

Annual Report

2023-2024



Wellington
Regional Leadership Committee

Table of contents

- Foreword from the Chair and Deputy Chair 3
- WRLC Highlights 2023-2024 4
- Section 1: The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee 5**
 - 1.1 Our projects during the 2023-2024 year..... 7
 - 1.2 Project overviews 8
 - 1.2.1 Completed projects 8
 - 1.2.2 Projects underway 10
 - 1.2.3 Projects being implemented 12
 - 1.2.4 Projects on hold 14
 - 1.2.5 Priority Development Area (PDA) programme..... 15
 - 1.3 WRLC Communication and Engagement 20
- Section 2: The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Compliance..... 23**
 - 2.1 How did we spend our money? 24
 - 2.1.2 Operational funding 24
 - 2.1.3 Project funding 24

Foreword from the Chair and Deputy Chair

Whaia te matauranga kia marama
Kia whai take nga mahi katoa
Tu maia, tu kaha
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tatou ia tatou katoa
Haumi e, hui e, Taiki e.

Pursue knowledge for understanding
Have purpose in all that we do
Stand tall, be strong
Let us show love for each other
Together, united, we affirm.

It is our pleasure to present the third annual report for the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee (WRLC), which covers July 2023 – June 2024.

The WRLC is a joining of local government, iwi and central government in the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region, formed to activate better collaboration, and to work together to positively shape the future of the region. It was established in July 2021 and is tasked with driving regional spatial planning and regional economic development in our region.

The WRLC members as at the end of June 2024 are identified on [Wellington Regional Leadership Committee | About us \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#).

Highlights of year three of the WRLC include :

- Completion of the Future Development Strategy (FDS). The FDS outlines where we have collectively agreed as a region to prioritise housing and business development in the next 30 years, and the investment in infrastructure that is required to support that development. This FDS won a Highly Commended in the Strategic or Non-Statutory category of the NZPI awards this year.
- Completion of key climate change documents - the Wellington Regional Climate Change Impacts Assessment (WRCCIA), the Regional Emission Reduction Plan (RERP) and the Regional Food System Plan (RFSP). These documents are crucial to ensure sufficient resilience for the housing and business development plans and population growth outlined in the FDS.
- Appointment of a new Chair and Deputy Chair for the WRLC who now act as dual chairs. It is particularly pleasing that we have an iwi member and a local government member in these positions.
- Continued successful implementation of the initiatives in the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP) along with a refresh of this Plan, featuring an updated list of initiatives.

- Commencement and continuation of a number of delivery projects including:
 - A regional industrial land study to identify where we might plan for the 700 hectares of industrial land that projections show we will need in the next 30 years
 - Continued implementation of our seven Priority Development Areas (PDAs) that provide the focus for over 30,000 of the 99,000 homes we require in the next 30 years.
 - An interactive online data dashboard to support better-informed regional decisions.
- Continued high participation in our thought-leader webinars, with 1,812 registrations to 17 webinars during the year.

A large amount of regional planning has been undertaken by the WRLC since its inception to ensure that we have regional direction and regional agreement on important things like housing, economic development and climate. We are now increasingly moving into delivering on these regional plans both together as the WRLC and individually in our local government, iwi and central government roles.

We look forward to another year of continuing to deliver and implement our plans, supporting and collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders and partners in the local government, iwi, central government, industry and business sectors.

Mauri Ora.



Darrin Apanui |
Rangitāne o Wairarapa,
Te Ati Haunui a Pāpārangi,
Ngāti Porou
Chair, Wellington Regional
Leadership Committee



Daran Ponter
Deputy Chair,
Wellington Regional
Leadership Committee

WRLC Highlights 2023-2024



Completing
**Regional Emissions
Reduction Plan**



Completing the award
winning **Future
Development Strategy
and Implementation
Plan**



Completing the **Wellington
Regional Climate
Change Impacts
Assessment**



Focus on seven
**Priority Development
Areas (PDAs)** within
the region



**New Regional
Adaptation Project**
now underway



Doubled our
**stakeholders and
collaborators**



Completing a
**Regional Economic
Development Plan**
refresh



WRLC health check
undertaken and
implementation
underway



Section 1: The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee

This Annual Report marks the end of year three of the WRLC – a good milestone to reflect on what we have achieved and learned, and how this might inform our next 12 months and beyond.

In particular the WRLC is now at a point where it has developed and agreed key planning documents covering regional spatial planning, regional economic development and some key regional climate planning documents. Now these 10–30-year directions are clear; we will focus more of our efforts on delivery across the region in the key areas of responsibility for the WRLC.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Uniting council and iwi leaders in tackling big growth and delivery challenges together.
- Streamlining efforts, avoiding duplication, ensuring our communities get the most benefit.
- Supporting a move towards making decisions as a group in line with our agreed directions.
- Coordinated planning for growth across council and iwi boundaries, reflecting the way our population and housing market behaves.
- Providing a unified regional voice that boosts collaboration and increases chances for central government and private sector funding.

Delivery work will continue to focus on what the WRLC can do collectively to provide for an additional 200,000 people living and working in the region in the next 30 years as well as a focus on delivery on the Regional Economic Development Plan.

Some of the key delivery work we are currently doing to provide for this growth includes the regional industrial land study which will provide more surety for retaining and attracting industrial businesses and jobs in the region in the longer term (at present the industrial land supply in the region provides limited options for current and new businesses) and the renewed focus on PDAs which as currently defined is planned to provide nearly 30% of the new housing required in the region over the next 30 years.

Alongside the work that the WRLC does in the region, each partner is also undertaking work that supports the work of the WRLC and the required growth in the region. For instance, Horowhenua District Council has been working with key partners on a Levin/Taitoko Structure Plan to ensure that continued growth within their local area is well managed and required infrastructure and planning is accounted for.

During the year the WRLC undertook a “health check”. By July 2023 we had been in existence for two years and wanted to review what was working and not working. We continue to evolve as a committee and the recommendations of the health check are assisting in this.

Some key changes from the health check have been:

- Appointing dual chairs for the WRLC.
- Changing the frequency and structure of our four time per annum formal meetings to two formal meetings and two informal planning sessions.
- Enabling members to identify key regional issues and opportunities they want raised at the WRLC. We have recently added work on regional aggregate opportunities to the work programme for 2024-2025 from an item raised in this manner.
- Growing our common evidence-based information and datasets – see the overview on the Regional Housing Action Plan dashboard work for more information on this.
- Narrowing the work programme – now key direction documents are set, ensuring a narrower focus of work and that work being focused on delivery.

We move into year four with a continued focus on delivery of the outcomes in our key regional spatial and economic development documents, within an unfolding policy direction at the NZ Inc. level and with a clear view on what “good looks like” in 12 months time.

For 2024 onwards we will also be looking at regional adaptation to understand what we can achieve regionally to:

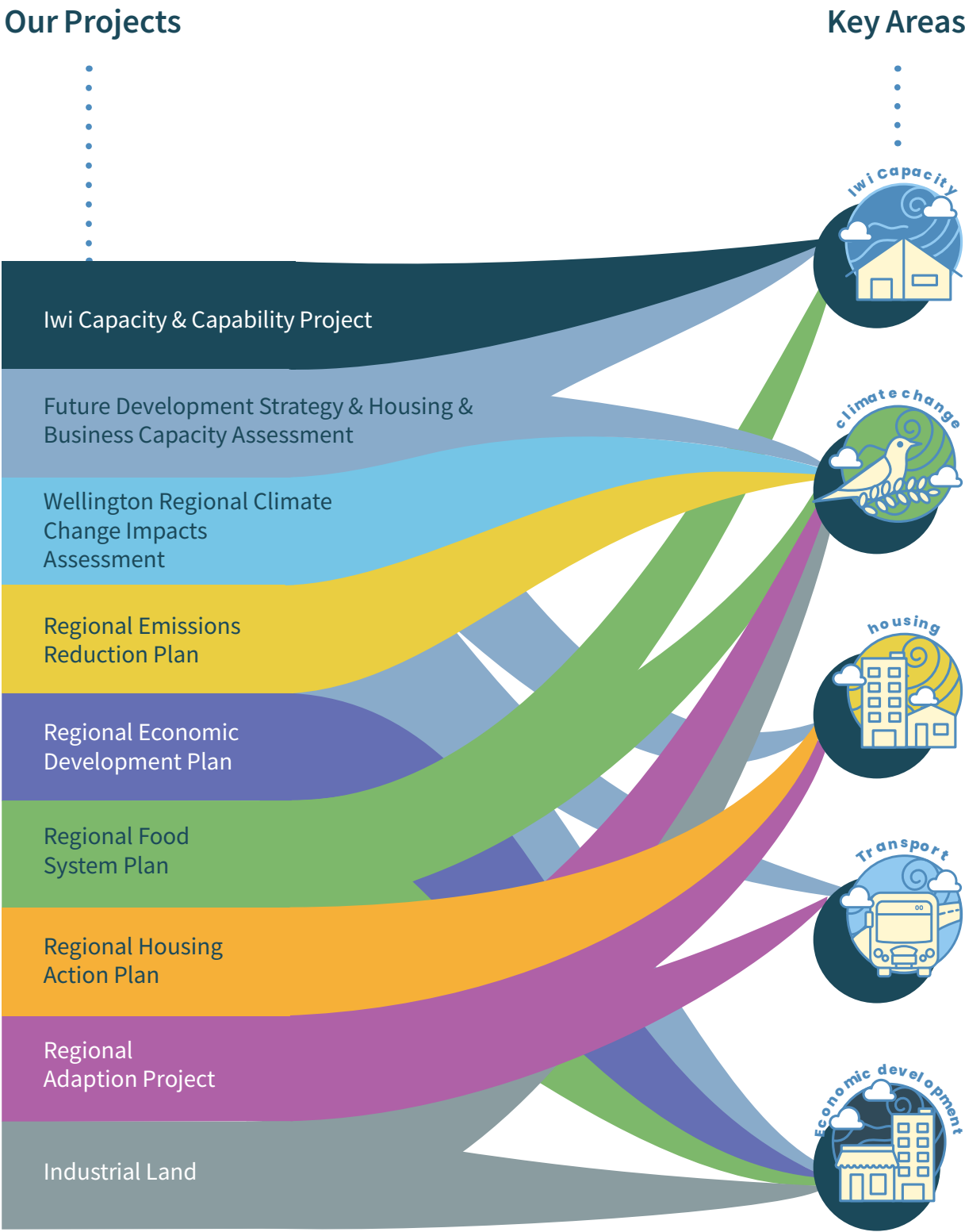
- Better support adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring at the local level,
- Provide for improved knowledge, regional efficiency and integrated decision-making where appropriate, and
- Improve our capacity to respond to, and live with, a changing world.

This is a big issue for our region and one we as the WRLC along with many in the private sector and the community need to work on together.

1.1 Our projects during the 2023-2024 year

The WRLC has two areas of responsibility in our region – regional spatial planning and regional economic development. Information about our projects is below in Diagram 1.

Diagram1: WRLC projects by key areas of responsibility



1.2 Project overviews

1.2.1 COMPLETED PROJECTS



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (FDS) AND HOUSING AND BUSINESS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (HBA)

This spatial plan is a crucial tool for planning and managing the growth, development capacity, and infrastructure needs of our region over the next 30 years. It aims to create well-functioning urban areas and ensure there is enough space for homes and businesses. This strategy combines planning for land use with decisions about infrastructure and funding.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The FDS was undertaken using a streamlined, regional decision-making process which made the development of the Strategy easier and was achieved faster than would have occurred without this. This process was applied to the FDS, the HBA and the delegated authority to WRLC members for approval of the draft and final FDS.

WRLC iwi partner engagement was prioritised with the result being the development of Te Tirohanga Whakamua, a statement of iwi and hapu values and aspirations for urban development that is now used for a wider range of WRLC projects.

The project team engaged with a wide range of key stakeholders from the beginning, ensuring a collaborative and informed FDS.

Plans for next year

Projects in the FDS Implementation Plan will commence and the FDS measures will be monitored and reported to the WRLC

Key deliverables include:

Completion and Publication of Housing and Business Assessment – [Regional Housing & Business Development Capacity Assessment 2023 - WRLC](#)

Significant engagement with multiple sectors in developing the FDS – [Engagement-Report-for-Draft-WRLC-FDS.pdf](#)

Approval and Execution of FDS Public Consultation including public hearings

Approval of the final FDS in March 2024 – [1404-GWRC-WLRC-Future-Development-STRATEGY-2024-240223-06.pdf \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#)

Approval of the FDS Implementation Plan in June 2024 - see [Te Rautaki Whanaketanga ki tua a Wairarapa-Wellington- Horowhenua | Future Development Strategy: Implementation Plan \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#)

REGIONAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN (RERP)

Developed with iwi, sector leaders, and the government, this plan identifies regional opportunities and barriers for reducing emissions, aligning with collective action to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The first of its kind, it supports a zero-carbon future and builds on existing climate efforts, focusing on regional needs and actions.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

There was extensive stakeholder engagement throughout 2023-2024, including a stakeholder and partner forum, a stall at the Festival for the Future, regular engagement with industry and sector experts and regular project briefings to the WRLC and partner organisations.

A carbon model was developed (utilizing a model developed by others) and a number of scenarios were developed showing the possible outcome from a carbon emissions point of view.

A specialist was engaged to undertake engagement with WRLC iwi partners on this work to ensure their views are incorporated into the work.

The RERP was developed to align with New Zealand's national climate targets and the government's (at the time) Emissions Reduction Plan.

Key deliverables were:

- Stakeholder and partner forum – attended by 116 people from various sectors
- Carbon modelling of scenarios
- Completion and publication of the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan [1497-GWRC-WLRC-Regional-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-REO-240227-ff.pdf \(wrlc.org.nz\)](#)

Plans for next year

Projects in the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan will commence.



WELLINGTON REGION CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT (WRCCIA)

This assessment was about developing a regional understanding of expected climate change impacts in the region over the next 100+ year. The WRCCIA is phase 1 of the Regional Adaptation Project (see section 1.2.2 below)

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

This year was the final year of the WRCCIA project with the project team continuing to work with the technical team. A range of workshops were held online with stakeholders across the domains covered in the final report to discuss potential risks and opportunities.

Other key achievements included:

- Development of and, agreement on methodology – [see more online.](#)
- Independent peer review of draft report.

The WRCCIA was endorsed by the WRLC in June 2024 and will be a key input into the Regional Adaptation Project. The WRCCIA provides all partners and others in the region with a common, evidence-based approach and knowledge about the key issues for the region.

Key deliverables were:

- Development of WRCCIA GIS Tool: Amalgamates regional climate change hazard data with other spatial information.
- Completion of detailed Impact Assessment phase – [see more online.](#)

Plans for next year

This phase of the project is complete.



1.2.2 PROJECTS UNDERWAY

INDUSTRIAL LAND PROJECT

This project aims to ensure sufficient industrial land for future development in the region, supporting job creation and economic growth. Our region has never undertaken a coordinated approach to industrial land use or taken a region-wide view on how and where to bring industrial type businesses into our region. This project is one of the initiatives outlined in the Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP). The FDS also identifies this project as a priority focus. The Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (HBA) undertaken as part of the FDS projected that by Dec 2051, the region will require almost 700 more hectares of industrial land.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

A Steering Group of public and private sector participants with good geographical representation, featuring the Chamber of Commerce from the Hutt Valley and Wellington, WellingtonNZ, The Horowhenua Company as well as councils, CentrePort and central government

partners was established and has been meeting regularly to progress the project.

A series of business sector engagement activities have been undertaken including workshops, one-on-one interviews, and a survey to gather industry information.

Both criteria for site selection and development of a Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) were developed. This resulted in identifying a number of sites for discussion and review.

This project's scope has now been extended to include investigating regional aggregate opportunity sites as well.

The key deliverable this year has been the Industry Engagement report on key issues and requirements – see [more online.](#)

Plans for next year

- Completion of GIS model used during this project
- Final project report identifying opportunity sites for both industrial land and aggregate resource, along with recommendations for next steps



REGIONAL ADAPTATION PROJECT (RAP)

The purpose of phase 2 of the Regional Adaptation Project (RAP) is to develop a mechanism or set of actions that can help us best position ourselves as a region to deal with the current and future impacts of a changing climate. The RAP will identify the innovations and changes that need to be made to make better decisions and increase the resilience of our people, the things we value, our environment and the economy.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

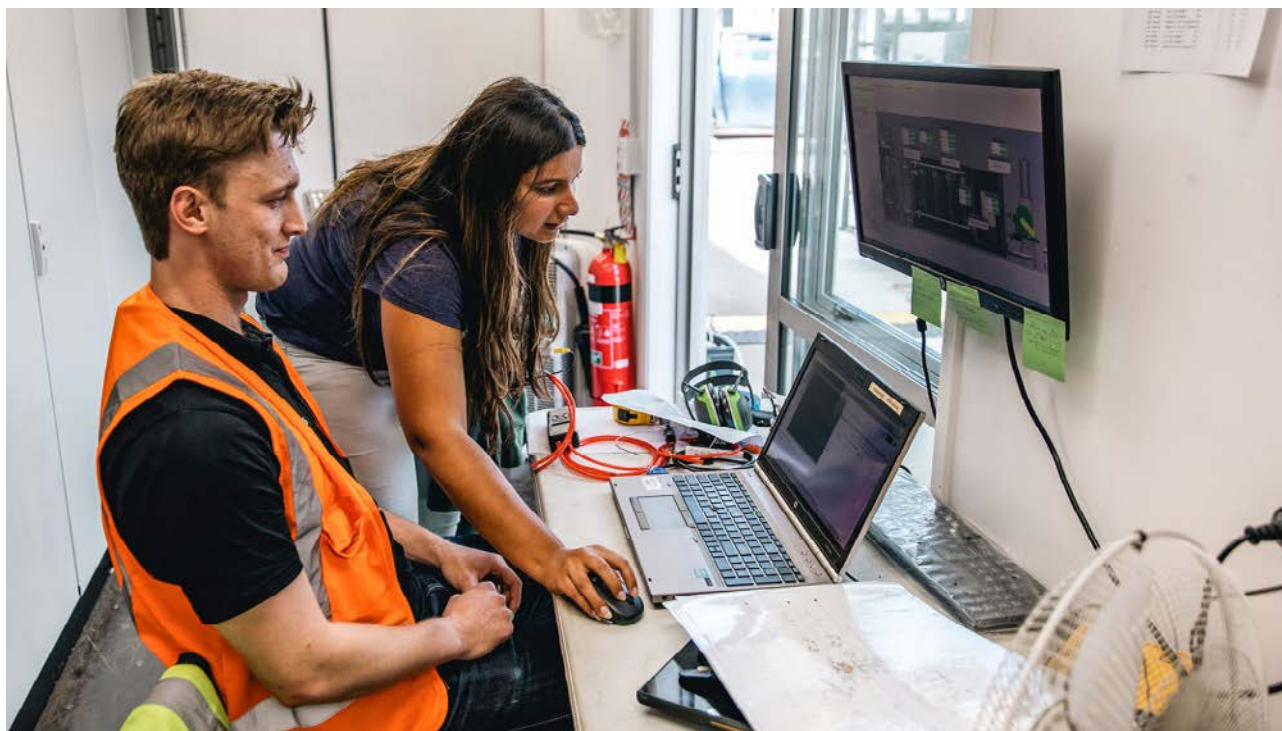
This project has recently commenced and at year end (June) was in the project scoping phase.

Plans for next year

- Scoping of phase 2 the Regional Adaptation Project and scope sign off by WRLC
- Development of a Communications and Engagement Plan for the project
- Project commencement as per agreed scope



1.2.3 PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED



REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP)

WellingtonNZ continues to oversee implementation of the REDP with guidance from a Steering Group comprised of local and central government, Te Matarau a Māui, and business representatives.

Each initiative in the REDP aims to address one or more of the issues and opportunities identified. Collectively, these initiatives are providing real opportunities to grow businesses and develop our future workforce, both of which are long-term investments in our region.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The second year of implementation has seen many initiatives reach the delivery stage. Examples include:

- Attracting multiple productions to our region through the Screen Attraction Programme. For example, Wolfman filmed at Lane Street Studios and on-location throughout the region, creating 300 jobs over a six-month period and an estimated \$20m in-region spend.
- Growing the Summer of Engineering programme with a further 16 internships in summer 2023.
- Completing the business case for a STEM product commercialisation innovation space.

- Delivering the Climate Response Accelerator and Climate Tech Summit to 318 attendees.
- Opening the Tech Startup Hub with an initial selection of nine businesses.
- Supporting development of the Kāpiti-Horowhenua food and beverage cluster to 125 members
- Establishing the Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust as a registered charity and securing a board of Trustees.
- Releasing the Opportunities for Impact through Procurement report and recommendations.

Further highlights and the latest data are available in the REDP annual summary. [See more online.](#)

The REDP has been refreshed to reflect the latest context and refine initiatives to focus on in the years ahead. The refresh enabled the plan to remain a living document and emphasised the value of working as a region to implement priorities. [See more online.](#)

Plans for next year

- Progressing delivery of the 31 initiatives in the refreshed REDP and showcasing the impact these initiatives are having for our region.
- Continuing to build a pipeline of future initiatives to address issues and opportunities outlined in the REDP.

REGIONAL HOUSING ACTION PLAN (RHAP)

Implementing initiatives from the Regional Housing Action Plan.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

There has been continued involvement of people operating in the housing sector in regular Regional Housing Forums to share activity in the sector and learnings. The Forums have grown to include new members from around NZ who want to connect with others working in the sector.

There has been a focus this year on two RHAP actions - the housing dashboard and the PDAs.

The dashboard collates both housing and economic development data from multiple sources reporting on the WRLC region, providing data in one place for comparison. This data is updated regularly. See [more online](#).

The PDAs remain a focus for the WRLC. These are covered in pages 15–20 of this annual report. A PDA Steering Group has been established to lead the next iteration of this programme of work ensuring their relevancy and impact to the region.

Plans for next year

- Analytics will be added to the data dashboard site. This is still in development but is anticipated to include both analytics on data available and regular reporting on a range of data points. We also plan to increase the GIS components.
- A review will be undertaken of the WRLC PDA list to remove those complete/not needing PDA status and add new PDAs as relevant.
- Work is commencing on working with WRLC iwi partners on housing opportunities



REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PLAN

This project completed its Phase 1 Report this year, to complete stakeholder engagement and baseline data collection to understand the need for a regional approach to the food system. This project is of particular interest to the WRLC iwi partners and the work is being led by them and Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The key deliverable this year has been the completion and release of a Phase 1 Report as well as Ahikā's Report on the Wellington Region and Horowhenua District Food System Overview – see [Te Whatu Ora Report](#).

The successful delivery of this first report is the culmination of significant levels of ongoing engagement and relationship building, centering the aspirations and visions of mana whenua and communities across the region. Multiple stakeholder meetings and workshops were held, including with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), 20 grower interviews across the region, a Food System Plan Wānanga attended by nearly 40 participants, and continued meetings with the Community Advisory Board (CAB), the Iwi/hapū rūpū, and councils.

Data collected for the Phase 1 Report includes a foodshed analysis, land use mapping, retail surveys, and grower interviews focused on the local food economy.

The WRLC has expressed support for this plan, endorsing the position that protecting the food system and striving for food security is a priority for region.

Plans for next year

- The WRLC has approved the project moving into phase 2 - which involves identifying actions for WRLC partners in implementing initiatives and activities that align with the project's vision and objectives
- Development and finalisation of community and iwi pilots



1.2.4 PROJECTS ON HOLD

IWI CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

This project was designed to implement the opportunities approved in the scoping paper prepared for the WRLC in 2021-2022, including secondments, work placements or governance opportunities for each iwi partner to the WRLC.

The establishment of a pilot was undertaken to find local government and central government partners to take up secondment opportunities into iwi partner organisations and for local government and central government to offer work placement opportunities to iwi partners to upskill

their workforce.

Despite partners' best efforts, no progress has been made due to no/low participation from partners to offer secondments opportunities or work placements, resource constraints, operational challenges around how to make this work and iwi partners' capacity issues.

[Read more online.](#)

The WRLC has agreed to put this project on hold for now.



1.2.5 PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREA (PDA) PROGRAMME

Amongst the housing development projects planned or underway in our work programme, some show the potential to more significantly deliver on the region's growth objectives if they are prioritised to support accelerated delivery. These projects are designated as PDAs. They are development projects at scale that are undertaken in partnership between central government, local government, and iwi agencies to ensure their successful delivery.

Projects must meet certain criteria for the PDA designation. They must have the potential to bring significant housing and other benefits to the region. They also need to support the objectives of the WRLC and be in key locations that are crucial for these objectives. Finally, these projects are often complex and need a partnership to achieve the desired pace and scale of development.

The partnership approach enhances the focus and communication on these projects. By involving key agencies from the start, it enables collective planning, decision-making, and problem-solving, while also providing enhanced access to central government resources. These projects are highlighted at the top level to identify and clear issues, ensuring improved communication of progress, issues, and risk mitigation to stakeholders, and increasing transparency of project efforts.

In essence, PDAs are about bringing together the right people, at the right time, with the right resources, to make a positive and more speedy impact on our communities. It's a collaborative effort that turns ambitious plans into thriving realities.

At the end of this reporting year, all PDA projects below have a status of "underway".



FEATHERSTON MASTERPLAN PDA

This project aims to attract more housing development (700 homes) by prioritising transit-oriented development (TOD.) TOD is designed to enhance the urban environment with amenities, walkability, and connectivity, while offering a mix of housing densities, revitalising the main street to create an appealing town centre and adding character and amenity value to the walkway connecting the main street to the train.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The Featherston Masterplan was completed this year and adopted on 5 June 2024.

To get to this stage work included:

- Refinement and compilation of a draft Masterplan which was adopted by South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) in November 2023 for formal consultation. 87 submissions were received.
- Formal hearings and deliberations.
- Amendments to the draft Masterplan in response to submissions to create a final Masterplan for approval.

Plans for next year

- Featherston Masterplan and Implementation plan to feed into the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan costings planning.
- Liaise with available developers.
- Consider a housing plan.

LOWER HUTT CENTRAL

The project's goal is to facilitate 3,500 new homes in Lower Hutt's central city area, encompassing public housing, papakāinga, and affordable housing. It seeks to enhance development density while ensuring convenient access to employment, education, recreation, and rapid transit at Waterloo and Melling Stations, with infrastructure enhancements funded by the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF).

[Read more online](#)

Achievements and progress

Funding for the IAF infrastructure projects has been confirmed through the Long Term Plan 2024-34. Hutt City Council is leading the delivery of the stormwater and wastewater upgrades for the central city.

As part of RiverLink, Hutt City Council is also leading streetscape, the Riverbank car park and local road improvements.

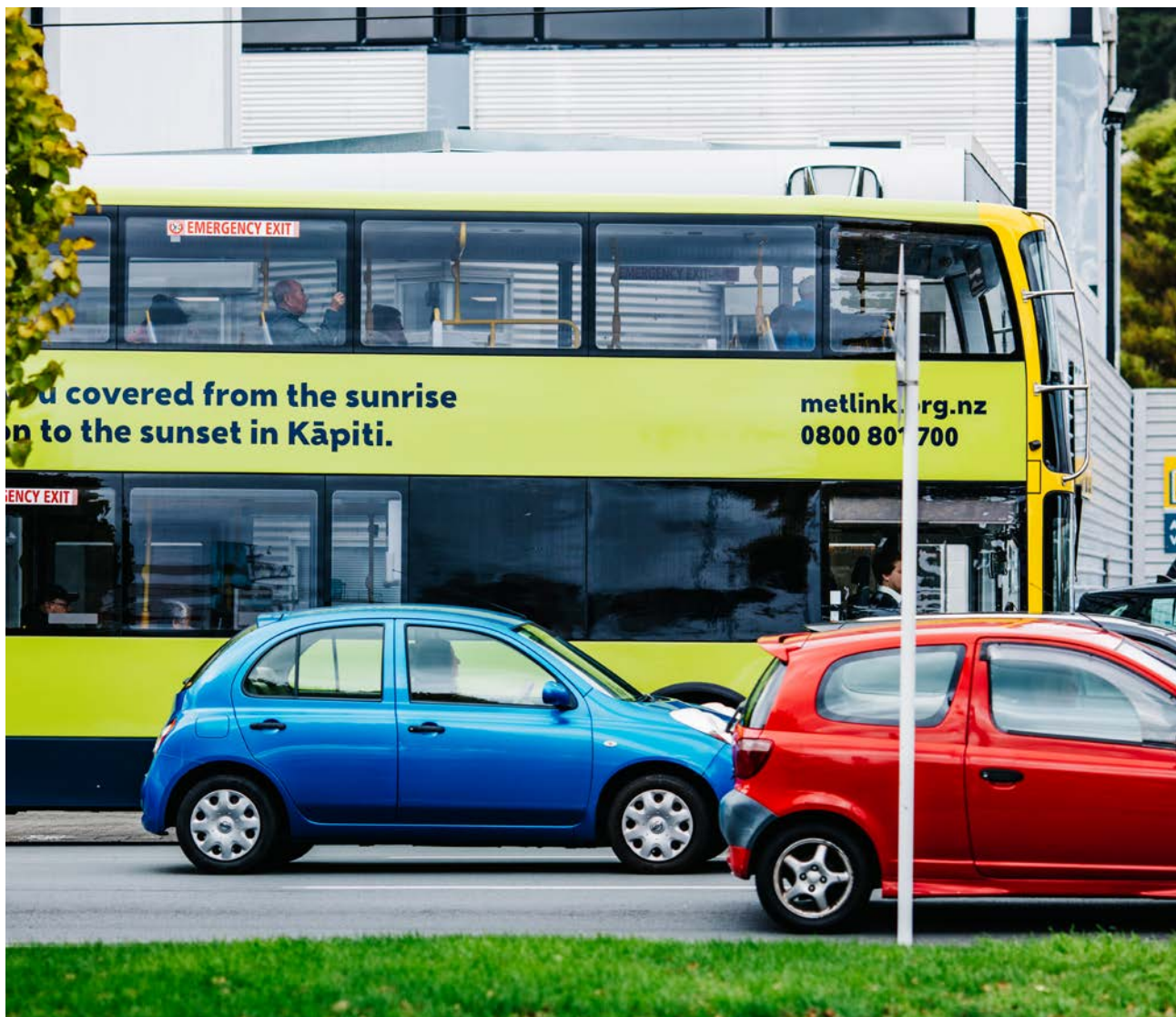
An Urban Renewal Steering Group and an Urban Renewal Working Group were established to drive and guide the project. The groups include senior leaders from Council, central government agencies, and mana whenua.

Council is also preparing a city-wide Spatial Plan, which will provide a broad strategic approach to growth in the city.

Plans for next year

- Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) wastewater and stormwater delivery planning to be completed.
- Engagement with developers and promotion of the opportunities for development will commence.
- The Lower Hutt Draft Spatial Plan will be consulted on.
- Proposed District Plan will be released for public consultation.





TE ARO GROWTH CORRIDOR

The Te Aro Growth Corridor aims to realise a significant uplift in housing in the area with the highest development potential in the wider Wellington CBD area, although the housing target amount needs to be confirmed given recent changes.

The project has had to move away from a focus on development around Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) to a general development programme. It transitioned from Let's Get Wellington Moving, to the Te Aro Growth Corridor and a new programme around this is being developed.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The project has made steps towards the new programme, with work on the wider WCC Growth Plan progressing and programme

operational funding confirmed in the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan.

The Growth Plan has identified several Priority Growth Precincts, including the Te Aro Growth Corridor. The Growth Plan will identify investment and policy options to realise the development potential of the Te Aro Growth Corridor, providing evidence to inform the 2027 Long Term Plan process. It will also feed into the 2025 Spatial Plan refresh and Infrastructure Strategy.

Analytical models to help understand housing development opportunities and focus on high-potential areas have been developed and are being utilised.

Plans for next year

Focusing on delivering the Growth Plan and embedding the programme within Wellington City Council.

ŌTAKI PDA

Kāpiti Coast District Council has embraced the PDA concept, and incorporated broader work around visioning, planning, and community engagement into our way forward. We are developing a prototype that will be trialled in Ōtaki, for use across all areas of our District in due course. Ōtaki is our first focus area because it faces a series of challenges from been at the end of two regions, and from having multiple central government boundaries to contend with.

The Ōtaki PDA aims to support medium to long-term, sustainable growth for Ōtaki through a planned and coordinated approach to development. Our aim is to leverage the good work that is already underway at a local level, with greater coordinated support (including funding) from central government and other key stakeholders.

Achievements and progress

Our progress for the Ōtaki PDA includes:

- Nearing completion of Phase 1 work, extensive community engagement has been underway as part of Vision Ōtaki, to identify what makes Ōtaki special, current and future community needs (incl physical and social infrastructure, services, and facilities) and aspirations for the future through to 2060 and beyond. This will provide input into Phase 1 of our PDA work.
- A summary of feedback on Vision Ōtaki was published in May 2024 with a final draft Vision to be completed by the end of August 2024. See [Vision Ōtaki](#) webpage for further details.
- Holding an initial symposium with key stakeholders on issues of safety, albeit related to growth, housing constraints, and lack of services and support for people in the community. This hui was held in collaboration with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki & ART and the Ōtaki Community Board. Key attendees included local NGOs and service providers, Kainga Ora, MHUD, Police, and Corrections.
- Amongst a range of feedback provided through submissions on regional and national change proposals, we have continued to advocate

that a regional planning priority is to improve public transport connections and access across the Ōtaki, Te Horo, and broader Kāpiti – Horowhenua area. We have also raised the need for regional councils to work together on solutions for these areas, due to existing boundaries for service.

Connected but delivered separately in relation to the IAF: construction has started on our new water reservoir in Ōtaki as part of IAF funding. The reservoir is due to be completed by the end of 2024 and will support further housing growth in the area to meet current and future needs in the community. Further to this, we are seeing several developments in Ōtaki progressing as initially noted in the IAF cabinet paper.

Plans for next year

Strictly related to the Ōtaki PDA:

- Vision Ōtaki, Phase 2, will also support the next stage of work where Council will engage with partners to develop options for change, and a supporting blueprint to achieve the Vision set by our community. Key partners will include Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki & ART, the Ōtaki Community Board, the iwi-Māori Partnership Board, local NGOs and service providers, the Economic Development Kotahitanga Board, Kainga Ora, MHUD, NZTA, Min of Ed, Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ), Police, Corrections, GWRC and Horizons Regional Council.
- Finalising the scope of the Ōtaki PDA and establishing a working group to support the development of a blueprint for Ōtaki (to support how Vision Ōtaki is achieved).
- Shaping a Town Centre Plan for Ōtaki as part of the blueprint work.

Outside of the PDA, we will continue on the delivery of the IAF infrastructure projects, and related developments for housing that are already in-track or in relevant resource consenting processes.

[Read more online.](#)





PORIRUA NORTHERN GROWTH CORRIDOR

The Northern Growth Area which includes Plimmerton Farm Zone proposes that a Special Development Project (SDP) designation will help unlock urban development opportunities for an additional 6,000 new homes in Porirua City.

Public notification and feedback on the SDP was undertaken in the August 2023 and a decision from Ministers is expected in late 2024.

[Read more online.](#)

Achievements and progress

The key achievement this year has been the undertaking of the SDP assessment phase, involving the development of key features, public notification, and feedback review for refinement. There has been continued partner and stakeholder engagement throughout the assessment phase.

Drafted assessment reports which included aspects such as indicative costings, transitional powers, and growth timings were socialised with stakeholders in early 2024 and briefings provided to elected officials.

A COVID-19 Fast Track Consent application was submitted for Plimmerton Farms Stage One, proposing significant residential and infrastructure development.

Plans for next year

These plans are dependent on the outcome of the decision from Ministers on the SDP proposal.

TRENTHAM MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

This project plans to develop a mixed-use area at Trentham Racecourse with the potential to add circa 800 homes. Long Term Plan funding for Council infrastructure has been secured and Masterplan development has progressed.

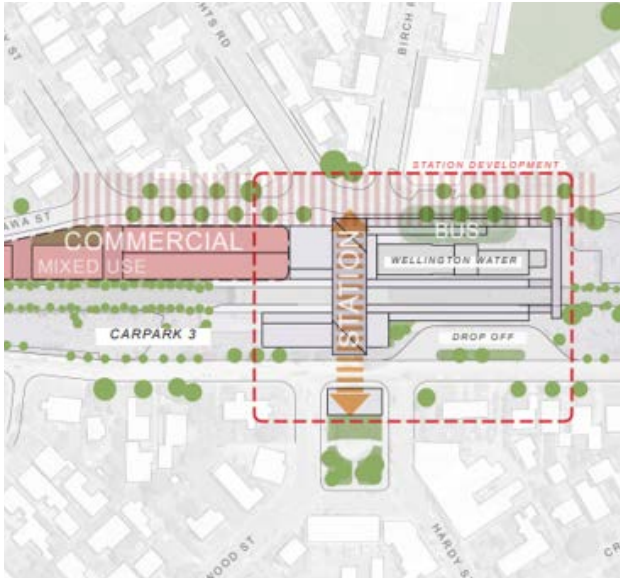
Achievements and progress

The project team has been progressing negotiations on various agreements to enable the development to proceed. Long Term Plan funding for the infrastructure was approved on 26 June 2024.

Plans for next year

Finalising the Masterplan and negotiations on various agreements to enable the development to proceed.





WATERLOO STATION TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)

This project is to support Hutt City's urban development strategy through urban regeneration and precinct development. It is intended to improve integration between transit, housing and community services, to enhance multi-modal access to the public transport network and to create a transit-oriented catchment.

Achievements and progress

Recent progress milestones include confirmation of Long Term Plan funding; positive investment ranking from NZTA for National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) funding; agreement from GWRC to proceed to Reference Design stage.

The project team has concluded that an improved hub will contribute to enabling ancillary housing projects in the immediate area with intensification opportunities that require further facilitation from central government/local government identified through the project.

Community engagement has commenced for the project, with a particular focus on neighbouring businesses and properties.

Plans for next year

- Completion of phase III - Reference Design focusing on finalising minimum requirements for the transit hub to procure a Reference Design.
- Public consultation on the project will take place in October 2024.

1.3 WRLC Communication and Engagement

Communication and engagement in year three for the WRLC has continued to focus on sharing project updates, learnings and successes.

Communication and engagement highlights for the WRLC this year include:

- **Regional Housing Action Plan (RHAP) Forum – regular meetings**

The RHAP Forum is a cross-organisational forum which meets regularly to share information, challenges and opportunities in the housing sector to advance the RHAP.

- **Housing and economic dashboard**

A big win under the RHAP is the delivery of a housing data insights dashboard to provide up to date housing and economic data and insights on the region. Towards the end of the reporting year, and in working with WellingtonNZ, key economic development data was added. This is a key communication and data tool for all partners and the wider public to use.

- **Regional Emissions Reduction Plan (REPR) Forum**

113 people from across the Wairarapa-Wellington-Horowhenua region came together on 24 July 2023 at the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan Forum. The Forum gathered local and central government representatives, iwi, sector specialists and community groups to discuss how emissions could be reduced for the benefit of future generations. Workshops were held on transport and urban planning, energy, agriculture, te taiao, building and construction, and enabling systems shifts. The perspectives and information gathered at these workshop, provided valuable input for developing the RERP.

- **Regional Food System Plan Wānanga**

Over two days on 2nd to 3rd November 2023, a wananga was held as part of ongoing mahi for the Regional Food System Plan being led by Te Whatu Ora. The goal was to connect diverse stakeholders from around the motu including mana whenua, community organisations, central and local government, academia, and growers/food producers from the region, to advance the Regional Food System Plan project. Participants contributed diverse perspectives to exercises and

discussions to broaden the project team's view of our kai systems into other interlinked systems. An overarching theme that emerged from this wānanga was the pressing need for regional collaboration in developing a sustainable food system, and that no single district can address the complex challenges of our regional food system alone.

- **Future Development Strategy (FDS) submissions**


The WRLC ran a successful public consultation process to seek feedback on the Draft FDS. The consultation ran from 9th October to 9th November 2023, with the majority of submitters supporting the approach of the FDS proposal areas. Feedback from the community was obtained through the *Have Your Say* website, together with written submissions via email. The consultation received 70 submissions through Have Your Say, and 31 submissions via email, a total of 101 submissions. A total of 32 oral submissions were heard by the FDS Hearings Subcommittee.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP WEBINARS

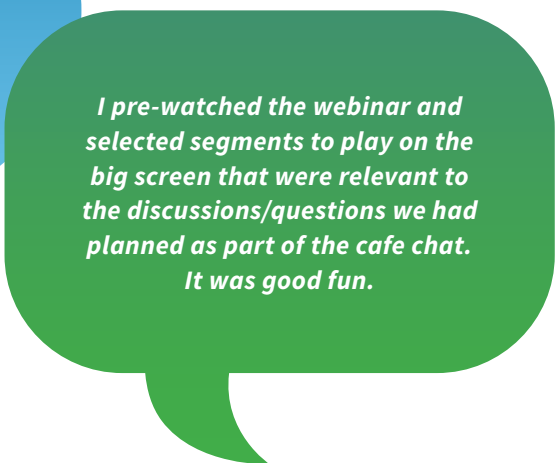
Our webinars have continued to grow in popularity and reach, featuring many high-profile and industry-leading academics and public sector leaders. Notable speakers in year three include the Winner of the Prime Minister's Science Communication Prize Dr James Renwick, WSP FutureReady UK Director David Symons, Economics and Policy Lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Amanda Janoo, Simplicity NZ CEO Sam Stubbs, KPMG Partner Alec Tang, The Infrastructure Commission General Manager Geoff Cooper, and many more.

The WRLC receives regular positive feedback from webinar attendees, ranging from advisors to CEOs and Directors. This feedback highlights the importance that people place on having access to learning opportunities and thought leadership, to support and inform their work, and awareness of the big picture.

All our previous webinars can be found at [Wellington Regional News](#) | Presented by The WRLC.



We had a great session using your webinar on Green-Oriented Design as a guide for a lunchtime 'climate cafe'. It was a trial idea that received good feedback and we will do again in the future.



I pre-watched the webinar and selected segments to play on the big screen that were relevant to the discussions/questions we had planned as part of the cafe chat. It was good fun.



Leaders unit
for the futur
our regio

FROM JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024 THE WRLC HAS:

Hosted **18** Thought-leader webinars



12

eNewsletters
written and
distributed



1,660

Increased eNews
subscribers
(up 571 in 12 months)



1,821

RSVPs
(nearly double
the last year)



1,200

YouTube Views



1,238

LinkedIn followers
(up from 762
12 months ago)

Section 2:

The Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Compliance



2.1 How did we spend our money?

The WRLC gets its funding from different sources. Our main aim with regards to the funding is to successfully complete projects, and getting money for these projects is essential. All of our projects affect the whole region, and some are important at a national level. How we get funding and how involved we are in managing the money depends on the project.

2.1.2 OPERATIONAL FUNDING

The operational costs of the WRLC are paid for through Greater Wellington Regional Council rates. The Horowhenua District Council, which isn't part of the regional council rating area, also contributes separately. Central government also provided some funding during this year for operational funding.

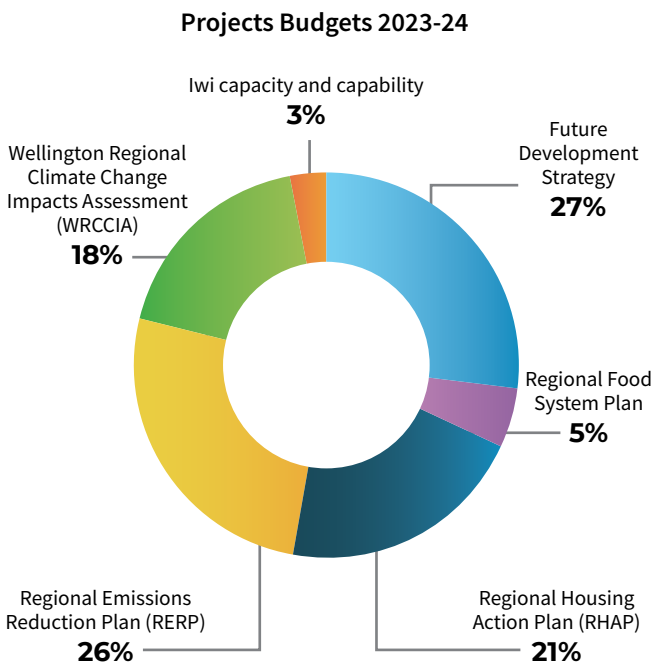
2.1.3 PROJECT FUNDING

All partner councils contribute to region-wide projects based on their population size. Central government, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) and Kāinga Ora have also funded projects with regional and national importance. The WRLC Secretariat manages and reports on the finances.

At the start of a project, initial cost estimates are made and then refined during planning. The project authorisation process includes cost approvals to ensure affordability and clear commitments from project partners. Exact costs are only known once the project begins. Regular updates from the WRLC Secretariat help track and manage these costs effectively.

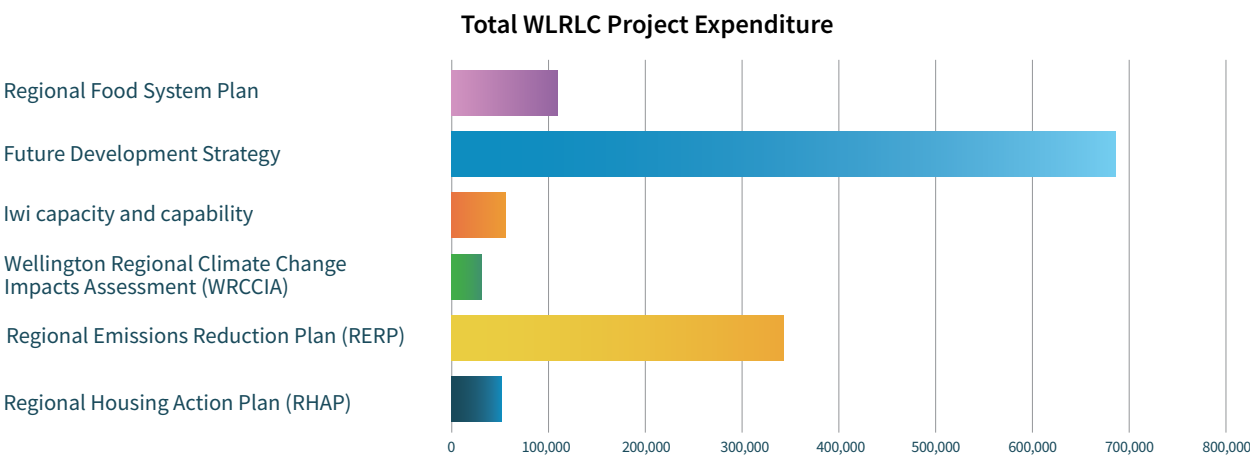
Partner agencies also provide valuable resources, with project teams including staff from all partner agencies, external organisations, and the private sector.

Diagram 4: WRLC project budgets



The rate of project expenditure compared to the budget can serve as an indicator of progress against the schedule, and this holds true for our projects as well. Refer to Diagram 5 for an overview of how projects are tracking. It's essential to keep in mind that certain projects span multiple years, which means not all funds will be spent within financial years.

Diagram 5: WRLC project expenditure in 2023-2024



He waka eke noa // we are all in this together

