

Wellington Regional
**Spaces
and Places
Strategy**
2025



Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Wellington Region Spaces and Places Steering Group (PSG) and Project Working Group (PWG) members listed below including where members were part of both groups.

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1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Overview

The level of participation possible in sport and active recreation activities is closely connected to the availability of an accessible and functional network of spaces and places (assets and facilities). Across the Wellington region, there is a range of established spaces and places, including aquatic facilities, indoor and outdoor courts, turfs and sports fields, bike paths, skate and play facilities to support community participation. However, the future of the spaces and places network, and any improvements to it, is facing significant challenges requiring a more coherent and collaborative strategy to ensure it is future-proofed. This spaces and places Strategy and decision-making framework looks to put in place ways to turn the challenges faced into opportunities for future sustainability of the region's spaces and places network.

1.1.1 Purpose of this Strategy

This Strategy guides the approach to regional planning, provision and decision making for active recreation and

sport spaces and places (assets and facilities) in the Wellington region. It provides an update to, and replaces, the 2019 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy.

1.1.2 Strategic Context

The Wellington region has a current population of about 545,000 residents. The region includes the metropolitan centre of Wellington City, New Zealand's capital, and extends across a mix of urban, suburban and rural landscapes. The Wairarapa is a large part of the region's land area and is made up of agricultural and horticultural land uses and enjoys a generally warmer climate than the rest of the region. Much of the region has ready access to the coast or natural environment.

The population of the region is forecast to grow to 725,000 residents by 2054 – an increase of 180,000 people compared to the current population. While the structure of the region's population is ageing, the population will continue to see growth across all age groupings over the next 30 years. The region's ethnic population will continue to increase in diversity, with a greater share of the population

predicted to identify of Asian or Māori descent in the future.

The greater Wellington region is overseen by one regional council (Greater Wellington Regional Council) and 8 territorial authorities (district or city councils) who are the primary service and asset providers of spaces and places in the region.

1.2 Challenges and Opportunities

1.2.1 The Affordability and Condition of the Spaces and Places Network

The condition and age of spaces and places in the Wellington region present a challenge to upkeep and maintain, as a functioning network, within current available budgets. In some parts of the region, there are identified provision gaps and pressure on the availability of spaces and places at peak times, and in other areas, there are facilities that are no longer fit for purpose and underutilised. Related factors to this challenge also include:

- The pressure on available funding sources and lower club membership rates is restricting organisations' capacity to spend on spaces and places (including maintenance, renewal and new developments).
- The changing nature of casual and non-traditional sport and recreation means demand cannot always be met by the existing network, especially at peak times.
- Decisions on space and places provision are not always making the best use of available evidence and data to align either provision or condition of facilities to demand.

1.2.2 Opportunities to Access Spaces and Places

There are shortcomings in the ways spaces and places are designed to provide access for everyone in the community to have an equal opportunity to participate. The inclusive design and availability of specific amenities (like toilets or changing rooms) are influencing factors for some in choosing to join a club or take part in sport and active recreation on a more casual basis.

Differences across the region in the way data is collected and used to inform space allocation, fees and charges and levels of service means there is inconsistent space and place availability and user experiences across the region.

1.2.3 Climate Change and Sustainability

The increasing frequency and unpredictability of weather events linked to climate change are also requiring decisions on the likely future viability of some assets and facilities. This impacts a range of decisions from types of drainage, soil and grass types, to relinquishing assets that can no longer be insurable.

Spaces and places owners are needing to put in place measures to improve sustainability (energy efficiency, waste

The population of the region is forecast to grow to 720,000 residents by 2053 - an increase of 175,000 people compared to the current population.

and emissions reduction), but funding and capability in this area make it difficult for many organisations to make the necessary changes.

1.2.4 Opportunities to Plan and Provide Differently

All these challenges present opportunities to consider more collaborative provision models. These include looking region-wide and locally for viable solutions, and to prioritise adapting and getting the most out of existing space and place investment.

Some of the specific opportunities highlighted through engagement and feedback received during the development of this Strategy include:

- Enabling more multi-use and partnering models in the provision of spaces and places, including with iwi and kaupapa Māori organisations.
- Getting the most out of existing facilities by leveraging data and insights to inform more flexible design solutions.
- Making spaces and places more appealing, useable and accessible for all members of the community.
- Enabling greater sustainability and resilience of spaces and places.

1.2.5 Spaces and Places Strategy Objectives

This Strategy outlines four objectives to allow the Wellington Region Spaces and Places network to respond to the identified challenges and opportunities. These are to:

- Prioritise making the most out of existing Spaces and Places to meet demand through both facility and non-facility solutions.

This means looking to extend the capacity of existing spaces and places to meet changing demand through direct facility improvements or non-facility choices like consistent policy, pricing or use of digital management solutions.

- Target investment and resources to address the barriers some communities are facing to participation.

This requires the design of spaces and places that support the needs of all members of the community regardless of life stage, gender, physical ability or ethnicity. Additional sub-regional challenges also demand targeted investment to address proximity and accessibility barriers. This is most likely in the Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast.

- Implement a flexible range of delivery and funding methods to improve the future affordability of Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region.

This means broadening both the range of models and funding mechanisms to support greater choice and flexibility in space and place provision.

- Invest in new spaces and places where there is proof of need, and no alternative solution.

Being clear about what current or future gaps might exist, and for who, is an important first step before considering new space and place investment. Where a need may be proven, solutions should include looking for co-investment

opportunities with school facilities, and spaces and places that support multiple uses and offer flexibility to adapt to new or emerging demands.

1.2.6 A Move to More Collaborative Regional Decision Making

Achieving these objectives will require adapting current, or introducing new mechanisms, to support more collaborative planning and solution finding. The decision-making process accompanying this Strategy looks to put in place a way to quickly identify and support potential initiatives and solutions to implement the four objectives outlined. This process includes:

- A strategic assessment phase where a proposed solution or initiative can be readily checked for alignment to the principles and criteria applied through this Strategy.
- A more detailed review phase, including involvement and advice from subject matter experts to test the proposed solution.

This decision-making process will be supported by Nuku Ora and overseen by the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group. The existing national guidance provided by [Sport New Zealand](#) will continue to be a key reference point supporting this decision making. This process seeks to achieve improved regional collaboration and more informed and consistent local decision making.



2.0 Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed following an assessment of a range of evidence and stakeholder engagement.

2.1 Region Wide Recommendations

2.1.1 Use of Spaces and Places Strategy and Decision-Making Framework

- (1) That each partner agency covered by this Spaces and Places Plan adopts and uses both the strategy and decision-making framework in their planning for spaces and places provision.
- (2) That the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group holds the role for ongoing review and endorsement of proposed initiatives and solutions through the collaborative decision-making framework, making recommendations to individual organisations' decision-making processes as required.

2.1.2 Backbone Support – Nuku Ora

- (3) That the process outlined in the collaborative decision-making framework, including backbone support for the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group, be led and implemented by Nuku Ora. The next steps for this implementation will be to:
 - (a) Finalise a Strategic Assessment checklist for new initiatives or solutions
 - (b) Develop and deploy a communication/education plan to help raise awareness of the strategy and the collaborative decision-making framework.
- (4) As part of this backbone support role Nuku Ora should develop and maintain an implementation plan for these Spaces and Places Strategy Recommendations (and other associated recommendations from prior indoor court and sports field assessments). This implementation plan should assign accountability, identify timing and partnership opportunities, and funding responsibility for each recommendation.

2.1.3 Assess The Impacts of Climate Change

- (5) Councils or sub-regional clusters of Councils are encouraged to assess the spaces and places assets in their area(s) which are potentially at risk of being impacted by weather related impacts of climate change (like inundation or flooding). This assessment should recommend assets or facilities that require future proofing to prepare for these impacts while maintaining appropriate level of access and provision. This future proofing should apply the spaces and places principles and consider opportunities like expanding facility usage and partnerships (e.g. water sports sharing facilities).

2.1.4 Aligned Code Regional Facility Network Planning

- (6) Complete a regional assessment of bowls facilities' needs and opportunities, including identifying any facility sharing opportunities with other potential aligned sports and recreation partners through the assessment process (e.g. croquet / pétanque and other users who may use covered bowling green facilities or share clubroom spaces).
- (7) Complete an assessment of available racquet sport facilities and needs to identify facility sharing opportunities with other potential aligned sports and recreation partners through the assessment process (e.g. tennis, pickleball, padel and other users who use similar court facilities).

2.1.5 Improvements to Mid-Sized Stadium Provision

- (8) That short-term opportunities be progressed to provide a quality upgrade of sports fields and facilities at Porirua Park. As this provides regional benefit, opportunities for co-investment in this upgrade should be considered by the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group.

2.1.6 Improvements to Supporting Facilities

- (9) All councils and facility owners should be encouraged to proactively plan for improvements to toilet and changing rooms facilities, including ensuring appropriate quality of provision and that the opening hours for these facilities are aligned to times of public use.
- (10) That an assessment of the ownership and provision of night lighting for spaces and places be progressed.² This assessment should look to understand the benefits of Council owning and managing these lights (if they don't already) and where additional network provision can be made available as a quick win. This should be considered for sports fields, outdoor courts and turfs where capable of providing for the additional use.

2.2 Wairarapa Sub-Region

The following recommendations relate to the Wairarapa sub-region.

2.2.1 Spaces and Places Network Plan

- (11) That a spaces and places needs assessment and network plan be completed for the Wairarapa sub-region to guide increased partnership and collaboration opportunities in this area, including opportunities for school partnerships (sharing both Council and school facilities). This should acknowledge travel barriers to destination facilities and the need for local and easily accessible opportunities. This needs assessment and network plan should be guided by the objectives in the Spaces and Places Strategy and any other opportunities identified through stakeholder engagement.
- (12) That either as part of (11) or separately, an aquatic needs assessment be completed to assess current

² Noting this is for spaces and places with sufficient turf quality to ensure additional utilisation can be sustained if lighting is installed or enhanced.

and future aquatic provision. This should particularly look at provision of warm water options (like hydrotherapy) for an ageing population.

- (13) That the feasibility study for provision of additional indoor court space in the Wairarapa be progressed and provided to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to consider for endorsement (where this is a sub-regional facility).

2.3 Kāpiti Coast District Sub-region

2.3.1 Spaces and Places Network Plan

- (14) That a spaces and places needs assessment and network plan be completed for the Kāpiti Coast District sub-region to guide increased partnership and collaboration opportunities in this area including opportunities for school partnerships (sharing both Council and school facilities). This should acknowledge travel barriers to destination facilities and the need for local and easily accessible opportunities. This needs assessment and network plan should be guided by the objectives in the Spaces and Places Strategy and any other opportunities identified through stakeholder engagement.
- (15) For indoor courts in Kāpiti Coast District:
 - (a) That the business case for provision of additional indoor court space in the Kāpiti Coast district be provided to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to consider for endorsement (where this is a sub-regional facility) and;
 - (b) That network optimisation opportunities, like covering existing outdoor courts, should also be considered as a low-cost alternative to provide additional network capacity.



3.0 Introduction

3.1 Background

This is the 2nd edition of a Spaces and Places Strategy for the Wellington region. This refresh of the Strategy has been developed through collaboration between Nuku Ora, Sport New Zealand | Ihi Aotearoa, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council and for the Wairarapa sub-region, South Wairarapa District Council, Masterton and Carterton District Councils.

3.2 Purpose of the Strategy

This Spaces and Places Strategy guides the approach to regional planning and provision of active recreation and sport spaces and places (assets and facilities) in the Wellington region. It provides an update to, and replaces, the 2019 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy.

This Strategy provides a high-level strategic framework to guide councils, funders and community organisations across the Wellington region in their decision-making for spaces and places planning and provision. Accompanying the strategic framework is a decision-making process that supports consistency in the assessment of spaces and places initiatives against the strategic framework. This process recognises that resources are limited, and prioritisation of future investment is critical.

While this Strategy applies to the entire Wellington region, it also acknowledges where there may be specific sub-regional challenges or requirements faced in the Wairarapa (Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa districts) and the Kāpiti Coast district.

This Strategy provides a high-level strategic framework to guide councils, funders and community organisations across the Wellington region in their decision-making for spaces and places planning and provision.

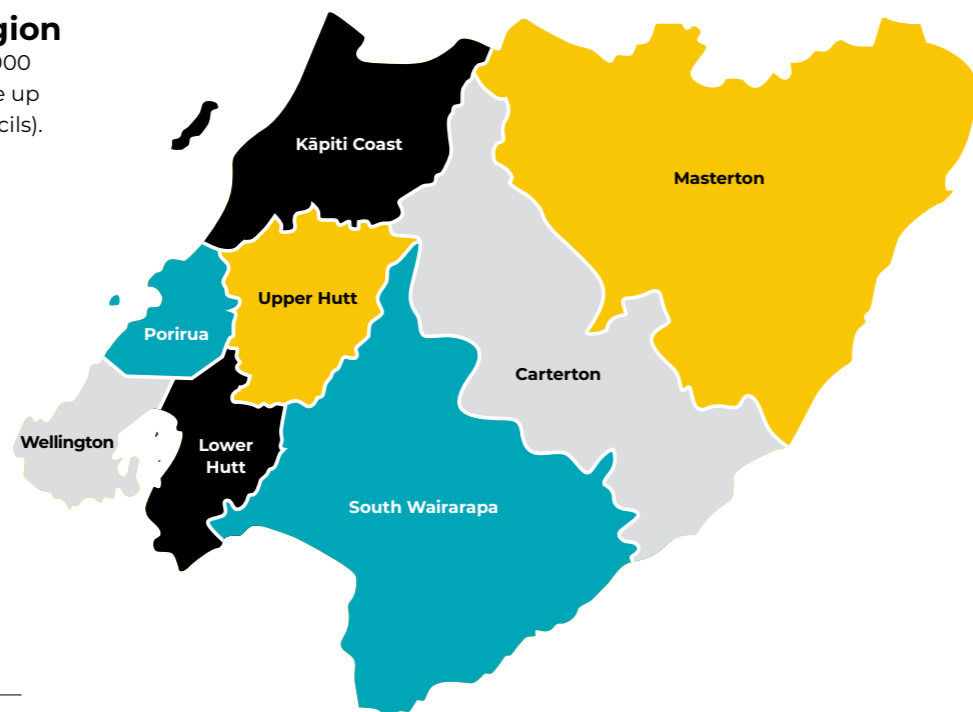


4.0 Strategic Context

4.1 The Wellington Region

The Wellington region covers an 8,000 square kilometre area³, that is made up of eight territorial authorities (Councils). A map of the region is provided in Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1: Wellington Region and Territorial Authorities within the Region



³ Greater Wellington Region website

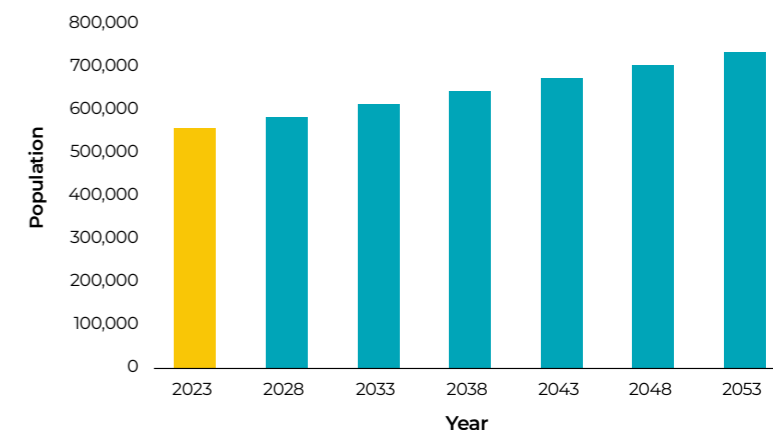
4.2 Demographic Overview

4.2.1 A Projected Growing Population

The population of the Wellington region is predicted to grow over the next 25-30 years. The scale and location of this population growth is less certain, with varied forecasts available. This variability is largely due to difficulty predicting population growth from migration, given the disruption to these patterns following the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2023 population of the Wellington region was estimated at 545,000, and this population is projected to grow by 32% over the next 30 years to a total of 720,000 residents by 2053⁴.

This expected growth will require facilities and infrastructure to adapt to changing demand and the anticipated increased pressure on some spaces and places at peak times.

Figure 4-2 : Wellington Region Population Projection



Source: Sense Partners population projections for Greater Wellington Regional Council (50th Percentile)

4.2.2 Variable Projected Growth Across the Region

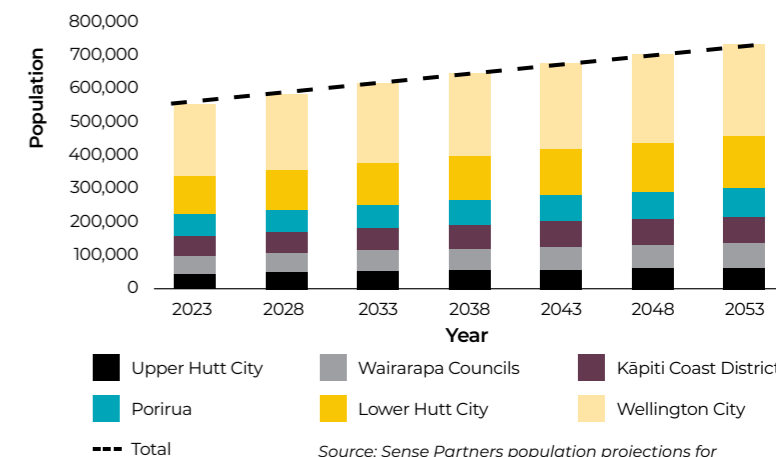
While the overall population of the Wellington region is expected to grow, there are differences in how this growth might be distributed. Growth forecasts for council areas range from a low of 27% (Wellington City) and a high of 45% (for both Carterton and Masterton) to 2053 (See Table 4-1). However, in absolute numbers, Wellington City is expected to see the largest population growth of 57,280 people⁵ over the 2023-2053 period, with Upper Hutt forecast to see the least growth (15,600 people).

This variability will require a better understanding of where localised population changes will occur, connected to planning that ensures the changing sport and recreation needs of a growing population can be met.

Table 4-1 Growth Projections for Wellington Region by Council Area 2021-2054⁶

COUNCIL AREA	2021	2030	2040	2050	2054	% change between 2021-2054 for the 50th percentile
Carterton District	10,073	11,574	13,162	14,651	15,197	51%
Kapiti Coast District	57,422	63,552	71,140	78,538	80,924	41%
Lower Hutt City	112,235	121,492	133,758	145,810	150,237	34%
Masterton District	28,403	33,060	37,416	41,546	42,984	51%
Porirua City	61,158	66,705	73,680	80,820	83,432	36%
South Wairarapa District	11,612	13,075	14,695	16,088	16,606	43%
Upper Hutt City	47,326	52,218	57,458	62,395	64,238	36%
Wellington City	215,378	224,449	244,952	263,400	271,288	26%
Total Wellington Region	543,607	586,125	646,261	703,248	724,906	

Figure 4-3 Wellington Region Councils Population Projection



Source: Sense Partners population projections for Greater Wellington Regional Council (50th Percentile)

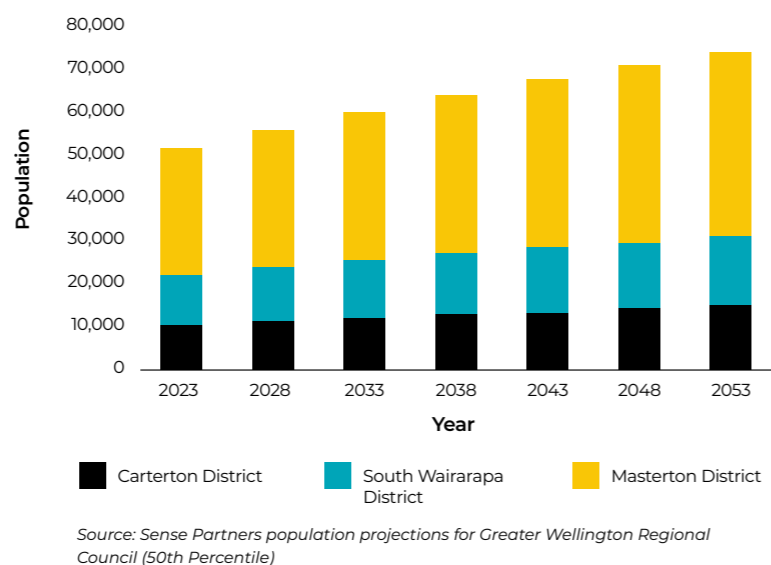
⁴ Using Sense Partners Projections

⁵ For more information about each council area please refer to Appendix 2

⁶ Sense Partners Population Forecast 2021-51 – 50th percentile projection

All Councils in the Wairarapa sub-region are forecast to grow in population (see Figure 4-4), with Masterton expected to see the greatest growth (about 13,000 new residents by 2053).

Figure 4-4 Wairarapa Councils Population Projection



4.2.3 An Ageing Population

While all age groupings are forecast to see some population growth, the highest proportion of change will be seen in those aged 75 or over (growing from 7% of the population in 2023 to 12% by 2048).

Future spaces and places will need to consider the sport and active recreation needs of the whole population. With an ageing demographic, demand for aspects such as warm, accessible facilities will increase. This may mean there is demand for more indoor recreation, social spaces, and warm water provision in aquatic facilities.

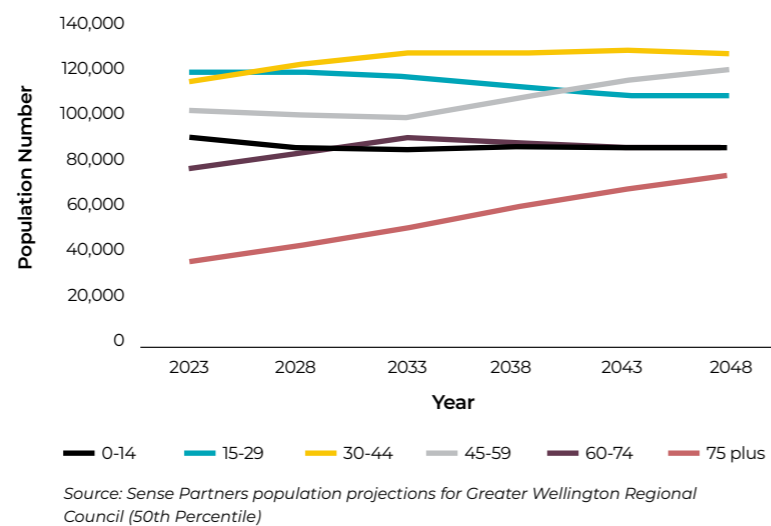
From 2033, those within the 45-59 age grouping are expected to grow at the second-highest rate (from 17% of the population in 2033 to 20% by 2048). This age grouping is likely to have different needs in a spaces and places network⁷ than older or younger age groupings. Consideration of the more specific needs of this age group will need to be factored into future space and place provision.

While there is some initial growth in younger age groups (less than 30 years of age), this age group is expected to diminish over time (from 39% of the population in 2023 to 32% by 2048). Typically,

this age group has the highest proportion of involvement in organised sports, and while still seeing growth, may require a shift in emphasis towards older age group provision than currently.

Figure 4-5 depicts the change in the expected population for different age groupings in the Wellington region to 2048.

Figure 4-5 Projected Wellington Region Age Structure 2023-2048



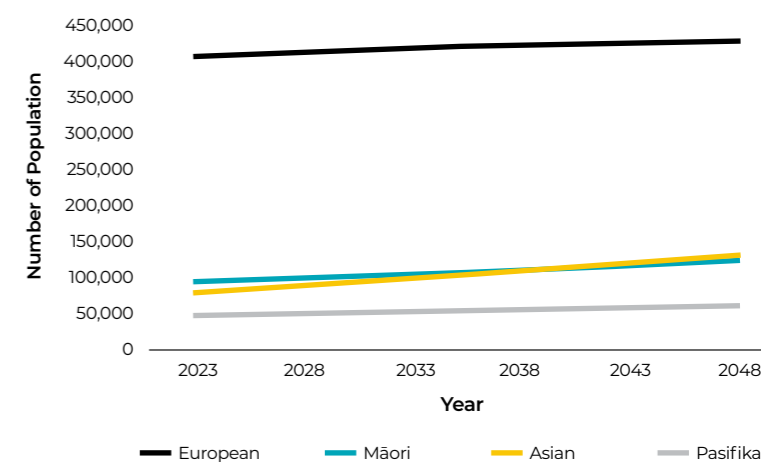
4.2.4 A More Diverse Region

The greatest proportion of the population in the region will continue to identify as New Zealand European; however, this population group will only represent 0.3% of projected annual population growth, totalling an increase of 19,000 residents by 2043 (see Figure 4-6)⁸.

Proportionally, the most significant changes in ethnicity will see those of Māori descent increase by about 28,000 (a 1.5% annual increase), and an increase in those who identify of Asian descent of about 51,000 by 2043, representing a 2.5% annual increase⁹.

Active recreation and sport participation preferences can vary significantly across different ethnic groups. Taking the time to understand the ethnic profile of an area, and the associated participation preferences will be an important step in future space and place planning.

Figure 4-6 Projected Population Across Four Highest Ethnicity Groupings

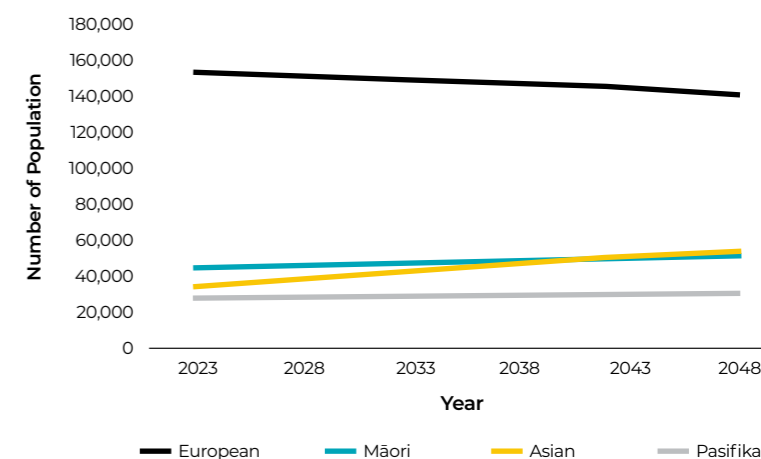


4.2.5 A Younger Age Profile Expected – for some ethnicities

While there is an expected trend towards an older population in the region, there are some notable changes in the population projected in the 0–29-year age group for some ethnic groupings.

The profile of those who identify as Asian and Māori ethnicity, within the 0–29-year age group, will increase to 2043 while those of New Zealand European descent will decrease over the same period (see Figure 4-7).

Figure 4-7 Wellington Region Ethnic Projected Profile (0-29 Age Group)



⁷ An example is greater demand for aqua therapy or hydrotherapy in aquatic facilities.

⁸ Ethnic population totals may total to greater than 100% as individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity

⁹ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/subnational-ethnic-population-projections-2018base2043-update/>

4.2.6 Deprivation

The highest decile deprivation areas in the region, outside the more built-up urban areas, include parts of Masterton, Featherston (Wairarapa) and Ōtaki (Kāpiti Coast District).¹⁰ This is highlighted in Figure 4-8.

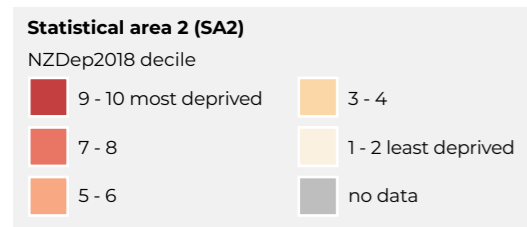


Figure 4-8 Deprivation in the Wellington Region¹¹

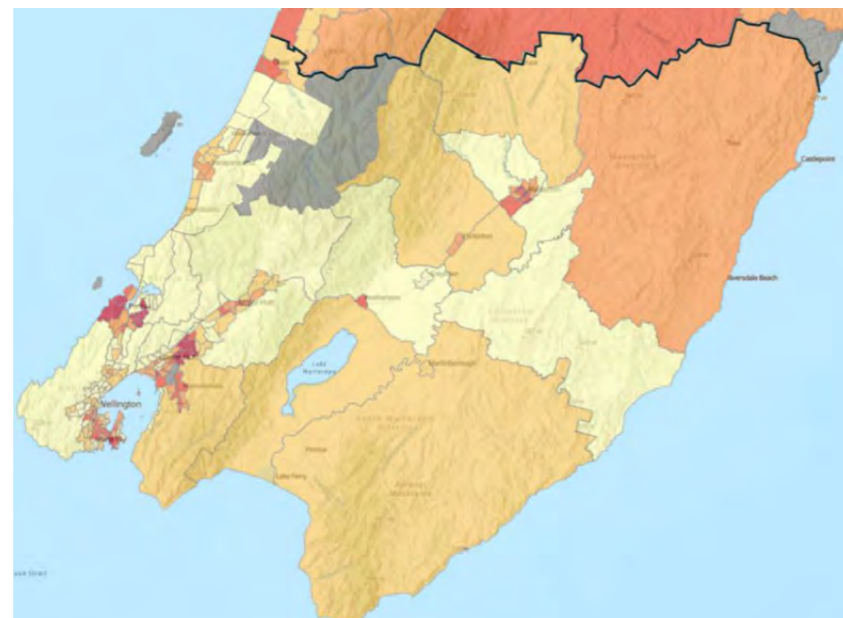


Figure 4-9 takes a closer look in more built-up urban parts of the region. This identifies the highest concentration of high decile deprivation suburbs in Porirua (Cannons Creek, and Porirua East), and in Hutt City (includes parts of Naenae / Stokes Valley / Taitā and Wainuiomata).

Nuku Ora already supports community-led initiatives in the geographical priority communities of Porirua and Hutt City (Lower Hutt). Targeted investment in space and place provision alongside community-led initiatives in these areas may also be a consideration in future investment.

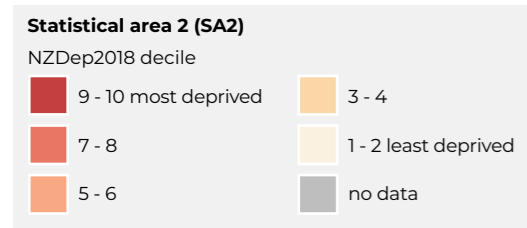
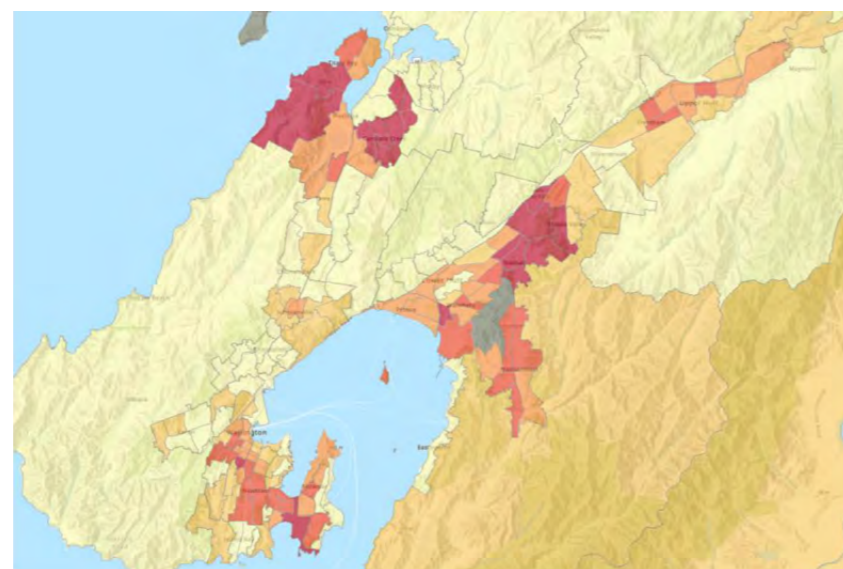


Figure 4-9 Deprivation Index – Wellington City, Porirua, Hutt City and Upper Hutt



4.3 Participation Trends

4.3.1 The Top Five Activity Behaviours

The Sport New Zealand Insights tool¹² provides data on the participation rates in sport and recreation activities across New Zealand. This insights tool has been used to provide a summary of the activity behaviour (interests and preferences)¹³ for the Wellington region.

The top five activity behaviours for the Wellington region overall and the sub-regions below (council areas) are represented in Table 4-2. This table highlights in **green** those activities with a significant difference from the national

participation figure (being at least 4% higher than the national figure for that activity).

Participation rates in the Wellington region are generally similar to the rest of New Zealand. Walking for leisure or sport is a behaviour with higher participation rates in Kāpiti Coast and the Wairarapa area (green highlight). These top activity preferences share common characteristics that they are typically:

- Informal or casual participation opportunities, and;
- Able to be participated in as an individual – as opposed to team-based activities.

Table 4-2 The Top Five Activity Behaviours in Wellington Region Territorial Authorities¹⁴



CITY / DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA	WALKING FOR SPORT OR LEISURE	JOGGING / RUNNING	INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT	SWIMMING	PLAYING (RUNNING AROUND, CLIMBING TREES, MAKE BELIEVE)
All of New Zealand	45.1%	25.6%	20.1%	13.1%	10.1%
Wellington Region	48.6%	25%	20.7%	13.9%	11.1%
Wellington City	48.3%	24.8%	20.4%	13.4%	10.3%
Upper Hutt	48.9%	24.8%	20.1%	13.9%	10.9%
Hutt City	47.4%	25.0%	19.7%	13.9%	11.4%
Porirua	48.5%	26.4%	20.3%	15.1%	13.2%
Kāpiti Coast	50.5%	24.3%	20.1%	14.1%	10.9%
South Wairarapa	50.8%	24.6%	20.4%	14.1%	10.8%
Carterton	50.8%	24.6%	20.3%	14.2%	10.9%
Masterton	49.6%	24.9%	19.9%	14.3%	11.4%

¹² This Tool sources data from Statistics NZ, Active NZ Survey (Sport NZ) School Sport New Zealand sports participation data, Ministry of Education, Health and Nielsen Research. See <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/>

¹³ Activity behaviours is modelled participation using combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey (last 7 Days participation rates) and Statistics NZ Census 2018.

¹⁴ Data sourced from the Sport NZ Insights Tool <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/> Modelled participation uses combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey and StatsNZ Census 2018.

4.3.2 Rounding out the Top Ten Behaviours in the Wellington Region

The next most popular activity behaviours outside the top 5 are outlined in Table 4-3 below. This shows that most popular participation/ activity behaviours (interests and preferences) in the Wellington region are typically based around informal and recreational activities.

Table 4-3 Rounding out the Top Ten Activity Behaviours¹⁵



CITY / DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA	ROAD CYCLING	PLAYING ON PLAYGROUND	GROUP EXERCISE	GARDENING	GAMES (E.G. 4 SQUARE, TAG, BULL RUSH)
All of New Zealand	10.3%	8.6%	8.1%	9.8%	8.8%
Wellington Region	9.8%	9.2%	9.1%	9.0%	8.2%
Wellington City	9.5%	8.6%	8.9%	8.9%	8.9%
Upper Hutt	9.8%	9.2%	8.9%	9.2%	8.9%
Hutt City	9.8%	9.5%	9%	9.5%	9%
Porirua	10.5%	10.7%	9.8%	8.2%	10.4%
Kāpiti Coast	10.0%	9.2%	9.1%	10.3%	8.6%
South Wairarapa	10.1%	9.2%	9%	10.3%	8.5%
Carterton	10.1%	9.3%	9%	10.3%	8.7%
Masterton	10.1%	9.6%	9%	9.6%	9.1%

4.3.3 Organised Sport Participation Rates

The activity behaviours data for the top 5 participation rates in the more 'organised'/ traditional sport category are as outlined in Table 4-4.

Table 4-4 Organised Sport Participation Rates in the Wellington Region 2024



CITY / DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA	FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL	NETBALL	GOLF	RUGBY
All of New Zealand	6.3%	4.4%	3.4%	3.7%	2.7%
Wellington Region	7.5%	4.7%	3.8%	3.2%	2.8%
Wellington City	7.3%	4.4%	3.7%	3%	2.5%
Upper Hutt	7.5%	4.4%	3.7%	3.3%	2.7%
Hutt City	7.5%	5.1%	3.9%	3.1%	3%
Porirua	7.9%	6.4%	4.4%	3.4% (5th)	3.8% (4th)
Kāpiti Coast	7.3%	4.2%	3.6%	3.4%	2.6%
South Wairarapa	7.4%	4.1%	3.6%	3.5%	2.6%
Carterton	7.5%	4.1%	3.6%	3.5%	2.6%
Masterton	7.5%	4.6%	3.8%	3.4%	2.8%

Source: Sport New Zealand Insights Tool (noting this data does not include activities with high recreation participation levels like mountain biking).

¹⁵ Data sourced from the Sport NZ Insights Tool <https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/> Modelled participation uses combined data from the 2019 and 2020 Active NZ Survey and StatsNZ Census 2018.

4.3.4 Secondary School Organised Sport Participation Rates

The regular census of secondary school students in 2024¹⁶, identifies participation rates in secondary school students. The top 10 organised sport activities for these students in the Wellington region are ranked below:

1. Netball (outdoor)
2. Football
3. Volleyball
4. Futsal
5. Basketball
6. Rugby Union
7. Badminton
8. Cricket (outdoor)
9. Touch
10. Hockey

This information helps demonstrate the importance of spaces and places that support young people to be able to engage in a range of activities.

4.3.5 Wairarapa - Voice of Rangatahi (2024)

Sport New Zealand in collaboration with Nuku Ora surveyed Wairarapa secondary school students in 2024 to understand how physical activity is experienced within secondary school setting. The most important improvements rangatahi identified to encourage them to do more physical activity are improvements to facilities e.g. changing rooms / toilets.

4.3.6 Inactive population

There is also a high amount of 'inactivity' observed for all New Zealanders (23.4%). Within Wellington region's communities a lower level of inactivity is recorded across all sub-regions than the national figure, ranging from 20.4% in Carterton to 21.3% in Porirua. The expected inactivity for the other 6 sub-regions is 20.5%-20.7%. With inactivity a common issue for many people, the provision of spaces and places that support people to easily connect with and engage in physical activity in ways that suit them individually is very important. Finding ways to hear about the needs of non-participants when planning spaces and places investments, and responding to these in space and place design, may help reduce inactivity.



¹⁶ Sourced from: <https://www.nzsssc.co.nz/Education/School-Sport-NZ-Census-Reports>



5.0 Advantages of the Wellington Region

5.1 Competitive Advantages of the Wellington Region (Spaces and Places)

Identifying the competitive advantages in a region can help to shape where space and place investment is able to leverage these advantages (directly or indirectly). The Wellington region is made up of varied sub-regions, which can mean the degree to which each competitive advantage applies may differ. The summary of the competitive advantages attributable to the Wellington region is outlined below (Table 5-1), and where possible, sub-regional differences are identified.

There are many opportunities available to interact with the harbours, waterways, native bush and coastal features across the region.

Table 5-1 Competitive Advantages for Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE	RELATED CONSIDERATIONS
<p>Opportunities To Connect With Nature (Te Taiao)</p> <p>There are many opportunities available to interact with the harbours, waterways, native bush and coastal features across the region. The ready availability of these opportunities provides an advantage in blending built space and place provision with these natural attributes.</p>	<p>Opportunities for connecting with nature are available close to the urban centres in the region, as well as to rural communities. There are many local parks, open spaces and coastal settings which offer opportunities to connect with nature across the region. Some examples include the Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne ecosanctuary and the Paekakariki Escarpment Track.</p>
<p>A Popular and Growing Network of Outdoor Bike Tracks and Trails</p> <p>The network and choices for off-road cycling experiences have grown across the region, fuelled by the effort and advocacy of local trail groups and volunteers. These trails connect through local council boundaries and are often on land overseen by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p>	<p>There is a range of spaces and places across the region, from the international quality Makara Peak mountain bike park to sub-regional trails like the Remutaka Cycle Trail in the Wairarapa and the Waiu Park (Wainuiomata) mountain bike trails.</p> <p>Local investment in infrastructure like pump tracks enables skill development so participants can progress to more challenging trails.</p>
<p>A Central Location In New Zealand</p> <p>The Wellington Region is located centrally in New Zealand. This location advantage provides good accessibility for the hosting of international and national sport and recreation events. The network of local facilities also supports events and competitions of a local or regional nature, and at times multiple facilities in the network are used to support national-level tournaments.</p> <p>This hosting is possible with a range of spaces and places able to support these events.</p>	<p>Wellington boasts a range of international and national standard sport and recreation venues close to the international and domestic airport. These include the venues listed in the snapshot of spaces and places.</p> <p>This central location, combined with high-quality venues, makes it possible for franchises like the Wellington Phoenix men's and women's teams to locate here. This advantage is more relevant in areas closer to Wellington City, and less relevant for the Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast.</p>

Table 4-1 continued

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE	RELATED CONSIDERATIONS
<p>High Māori Participation</p> <p>Participation rates for Māori in sport and recreation activities in the Wellington region are higher than for the broader population. These rates are notably higher again in areas of highest deprivation in the region¹⁷. Participation in sport and recreation in the region offers a strength-based opportunity for Māori rangatahi to reach their potential.</p>	<p>With a growing population of Māori anticipated in the region (including in the 0-29 age group) there continues to be an opportunity to build on the existing strength of Māori participation in sport and recreation activities in the region.</p> <p>Space and place provision that reflects te ao Māori, and design opportunities for co-governance like Te Whiti Park are examples of ways to provide settings to support Māori participation. Continuing engagement in waka ama and planning for inclusion of Tākaro in spaces and places provision continue to provide opportunities to sustain Māori participation.</p>
<p>Growing Diversity of Communities</p> <p>The population of the Wellington region is projected to not only grow over the next 20-30 years but also become more diverse. This growth will be most noticeable in Asian ethnicities, with growth also expected in Māori and Pasifika.</p>	<p>Those residents of the Wellington region who identify as Asian are predicted to increase by 50,000 to 2048. Likewise, Māori in the region will increase by 20,000 to 2048. The age profile of both Asian and Māori will typically be younger than for other ethnicities.</p> <p>This increasing diversity will likely drive demand for an increasing variety of participation opportunities.</p>
<p>Tourism and Destination Opportunities (Wairarapa)</p> <p>The Wairarapa sub-region is a popular tourist destination which offers opportunities for visitors and residents to combine engagement in the spaces and places network with other tourism activities.</p>	<p>In 2021 Destination Wairarapa published a destination management plan for the Wairarapa. The Wairarapa offers a well-regarded wine region, a small village feel iconic coastal and natural landscapes. These features along with tracks and trails like the Remutaka Cycle Trail, provide appealing opportunities to leverage the spaces and places network to support events and overall economic development of this sub-region. This, along with hosting more events, supporting iwi partnerships and tourism infrastructure recommended in the destination management plan, may support fully leveraging this competitive advantage.</p>

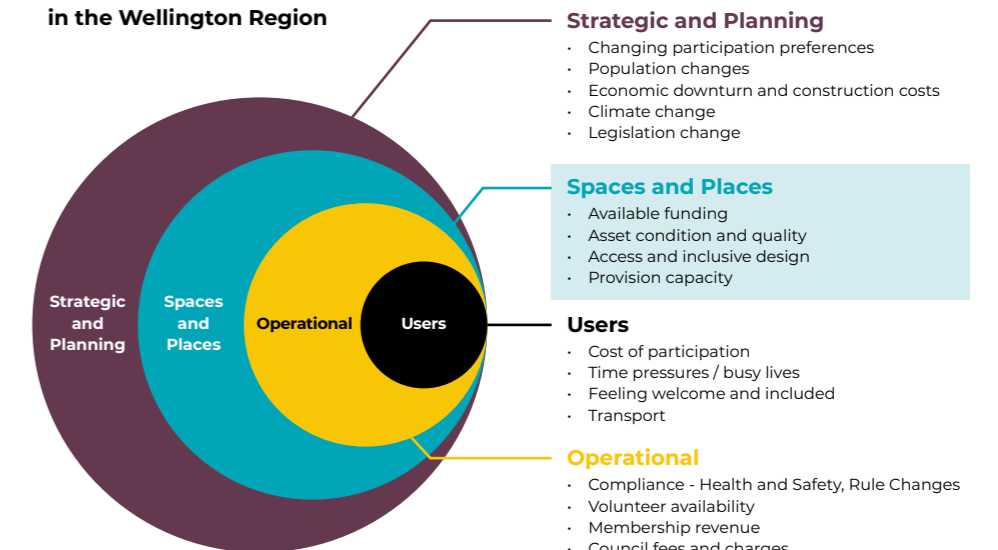
¹⁷ Sport NZ Insights Tool. Activity Behaviours – What are Our Interests and Preferences? Expected participation rates for all activities (Ethnicity Māori - Decile 8-10)



6.0 Regional Challenges and Opportunities

A range of challenges and opportunities are impacting active recreation and sport spaces and places across the Wellington region. There are differences in how directly these challenges impact the provision of spaces and places. The diagram below (Figure 6-1) separates the challenges and opportunities that have been consistently identified in research, stakeholder surveys, workshops and Project Steering Group direction by the level of impact these have on spaces and places planning and provision.

Figure 6-1 Challenges and Opportunities Relative to Spaces and Places Provision in the Wellington Region



6.1 Wellington Region Challenges and Opportunities

6.1.1 Strategic and Planning Challenges and Opportunities

The high-level strategic and planning challenges and opportunities facing spaces and places in the Wellington region are outlined in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Strategic Planning Challenges and Opportunities Currently Facing Spaces and Places in Wellington Region

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY

Changing Participation Preferences

Between 2018 and 2022, there has been an increase in revenue across New Zealand for 'pay to play' activities organised by the fitness industry or through commercial events. This indicates a change in consumer preferences for these types of activities in favour of activities organised by sports clubs, fitness clubs or local councils.¹⁸

The average membership of sport and active recreation clubs dipped during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since this time, membership rates have recovered, however, large clubs are growing and smaller clubs, mainly those with fewer than 100 members, are becoming rarer and, in some cases, closing.¹⁹

Rangatahi (aged 12-17) club membership has seen a steady decline from 89% in 2017 to 76% in 2023.²⁰ Rangatahi have expressed a desire for more flexible, less structured activities which let them follow their own schedule.

These changes signal evolving and changing participant preferences.



Population Changes (age, growth, ethnicity)

The Wellington region's population grew by 2.8% between the 2018 and 2023 censuses. The distribution of this forecast future population growth differs for parts of the region. On average, annual population growth is anticipated to range from 0.4% to 1.6% for different parts of the region.²¹

The population of the Wellington region is getting older faster. Fewer births and lower immigration forecast in the short term means there will be fewer people under the age of 35, while the number of people aged over 65 is growing rapidly.²² Further information on this is provided in the demographic section of this report.

The ethnic makeup of the region is also changing with an increasing Asian proportion of the population. There will also be noticeable growth in the Māori population of the region, with noticeable growth in rangatahi and tamariki.



Table 6-1 continued

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY

Economic Downturn and Construction Costs

The post Covid-19 economic downturn in New Zealand has seen a range of impacts for the play, sport and recreation sector. In the Wellington region, the economic downturn has been compounded by recent reductions in the public sector workforce.

There has been a reduction in revenue across the sector (2018-2022) with the biggest decrease seen for membership, participation, sponsorship and commercial activities.²³

The impacts of pressures on household income have also been apparent, with changes in participation driven by cost sensitivity. 66% of New Zealand households are doing more free or cheap activities than a year ago.²⁴

Many sport and recreation facility projects have seen significant cost escalations. Leading up to 2023, the construction sector saw increasing costs driven by both market inflation and building cost escalation. Costs are estimated to have increased 41% in New Zealand since 2019.²⁵

In recent times facility operators have also faced increases in operating costs, primarily relating to utility use and insurance. Continuing to adequately make provision for the renewal of assets has also been a challenge.



Climate Change

An increase in rainfall during short-period rainfall events is predicted across the region over the next 50 years.²⁶ Equally the risk of drought is projected to increase for parts of the region like the Wairarapa overtime as the region becomes warmer and seasonal rainfall patterns change.

The impacts of a changing climate present issues for future play, sport and recreation planning factors like drainage and other underground services caused by subsidence and increasing rainfall, and the location of assets in areas susceptible to flooding or coastal inundation.



¹⁸ Sport New Zealand and NZ Institute of Economic Research (NZIER)

¹⁹ Stronger Communities through Sport – NZ National Sport Club Survey (NZ Amateur Sport Association and AUT).

²⁰ Sport NZ – Active NZ Participation Trends (July 2024)

²¹ Sense Partners projections (March 2023 update)

²² Greater Wellington Regional Council website (Sense Partners 2023 forecasts)

²³ Sport NZ Funding for Play, Active Recreation and Sport Sector Report (2023)

²⁴ Sport NZ – trends shaping the sector (2024)

²⁵ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-tackling-high-construction-costs>

²⁶ http://www.niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/Wellington_Climate_WEB.pdf

6.1.2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities

The following table 6-2 summarises stakeholder feedback received through surveys and interviews conducted during the refresh of the 2019 Spaces and Places Strategy. Where specific sub-regional feedback in the Wairarapa has been received, this is noted under a separate heading.

Table 6-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Affordability: Available Funding

Budget constraints and limits on available funding are restricting the ability to develop and maintain a regional network of spaces and places.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Challenges related to affordability and funding are the most consistent themes identified through all feedback channels.

Sport NZ research identifies a reduction in revenue from membership and participation fees, sponsorship and commercial activities. An increasing reliance on central government and Class 4 gaming funding has been recognised at a National Level.²⁷

The gap between Class 4 (gaming) grants made and the requests for this funding has widened in recent years, and there are limited sources of alternative funding available in the region.

Councils are a key funder of spaces and places; however, they are facing core infrastructure challenges in many areas, including water and transport meaning little, if any, funding is available for spaces and places.

Affordability challenges are placing a greater onus on an approach that looks to make the most of existing spaces and places before looking to develop new facilities. By way of example, some stakeholder feedback has suggested there may be a need to consider a mid-size stadium venue in the region. In this instance, continuing to explore and upgrade existing venues, like Porirua Park, is likely to provide a more affordable option, than looking to invest in a new or significantly upgraded venue.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- “There is still a heavy reliance on user pays and grant funding (for hockey) as for most venues we receive no council support.” (Survey Response)
- “A lot of trail development and maintenance depends on volunteer work. There is currently no long-term funding for trail maintenance across the region.” (Survey Response)
- “More generally, there is likely to be less investment in the community game from New Zealand Cricket moving forward, as well as less access to Class 4 Funding.” (Survey Response)
- “The cost of hiring the turfs is financially restrictive.” (Survey Response)
- “Several large city clubs have been struggling with the concept of long-term lease and rates costs of their club facility which burdens the membership.” (Survey Response)

²⁷ An analysis of funding of the play, active recreation and sport sector in New Zealand.

Table 6-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities continued

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Affordability: Asset Condition and Quality

The existing space and place network is ageing, resulting in declining asset condition, and less ability to meet user requirements or adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

A theme in the secondary school survey responses noted challenges funding facility upkeep, where there is a high use and wear and tear on facilities.

Te Awa Māpara. Wellington City Council’s community facility plan has identified a key challenge with community facilities – is that they are no longer fit-for-purpose for today and the future.

For organisations that own their own facilities, increasing insurance costs have also been identified as a pressing issue.

All Council representatives have agreed issues with asset data, and in some cases, a lack of forward planning is not helping asset condition and quality.

Wairarapa: Wairarapa Council feedback notes where there is investment in asset renewal and maintenance it is often reactive and benefits some recipients at the expense of others.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- “Grass fields e.g. Anderson Park are poor but due to the convenient location we choose to still use them.” (Secondary School Survey Response)
- “...deferred maintenance is needing to be done at the same time as scheduled asset replacements/ upgrades.” (Survey Response)
- “There needs to be an increase in all-weather facilities. Parks are waterlogged and drainage is always an issue.” (Survey Response)
- “Biggest cost for us is our insurances, particularly on the building we own.” (Survey Response)
- “The cost of maintaining a facility that is 40+ years old is significant and with no annual Council investment the sport of tennis is disadvantaged compared to other sports that have Council-owned facilities.” (Survey Response)

Table 5-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities continued

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Access and Inclusive Design

Some community members face additional barriers or limitations to using spaces and places – linked to transport, cultural, age, affordability and disability considerations.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Regional organisations for sports like rugby and football have indicated growth in demand for participation from women and girls in particular

Community feedback to Te Awa Māpara – Community Facilities Plan for Wellington City Council indicates the desire for better quality facilities with more inclusivity and access to a greater range of offerings rather than needing more facilities.¹

Many sport and recreation organisations are providing opportunities for diversity, equity and inclusion programmes. 93% of respondents to the regional survey acknowledged they offered Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programmes with a strong focus on women and girls.

The provision of LGBTQ policies or signage and gender-neutral bathrooms / changing rooms were rated highly as very poor or poor at space and place venues by regional survey respondents.

The availability and opening hours for public toilets were also raised as a regular challenge to being able to fully utilise spaces and places.

Wairarapa: The challenge of needing to travel long distances to practice and play was identified as a specific concern in the Wairarapa.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

“The demands of the future are likely to be different from current demands so being solely directed by current use patterns or needs may not provide for usable facilities and spaces in the future. Example of this is the huge rise in pickleball especially with older participants.”
(Survey Response)

“What works well is taking our young people to activities that their siblings and peers are going to so they have shared experiences. E.g. ice skating, pickleball.”
(Regional Stakeholder Interview)

“Often across the Wellington region our teams turn up to play and facilities such as toilets/shower blocks aren’t open.”
(Survey Response)

“The amenities for sites are often opened late if opened at all.”
(Survey Response)

Table 6-2 Spaces and Places Challenges and Opportunities continued

CHALLENGE / OPPORTUNITIES

Provision Capacity

In parts of the region, there is a shortfall in the facilities required (particularly at peak times), while in other parts there are facilities, but they are either not made available to all groups or are underutilised. Some organisations are utilising opportunities to share access to overcome this issue.

EVIDENCE / STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

For organisations that do not own their own facilities, they often face challenges in scheduling, influencing facility maintenance (as it is out of their direct control) and long-term certainty.²⁸

A theme in secondary school survey responses is that most school facilities are heavily booked for school use, leaving little potential for increasing community access.

A lack of lighting of fields and turfs has also been identified as a constraint on evening use for both school and Council-provided assets.

Further secondary school survey feedback noted that often school facilities were developed with Council funding to ensure community access. This is limiting availability for school teams for both training and playing.

The Regional Indoor Court study Regional Indoor Courts Report completed by Nuku Ora recognises there is sufficient indoor court space at a region-wide level when considered against national benchmarks. However, this does not factor in the widening uses of indoor court spaces for informal sport use, non-sporting activity, the growing range of physical activities that demand access to indoor court spaces, or the demand at peak usage times, which places pressure on scheduling and allocation.²⁹

Pressure at peak times from activities was also noted as a driver for user groups to adapt to changing competition and training schedules to take advantage of off-peak capacity. Stakeholder feedback has noted shortfalls in access to, or provision of, indoor courts for some codes and communities. This includes new and emerging racquet sports like pickleball.

There is uneven demand and geographical gaps in distribution. A recent assessment in Kāpiti Coast District has identified a shortage of indoor courts in that area.

There are examples of some sport and recreation activities which have similar and aligned facility requirements (like greens-based activities, or racquet sports). Where these activities are seeing declining participation, or conversely increasing and new participation, there are opportunities to plan and manage these networks more collaboratively. For greens-based activities these opportunities are likely to be initiated through bowls who have indicated a desire to look into this further..

Wairarapa: A shortfall in indoor courts in the Wairarapa has also been noted in a recent needs assessment.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

“We have found ourselves in a really dire situation, where we are competing with so many other community groups for venue space just to practice twice a week.”
(Survey Response)

“The biggest issue is cost and availability. The region desperately needs more indoor space for sports due to growth in basketball, badminton, floorball, volleyball and pickleball.”
(School Survey Response)

“We need more artificial all-weather surfaces so night sport is available.”
(School Survey Response)

“We are currently unable to deliver futsal to Primary School Age futsal players due to the full capacity at Akau Tangi Sports Centre.”
(Survey Response)

A further outline of the Operational and User challenges and opportunities is provided in the reference report accompanying this strategy.

²⁸ National Sport Club Survey National Sport Club Survey, NZ Amateur Sport Association and AUT

²⁹ Regional Indoor Courts Report, Nuku Ora (2023)



7.0 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Strategy

7.1 Spaces and Places Strategy Objectives

A one-region approach to providing an accessible, fit-for-purpose regional network of quality spaces and places that support and encourage physical activity (play, active recreation, sport).

7.2 Spaces and Places Strategy Objectives

7.2.1 Getting the Most Out of Existing Spaces and Places

Objective 1: Prioritise making the most out of existing Spaces and Places to meet demand through both facility and non-facility solutions..

What this means

The development of new facilities comes with a number of risks and uncertainties. Extending the capacity of existing spaces and places to meet changing demand is often a more financially and environmentally sustainable way to meet provision gaps in the short to medium term. These include both facility and non-facility choices, such as those outlined below.

Facility Solutions:

- Quality upgrades and infrastructure investment to extend playing hours. This may be possible through the provision of lighting without needing to upgrade outdoor court, field or turf surfaces.
- Greater use of facility sharing arrangements with school facilities, where it is possible to address school concerns

around health and safety, security and scheduling challenges, and facilities are suitable.

- Consideration of council management and investment in lighting and court, field and turf upgrades to extend the hours of availability of existing spaces and places. This could include council or community / school assets. In some cases, lighting is owned by clubs, which can constrain opportunities for availability to new or a wider range of users.

Non-facility Solutions:

- Providing better data management and oversight of current bookings (and utilisation rates) to ensure transparency in availability and equity of access across user groups. This should include consideration of a consistent region-wide booking platform that can support participant needs being matched with the quality of venue available.
- Achieving regional consistency in pricing and booking can support greater equality of access.
- Forming collaborative relationships and partnerships between sport and recreation activities to share resources and achieve potential efficiencies.

Aligned Code Regional Facility Network Planning

- Investment in facilities to increase their use for multiple purposes, and across multiple organisations, offers opportunities to consolidate assets and address ongoing ageing, asset condition, and affordability challenges. There are opportunities with cross-code collaboration where codes have similar activities, participant cohorts or amenity needs (e.g. greens-based sports or racquet sports).

7.2.2 Increase Opportunities to Participate

Objective 2: Target investment and resources to address the barriers some communities are facing to participation.

What this means

Many sport and recreation activities are widening their participation base to provide for a greater range of needs. This requires the design (and re-design) of spaces and places that support the needs of all members of the community, regardless of life stage, gender, physical ability or ethnicity.

Additional sub-regional challenges also demand targeted investment to address proximity and accessibility barriers. This is most likely in the Wairarapa or Kāpiti Coast.

7.2.3 Funding and Affordability

Objective 3: Implement a flexible range of delivery and funding methods to improve the future affordability of Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region.

What this means

There are significant affordability and funding challenges facing the future of spaces and places provision in the Wellington region. Broadening both the range of models and funding mechanisms to address these problems will support greater choice and flexibility in space and place provision. The potential implications of these objectives for funding and delivery models are outlined below.

Funding

With the constraints identified on space and place funding, opportunities to diversify funding can be explored such as:

- Leveraging opportunities for targeted rates to be levied by all councils to fund both capital funding and operational funding requirements for spaces and places.
- Developing legacy giving opportunities which, over time, look to harness generosity through intergenerational wealth transfer. JB Were estimates inheritances will grow from about \$27b in 2024, to a cumulative total of \$1.6 trillion by 2050.³⁰
- Look to put arrangements in place, potentially with a community foundation or similar organisation to hold funds of clubs or organisations which may no longer be viable to continue operating.
- Exploring and establishing funding mechanisms and approaches that support joint contribution to spaces and places across the region. The degree of contribution would align to where the benefit for access to spaces and places occurs.

Delivery Models

A shift to ensure fewer single-use spaces and places and increase flexibility of these spaces and places to provide for a range of uses. This may require new ways of doing things, such as:

- Factoring in adapting to increased casual and pay to play models in the future.
- For areas like the Wairarapa, support with more joined-up planning has been identified to encourage moving from single-use to multi-use facility solutions.
- Include models of council, community, school, iwi and user group partnership and collaboration arrangements.
- Support community organisations to explore changes in delivery models. An example of this would be codes changing training and competition schedules to ensure capacity is available for others, not having a “my sport first” viewpoint to obtaining facility bookings.

³⁰ <https://www.jbwere.co.nz/news-and-insights/the-bequest-report-2025>

7.2.4 New Provision

Objective 4: Invest in new spaces and places where there is proof of need and no alternative solutions.

What this means

Being clear about what current or future gaps might exist, and for who, is an important first step before proceeding with consideration of new space and place investment. Where a need may be proven, solutions should include looking for co-investment opportunities with school facilities, and spaces and places that support multiple uses and can adapt to new or emerging demands.

The Seven Stages in the Lifecycle of Spaces and Places provides a robust process for considering new spaces and places provision.

7.3 Enablers of Objectives

To fully achieve the objectives contained in this Strategy, it is important to identify there are a range of other enablers that will support these objectives including:

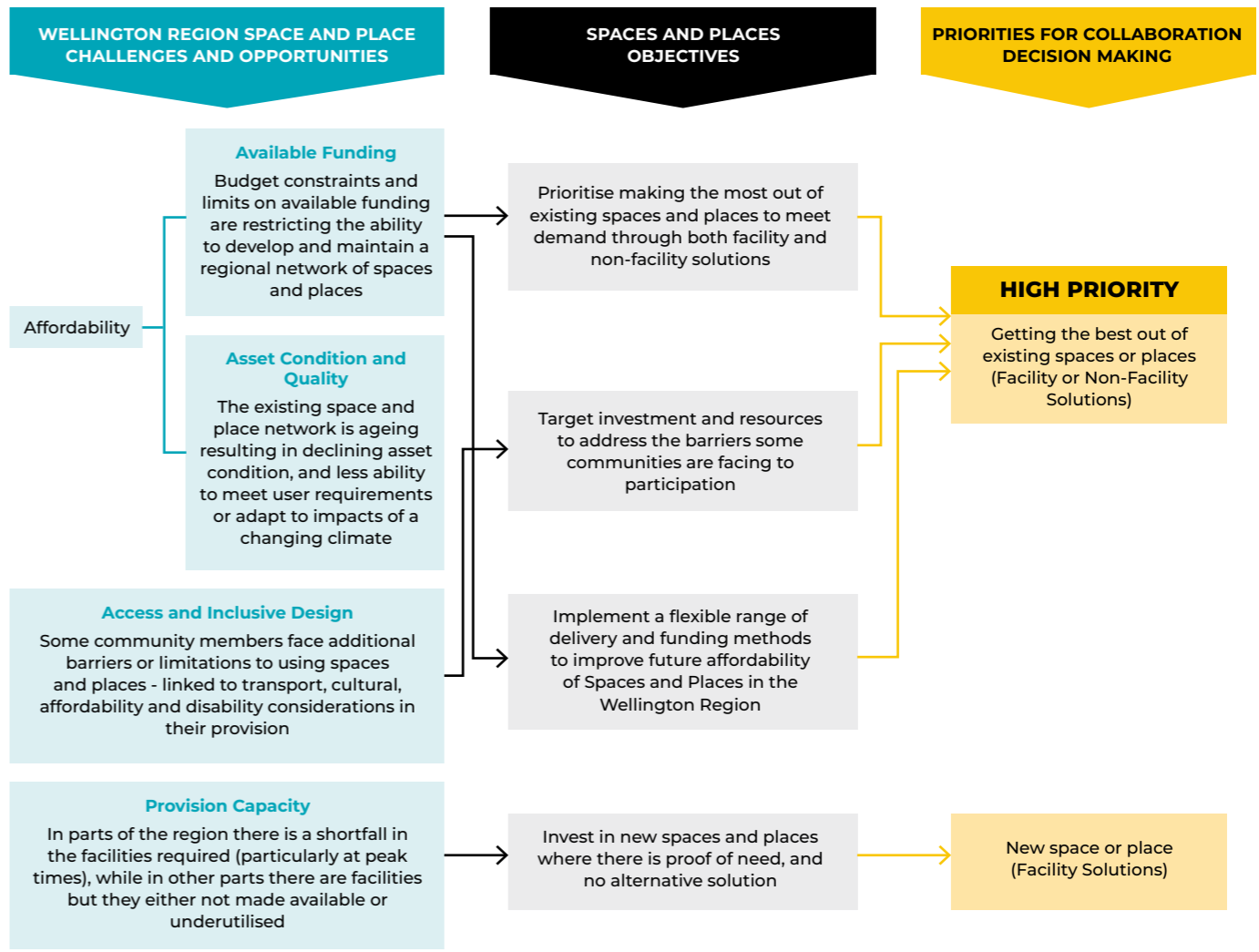
- Additional planning and investigation to apply the objectives at a more specific sub-regional or activity level.
- Collaborative decision-making mechanisms and forums between councils, funders and sport and recreation organisations.
- Strengthening local and regional evidence to understand existing provision and utilisation.
- Asset and user data consistency.
- Improving pricing and cost allocation understanding.
- The availability of known facility partnership opportunities, including with schools and iwi.
- Leveraging technology and digital opportunities to manage demand across the spaces and places network.



7.3.1 Wellington Region Spaces and Places Priorities

Through the identification of challenges and opportunities, and Spaces and Places objectives, there are two priority areas identified where a region-wide collaboration and decision-making process would have most benefit. These priorities and their connection to the challenges, opportunities and strategy objectives are outlined in the diagram below (Figure 7-1).

Figure 7-1 Logic for Collaborative Decision Making – Spaces and Places in the Wellington Region





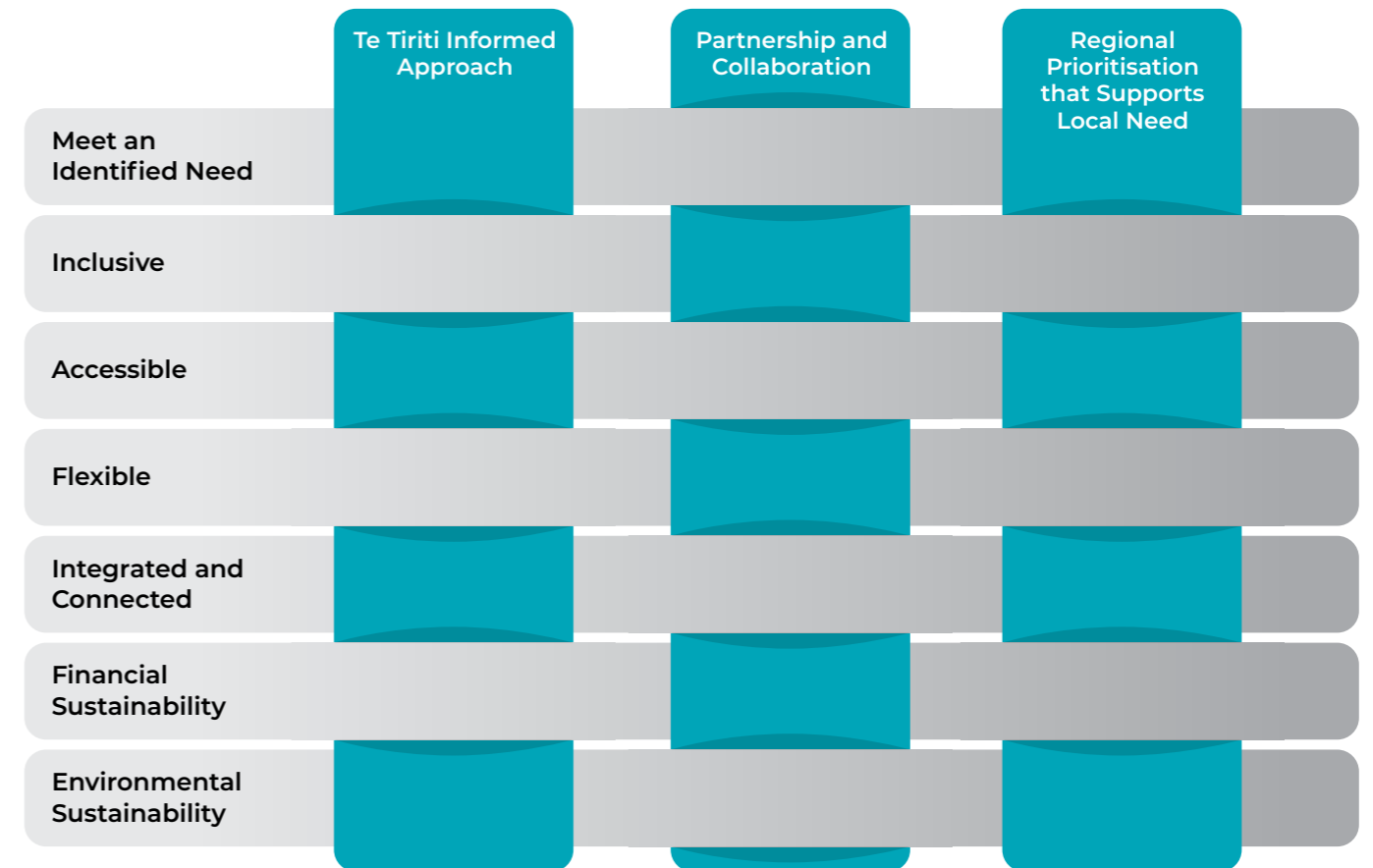
8.0 Regional Planning Framework

8.1 Spaces and Places Planning Principles

8.1.1 Planning Principles

When considering the upgrade, development or decommissioning of spaces and places to align to play, active recreation and sport needs, it is fundamental that spaces and places are developed in a robust and planned way. The planning principles have been distinguished by those principles which are relationship and collaboration-based, from those which are aligned to design, investment and use of spaces and places. The raranga weave (Figure 8-1) highlights how these principles need to work together to achieve the vision for spaces and places in the region.

Figure 8-1 Spaces and Places Principles – Interrelationships



Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Informed Approach

The mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is recognised when providing strategic guidance and planning, developing and operating facilities and active environments. This will include taking opportunities to reflect the cultural narrative of the area, when planning future sport, active recreation and play spaces and places.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships and collaboration across the region lead to well-used facilities and active environments that maximise the return (social and financial) on investment and avoid duplication. This partnership approach will look to leverage shared provision approaches with schools, Iwi and the private sector in arrangements which genuinely share value and risks between partners. To achieve this a locally-led process to plan, design and operate facilities through a co-design approach is recommended.

Regional Prioritisation that Supports Local Need

Take a regional planning and prioritisation approach to get best use out of spaces and places by spreading demand across a regional network regardless of local boundaries. Balance this regional approach with the needs of local communities including recognising the differences between rural and urban areas. Listen to the voices of whānau and communities through ongoing engagement to maximise utilisation both locally and regionally.

Meet an Identified Need

Understand current and future supply and demand for spaces and places, including factoring in changing community profiles and participation trends. Investment decisions weigh up strategic fit based on the existing network and strategies or plans that clearly evidence future need. Diverse community use and wellbeing will be at the forefront of spaces and places investment.

Inclusive

Spaces and places support diverse groups by developing safe, collaborative environments where everyone can participate and thrive. People of all income, ethnicity, gender and physical ability feel welcome and confident to use spaces and places with dignity. The objective of this approach is to help spaces and places be more welcoming and culturally inclusive by reflecting local pūrakau and sense of place.

This includes a particular focus on creating spaces that are gender-neutral, and inclusive of young people, tangata whaikaha (disabled people), low-socioeconomic communities, women and girls, and ethnic minorities.

Accessible

Spaces and places are useable and able to be accessed by everyone regardless of ability or affordability. Facilities are located where connections to transport are best and apply both universal design principles and accessible design practice. Everyone benefits from fully accessible facilities.

Flexible

The best, long-term, outcomes are achieved by designing facilities in ways that enable them to be adapted, developed and extended to meet future demands. Flexible spaces and places can be easily adapted to changing circumstances and emerging play, active recreation and sport trends over time. Flexible spaces and places can be used to enhance play opportunities and provide a range of community benefits and uses including health, education, cultural and civic activities.

Integrated and Connected

Multiuse facilities or hubs optimise use across a range of users at peak and off-peak times. This includes co-locating with other sport and recreation, community, education or transport facilities and infrastructure. This can support more diverse revenue streams and achieve higher utilisation rates.

Financial Sustainability

The ongoing financial sustainability of facilities requires consideration of the ongoing operating and maintenance costs over expected life of a facility and identifying funding to meet these costs.

Environmental Sustainability

The environmental sustainability of a facility ensures measures are in place to manage energy efficiency, carbon emissions and minimising waste over the lifetime of spaces and places. Spaces and places that are resilient and environmentally sustainable will reflect the historical and changing landscape, and apply sustainable operational, design and construction methods.

8.2 Facility Hierarchy

The following general facility hierarchy definitions (Table 8-1) have been used to differentiate between different spaces and places in this strategy and framework. The hierarchy allows us to distinguish the different types and levels of activity that can be run within facilities. Note: It is important to understand that a facility at a higher hierarchy level may

also meet the needs all the way to a local level. Each facility is classified based on its highest capability; for example, if it can hold a regional representative competition, it is classed as national, even if its most regular use is to support local or sub-regional competitions and training.

Table 8-1 Explanation of Facility Hierarchy³¹

LOCAL	SUB-REGIONAL	REGIONAL	NATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL
A facility that provides community participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood, town or city catchment. Local facilities often facilitate people's introduction to sport and recreation within their local community.	A destination facility with the ability to provide participation opportunities for training, competition or other unique participation experiences. Often supporting a whole territorial authority (TA) district and drawing people from across adjacent areas.	A facility with the ability to host regional competitions (including North Island wide), serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across TA boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment.	A facility with the ability to draw participants from across NZ, host national competitions and events (including pro and semi pro franchise competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes.	A facility with the ability to host international competitions and events (i.e. between nations) or draw participants from outside NZ.
EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES	EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Cannons Creek Pool ✔ Naenae Park Cricket Pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Wairarapa Netball Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Trentham Rifle Range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Trust House Turfs - Carterton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Sky Stadium

³¹ Noting this hierarchy is for the Wellington Spaces and Places network and will not always align to alternative hierarchies which are specific to National Sports Organisations plans or strategies or the National Sports Facilities Strategy (not yet released).



9.0 Snapshot of Spaces and Places Provision

The following Table 9-1 identifies a summarised view of the sport and recreation spaces and places across the Wellington region, their position in the facility hierarchy and the council boundary they fall within.³²

Table 9-1 Distribution of Spaces and Places across the Wellington Region

	WELLINGTON CITY	PORIRUA	HUTT CITY	UPPER HUTT	KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT	WAIRARAPA
INTERNATIONAL	1 Stadium (Multi-Use Venue) 1 Cricket Oval 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Indoor Courts Venue	1 Indoor Courts Venue	1 Bowls Venue	1 Golf Course 1 High Performance Training Venue	1 Golf Course	
NATIONAL	1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Indoor and Outdoor Tennis Venue 1 x Artificial Turf Venue (rugby / football) 1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Mountain Bike Park 1 BMX Track	1 Stadium / Sports Fields Venue (Rugby / Football)	1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Softball Venue 1 Indoor Aquatic venue 1 Squash Venue 1 Sports Fields venue			1 Hockey Turf Venue ³³ 1 Equestrian Venue
REGIONAL	1 Playground 1 Shared Path 1 Skate Park (in development) 1 Cycling Velodrome 1 Athletics Venue 1 Squash Venue 2 Badminton Venues 2 Cricket training facilities (indoor) 1 Indoor roller sports facility 1 Outdoor Courts venue (Netball) 1 Outdoor Water sports venue (marina) 1 Cricket Venue 1 Softball Venue 1 x Sports Fields Venue (Football) 4 x Artificial Turf Venues (rugby / football)	1 Playground 1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football) 1 Mountain Bike Park	1 Playground 2 Outdoor Water Sports Venues (Marina and Rowing/ Waterski) 1 Outdoor Courts Venue (Netball) 1 Indoor Courts Venue 1 Gymnastics Facility 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Artificial Turf Venue (rugby / football) 1 Golf Course 1 Mountain Bike Venue 1 Shared Path	2 Playgrounds 1 Hockey Turf Venue 1 Shooting Venue 1 Wheel Based Facility (Skate / Pump Track) 1 Sports Fields Venue (Multi-use) 1 Shared Path	1 Playground 1 Hockey Turf Venue	1 Cricket Venue 1 Shared Path 1 Mountain Bike Venue 1 Playground
SUB-REGIONAL	1 Table Tennis Venue 1 Gymnastics Facility	1 Outdoor Water Sports Venue (Rowing, Boating, Waka Ama, Kayaking) 2 Sports Fields Venues (Multi-use) 1 Aquatic Facility	1 Outdoor Tennis Venue 1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Badminton Venue 1 Table Tennis Venue (Multi-use) 3 Sports Fields Venues (Multi-use) 1 Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football) 1 BMX Venue	1 Sports Fields Venue (Multi-use) 1 x Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football)	1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Outdoor Courts Venue (Netball) 1 Sports Fields Venue (Multi-use) 1 Softball Venue 1 Skate Park 1 Aquatic Facility	1 Indoor Aquatic Venue 1 Outdoor Water Sports Venue (Waka Ama, Dragon Boats) 2 Outdoor Courts Venues (Netball) 1 Outdoor Tennis Courts Venue 2 Multi-Use Indoor Court Venues 4 Sports Field Venues (Multi-use) 1 Mountain Bike Park 1 Softball Venue 1 Skate Park 1 x Artificial Turf Venue (Rugby / Football) 1 Athletics Venue 2 Bowls Venues

Further detail on these spaces and places is provided in **Appendix One**.

³³ The categorisation of this turf as a national facility is based on previous games hosted at that level.



10.0 Collaborative Decision-Making Framework

10.1 Outline

The collaborative decision-making framework summarised in Figure 10-1 and Figure 10-2 outlines the steps to consider new solutions or initiatives which are put forward to respond to spaces and places challenges and opportunities. The following section explains this process in more detail.

Figure 10-1 Summary Collaborative Decision Making Framework (Strategic Assessment)

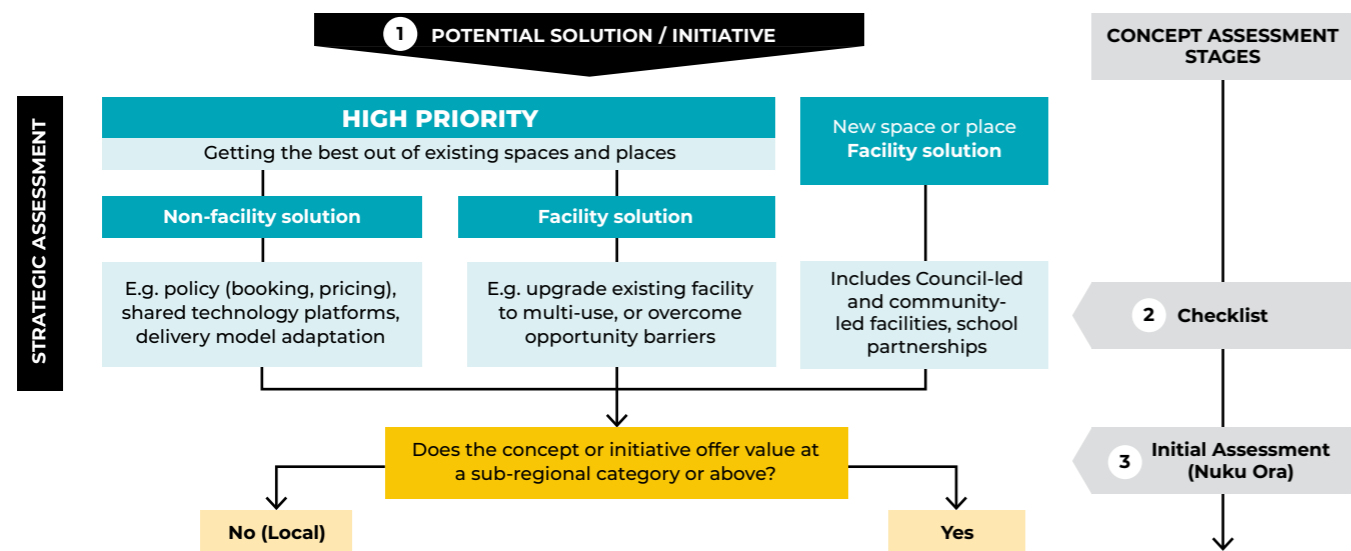
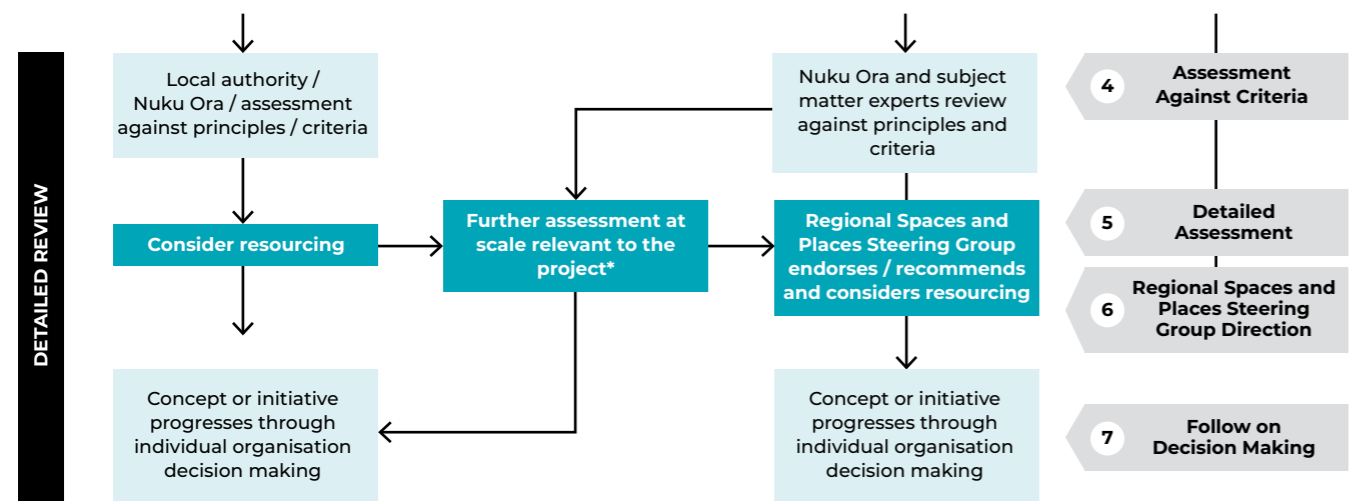


Figure 10-2 Summary Collaborative Decision Making Framework (Detailed Review)



* Independent assessment may be required for major concepts / initiatives

10.1.1 Collaborative Decision-Making Framework Guidance

This Spaces and Places Strategy provides guidance on the highest priority objectives to respond to the identified challenges and opportunities facing space and place planning and provision in the Wellington region. These objectives are to:

- Make the most out of existing spaces and places to meet demand through both facility and non-facility solutions.
- Target investment and resources to address the barriers some communities are facing to participation.
- Use a wide and flexible range of delivery and funding methods to improve the future affordability of spaces and places in the Wellington region.
- Invest in new spaces and places where there is proof of need.

Potential solutions/initiatives to address gaps and challenges and achieve these goals can be either a built or facility solution, like an upgrade to an existing facility, or consideration of the construction of a new facility. They may also include a non-facility solution like a pricing or booking policy, a technology platform or a change in the delivery model for a code or programme that influences facility demand (likely initiated by user groups).

As part of this spaces and places framework a decision-making process has been developed to provide clarity on how potential solutions/initiatives will be considered and where aligned, supported to progress. This decision-making process is made up of two parts to offer a phased assessment approach that avoids detail before it is needed and provides an off-ramp for local solutions or initiatives. These phases are outlined below.

10.1.2 Strategic Assessment Phase

This phase includes a checklist for the proposer of a solution or initiative to complete. This includes information on the problem the solution or initiative is addressing, and high-level aspects of the proposal. When this checklist is submitted, Nuku Ora will confirm whether there is sufficient information, the solution or initiative has high-level merit to progress and determine whether it meets value at a sub-regional level or above. This phase will also include assessment against any regional or national plans for the activities proposed.

The abovementioned checklist will need to be developed as a follow-on stage and should include consideration of alignment with the planning principles.

At this stage, proponents of spaces and places solutions or initiatives will be encouraged to explore the full range of options that could be implemented to achieve the desired outcome, rather than narrowing in on one solution. This part of the process ensures there has been a broad consideration of options, and that there is enough information and clarity regarding a solution or initiative prior to it progressing to a more detailed review.

10.1.3 Detailed Review Phase

This phase sees a more detailed review of a proposal against the planning principles by way of considering how it fits with the essential criteria (which a proposal must meet), and additional criteria a proposal is encouraged to demonstrate alignment with.

For facility solutions, the detailed assessment is guided by the seven stages of spaces and places lifecycle included in the *Sport New Zealand national guidance*. For all solutions, further detailed assessment may be required by subject matter experts. These experts may sit within councils or with independent organisations, depending on the scale of the proposed solution.

The scale of a proposed project will determine the depth of independent assessment required (if any) to provide assurances to decision makers. Where the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group considers it appropriate, an independent assessment of a concept may be progressed to determine whether to proceed or not. Figure 10-3 outlines this process.

The three independent assessment phases outlined in Figure 10-3 can be combined in some instances, and there is likely to be some overlap in information gathered and utilised. For example, in many cases, a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study can occur simultaneously (for small-scale projects). A project should only proceed to the next phase once the previous phase(s) has been successfully completed and need and feasibility have been confirmed.

10.2 Explanation of Roles and Responsibilities

10.2.1 Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group

The proposed decision-making process calls for the senior representatives on the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to oversee the process and overall implementation of the Strategy. Subject matter experts would support this group, on a project-by-project basis, from within relevant organisations, depending on the sub-regional area a proposed project falls within. The group will need to develop an agreed way of working together to implement the spaces and places framework process. Regular, formalised engagement needs to occur between these parties to maximise collaboration and connection opportunities.

10.2.2 Spaces and Places Lead

A key assumption of this process is that Nuku Ora has the capacity to provide backbone support for this process through the Spaces and Places Lead. This role is a critical "go between" or connector for spaces and places owners, operators, funders, and user groups. The Spaces and Places Lead will work alongside groups to help them understand the process and requirements.

The Spaces and Places Lead also has a role to play in testing concepts against the principles of this Strategy, as well as looking for connections, partnerships, and collaborations and across boundary opportunities that may not initially be apparent for those proposing an idea.

10.2.3 Subject Matter Experts

Each organisation has the opportunity to use internal (or external) subject matter experts (SMEs) to assess any concept against the principles and criteria of this Strategy. The Nuku Ora Spaces and Places Lead can coordinate the required SMEs.

SMEs play a critical role in providing advice and recommendations to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group.

10.2.4 Project Working Group

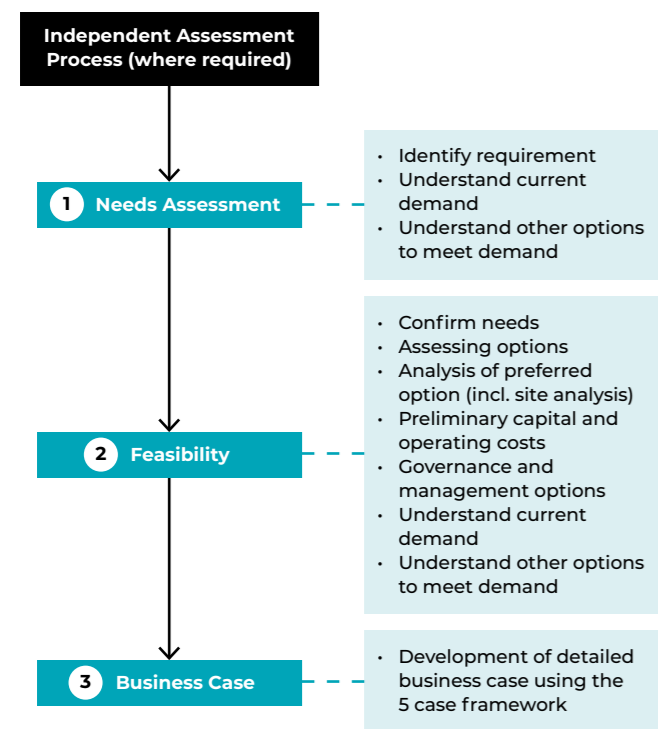
A project working group can be formed for each relevant project, facilitated by the Nuku Ora Spaces and Places Lead based on the project or concept being assessed. Relevant subject matter experts would come together to provide advice and recommendations for the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to consider.

For any sub-regional or above category of solutions, the outcome of this detailed review is provided to the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group to provide a concluding endorsement or alternative recommendation to the proposer. This may include a recommendation not to proceed.

Following the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group recommendation, the concept or initiative progresses through the decision-making process of individual organisations. This will include consideration of funding and resourcing.

Each decision-making organisation, including proponents, councils and funding organisations, will still have autonomy over their own decision-making.

Figure 10-3 Independent Assessment Process



10.2.5 Essential Criteria – Which all proposed initiatives or solutions must meet

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES	
PLANNING PRINCIPLE(S)	CRITERIA
	Enables the principles of Partnership, Protection, and Participation through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genuine, authentic and involvement of tangata whenua. Considers and reflects the cultural narrative of the area.
	The proposed space or place project includes and supports a range of organisations and activities or explores opportunities to partner or collaborate to increase use. <i>and/or</i> The proposal optimises an existing space or place through partnerships or collaboration to increase use.
	The space or place will complement rather than compete with other spaces and places in the network and prioritise community participation outcomes. The type and scale of the proposed space or place is appropriate for the role it will play in the regional spaces and places network.

DESIGN, INVESTMENT AND USE PRINCIPLES	
PLANNING PRINCIPLE(S)	CRITERIA
	Environmental awareness is demonstrated with planning that mitigates against climate risks and applies sustainable design principles. Reflects the historical landscape and local pūrākau.
	Demonstrates value for money, economic viability, and operational sustainability for the whole of life (both CAPEX and OPEX).
	Located appropriately to benefit a broad spectrum of the community. Supports accessibility and equity for all through cultural inclusivity and the application of universal design principles.
	A clear need has been defined and supported with appropriate evidence, including community insights. Alternatively, a need may no longer be identified. Matches projected needs by addressing under or over provision and avoiding duplication. A range of community voices have informed the planning, and a range of community needs will be met through the proposal. Flexibility to adapt to changing community needs means multi-generational benefits will be achieved. Community hauora (wellbeing) and participation will be positively impacted. Supported by research, consultation, stakeholders, and the wider community.

10.2.6 Criteria to demonstrate alignment

While not essential to meet all these criteria, solutions and initiatives should demonstrate clearly how they address these criteria.

PLANNING PRINCIPLE(S)	CRITERIA
	Māori participation will be positively impacted, which may include through by Māori for Māori opportunities.
	The proposal will apply sustainable operational (including energy and water consumption) and construction methods.
	The proposal fosters connection with the environment (taiao) and minimises impact on the environment (taiao).
	The degree to which the proposal provides mitigation for a space or place at risk of or already experiencing climate change impacts.
	The organisation involved has a history of robust asset management planning and/or has demonstrated awareness of the need for asset management planning going forward.
	The scale, complexity and standard of the space or place is appropriate to the identified community need.
	Investment will help support communities of greatest need, such as low socio-economic communities, provide diverse opportunities for older adults, different ethnicities, genders, and those with disabilities.
	The degree to which the proposed space or place will support and encourage community safety.
	Degree of alignment with relevant national, regional, and local strategies and strategic drivers.
	Reflects good practice in location, design, and operations.
	The degree to which the proposal maximises existing spaces and places (before building new).
	Any national or international project will demonstrate clear benefit to the Wellington region spaces and places network at a scale and standard that is appropriate in the regional and New Zealand context, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
	Clear evidence of operational and/or capital partnerships and collaboration between multiple stakeholders, which will maximise the community benefit and return on investment.
	Optimisation of spaces and places through clear evidence of partnerships and collaboration to increase use and enhancements to make them more fit-for-purpose. Supports multi-use, multi-code, and cross-sector collaboration.
	Investment will help create balance and spread in the regional network.
	The proposal will help reduce unnecessary facility duplication while retaining appropriate local accessibility.

10.2.7 The Seven Stages in the Lifecycle of Spaces and Places³⁴

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGE	Work with a diverse range of stakeholders and mana whenua (as determined by them) to clearly identify what the challenge or opportunity is and ensure that all initial options in response are explored, including modifying delivery and optimising the existing network. Look at how the project aligns with local priorities, and/or regional and national strategies. This is a gateway decision point before proceeding to further analysis.
PROOF OF NEED	Use evidence to confirm the need for a facility or space and develop a strategic case for developing it, ensuring the solution options are appropriate for the challenge you are trying to solve. Apply a network view. Identify potential partners or collaborators and further establish mana whenua relationships as determined by them. Build in escalation costs to the initial budget estimate.
PROOF OF VIABILITY	Assess a range of options to meet the need and determine feasibility of the preferred option. Consideration should be given to the location options; ownership and governance; operations and activation; funding plan; and establishing sustainability ambitions. Develop the capital and operational budget at this time. Take account of whole-of-life costs when moving on to develop a business case and analysing the cost benefit and social return on investment of the proposed project. This is a gateway decision point to proceed to design or not. If proceeding, and the project is funded in part or whole by a local authority, update funding in the LTP to cover escalation to align with delivery timeframe.
DESIGN	Develop the functional and spatial requirements of the facility ensuring it's fit for purpose and future-proofed (go back to initial challenge you are solving and the sustainability and inclusiveness vision for the project). Explore inclusion and accessibility, connections, opportunities for play, environmentally sustainable and technology solutions, undertaking a life cycle assessment of design options. Details are confirmed and estimates finalised.
BUILD	Construction of facility or active environment.
OPERATE	Manage and maintain the facility or space to ensure it delivers an ongoing quality experience, including developing the most effective and efficient operating model, asset management plan, information accessibility, activation, and programming. Embed accessibility awareness, cultural, and environmental sustainability system training into all roles.
IMPROVE	Evaluate performance of the facility or space against the project vision and outcomes including feedback from users. Measure performance against inclusion and environmental sustainability goals set at the beginning. Identify areas for improvement across all aspects of the facility or space. Identify any future upgrades or redevelopment needed.

³⁴ New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework, Pou Tarāwaho mō ngā Wāhi o Aotearoa.

11.0 Appendix One: Summary of Spaces and Places

The below Table 11-1 provides a current inventory of spaces and places in the region at the sub-regional level and above (i.e. local spaces and places are not included).

Table 11-1 Summary of Spaces and Places facilities in the Wellington Region – Aligned to the Facility Hierarchy³⁵

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
INDOOR SPACES AND PLACES - COURTS				
Indoor Courts	Hutt City	Walter Nash Centre	5 sprung basketball courts also marked for 5 netball, 6 volleyball, 2 futsal, 2 floorball, 2 handball, 5 dodgeball, and used for various other indoor sports; 4 meeting rooms, library, offices and cafe. 1 outdoor basketball half court. Adjacent to Hutt Valley Netball Centre which provides 11 hardcourt netball courts.	National
	Hutt City	Hutt Indoor Sports	Commercial provider, 5 courts marked for: 5 Indoor Netball, 5 Indoor Soccer and 5 Indoor Cricket courts	Regional
	Masterton	Trust House Recreation Centre	1 solid wooden floor multi-use Indoor Court, marked out for 1 basketball, 3 volleyball, 1 netball, 4 pickleball, 1 futsal, bleacher seating on either side of court, digital score board and retractable basketball hoops, with 4 meeting rooms, changing facilities, and kitchen/dining areas.	Sub-Regional
	Porirua	Te Rauparaha Arena	Part of Te Rauparaha Arena. 3 sprung courts- full international standard size courts Grandstand seating for 3,000 people, can be split into 3 separate courts or one large space. Caters for conferences, dinners, sporting events, expos. Can combine with NZCT Stadium.	International
	Porirua	NZCT Stadium	Part of Te Rauparaha Arena. 1 community basketball/netball court.	Regional
	Wellington	Ākau Tangi Sports Centre	12 sprung floor courts, multiple uses (basketball/netball/floorball/volleyball/pickleball etc). Largest indoor facility regionally, has a community sport focus, but can host larger tournaments /events. 3 meeting room and 4 changing rooms.	National
	Wellington	TSB Arena	Large, flexible facility with a sprung timber sports floor providing 1 indoor court suitable for regional to international level centre court sport. Retractable tiered seating provided.	International
Squash	Wellington City	Club Kelburn	8 squash courts, fitness gym and multipurpose area.	Regional
	Hutt City	Hutt City Squash – Fraser Park	5 squash courts with moveable walls to allow for regulation doubles courts.	National
Badminton	Hutt City	Naenae Badminton Hall	5 Badminton Courts, meeting room, spectator seating and change facilities.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington City	Wellington Badminton Centre	8 badminton courts and pro shop. Base for multiple clubs.	Regional
	Wellington	North Wellington Badminton Centre	6 Badminton courts, meeting room, spectator seating and change rooms.	Regional

³⁵ Information outlined in this table is based on the best and latest information made available by strategy partners.

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
INDOOR SPACES AND PLACES - COURTS				
Table Tennis	Wellington	Wellington Table Tennis Stadium (Newtown)	8 permanent table tennis tables. Venue owned by Table Tennis Wellington Incorporated.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Empire Table Tennis	16 permanent table tennis tables.	Sub-Regional
Gymnastics	Wellington	Capital Gymnastics	Two indoor spaces, one hosting community programmes and one performance based. Used by two clubs and hosts sub-regional competitions.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Hutt Valley Gymnastics Centre	Large indoor space with two gymnastics floors, and separate tumbling, parkour and cheerleading areas. Hosts regional competitions.	Regional
Specialised indoor venues	Wellington	Basin Reserve Indoor Cricket	INDOOR TRAINING: Indoor cricket training facility at international standard cricket venue.	Regional
	Wellington City	Kilbirnie Recreation Centre	ROLLERSPORTS: Large hall dedicated to indoor roller sports, located by the Wellington Aquatic Centre; Toitū Poneke Sports Hub and Kilbirnie Park sports fields. Few dedicated venues in the region, with some hire-use of sports gyms and halls for events. Regional status here due to its uniqueness as dedicated venue. Requires earthquake strengthening.	Regional
	Wellington City	Renouf Tennis Centre	TENNIS: 6x indoor courts (plus 14 outdoor courts see below). The Renouf Tennis Centre is the most significant tennis facility in the lower North Island.	National
	Wellington City	Westpac Stadium Indoor Cricket	INDOOR TRAINING: Indoor cricket training facility at international event venue.	Regional
	South Wairarapa	Featherston Stadium	Badminton, gymnastics, floorball, indoor hockey.	Sub-Regional
OUTDOOR SPACES AND PLACES - COURTS				
Tennis (outdoor)	Wellington	Renouf Tennis Centre	14 outdoor courts (floodlit) (adjacent to the indoor courts). The combination of indoor and outdoor courts makes the Renouf Tennis Centre the most significant tennis facility in the lower North Island.	National
	Hutt City	Mitchell Park	12 outdoor astroturf courts with lights. 4 currently being covered.	Sub-Regional
	Masterton	Masterton Tennis Centre	11 outdoor astroturf courts, three courts recently resurfaced.	Sub-Regional
	South Wairarapa	Martinborough Tennis Club	8 grass tennis courts. Holds an annual Wairarapa regional tournament.	Sub-Regional
Netball courts (outdoor)	Hutt City	Netball Hutt Valley - Taita	11 outdoor hardcourt netball courts adjacent to Walter Nash Centre which provides 5 x indoor courts.	Regional
	Kāpiti	Netball Kāpiti Centre	11 netball courts, clubrooms, changing facilities.	Sub-Regional
	South Wairarapa	Kuranui College	6 netball hardcourts, 1 x astroturf for training. Indoor gymnasium currently being built.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Hataitai Park	14 synthetic netball courts (also used for tennis).	Regional
	Masterton	Netball Wairarapa Courts	A key facility for netball with 3 covered outdoor hard courts (marked for netball, basketball and tennis) and 9 un-covered outdoor courts. 3 of the uncovered courts are also marked for tennis and basketball. Large clubrooms facility (accommodates approximately 80 people) with change rooms, commercial kitchen and 10-seat meeting room.	Sub-Regional

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
AQUATIC SPACES AND PLACES				
Indoor Aquatic Centres	Wellington	Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre	50 m heated indoor pool, diving pool, toddlers' pool and spray water-play area, hydrotherapy pool, spa, saunas.	National
	Masterton	Trust House Recreation Centre	Indoors - 1 x 7 lane 25m pool, 1 x 5 lane 25m pool, 1 Toddlers learn to swim pool, 1 recreation 'river run' pool, 1 hydro-slide, 1 spa pool and 1 sauna. Outdoors - 1 Lido Pool with steel slide, 1 Dive pool.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Huia Pool	Indoor 25m, 7 lane pool with moveable floor suitable for regional swimming, water polo and underwater hockey. Includes learners pool, programmes pool and fitness gym.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Te Ngaengae Pool & Fitness	Indoor 50m 10 lane pool with 2 moveable bulkheads and moveable floor suitable for national swimming, water polo, canoe polo and underwater hockey. Includes leisure pool, water slides, meeting rooms and fitness gym.	National
	Kāpiti	Coastlands Aquatic Centre	25m pool with moveable floor that hosts some regional aquatic events	Sub-Regional
	Porirua	Te Rauparaha Arena-Arena Aquatics	25m 7 lane heated indoor pool, leisure pool with waves, lazy river, hydro slide, toddlers' pool, 2 x spas, sauna room and steam room.	Sub-Regional
Outdoor water sports	Hutt City	Seaview Marina	Marina with 300+ berths, hardstand, boat launching and small craft sailing area. Complementary businesses also co-located.	Regional
	Wellington	Chaffers Marina	Floating marina in Central City. Deep-water site with large berths and a comprehensive range of facilities and amenities. Adjacent to Clyde Quay Boat Harbour.	Regional
	Hutt City	Honiana Te Puni Reserve	Rowing and Water Ski hub and launching bay. Hosts regional competitions.	Regional
	Masterton	Henley Lake	Waka Ama, Dragon Boating.	Sub-regional
	Porirua	Onepoto Park	Launching area and clubrooms for Rowing, boating, waka ama, kayaking.	Sub-Regional
OUTDOOR SPACES AND PLACES				
Stadia	Wellington	Wellington Regional Stadium Sky Stadium	1 multi-use field (all codes). Premiere Regional venue. Also, includes an indoor training facility with 5 lane nets (managed by Cricket Wellington).	International
	Wellington	Basin Reserve – Cricket Oval (and Indoor)	International standard play/practice facility, Indoor 2 lane training facility used for representative, club and school training (managed by Cricket Wellington). Major outdoor upgrade works underway, including consideration of lighting.	International
	Porirua	Porirua Park	4 fields. 2 higher grades and 2 lower grade landfill caps (unsuitable for capital development), training areas with lights. #1 field is international standard (sand carpet) with grandstand.	National
Sports fields	Masterton	Trust House Memorial Park	2 grassed rugby fields in winter or 1 x cricket block in summer, changing facilities linked to Club (Marist).	Sub-Regional
	Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park -Sports Ground	1 rugby field, 2 soccer fields in winter and 1 cricket block in summer, changing facilities linked to Clubs (Pioneer & Douglas Villa).	Sub-Regional
	Upper Hutt	Trentham Memorial Park	7 football pitches, 6 rugby pitches, 6 cricket pitches (2 artificial strips), 1 grass athletics track, 1 long jump pit, two times cricket nets, 1 woodchopping arena. 2 toilet and changing facilities.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Newtown Park	2 football fields, condition grade 1. Grandstand, floodlights, clubrooms.	Regional
	Porirua	Ngāti Toa Domain	4 fields. Field 1: Topsoil A, Higher grades Field 2: floodlit training, Topsoil B, lower grades, junior, training Field 3: Topsoil B, junior, lower grades, training Field 4: Topsoil B, lower grades, junior training. softball lime, base for Diamonds Paremata Plimmerton Softball Club. More refinements for training and field consolidation planned. Cricket Artificials x2 Quarter training. 4 acrylic club competition courts.	Sub-Regional
	Porirua	Bothamley Park	Throwing circle. 3 rugby/league fields plus large training area. Floodlights and changing facilities. Used for touch and kilikiti in summer.	Sub-Regional
	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Park	2 sand carpet rugby fields. Includes indoor training turf, 3 multi-use indoor spaces, clubrooms and spectator grandstand, adjacent to destination skate park, pump track and playground.	Regional

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	
Sports fields continued	Hutt City	Petone Recreation Ground	5 Cricket Pitches (Clay), 3 junior Cricket pitches, 6 touch fields, 3 full size rugby fields, 1 reduced size rugby field, 4 junior rugby fields, changing rooms, Grandstand (Currently closed due to seismic).	Sub-Regional	
	Hutt City	Hutt Recreation Ground	3 Cricket Pitches, 1 x grass athletic track, 2 throwing circles, Long Jump (Hard surface with sand pits on both sides), Artificial Field for training and junior sport, 3 Rugby Pitches, 1 Junior Rugby Pitch, 2 training areas for rugby, Grandstand, changing rooms and toilets.	Sub-Regional	
	Hutt City	Fraser Park	4 Rugby fields, 7 football fields, 1 artificial diamond (infield), 3 grass diamonds, 3 skin (lime based) diamonds, 4 artificial cricket strips, 3 cricket blocks, 3 lane cricket practice nets. Cricket practice nets owned by club.	National	
	Hutt City	Hutt Park	4 senior football fields (2 sand based), 2 junior football fields, training areas, 1 Aussie Rules field, 8 senior touch fields, 4 junior touch fields. Changing rooms, clubrooms, floodlights.	Sub-Regional	
	Upper Hutt	NZCIS	TRAINING VENUE: 2 sand carpet high quality football/rugby fields for national and international training. Linked to high performance training centre.	International	
	South Wairarapa	John Gray Pavilion	cricket field, football field, new clubrooms for swimming, cricket and football.	Sub-Regional	
	Carterton	Carrington Park	3 football fields, 1 artificial and 1 grass cricket wicket, by playground and Tennis Club. 400m grass athletics track - 2 long jump pits, concrete shot and discus circles. Asphalt walking track. Concrete skate park and BMX track. Exercise equipment placed around circumference of playing fields. Basic changing rooms and toilets.	Sub-Regional	
	Kāpiti	Mazengarb Park	5 football fields, 7 touch fields in summer, events usage (i.e. Kāpiti Food Fair).	Sub-regional	
	Cricket	Wellington	Karori Park	5 grass wickets and 6 junior wickets, 3 lane nets, clubrooms and café. Considered potential back-up first class venue for region.	Regional
		Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park (QEII Oval)	No. 1 cricket ground with grandstand. Wairarapa regional representative cricket played here.	Regional
Softball	Hutt City	Fraser Park	1 artificial, 2 skin, and 3 grass diamonds.	National	
	Kāpiti	Te Atiawa Park	2 skin diamonds.	Sub-Regional	
	Wellington	Hataitai Park	2 skin and 1 grass diamonds, viewing stands.	Regional	
Hockey turfs³⁶	Masterton	South Park	Permanent skin diamond, and provision for a second grassed diamond through summer, provision for junior football if required in winter, toilet facilities - Giants Softball Club	Sub-regional	
	Hutt City	Fraser Park	1.5 floodlit hockey turfs managed by Wellington Hockey. Floodlit with changing rooms and small meeting room.	Sub-Regional	
	Carterton	Trust House Turfs	2 national standard hockey turfs at the Wairarapa A&P Clareville Complex. Floodlit with large changing rooms, viewing and meeting facilities. Hockey Wairarapa based there. Has been used for international games.	National	
	Kāpiti	Coastlands Kāpiti Sports Turf	Hockey water turf with flood lights and pavilion facility with viewing deck. Used for hockey, football and rugby. Some national hockey events. Adjacent to Mazengarb sports fields so both facilities sometimes used for big school events etc.	Regional	
	Porirua	Elsdon Park	1 full artificial hockey turf, full competition and training lights.	Regional	
	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Park	1 full artificial hockey turf, lights, electronic score board.	Regional	
	Wellington	National Hockey Stadium	3 full size hockey turfs - the 3rd turf opened in 2017.	International	
Artificial football/ rugby turfs	Hutt City	Memorial Park (Petone)	1 full size football turf with lights. Owned/managed by Capital Football.	Regional	
	Hutt City	Fraser Park	1 full size football turf with lights managed by the Phoenix.	Sub-Regional	
	Masterton	Trust House Memorial Park	1 Rugby/Football Turf, with lights, changing facilities and grandstand-Managed by Wairarapa Bush Rugby Football Union.	Sub-Regional	
	Porirua	Ascot Park (Bernie Wood)	1 full artificial field for rugby/football, full competition and training lights.	Regional	

³⁶ It should be noted that the most recent Hockey NZ Spaces and Places Strategy does not specifically categorise turfs using a hierarchy approach. This is a deliberate strategy to avoid over-specification of surfaces as there are sufficient higher specification turfs in New Zealand to meet current and foreseeable future demand.

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Artificial football/ rugby turfs continued	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Park	1 full artificial field with lights and adjacent clubrooms with viewing deck & changing rooms below, used mainly for football. Small warm up turf and electronic scoreboard.	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Alex Moore Park	1 full artificial field with lighting, used mainly for football and softball.	Regional
	Wellington	St Patrick's College	1 full size field mainly used for football, rugby and junior cricket.	Regional
	Wellington	Te Whaea	1 full artificial field mainly used for football and rugby.	Regional
	Wellington	Wakefield Park	2 full size artificial fields - mainly used for football and touch.	National
	Wellington	Wellington College	1 artificial rugby/football field, also separate artificial multiuse surface with 4 tennis courts, lighting.	Regional
Athletics tracks	Masterton	Colin Pugh Sports Bowl	Synthetic athletics track, doesn't currently offer hammer throw as an option, and centre turf utilised by football in winter, clubroom building and changing facilities, areas of track being repaired in Oct 2025	Sub-Regional
	Wellington	Newtown Park	This is the only synthetic athletic track in Wellington City and Region (excluding Wairarapa). There is some lobbying from the athletic community for another synthetic athletic track in the Region.	Regional
Golf	Hutt City	Boulcotts Farm Golf	24-hole private golf course.	Regional
	Kāpiti	Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club	18-hole premiere links course, clubrooms, bar, restaurant.	National
	Upper Hutt	Royal Wellington Golf Club	Two courses -18-hole championship Heretaunga Course and 9-hole Terrace Course. World class practice facilities. Swimming pool onsite.	National
Bowls	Hutt City	Naenae Bowls Centre	Includes Naenae and Park Avenue Bowling Clubs, Naenae RSA and Park Avenue Pétanque Club. Developing as a regional centre for bowls. 3 outdoor grass and 1x indoor green. No lights. By other sports facilities on Walter Mildenhall Park.	International
	Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park Sports Club	Amalgamation of 2 Bowls Clubs, 2 Cricket Clubs and 1 Pétanque Club, offers 2 bowling greens, 1 Pétanque pitch, clubrooms and changing facilities	Sub-Regional
	Masterton	Masterton Bowling Club	2 bowling greens, clubrooms and changing facilities.	Sub-Regional
Bike	Hutt City	Wainuiomata BMX Track	BMX: Full size competitive track with starting ramp on Hugh Sinclair Park.	Sub-Regional
	Hutt City	Waiu Park MTB Park	MTB: MTB park with numerous tracks from beginner to expert, skills course, links to longer tracks.	Regional
	South Wairarapa/ Upper Hutt	Remutaka Cycle Trail	SHARED PATH: The approximately 50km section of the Rimutaka Cycle Trail between the Remutaka Rail Trail Summit and the Wainuiomata Coast Road at Orongorongo.	Regional
	Upper Hutt/ Hutt City	Hutt River Trail	SHARED PATH: Approximately 40km biking and walking track from Petone to Rimutaka. Links Te Ara Tupua to Remutaka Cycle Trail.	Regional
	Wellington/ Hutt City	Te Ara Tupua	SHARED PATH: Soon to be completed shared harbour cycling and walking trail from Wellington City to Petone and continuing through to Eastbourne.	Regional
	Wellington	Hataitai Park Velodrome	TRACK: Old concrete outdoor velodrome. Receives regular use by PNP Cycling Club but use is relatively low. Facility may receive higher status if track is upgraded and bike use increases.	Regional
	Wellington	Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park	MTB: Major MTB Park/network - bike skills, tracks, links to longer tracks. Signature Trail in the Regional Trails Framework.	National
	Wellington	Ian Galloway Park BMX Track	BMX: 400m UCI international-level BMX track with start gate and bike skills area.	National
	Porirua	Rangituhi MTB Park	MTB: Trail network built on Colonial Knob by local biking community. Proposals for further trail-building through a commercial development ('Porirua Adventure Park') which could raise its status.	Regional
	South Wairarapa	Rivenrock Mountain Bike Park	Privately owned facility, participates in Wellington Enduro Series.	Sub-regional
Shooting	Upper Hutt	Trentham Rifle Range Reserve	Hub for shooting sports. Cluster of 4 different ranges (including Seddon Range) and nearby clubroom facilities for National Rifle Association NZ, Trentham Rifle Club, Heretaunga Pistol Club, Trentham Archery Club, Karori Rifle Club, Petone Rifle Club.	Regional

FACILITY TYPE	DISTRICT/CITY	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Equestrian	Carterton	Clareville Showgrounds	Hosts Equestrian Sports NZ events.	National
Skate	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Max	A large facility that caters for transition and street style use from beginner to advanced riders. The layout has different zones of skate within one large flowing layout allowing many users to safely utilise the space at once with lighting for nighttime activation also. As well as the skatepark there is a pump track, basketball courts	Regional
	Masterton	Masterton Skate Park	Located in Queen Elizabeth Park, it is a recently redeveloped, national-level facility that caters to skaters, scooter riders, and rollerbladers of all levels. The park features a variety of elements, including a large bowl, a mega ramp, and a pump track with more ramps and a more complex design than the old park.	Sub-regional
	Kāpiti Coast	McLean Park	A large destination facility that caters for transition and street style use from beginner to advanced riders. The layout has various different zones of skate within one large flowing layout allowing many users to safely utilise the space at once with lighting for nighttime activation also. As well as the skatepark there is a basketball half-court, extensive playground, and complementary amenity.	Sub-regional
	South Wairarapa	(In development) Te Papa Ora o Mōroa – Greytown Skatepark	Recently developed facility for skateboards, scooters, and other wheels, including pump track and basketball half court. The park fosters improved pedestrian entry and connectivity between Greytown Park and the Woodside Trail entry. The skatepark within the facility comprises a long street section connected to a raised flow bowl of varying heights, with extensions, catering to skaters of different skill levels.	Sub-regional
	Wellington City	(In development) Kilbirnie Park	A destination skatepark & youth space precinct that delivers contemporary skate and recreation design, catering for street and transition style use from beginner to advanced riders. The layout will combine bowls, street features, and social spaces within a cohesive precinct, with lighting for night-time activation. Alongside the skatepark there will be new active recreation facilities, shade, and supporting infrastructure, creating opportunities for everyday use as well as large-scale events. Passive areas will provide for spectators and social interaction, while the design celebrates the local landscape and cultural identity to ensure the precinct is safe, family-friendly, and inclusive.	Regional
	Wellington	Botanical Gardens		Regional
Destination Playground	Hutt City	Avalon Park	All ages destination playground, duck pond, mini-golf, miniature train, skate park, bike skills area, fitness equipment and events pavilion.	Regional
	Upper Hutt	Maidstone Max	All ages destination playground, skate park and pump track.	Regional
	Upper Hutt	Harcourt Park	Adventure playground, water play park, sound shell, frisbee golf and bike skills track.	Regional
	Masterton	Queen Elizabeth Park	Adventure playground, mini-golf, lagoon, aviaries, miniature train and skate park.	Regional
	Kāpiti	Maclean Park	Adventure playground and skate park.	Regional
	Porirua	Aotea Lagoon	Adventure playground, lagoon, spray park.	Regional

About RSL Consultancy

RSL Consultancy undertakes projects and offers strategic advice throughout Aotearoa to enable community well-being. We support organisations to make informed decisions when it comes to people, facilities, places and spaces. RSL carries out a range of pre-planning work from needs assessments and feasibility reports to business cases. We also work on a range of organisational strategic and operational projects.

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