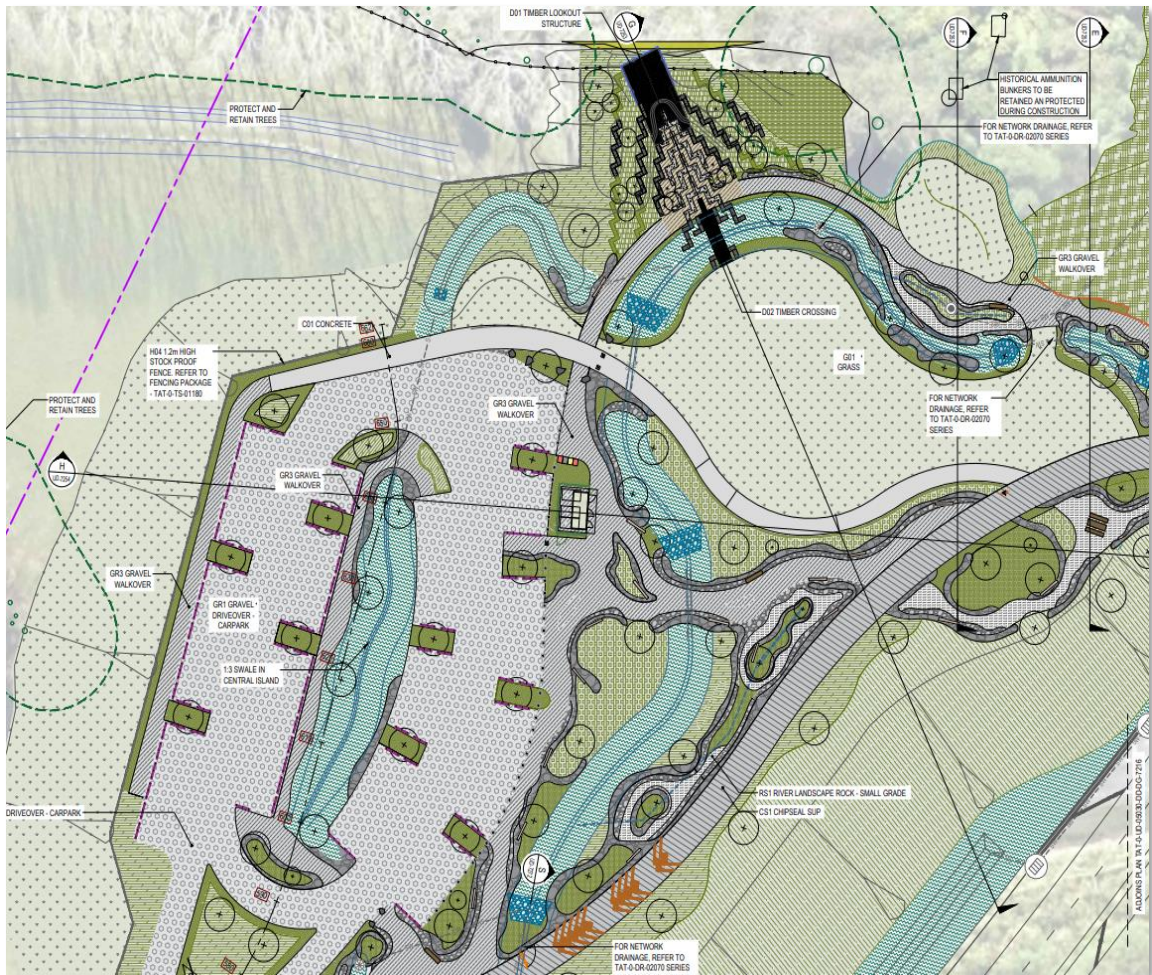


Figure 3: Gateway Park

- 3.14 This Gateway Park will replace the existing temporary arrangements and restore and add to the previous entrance arrangements. It includes:
 - Toilets
 - Parking for cars, campervans and buses

- Potentially some electric vehicle/bike charging infrastructure
 - A viewing platform and art, cultural, interpretive features
 - Landscaping, planting, paths and drainage.
- 3.15 Yet to be resolved is who will own and maintain this space. There have been suggestions that this should be Palmerston North City Council. The Department of Conservation does not have the capacity and Waka Kotahi see it as outside their remit.
- 3.16 It is unclear if Waka Kotahi are required to maintain the Gateway Park for a period after construction is complete. Further work and/or negotiation will be undertaken to clarify the situation.
- 3.17 Staff will report separately on the estimated maintenance and renewal costs, benefits, risk and options for consideration by the Council.

Discovery Centre

- 3.18 A feasibility study has recently been completed for proposed discovery centres, at either end of Te Āpiti. Council staff have yet to thoroughly review the study.
- 3.19 Palmerston North City Council has been listed for involvement in the Western Hub. No capital funding model has been developed.
- 3.20 Operational revenue is forecast to be at or slightly above operational expenses, but officers have yet to interrogate the assumptions⁵ and assess renewal costs.
- 3.21 The Council has not made funding provision for this project within the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34. The proposed scale is an investment of \$5.5 million with \$227,000 annual operating costs.
- 3.22 Given the timing of the project, there is plenty of time for officers to complete a thorough assessment of the feasibility study.
- 3.23 If the discovery centre is a priority identified by the Governance Group, it may be appropriate for the Council to consider any proposals for support (if any) during planning for draft Long -Term Plan 2027/37.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Report on the Ashhurst Loop Track feasibility investigations.

⁵ For example, an allowance of \$6,930 per year for maintenance appears light on a \$5.5 million build with potential for minor vandalism alone likely to exceed that.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide? If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual Clause 4 page 33 "To receive presentations on Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Masterplan"	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	Yes
The recommendations contribute to Goal 2: A Creative and Exciting City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Active Communities	
The action is: contributing to the Te Āpiti Masterplan which is identified in "Council documents that contribute to this plan" on Page 5 of the Active Communities Plan.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Contributions to the Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Masterplan contributes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental well-being as it supports plant and animal best control - social wellbeing as a place that is popular for recreation - economic goals as a regional attraction and the Central Economic Development Agency supports its continued development as a visitor attraction - cultural wellbeing as a place of significance to iwi and the associated values are being restored and enhanced.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Te Āpiti Project Progress update [↓](#) 

ID	Project Name	Lead	Status	Comments
E1	Manawatū Gorge track (E1)	Department of Conservation	Completed	The Manawatu Gorge track is an existing track and it is business as usual for DOC in maintaining this track
E2	Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Unfenced Sanctuary (E2)	DOC/HRC	Preliminary Discussions	Still discuss lead on this - seems likely to be the Te Āpiti Pest Control Project team
E3	Te Ara o Mahurangi Mountain Bike Trail (E3)	Mountain Bike Club	Completed	The trail was built around 2016. It is about to be refurbished and funds are available from the current Governance Group budget.
E4	Tourism & Accommodation Hub East (E4)	TBC - Woodville Domain Board/TDC	No Project Owner	No progress at Ferry Reserve
P1	Ashhurst Loop Track (P1)	PNCC	In Planning	PNCC has \$150,000 for Phase I of the Loop Track developments from the Recreation Pathways Fund which is the investigation stage. Investigations are complete and a report for the Saddle Rd crossing, Pony Trail re-instatement (ramp) and the Pembroke Street Rail overpass are imminent. The three choke points may have solutions, but beyond budgets. Report to PNCC being prepared. Waka Kotahi Te Ahu a Turanga shared path bridge – the clip-on structure previously proposed on the Ashhurst Bridge (to provide safe walk/cycle access) has been stopped for structural reasons in favour of a new stand-alone 'Network Arch Bridge'. Waka Kotahi intend to make the appropriate applications to Council in July this year. Important to note that due to this change in project it won't be delivered by the opening of the new road. It will likely lag at least 6 months (e.g. likely early 2026 rather than mid-2025).
P2	Visitor Facility & Accommodation Hub West (P2)	Anderson (nee Shannon) family	Commenced	Last updated at Te Apiti Governance Group (TAGG) meeting on 16/02/20234 - opportunity for additional funding, and amphitheatre available. Accommodation and venue development is underway.
P3	Mountain Bike Trail (P3)	Mountain Bike Club	Not Started	Ridgeline Mountain bike Trail. DOC's current conservation management strategy doesn't allow nationwide for any new MTB trails on its land so until this changes work can't start.
P4	UNESCO Geopark (P4)	Manawatū River Source to Sea	Partially Defined	Last updated at TAGG meeting on 16/02/2024 - referred to in the papers of the meeting (that has the project split into 3 timeline horizons. Was reference to a \$25,000 fund required but this was for a CG fund that has long since expired. This project had been discussed at previous TAGG meetings, with verbal support, needs updating.

P5	Old Gorge Road Shared Path (P5)	TBC - Waka Kotahi/TDC/PNCC	Not Started	Paused as we wait for WK to pick this up after Gabrielle recovery. Will be determined by the new landowner and permitted use.
P6	Barneys Point Loop Track (P6)	TBC	No Project Owner	No progress
P7	Skybridge Connecting Ranges (P7)	TBC	No Project Owner	No progress
P8	Skyline Track (P8)	TBC	No Project Owner	No Progress
P9	Suspension Bridge (P9)	TBC	No Project Owner	No progress
P10	Lindauer Trail (P10)	TDC	In Planning	The trail is now in planning stage with funding streams still being finalised. Waka Kotahi are building from the new highway roundabout to Woodville pool as part of the shared path extension. Build plans are presently being developed. The trail section from the new highway roundabout to Ferry Reserve is presently in revocation discussions with Waka Kotahi. Possible applications to the recreational path fund still to be decided on if required.
P11	Rangitāne o Manawatū Projects (P11)	Rangitāne o Manawatū	Not Defined	No Progress
P16	Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua Projects (P16 added)	Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua	Not Defined	With the East and Western side project groups yet to form details of initiatives and timelines will likely come through during these discussions.
P17	Ngati Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui-a-Rua Projects (P17 added)	Ngati Kahungunu	Not Defined	With the East and Western side project groups yet to form details of initiatives and timelines will likely come through during these discussions.
P18	Te Āpiti Discovery Centres (P18 added not in original Masterplan)	TBC	No Project Owner	Last updated at GG meeting on 16/02/20234 - feasibility study completed and presented at TAGG Meeting. Will be discussed at Project Meeting with involvement including Tararua DC, PNCC, and mana whenua at each end. Discussion for LTP at all councils including HDC

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee

MEETING DATE: 10 April 2024

TITLE: Manawatū River Framework: Progress Report

PRESENTED BY: Kathy Dever-Tod – Group Manager- Parks and Logistics

APPROVED BY: Chris Dyhrberg, Chief Infrastructure Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the “Manawatū River Framework Progress Report” (Attachment 1) presented on 10 April 2024.
-

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 Development of the Manawatū River Park is guided by the Manawatū River Framework. Every three years, staff report to Council on the implementation of the framework.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Council adopted the Manawatū River Framework in 2016. The framework provides a strategic vision for any development located near the Manawatū River over a 30-year period and recognises the importance of the river to the City.
- 2.2 The framework identified projects that could improve the river space. The 2018/2028 and 2021/31 Long Term Plans made provision for a number of these projects.
- 2.3 Council last received a progress report in 2019/2020.

3. 2024 PROGRESS REPORT

- 3.1 A copy of the Manawatū River Framework Progress report is attached to this memo. It outlines significant investment in the River Park between 2020 and 2024 and provides an update on individual project progress.
- 3.2 It also provides information on the results of user surveys.
- 3.3 Survey data has been used to estimate annual park usage of the park.

4. NEXT STEPS

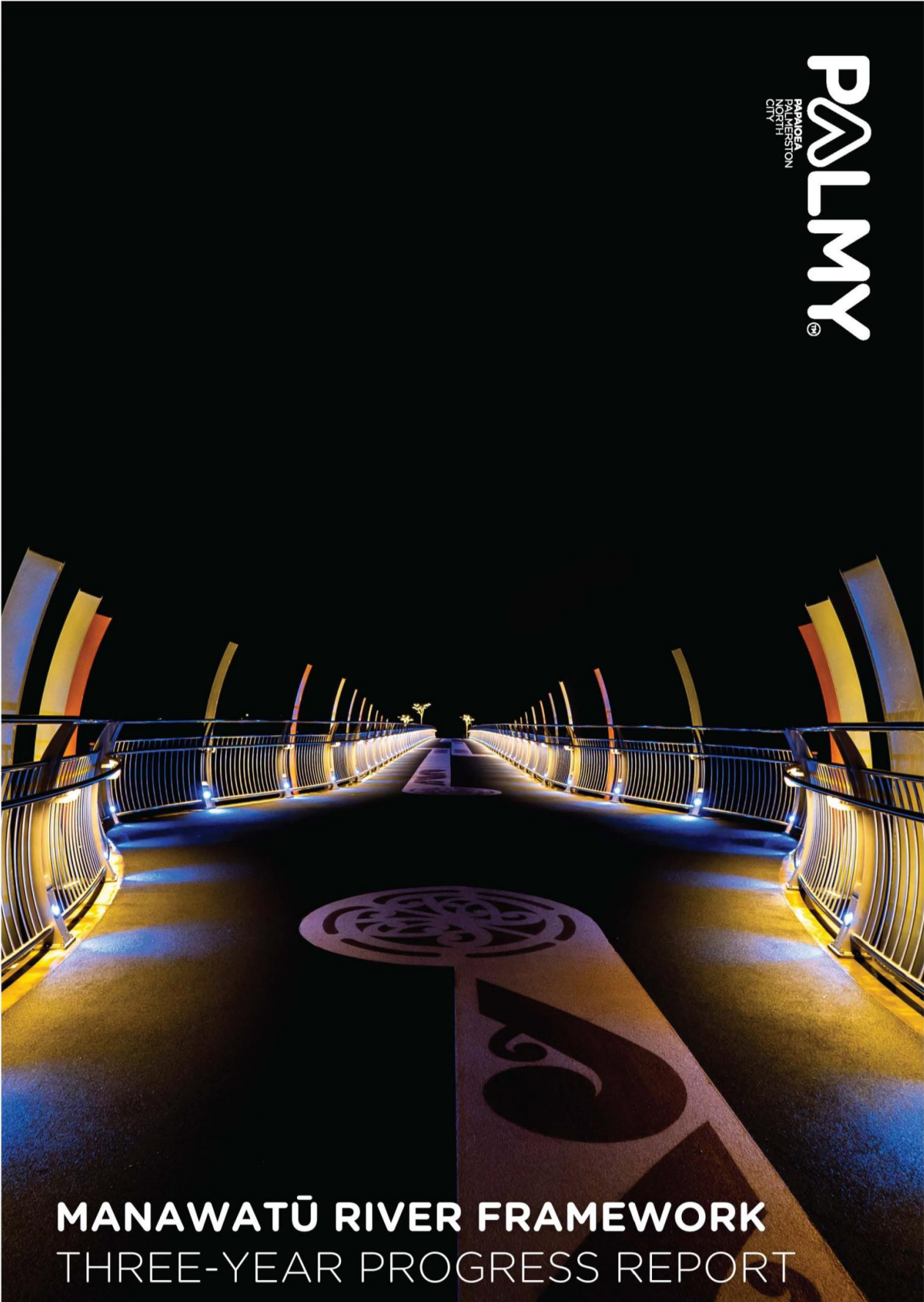
- 4.1 The report will be made available to the Te Āpiti Governance Group and other interested groups.
- 4.2 The projects proposed to be funded in the draft to deliver on Long-Term Plan 2024-34 are:
- Te Motu o Poutoa
 - The Ashhurst to Palmerston North Shared Path
 - Te Āpiti Masterplan
- 4.3 Assuming these projects are approved in the final Long-Term Plan 2024-34, they will be the focus of work in the next 3-year period.

5. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide? If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual "Receive or note any report or memorandum or other information submitted to the Committee."	Yes
Are the decisions significant?	No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?	No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?	No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?	No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?	Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?	Yes
The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City	
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in Manawatū River	
The action is: he Manawatū River Framework is delivered.	
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	The Manawatū River Park delivers on cultural wellbeing, enhancing the presence of Rangitāne o Manawatū, acknowledging and informing on historic sites. Social wellbeing is supported through opportunities for recreation, community interaction and development. Environmental wellbeing through enhancing biodiversity planting. The River Park also provides active transport routes, including direct connections to employment centres.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Manawatū River Framework Progress Report [↓](#) 



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MANAWATŪ RIVER FRAMEWORK THREE-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

MANAWATŪ RIVER FRAMEWORK SUCCESS

2 Natural play areas
NEW FORTS, FLYING FOX
+ a pulley chair

HOKOWHITU LAGOON SEATS
and path upgrades.

NEW RIVER ENTRANCE AT ALBERT ST

WAYFINDING GROUND MARKINGS completed

Scooter parking
at He Ara Kotahi

Had more events at the river
MATARIKI PUANGA + bonfire at
AHIMATE

Built + opened
URBAN EELS

INSTALLED 180m
of asphalt pump track at
CENTENNIAL DRIVE

Built **OFF-TRACK** area for
parkrun

MOA FOOTPRINTS AND SIGNAGE AT ALBERT ST

NEW TOILET + SEATING AT URBAN EELS

Built the **Victoria Esplanade** river entrance near the
SCENIC RAILWAY

PLANTED 14 HA
of harvested pine forest into **NATIVE BUSH**

Co-managing the **URBAN EELS** and **TURITEA PĀ SITE** with **Rangitāne**.

TOILET installed at **Linton** end of **HE ARA KOTAHI**

NEW RIVER ENTRANCE AT HOKOWHITU LAGOON

Signed an agreement with the
DEFENCE FORCE
to extend **HE ARA KOTAHI** pathway

Built the **Pā** site at **TURITEA**

Seats installed from **HE ARA KOTAHI** bridge to **TURITEA PĀ** site

AWAPUNI RECOVERY CENTRE PLAN (MARAE TARATA)
- investigation of a wetland plan (ongoing).

TE MOTU O POUTOA consulted on in the Long-Term Plan

Background and Introduction

The Manawatū River Framework (the River Framework) was developed in 2015; and was adopted by Palmerston North City Council late in 2016. The implementation work began in 2017.

Council is now 6 years into the implementation work. Council received the first [River Framework progress report in 2020](#). This 2023 report will be the second progress report.

The Manawatū River Framework Vision is:

Each year there will be more things to do, and more people will spend more time at the Manawatū River Park.

Councils work to achieve this vision has been in building fun, interesting, and river-specific activities and facilities. This report focuses on the number of people visiting the space, and the number of activities we have introduced to increase user numbers over the past 6 years. This report estimates the numbers of people visiting the river. the River Park, for the first time.

The Manawatū River Framework success requires us to achieve a number of features – both quantitative and qualitative.

The Framework sets out:

- A shared vision
- Key directions
- Design principles
- Location specific actions, and;
- An implementation section

The key directions set out in Section 5 of the River Framework, covered in this report are:

1. Build the network – connectivity
2. Create a distinctive sense of place – uniqueness
3. Activate the river edge – destination
4. Express Rangitāne and Maori culture – identity and culture
5. Restore ecologies and environmental quality – environment
6. Create a Sense of Ownership – Community and stakeholder engagement

This report describes how the features of the River Framework have been implemented, and where possible describes the levels of success achieved, scale of change since the implementation of the framework began and where Council could improve.

Investment in the River Park 2015 – 2023

The investment that Council has made into the River Park since 2015/2016 is shown in Figure 1. The peak of investment occurred in 2018/19 with the development of He Ara Kotahi.

In total \$24,954,000¹ has been invested in the Manawatū River Park from 2015 to 2023.

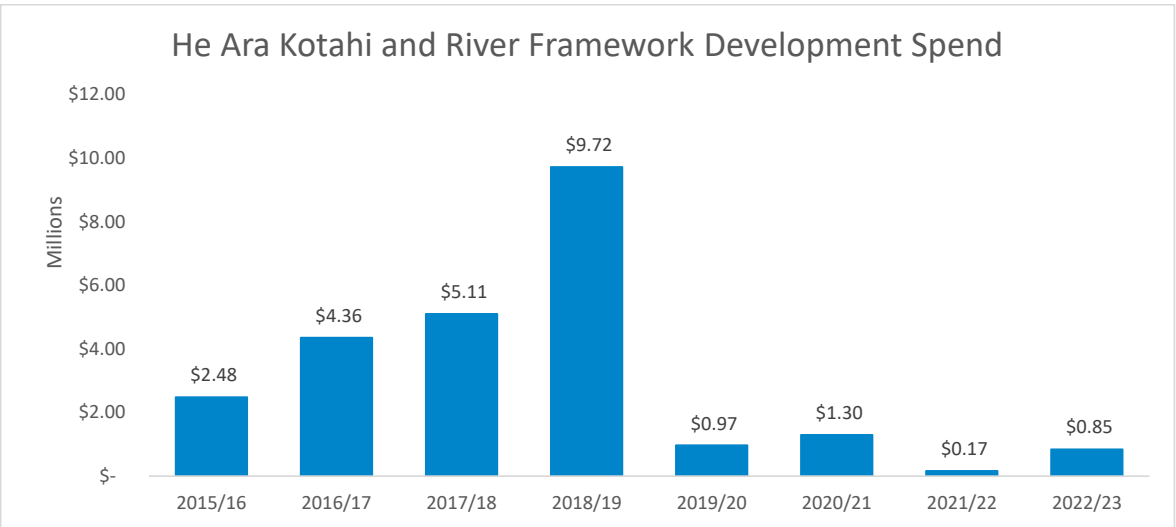


Figure 1: Manawatū River Capital Spend

This section reports on each of the key directions set out in the River Framework.

Appendix One provides a table summarising progress on the individual actions identified as “Making it Happen” in Section 10.2 of the River Framework

¹ He Ara Kotahi including bridges to Linton was \$19 million, and included Waka Kotahi and Powerco funding.

Build the Network – Connectivity (Section 5.1 of River Framework)

Over the last eight years Council and Rangitāne have developed a network of river entrances and river activities.

Connectivity is occurring across a number of levels:

- Connected the City to the river space via three new river entrances (Victoria Esplanade Scenic Railway Entrance, Hokowhiti Lagoon River Entrance and Albert Street River Entrance) as shown in Figure 2.
- Initiated Public Works Act Notice of Requirement (NOR) to connect Riverside Drive to Raukawa Rd to progress towards completing Ashhurst to Palmerston North shared path and the Dunne Block² (connecting Ahimate Reserve to Marae Tarata)
- Te Motu O Poutoa Development Planning (connecting the new river pathway to Te Motu o Poutoa and Aokautere)
- Signage and wayfinding to publicise river connections to improve user experience
- Potential extension of He Ara Kotahi from Bells Rod to Honore Drive and agreement with NZDF subject to funding.

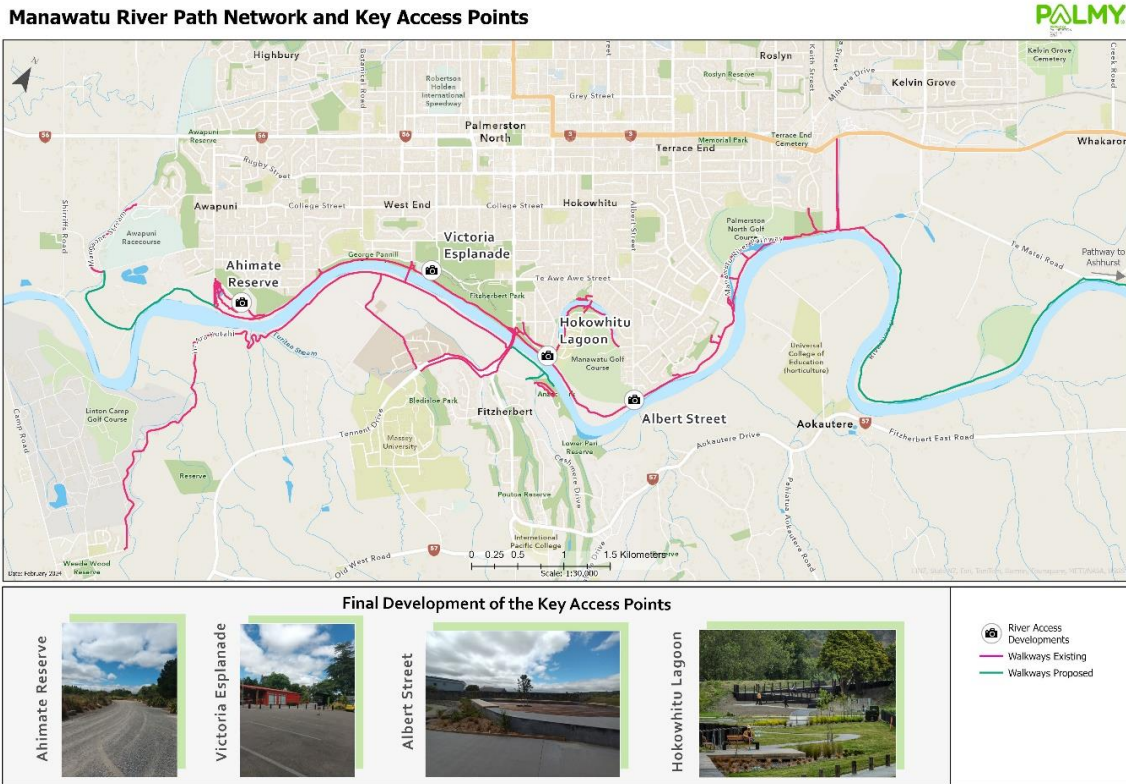


Figure 2: River network and key access points

² land on the right at the bottom of Maxwells Line as looking towards the river.

Create a distinctive sense of place – uniqueness (Section 5.2 of the River Framework)

and

Express Rangitāne and Maori culture – identity and culture (Section 5.4 of the River Framework)

Council, with Rangitāne, have identified, developed and reclaimed a number of key sites of cultural significance in and around the river area.

They are:

- Marae Tarata (reclaimed)
- Kikiwhenua (identified)
- Ahimate Pa (identified, reclaimed and developed)
- Te Kuripaka Pa (identified and reclaimed – along He Ara Kotahi pathway past Turitea Pa)
- Turitea Pa viewing platform (identified, reclaimed and developed)
- Urban Eels platform (identified, reclaimed and developed)
- Te Motu o Poutoa (under development)
- The Moko Moko plains (identified and reclaimed)
- Hokowhitu Lagoon (improved connection to river and river entrance)
- Ruahine Reserve (under development)
- Raukawa Rd entranceway (reclaimed and developed – partial)
- Te Wi Marae (identified)
- Otangaki / Ashhurst Domain (reserve management planning underway).

The creation of a sense of identity, culture and uniqueness are best achieved in a meaningful manner through the lens of history. Given that the bulk of our local history with regards the river has been via Rangitāne (the river was the lifeblood of both food and trade for Iwi), these two directions alongside one another.

There are a number of ways in which both uniqueness and identity/culture have been woven into the fabric of the river space to create a uniquely Palmerston North experience.

Theme: Korowai (Cloak)

The cloak for Rangitāne holds a high level of significance both in terms of leadership and practically as a key provision of warmth. The cloak was also used to signify welcome under the umbrella of a people's protection. A cloak would be thrown to the ground in front of a potential migratory group to signify acceptance into the community of that group – which would now be welcome under the protection of Rangitāne to live with and alongside. This theme has particular significance today given colonial/Maori partnerships alongside one another.

This theme provides a sense of uniqueness to Palmerston North and can be seen across the City. The visuals below show both cloak and distinctive cloak patterns.



Figure 3: Rangitāne korowai historical photo and pattern examples around Palmerston North



Figure 4: River Features with Korowai in the River space

Identity: Local History and Education

Between 2019 and 2023 Council began to install new map stations complete with localised information portions of the map. These maps and/or seats will eventually be at all key river entrances and locations.



Figure 5: Wayfinding map and interpretation - River Entrance at Victoria Esplanade Scenic Railway

The large 3m long maps have proven successful. They show the user where they are situated in relation to the river space overall, and they also offer up some interesting historical facts about the place each user finds themselves in.

He Ara Kotahi, He Ara Korero

This is a Rangitāne initiative funded through Destination Manawatū and Central Government funds. The He Ara Korero, He Ara Kotahi Working Party was established in 2023 to work on this project. The Working Party includes Rangitāne, Department of Internal Affairs, Council and Destination Manawatu. Locales, a consultancy firm, were contracted to provide the digital solutions for the project.

The project will see a series of digital platforms established which will tell the story of Rangitāne along the river by utilising QR codes. When activated, provide the user with a series of options for each location. Each location will have options that range from videos with Rangitāne telling their stories, cartoon versions for children and “live” viewing that will show the user what the site would have looked like hundreds of years in the past.

Council has been working with Rangitāne to help bring this to life. Each one of the areas where QR codes will be established will be areas where Council has already provided infrastructure and design work that is complimentary to the story – such as Turitea Pa site.



Figure 6: Turitea - Stop Illustration from He Ara Kotahi Hei Ara Korero project

Activate the River Edge – destination (Section 5.3 of the River Framework)

Activation of the river edge has been successful with increased numbers of river users over the last 8 years. Surveys and counts were held at the river over a three day period when the surveys were completed. These counts were then adjusted for a seven-day week, summer/winter use differentiations, public holidays and weekends and numbers of people coming from other (non-counted) entrances into the river.

The annual number of river uses in 2023 is estimated at 1,629,540.

Council reporting will use this as a baseline and method for future reporting to consider trends. In terms of activations the key additions are listed below:

Activation Infrastructure 2015-2020

- He Ara Kotahi Bridge and shared path to Linton
- Ahimate Reserve Development
- Natural play features
- Off path mountain bike trails
- New River Entrances: Ahimate Reserve
- Wayfinding, mapping and signage
- Eel feeding platform
- Toilets: Linton (Bells Rd)
- Mobile gyms and exercise features (2 built)
- Albert Street beach and kowhaiwhai hardstand

Infrastructure 2020-2023

- New River Entrances: Victoria Esplanade, Albert Street, Hokowhitu Lagoon
- Mobile gyms and exercise features (2 complete, 5 under construction)
- Hokowhitu Lagoon area – Ruahine (under construction) and Kanuka Grove cultural reserves
- Turitea Pa Site Viewing Platform
- Natural play features
- Rest areas and Lunch stops – He Ara Kotahi
- Toilets: Eel platform

Events and Activations 2015-2020

- Spring Kohanga
- Matariki/Puanga
- Ahimate Reserve Community
- Mountain-bike jumps development

Plans/Relationships/Agreements 2015-2020

- Ahimate Reserve Development Plan
- He Ara Kotahi Agreement
- He Ara Kotahi Agreement extension – Eel Platform and Turitea Pa site
- Rangitāne/PNCC Kawenata and Rangitāne Committee (Te Motu O Poutoa)
- Easements to extend the Ashhurst to Palmerston North Shared Path (Ashurst to Raukawa Road)
- Te Ohunga Mauri – group (PNCC/Rangitāne/HRC) to aid in the development of the built environment along the wa

Plans/Relationships/Agreements (2020-23)

- 14 ha pine forests to native planting agreement with Massey University
- Public Works Act to extend Ashhurst to Palmerston North Shared Path – underway

Manawatu River Path Riverside Attractions

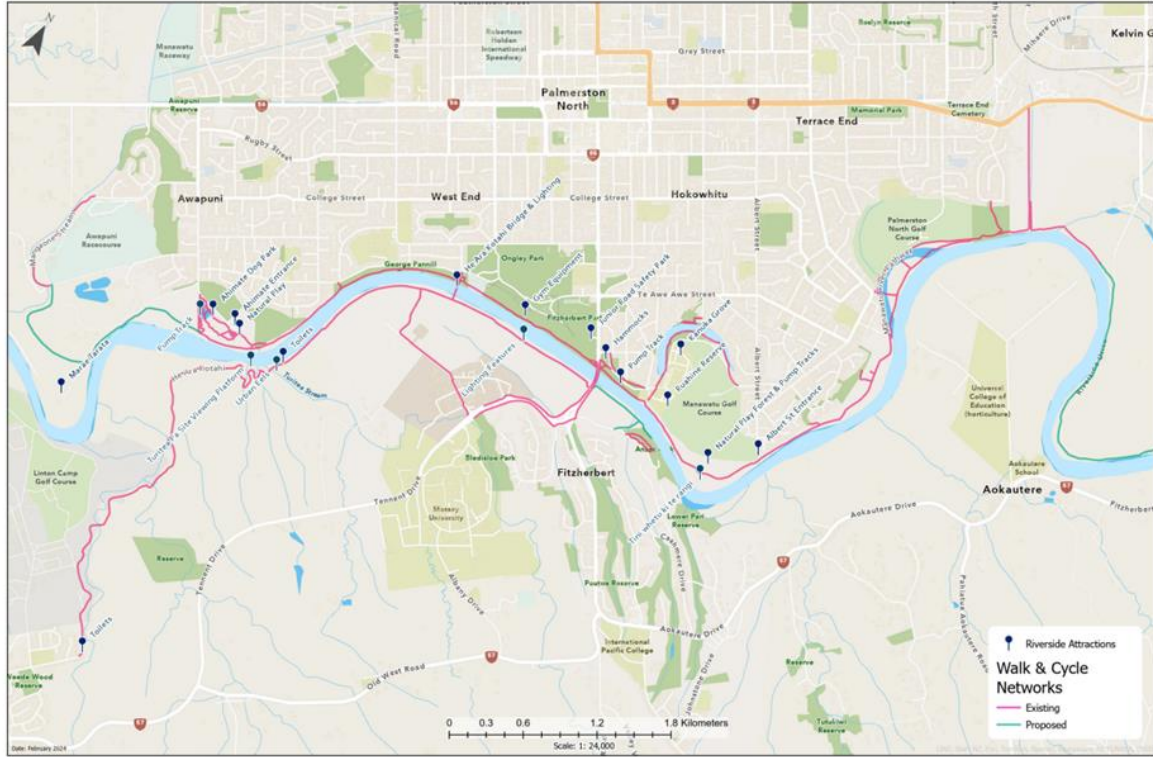


Figure 7: Map of developments

Restore ecologies and environmental quality – environment (Section 5.5 of the River Framework)

In terms of ecological restoration there are three main mentions over the last three years:

Bio-diversity and Planting 2015-2020

- Kahuterawa Stream planting – to Bells Rd
- Ahimate Reserve
- Planting from eel platform along pathway back to new bridge

Bio-diversity and Planting (2020-2023)

- Marae Tarata – cleanfill operations were ended and an ecological report on biodiversity completed
- 14 ha Massey old pine forest planting bridge
- Ahimate Reserve is growing in well

The largest new piece of native vegetation restoration is where Council and Massey University have worked together to fund a 14 ha native planting on Massey University land next to the He Ara Kotahi pathway. Massey University harvested 14 ha of pine forest, and replanting the area in native bush is underway.

Manawatu River Framework Regeneration of Native Species and Biodiversity

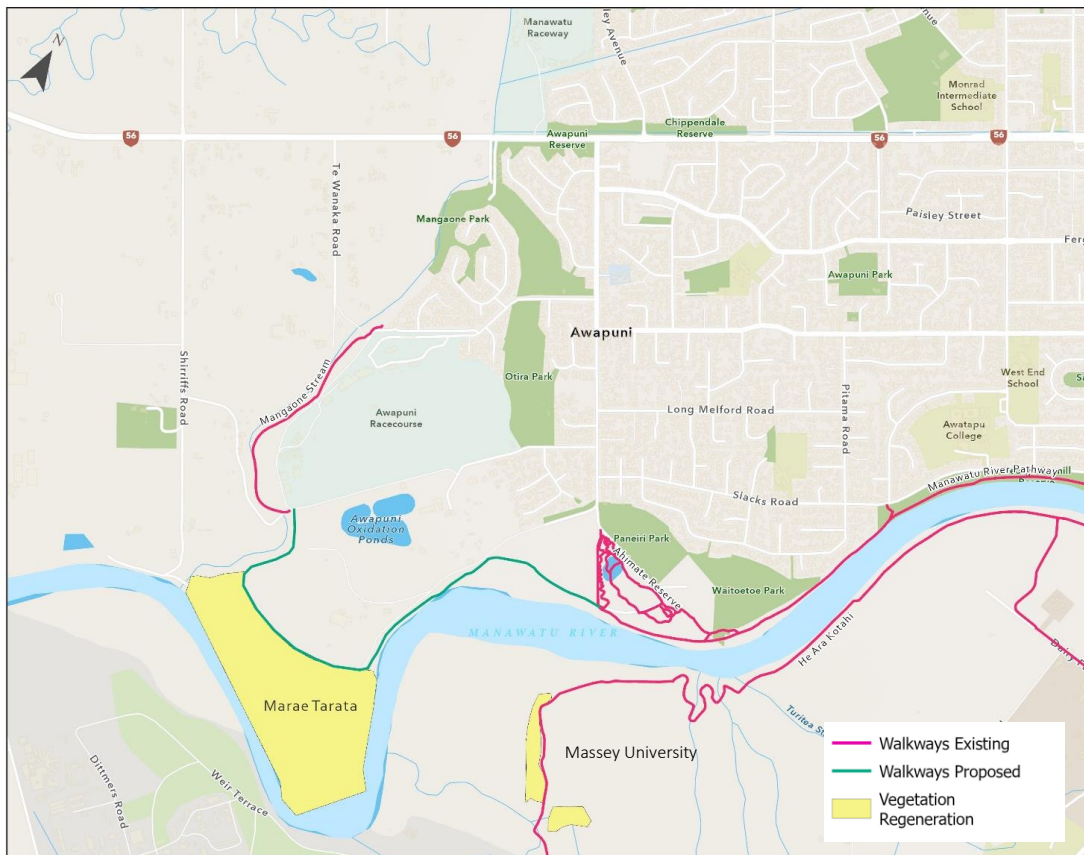


Figure 8: Biodiversity planning map

Create a Sense of Ownership Community and Stakeholder engagement (Section 5.6 of the river Framework)

Creating a sense of ownership along the river space requires Council to engage with the community on build and planting projects. Planting days were a main feature of river community activities, but these have been difficult over the past three years since the Covid-19 .

Ahimate Reserve Community continues to do their great work. Council has not been as actively involved in this space recently and has not received enquiries from the community to get involved.

Council is now helping facilitate Rangitāne on their work with Fonterra volunteers (opening up spaces for planting), and have done some small work with mountain bike track builders but this has not been as prolific as it once was.



Survey results 2023

The vision statement describes the ultimate outcome sought – which is more people actively engaged in the river environment over longer periods. This section of the report provides information on use numbers, demographics and feedback from the River users.

The Manawatū River Park is an unusual kind of park – it is a linear park, stretching more than 14 kilometres, with numerous entrances and exits. This makes it difficult to count people and estimate use with a high degree of accuracy.

A count and survey³ of people over the course of two weeks, at different times of the day and at different locations. The locations selected include areas where new developments have occurred. This approach was chosen in order to understand those how the community were using and gather feedback on them.

The locations surveyed were:

1. Albert St River Entrance
2. Centennial Drive River Entrance (at the city side of Fitzherbert Bridge)
3. Urban Eels platform (capturing the Turitea pa site also)
4. He Ara Kotahi Bridge
5. Ahimate Reserve
6. Pine Forest at Albert Street

While not a river entrance counts were conducted at the Albert Street Pine Forest Play Area to ascertain its popularity.

Sites to the north/east towards Riverside Drive will be covered in future surveys. An option for a future count location may be the new Hokowhitu Lagoon River Entrance now that the Wallace Developments work is well underway and this new entrance is completed and open.

Council has measured permanent counters at the He Ara Kotahi Bridge. This counter provides some assurance that the overall estimate is reasonable. The increase in user numbers has been significant – with the new He Ara Kotahi Bridge reaching 1 million uses 2 years before the business case prediction.

Now that the initial growth period is complete Council can measure total numbers of visitors and consider longer term trends. The 2024 report estimates the total number of river uses at 1,629,540 per year. No estimate was made in 2020. Any change in user numbers is expected to be more subtle now that a number of the the catalyst projects are completed. A consistent method of measurement will help understand any trends or changes in use in future years.

³ Selected river entrances were surveyed 1 hour at morning, lunchtime and evenings for three days. The 3 hour snap-shot was extrapolated to a 5am to 9pm timeframe for summer, and a 7am to 5pm timeframe for winter. Adjustments were made for people using different entrances, by adding 30%. 30% was added for weekends and public holidays.

Two “litmus test” were used, dividing the 1,629,540 by the population of 91,800 which results in 18 visits to the river per person per year. The He Ara Kotahi Bridge counter records in the order of 500,000 trips across it per year. These numbers suggest the total count is

He Ara Kotahi 2019 - 2023

Since the opening of He Ara Kotahi bridge in mid 2019 it has proven immensely popular with walkers, cyclists, commuters to Massey University and people visiting the bridge and surrounds.

As shown in Figure 9, use numbers have held steady over the last 4 years since the bridge was opened. An average of around 40,000 movements are recorded each month – around half a million users per year.

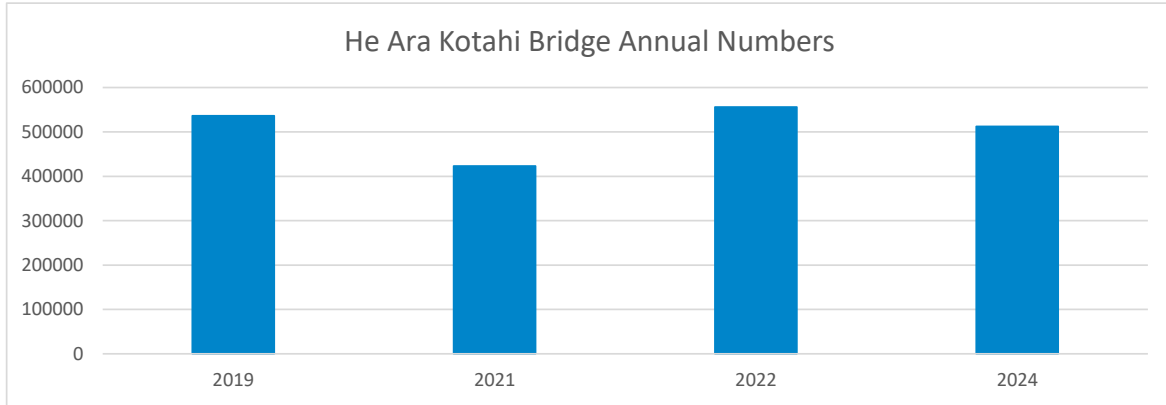


Figure 9: He Ara Kotahi bridge counts

The numbers for 2019 showed a high level of use for what was a six month period, as the bridge was opened in June, which was expected while people are going to a new attraction in the City. There is a seasonal effect with a drop-off in numbers occurs in winter, around September.

The January 2020 numbers show a total number of users that is similar to June 2019 when the bridge was first opened.

Survey Participant demographics and locations

149 river users responded to the questionnaire. The respondents were questioned over three days at each of the stated locations – Ahimate Reserve, He Ara Kotahi Bridge, Centennial Drive, Albert St River Entrance and Riverside Drive.

Age

In 2018/19 63% of the participants in the survey were over 45 years of age and 37% were over 65. The 2023 surveys had lesser number of 65 plus age group respondents, 30%, and a higher proportion of respondents were in the 24-35 year range.

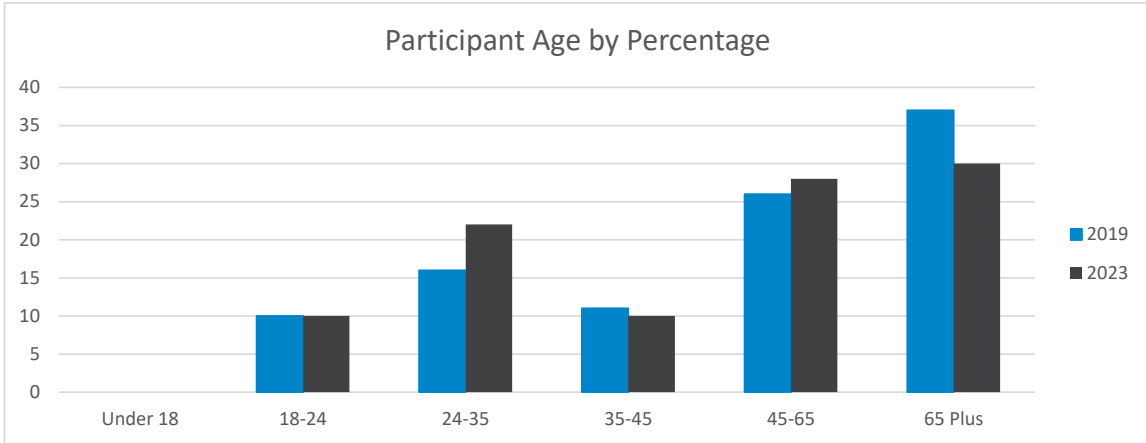


Figure 10: Age of survey participants

Gender

Most those answered questions were female. There is no significant difference in the gender of survey participants from the 2020 to the 2023 surveys.

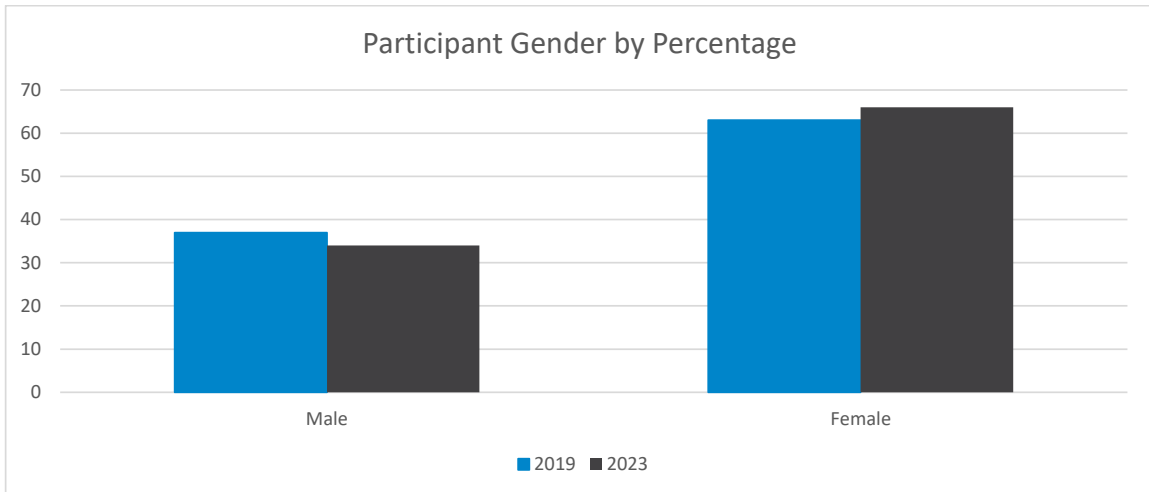


Figure 11: Gender of survey participants

Reasons for Visitation to River 2018-2023

In 2018/19 the main purpose of participant’s visit to the river was for exercise (42%). Relaxation was the next most popular visitation reason – at 19%, and then dog walking at 14%. Swimming and cycling were next (6% & 8%). Swimming tended to be more popular with younger people surveyed.

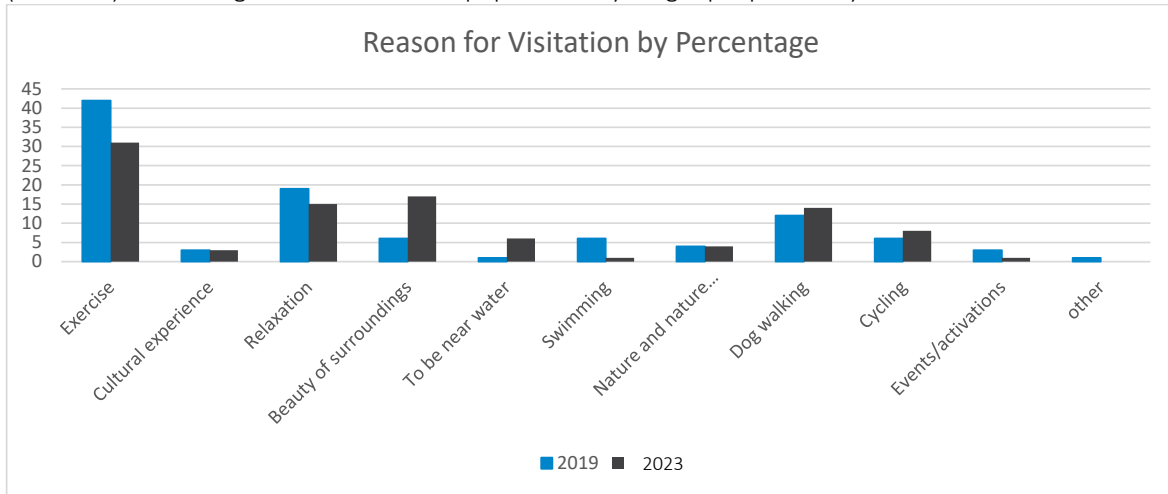


Figure 12: Reason for visit of survey participants

There are some interesting difference between the 2018/19 years and 2023.

- Exercise fell from 42% in 2018/19 to 31% in 2023.
- Swimming fell from 6% in 2018/19 to 1% in 2023
- Beauty of surroundings rose from 6% (in 2018/19) to 17% (in 2023) became the 2nd most popular reason to visit the river in 2023
- To be near water rose to 6% in 2023, from 1% in 2018/19.

In the past the bulk of people visiting the river were simply there to exercise. The drop in exercise and corresponding rise in visiting the river to experience the “beauty of the surroundings”, and “to be near water” is likely due to the extensive development that has occurred along the river. This shows that a more diverse set of activities, quality design work and activities such as the Turitea Pa Site Viewing Platform and He Ara Kotahi Bridge (that showcase the natural beauty of the river) may be having an impact on the types of reasons to visit the river.

The falling visits for swimming has likely been impacted by a number of unfortunate drownings at Ahimate Beach, and also the more recent shifts in river dynamics post-Hawkes Bay Cyclone where the beaches have become larger, but the swimmable water has become narrower, faster and deeper (at both Ahimate and at Albert Street beach area).

The river has thrown increasing amounts of gravel out onto the beach making it bigger, but in doing this it has carved a narrow and deep section of the river out. This means that the swimming spot now has no gradual increase in depth from beach to deep water, making it unsuitable for families with young children.



Figure 13: steep and deep at Ahimate Beach nowadays

It is now a fairly sheer drop from the beach to the deep water. This is may have had an impact on the growth in relaxation – with people going to the same spot to relax but deciding not to swim (particularly if they have children with them) – and therefore listing relaxation as the main purpose rather than swimming.

Ethnicity

In terms of the ethnicity that 2018/19 survey participants identified as, NZ European was the highest at 75% with Maori at 10% and European at 15%. Maori were therefore underrepresented in the survey questions given the ethnicity is approximately 16 to 17% of the total make-up of the City.

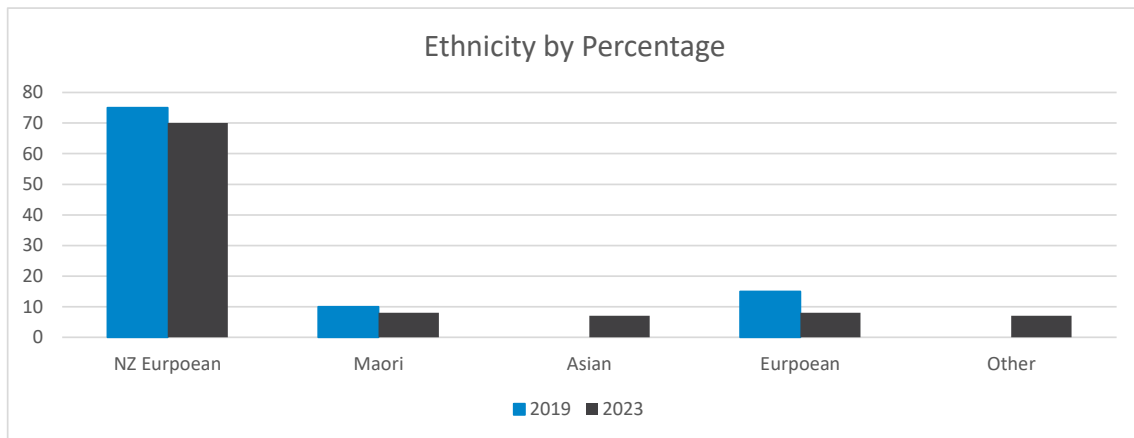


Figure 14: Ethnicity of survey participants

Frequency of visits

In terms of the frequency of visits, there is a shift with a growth in people visiting the river “less often” compared to the daily or weekly use shown in the 2020 survey. This may indicate that visits from out-of-town people are on the rise. Even if the shift were to be mainly from locals, this might mean that people

that were not likely to visit the river in the past are now visiting on the odd occasion – if this is case it would be an improvement.

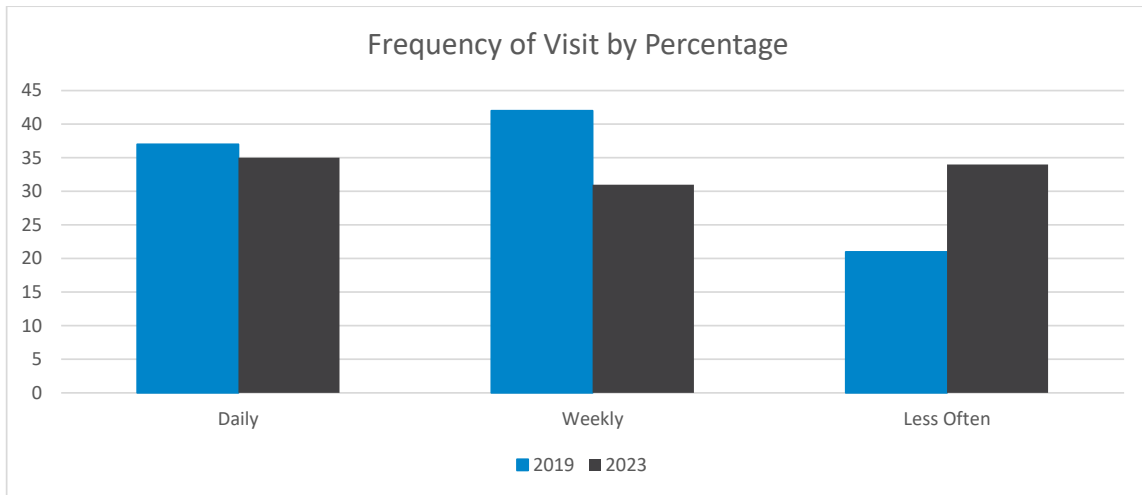


Figure 15: Frequency of visits of survey participants

When the “less often” visitation is combined with a rise in people visiting the river for its natural beauty and to be near water, it appears that there may be a greater number of people choosing to visit the river space less often and for different reasons than in the past. People are choosing to see the river a space to relax, unwind, visit interesting areas; while in the past they came for a primary purpose of exercise, walking the dog, etc.

This could be due to development of more spaces to relax and experience a variety of river features and activities – such as the Moa footprints, Turitea Pa site, Feeding Eels, Hammocks, etc.

Heard of River Framework

People were also asked whether they have heard of the Manawatū River Framework. The question was introduced to establish whether people were both aware of the strategy and also making links between the strategic direction and the new development occurring in the space.

In 2018/19 the majority of river users questioned knew something of the Manawatū River Framework.

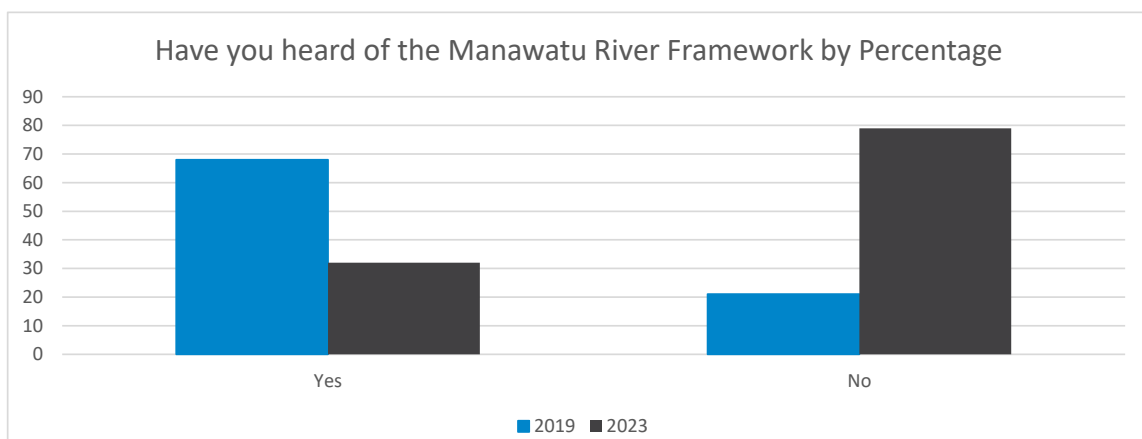


Figure 16: Heard of River Framework

In 2023 the opposite is the case with the bulk of survey participants visiting the river space having no knowledge of the Manawatu River Framework.

The space has taken on a life of its own, and word-of-mouth, general knowledge and use in promotion of the City and communication about appealing features and “things to do” in the City is now what drives visitation. This is a major achievement.

River activities appeal

Participants were asked whether what is being built in the river space is appealing. Overwhelmingly - a positive response to this question was received across both surveys. This indicates that the development features being built are in fact desirable, useful and will be used.

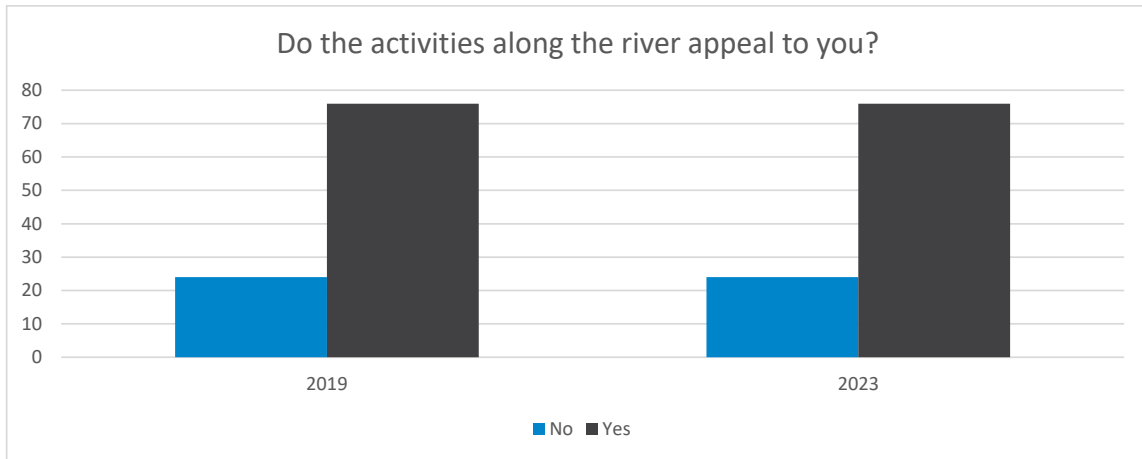
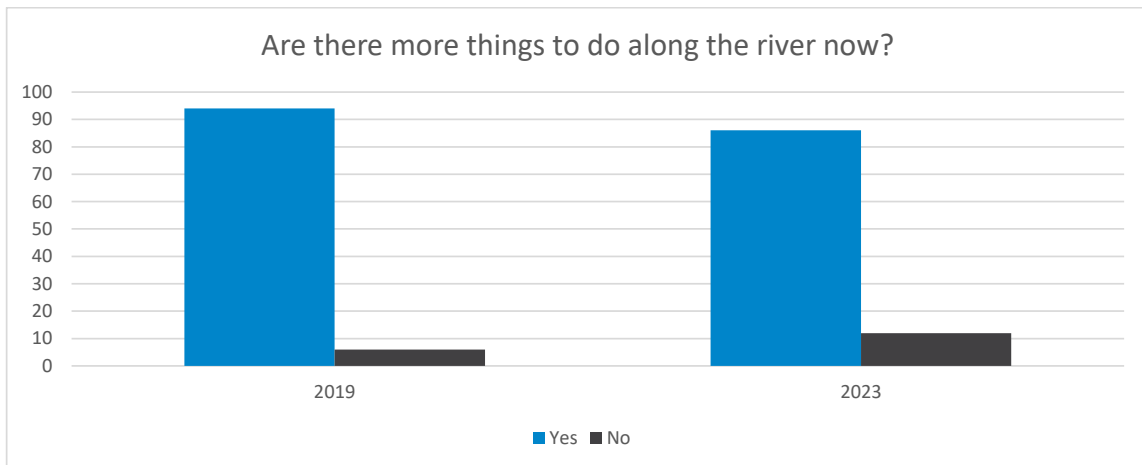


Figure 17: River activities appeal

More activities in last 2 years

In 2023 participants were slightly less likely to notice more things to do along the river, but the response remains highly positive. It is noted that the initial 2018/19 question occurred when He Ara Kotahi was built, and that project was particularly popular and noticeable.

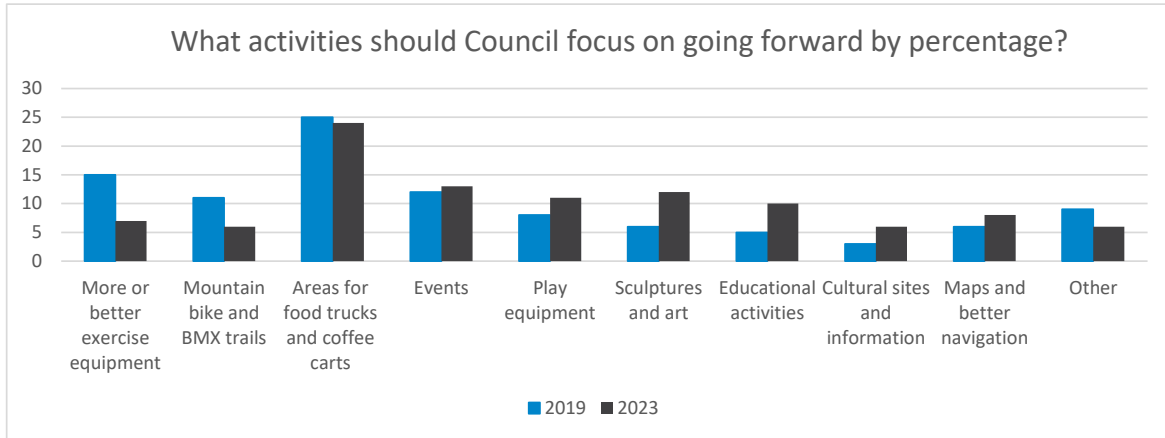


Activites to focus on

The final question was related to the future, asking users what they would like to see more of. Cultural areas, better and more exercise equipment and areas for food trucks featured strongly in the responses.

This is highly positive given the current build at Albert Street, the new food truck stands at the entrance to He Ara Kotahi and the number of cultural sites to be developed over the next few years. This signals that Council’s plan is also aligned to user expectations. Future activities that people would like to see more of remained relatively similar across the years, with food truck areas remaining the highest future desire.

The main shift is slightly less desire for mountain bike and exercise features, and more interest in cultural sites and sculpture and art.



Conclusion and future focus

Good progress on implementing the Manawatu River Framework. There has been an increase in use, and while it is difficult to accurately estimate total use it appears to be high with positive feedback about the work. The survey shows some interesting differences between since 2020 and provides insight for any future planning.

The future focus for the Manawatu River Framework is tied into a set of major projects:

1. Te Motu o Poutoa – which will provide a destination location showcasing the special history of the site and provide hospitality opportunities that take advantage of the views.
2. The shared path from Ashhurst to Palmerston North – providing a linkage to the shared paths and river crossing being developed as part of Tu Ahu a Turanga highway development, with Te Āpiti The Gorge and which ultimately will see off road connections from Woodville to Palmerston North.
3. Te Āpiti The Gorge Masterplan – which outlines a set of projects to continue to enhance this unique area.

Appendix One: Action Implementation Progress (Section 10.2 of Framework)

Making it Happen – immediate

Action	Complete	Underway	Incomplete	Comment
Development Plan for Ahimate Reserve.	✓			Development Plan completed in 2017 and the implementation of the plan is 100% complete.
Shared path from Riverside Drive to Raukawa Rd.		✓		The Public Works Act process is now fully underway.
Support NZTA's proposal for the construction of a walking and cycling facility at Ashhurst Bridge.		✓		A new ped/cycleway bridge desing is underway.
Create clear entrances at approaches to the river.	✓			All main urban entranceways are now complete. Ashhurst Gateway affected by floods that eroded bank. New ped cycle bridge will influence and future plans.
Improved walking and cycling connection between Domain and shared path.		✓		This will be actioned during the Ashhurst Domain Reserve Management Plan, and through the Te Ahu a Turanga work.
Improved wayfinding and distance markers.	✓			A Wayfinding Strategy was developed and is underway in terms of implementation.
Clear signage at primary river access points.	✓			As above – see Wayfinding Strategy
Identification of suitable spaces for dog parks, picnic areas, games areas.		✓		One Dog Park was built at Ahimate Reserve, and other pop-up dog park ideas and areas will be referred to any future review of the Framework. The Dog Park is highly successful. A new picnic area and beach front developed at Ahimate Reserve Albert Street kowhaiwhai pattern, Rangitāne whakataukī: Tini whetū ki te rangi, ko Rangitāne nui ki te whenua, completed in 2020. Rest and picnic areas along He Ara Kotahi have been identified and built up to the Pa site.
Support community group to develop Junior Road Safety Park.	✓			Community group was supported and the park is built.
Rangitāne historic sites of cultural significance are acknowledged and enhanced as appropriate	✓			Council and Rangitāne worked together to identify all key areas of cultural significance within the river area. Design and budget for key areas have been set and build is ongoing or planned. Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban eels platform (complete) • Turutea Pa site and viewing platform (complete) • Kowhaiwhai pattern (Albert st), Rangitāne whakataukī: Tini whetū ki te rangi, ko Rangitāne nui ki te whenua, • Ahimate Reserve (Complete) • Te Motu o Poutoa (Planning complete) • River entranceways (Complete) • Hokowhitu Lagoon – planning (complete) • Rangitāne Pa (Marae Tarata) site – planning to commence
Develop wayfinding plan for the Manawatū River.	✓			The Wayfinding Plan was developed in 2017
Work with HRC to provide more information on water quality and identification of good places to swim.		✓		Ongoing – relationship is solid in the river space. Water Safety NZ developing a swim safety assessment for the river.
Increase frequency of seating features that can double as seats along the river.		✓		Seating areas have been identified along He Ara Kotahi – 2023. Partially implemented. Identify rest areas along shared path on City side – on hold until NOR process completed.
Work collaboratively with HRC to develop a planting plan for river.		✓		Ongoing – planting along He Ara Kotahi, Ahimate Reserve, and planning has been ongoing and successful.
Suitable locations identified for picnic areas and creation of a community hub.	✓			Ongoing.
PNCC to promote river path.	✓			The river path has been heavily and successfully promoted by the Communications and Marketing Team. See section on the Manawatū River Framework Vision for more detail.
PNCC to work with HRC and DOC to provide environmental education on the bird species located at the river, Bill's Bush and Ahimate Reserve.			✓	Signage promoting dotterals, and encouraging river users to help protect their nesting environment, has been produced with the Department of Conservation. Further, more general educational actions are yet to be developed.
Manawatū Gorge mountain bike track.		✓		This work is currently a Te Apiti Masterplan project .
Establish level of user conflicts on shared path and establish best practice solutions.	✓			conflicts was primarily addressed during the development of the Ahimate Reserve Development Plan. In that document Council took the approach of educating users to respect one another, share the path and manage conflict themselves rather than attempting to provide separated areas for use. This method has worked well, and design features are in fact encouraging user conflict and resolution at present. This is occurring with the understanding that this path and river area will become heavily used over the next 10 years, and it is better to develop multi-user habits now early on in anticipation of this. See also the "Sharing is Caring" signage along the river path.

Making it Happen – short term term

Action	Complete	Underway	Incomplete	Comment
Development plan for new recreational space in area between Ashhurst Domain and the end of the current shared path.			✓	This area was significantly impacted/eroded by flooding in 2017. River groyne work was undertaken in the area in 2018. The development potential will be reassessed as part of the Ashhurst Domain Reserve Development and Management Plan and the planned ped/cycle bridge as part of Tu Ahu a Turanga Highway shared path development.
Reserve Development Plan for Te Motu o Poutoa.	✓			A development plan for Te Motu o Poutoa is complete and funding is being considered in the draft Ten Year Plan.
Test proposed activities through placemaking.		✓		This action is ongoing and so far testing has been well received.
Encourage ecological restoration of Turitea Stream and create a walkway along the stream.		✓		The walkway is currently under negotiation with HRC and Massey University – this stream is tied in with the proposed Botanical Gardens work Massey University is leading.
Provide passing bays along the shared path.	✓			At this stage passing bays are not required, but Council will watch this space as the path and area become more congested.
Light up Fitzherbert Bridge.			✓	This action is unfunded.
Create a series of bike activities along the river pathway.	✓			Council and the community have developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A jumps park area • nearly a kilometre and a half of track • A jumps area at Albert St Pine Forest • A sealed pump track at Centennial Drive River Entrance • A pump track along the Ahimate roadside
Purchase Dunne Block for reserves purpose.		✓		This property is now under negotiation as part of the Public Works Act NOR process to complete the Palmerston North to Ashhurst shared path.
Establish and off-road connection from the Manawatū River to the Mangaone Stream.		✓		Marae Tarata lease for quarrying ended.. Dunne Block is under negotiation, which is a required link. The Kākātangiata Urban Growth progress is likely to be a driving force in timing. It is now likely to be a long term action.
Install lighting in a segment of the river for evening use.			✓	Cabling from bridge to bridge has been completed. Lighting on hold and currently unfunded.
Work with HRC to install real time monitoring to inform river users of water quality information.	✓			Horizons are currently managing water quality information.
Liaise with relevant agencies to create more activities and hold more events at the river.		✓		Council trialled two events along the river: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Koanga Spring Bonfire, no longer held • the Matariki Puanga , shifted to Arena Manawatū in 2023. Community events – variety of events and activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkrun has established along the Manawatū River • Striders Super 7's utilise the two bridges loop • Ibikes for kids • XRace use a some river space • Relay for Life shifted to the Manawatu River – Waterloo area

Making it Happen – medium term

Action	Complete	Underway	Incomplete	Comment
Deliver on the development plans and reserve management plans.		✓		Council development planning is ongoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahimate Reserve Development Plan complete 2017 Te Motu o Poutoa Development Plan 2024 is complete Ashhurst Domain Reserve Management and Development plan is underway. The Development Plan for Marae Tarata is on hold.
Develop a clear walking and cycling link to the Lido from the river path.	✓			The development of He Ara Kotahi has created a clear link between the Lido and the river path In 2021 the Victoria Esplanade River Entranceway was built.
Develop a walkway to and along the Kahuterawa Stream.		✓		He Ara Kotahi has created approximately 1 km of additional pathway that runs adjacent to the Kahuterawa Stream. Feasibility of an option to extend the connection to Tennant Drive has been considered with the NZ Army. This is on hold and not currently funded.
Plant banks of the Kahuterawa Stream .		✓		The contracts with Council/Massey University/Army and Biodiversity Services and between PNCC and Rangitāne are achieving this work.
Re-habilitate the confluence of the Mangaone Stream and the Manawatū River with planting.		✓		Some planting undertaken on true right bank, limited by Horizons flood control requirements.. Any future Marae Tarata development plan will provide an overall biodiversity and planting strategy for the confluence on the true right bank.
Purchase Manawatū Golf Club land to secure access.	✓			Land was purchased and developed as the Albert St Pine Forest adventure area..
Develop the river as the next City Reserve.	✓			The river is now identified and funded as a City Reserve.

Making it Happen – long term

Action	Complete	Underway	Incomplete	Comment
Alternative route across the river – bridge.	✓			He Ara Kotahi was built.
Prepare development plan for the quarry land near the Mangaone Stream.			✓	This work is on hold.
Create shared path on the left bank of the Manawatū River.			✓	Esplanade strips or reserves aquired as subdivision opporunties arise.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee

MEETING DATE: 10 April 2024

TITLE: Te Whiri Kōkō - Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū

PRESENTED BY: Todd Taiepa - Poutoko Aporei Principal Māori Advisor

APPROVED BY: David Murphy, Chief Planning Officer

RECOMMENDATION TO RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ COMMITTEE

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum titled 'Te Whiri Kōkō - Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū' presented to the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee on 10 April 2024.
-

1. ISSUE

- 1.1 Te Whiri Kōkō is a key engagement forum between Rangitāne o Manawatū (Rangitāne) and Palmerston North City Council (PNCC). The forum undertakes the sharing of information, current and upcoming projects and programmes, and establishes how and who will progress work on behalf of Rangitāne o Manawatū.
- 1.2 This regular memorandum is presented to the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee to provide an overview of key issues that are tabled at the forum. It covers the two meetings held since the previous update, in February and March 2024.

2. MATTERS RAISED IN TE WHIRI KŌKŌ

Te Tapuwae Tahi

- 2.1 This public document of significant iwi cultural sites in the Manawatū, a partnership project led by Rangitāne and CEDA, has now been launched with copies available publicly including at the iSite. This high-quality publication is aimed at visitors to the Manawatū but is also an excellent resource for City residents.

Long Term Plan update

- 2.2 The draft LTP which is out for public consultation was summarised for the iwi leaders to some detail. Key areas of interest were the facilities proposed

including Te Motu o Poutoa, the multicultural and Pasifika centres, the Awapuni Library community hub and the Te Pātiktiki library.

- 2.3 There was a discussion around how consultation would be undertaken regarding Te Motu o Poutoa, particularly in terms of having signage at the site and whether there would be public sessions to outline the details of the project.

Health Promotion Policies

- 2.4 Rangitāne were supportive of the approach of a single policy that covered sun protection, sugary drinks and smoking/vaping. The policies have a strong alignment with Rangitāne views on health. Many of the fundamental rationale were the same or similar for all three policies so integrating them into a single document was seen to have merits which also allowed for the potential inclusion of new health responses in the future.

Māori Wards

- 2.5 The Government's coalition agreement sets out its intention to amend the Local Electoral Act to require councils to hold a referendum on Māori wards in 2025, to apply for 2028. Rangitāne does not support this approach and will be advocating alongside other iwi for this not to go ahead. They encourage PNCC to support this stance and will be expressing this formally to the elected members.

New edition of Passport to Play Palmy

- 2.6 Starting with the Pūanga ki Papaioea Play trail from 2023 it is proposed that this be elevated to a new edition of Passport to Play (number 4), to be launched at Pūanga -Matariki later this year. Rangitāne endorse this initiative and work is underway regarding site selection, cultural narratives, activities at each location, and overall design.

Dual Naming of Te Āpiti o te Manawatū – Manawatū Gorge

- 2.7 This issue has been initially raised in discussions between the Māori Advisory officers from Horizons, Tararua District, Manawatū District and Palmerston North City Councils. Horizons Regional Council has now taken the institutional lead to submit a formal application to Toitū Te Whenua - New Zealand Geographic Board, for the dual naming of this significant regional site.

Te Whare Kouru – Animal Shelter

- 2.8 Rangitāne o Manawatū have gifted the name, Te Whare Kouru. The kouru is the crown of a tree and what sits under that canopy is protected from the elements. This term is used in Māori metaphor to express how the care and protection provided by great leaders likens them to the kouru of a tree, and the facility and staff of the animal shelter are also providing this refuge and sanctuary. Arrangements for an opening ceremony in April including an early morning tikanga process has also begun. A date has not yet been finalised.

New Bus Services and Bus Stops

- 2.9 The construction of over 80 new bus shelters has begun in the City to be ready for the launch of the new electric bus services earlier this month (March). These shelters are unique and include Māori designs by Kereama Taepa in the glass panelling and rear wall. Rangitāne blessed the shelters at a ceremony held near IPU on 4 March.

Presentation from Ra Durie on Cultural and Sports Facilities in the Region

- 2.11 Ra Durie has been involved in sports medicine and many sports initiatives over his career. He gave a presentation on his proposals for future regional sports facilities and talked about the value of centralising these together in order to share common infrastructure. He acknowledged that if anything was developed on a regional scale using his model it would likely need to be a greenfields development. Ra was encouraged to submit his ideas formally to the Council as part of the 10-year plan consultation and appreciated the opportunity to socialise his thinking with other Rangitāne leaders on these matters.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- 2.41 In addition to the matters detailed above, officers provided updates on the following projects:

- Manawatū Regional Food Strategy – CEDA update and next steps
- Reminder of annual governance catchups of at least two face-to-face opportunities for elected member – iwi engagement annually
- Supply of Alcohol Act update
- Contribution to the draft biannual Environmental Sustainability Review (to Council in May)
- Development Contributions Policy alignment to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993
- Space-themed mural – by Darcelle Nesser, to be painted in the Central Business District. To replace the one Jemma Cheer created that was vandalised
- Government roading policy overview
- Proposed renewal of Rose Garden Croquet Club lease at the Esplanade
- Proposed lease agreement at Tōtara Road for several clubs who are based there
- Resource Recovery Plan – overview of draft document
- Featherston Street upgrade
- Palmerston North to Feilding shared pathway
- Hokowhitū Lagoon River entrance and Ruahine Reserve updates
- Ashhurst dump station
- City centre play instruments for Te Marae o Hine
- Looking for a permanent location for a Kī-ō-rahi playing field
- Planting plan for He Ara Kotahi
- Three Bridges Loop track

- Treatment plant seismic upgrade
- New northern bore at Milson Line
- Drinking water quality assurance rules
- Water safety plan
- Dye testing of pipes
- Gasworks drain upgrade progress
- Whakarongo attenuation pond
- Wikiriwhi Pump Station upgrade

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 Continue to deliver Te Whiri Kōkō and adjust regular reporting based on feedback received on this report.

4. COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide? If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual		Yes
Are the decisions significant?		No
If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water?		No
Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan?		No
Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure?		No
Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions?		Yes
Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans?		No
The recommendations contribute to Goal 5: A Driven & Enabling Council		
The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in (Not Applicable)		
Contribution to strategic direction and to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being	Rangitāne o Manawatū is a Tiriti partner and has the status of mana whenua and holds customary authority for the Palmerston North area. Much of the focus of joint programmes is to ensure there are pathways for the restoration of mana whakahaere or influence on those matters that remain a priority for the iwi. This can be summarised as the ability for iwi to practise rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga in their rohe (customary authority and guardianship within their customary area).	

ATTACHMENTS

NIL

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

TO: Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee

MEETING DATE: 10 April 2024

TITLE: Work Schedule for Paenga-whāwhā April 2024.

RECOMMENDATION TO RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ COMMITTEE

1. That the Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee receive its Work Schedule dated Paenga-whāwhā April 2024.

COMMITTEE WORK SCHEDULE

Report Date	Subject	Officer Responsible	Current Position	Date of Instruction & Clause number
Paenga-whāwhā April 2024	Te Āpiti Master plan – progress report	Chief Infrastructure Officer		26 April 2023 Clause 4-23
Paenga-whāwhā April 2024	Manawatū River framework – progress report	Chief Infrastructure Officer		26 April 2023 Clause 4-23
Paenga-whāwhā April 2024	Te Whiri Kōkō – Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Standing Item for every meeting	26 April 2023 Clause 4-23
Paenga-whāwhā April 2024 Mahuru September 2024	Te Motu o Poutoa Development Plan - Progress Report	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Awaiting outcome of LTP deliberations.	Terms of Reference
Mahuru September 2024	Te Whiri Kōkō - Council Engagement with Rangitāne o Manawatū	Chief Infrastructure Officer	Standing Item for every meeting	26 April 2023 Clause 4-23

Attachment: Rangitāne o Manawatū Terms of Reference.

RANGITĀNE O MANAWATŪ COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Chair ⁶	The Mayor
Deputy Chair	Mr Wiremu Te Awe Awe
Membership (10) (Mayor, 4 Hirawanui ward councillors, 2 Te Pūao ward councillors and 3 Rangitāne representatives)	<p><i>Te Hirawanui ward councillors</i> Councillor Vaughan Dennison Councillor Karen Naylor Councillor Billy Meehan Councillor Kaydee Zabelin</p> <p><i>Te Pūao ward councillors</i> Councillor Roly Fitzgerald Councillor Debi Marshall-Lobb</p> <p><i>Rangitāne representatives</i> Ms Danielle Harris Mr Chris Whaiapu</p>
Quorum	6 (minimum of 3 members from Council and 3 members from Rangitāne)
Meeting schedule	Quarterly
Venue	Meetings may be held at Council Chambers and marae.

Terms of Reference:

1. To consider matters relating to the wellbeing of Māori in Palmerston North, by monitoring:
 - a. City wellbeing data from a demographic perspective (Māori)
 - b. Long Term Plan community outcome commitments and impact on the local Māori communities

2. To have oversight of progress and implementation of programmes of work agreed in Kawenata in Relation to Te Motu o Poutoa Agreement, including but not limited to the following strategic projects:
 - a. Development of a reserve management plan for Te Motu o Poutoa
 - b. Manawatū River Framework

3. To consider matters of strategic relevance to Māori, including but not limited to:
 - a. The Manawatū River Plan
 - b. urban development and infrastructural capacity
 - c. boundary issues
 - d. water and wider environmental issues within Palmerston North City Council’s authority
 - e. the development of relationships between other Iwi/Hapū and Council
 - f. participation and access

⁶ Chair and Deputy Chair to alternate annually

4. To receive presentations on:

- a. Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge Masterplan
- b. Any matter that may impact on Māori in the city

5. In the spirit of partnership, to recommend to Council:

- a. Leadership direction or guidance with regard to Council's obligations or responsiveness to Māori in the city and related budget implications for future planning
- b. The reserve management plan for Te Motu o Poutoa
- c. Any emerging matters for submission to Central Government
- d. Reserves which are wāhi tupuna to Rangitāne o Manawatū which could also fall under te Kawenata
- e. Any modifications to Standing Orders or meeting procedures to enable the Committee to effectively operate.

Delegations

Rangitāne o Manawatū Committee has been delegated the following responsibilities by Council. Within its Terms of Reference and complying with the purpose of the Local Government Act 2002, to:

- Receive or note any report or memorandum or other information submitted to the Committee.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to report back to the Committee or to Council.
- Refer any report or memorandum to any other Committee or Council for consideration.
- To undertake any special project oversight as requested by Council.