

Our Places

Eastern Bay Spatial Plan



Wāhanga 5: Te Whakatinanatanga Part 5: Implementation

June 2025







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Wāhanga 5: Te Whakatinanatanga

Part 5: Implementation

Te whakatinana i te mahere Implementing the plan

This implementation plan outlines the strategy for the councils to deliver Our Places – Eastern Bay Spatial Plan through a series of key moves and implementation priorities. It aligns with activities related to the Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy to ensure a coordinated approach. This version of the spatial plan serves as a starting point that is expected to evolve and change in response to shifting influences, legislative requirements, and new information.

Key moves and priorities for implementation

The goals are what we aim to achieve over the long term for the Eastern Bay, developed by the Project Governance Group. The key moves outline what we will focus on to achieve the vision, while the implementation priorities tell us where to start. These priorities will inform a more detailed implementation plan that looks at how each item will be delivered, expected to follow once the spatial plan is approved. The key moves will also inform existing and near-term planning and policy work, such as the Whakatāne Growth Strategy, the Hukutaia Growth Area and industrial needs study, and changes to Kawerau's District Plan, amongst other processes.

Goals

Whai hauora me te whakarauora
Healthy and healing

Ngā ohaoha toitū, kanorau hoki, e tuku
ana i ngā mahi me ngā kaupapa mō te
iwi whānui

Sustainable, diversified economy
providing jobs and purpose for our
people

Ngā tāngata, ngā hapori me ngā
tauwāhi e hono ana, e tōnui ana, e
manawaroa ana hei whakaata i te hītori
me ngā tūmanako o tātou katoa

Connected, thriving, resilient people,
communities & places that reflect our
history and aspirations

Key moves

1 Collaboratively shape the future

2 Nurture strong and effective iwi and hapū partnerships

3 Build climate resilient communities

4 A prosperous, high productivity sub-region

5 Zoned and serviced housing and business land

6 Great places for people to live for generations

7 Connect people with opportunities, and freight with markets

8 Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health

9 Clear and consistent sub-regional funding priorities

Figure 1: Goals and key moves

Ngā whanake matua

Key moves

Collaboratively shape the future

We will work together, with stakeholders, and the community to deliver the spatial plan.

Implementation priorities:

1. Partners of Our Places - Eastern Bay Spatial Plan (Our Places) will adhere to a joint governance structure for implementation of the spatial plan, setting priorities together, engaging communities, and adapting to changes in the operating environment.
2. Councils will engage with stakeholders and the Eastern Bay community at a local level. This will involve delivering Our Places through initiatives such as local area plans, growth strategies, new Long-Term Plans (LTPs), and updates to related plans and policies, including regional and District Plans, as well as future revisions to Our Places and the Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy (SREDS).
3. After establishing the governance structure, the Project Governance Group should direct the preparation of a detailed implementation plan for Our Places and the SREDS. This will focus on activities that benefit from sub-regional coordination and a monitoring framework to assess progress towards goals.

Nurture strong and effective iwi and hapū partnerships

Involve iwi and hapū in decisions about their rohe and support achieving housing and wider aspirations.

Implementation priorities:

1. Iwi and hapū will be engaged as key decision-makers in the development and implementation processes related to their rohe. It is essential to allocate resources to iwi and hapū to facilitate their participation in projects and processes to enable the realisation of their aspirations.
2. Prioritise actions that enable iwi and hapū to utilise their land in ways that advance their aspirations and unlock long-term opportunities in the full context of Treaty Settlements, including council commitments to prepare strategies and establish governance forums. Further targeted engagement is required to resolve outstanding matters and ensure that implementation reflects iwi and hapū priorities.
3. Ngāti Rangitihi has a responsibility under the Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022 to develop and implement the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy document under a co-governance framework. This initiative aims to restore the mauri of both the Tarawera River and Te Awa o Te Atua. A key focus is exploring the potential for reconnection and returning flow between the Tarawera River and Te Awa o Te Atua. The implementation of the spatial plan, particularly around Matatā, will support and consider this focus.

Build climate resilient communities

Ensure vulnerable communities and Priority Growth Areas are safe and resilient to natural hazard risk and the long-term effects of a changing climate.

Implementation priorities:

1. Local and regional councils will undertake joint stormwater and risk management planning through master planning to inform the design, form, and location of detailed structure planning for Priority Growth Areas such as Awakeri, Hukutaia and Matatā. This approach will help protect the agreed levels of service of the flood schemes, manage the effects of a changing climate over the next 100 years, and avoid increasing risk to people, property and infrastructure.
2. Prepare local climate change risk assessments and undertake community-led adaptation planning initiatives across the sub-region. This includes completing the Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment.
3. Progress natural hazard risk assessments prepared under the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki townships to improve understanding of risk and inform future risk management planning.
4. Consider operational and governance arrangements for the integrated management of natural hazards, flood management and climate change adaptation across the functions of councils, iwi and hapū and lifeline utilities, as well as Civil Defence and Emergency Management for long-term risk reduction in priority locations.
5. Support iwi and hapū in developing their own capacity, strategies, and responses to climate adaptation in specific locations.
6. Support local emergency preparedness and evacuation planning to enhance the safety and preparedness of urban and rural communities.



A prosperous, highly productive sub-region

Create a resilient and competitive economic environment through strategic economic development, infrastructure enhancement, and market engagement.

Implementation priorities:

1. Implement Our Places together with the SREDS for the Eastern Bay. These plans address interconnected opportunities that necessitate a coordinated approach, including a unified sub-regional governance structure to oversee the implementation of both.
2. Build from the strengths of the existing economic base of the sub-region, support workforce development, and enable key growth sectors identified in the SREDS:
 - **Ōpōtiki - Aquaculture centre of national significance:** Home to the largest and most productive aquaculture region in New Zealand, providing direct benefits to locals.
 - **Kawerau – Green energy and industrial hub:** Green energy and industrial hub, engineering and manufacturing, as well as the sub-regional freight gateway to the Golden Triangle.
 - **Whakatāne - Commercial and residential heart:** Dynamic business network and regional service centre offering coastal living with transport links throughout the Bay and beyond.

To support this, as outlined in the SREDS:

3. The Project Governance Group should establish a business and capital advisory group. This group can help identify and enable public-private funding opportunities.
4. Each council ensures a supply of zoned and available housing to facilitate the attraction and retention of talent in the Eastern Bay.
5. NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) should consider prioritising improvements for SH 35, 2, and key bridges such as Peketahi Bridge, to enhance connectivity for economic development and support housing growth.
6. Enable economic development led by iwi and hapū, particularly when this involves Māori-owned lands with aspirations for economic activities.
7. In the Urban Central Corridor, Matatā will become a gateway to the Eastern Bay and a place that attracts visitors. An iwi-led master planning approach that encompasses the public realm and economic development would support this taking place.



Enough housing and business land to meet demand

Ensure zoned, serviceable, and connected land to enable more housing and business land at defined locations.

Implementation priorities:

1. In Whakatāne, land use and infrastructure planning will recognise Whakatāne township's position as the principal sub-regional commercial, services hub, and residential core of the sub-region.
2. As part of structure planning for Priority Growth Areas, identify and manage the potential health effects associated with reverse sensitivity between industrial and agricultural operations, as well as sensitive uses such as residential areas or schools.
3. Continue to provide a diverse range of housing across the sub-region, located near and suited to workers in the primary industries and town-based businesses and industries. Implementation will be progressed through locally driven planning initiatives across the districts:
 - Whakatāne District will deliver its Local Growth Strategy at a local place-based scale, leading to structure plans, District Plan changes, and infrastructure investment strategies to unlock Priority Growth Areas of the Urban Central Corridor. This will focus on Awakeri initially, followed by Matatā and whenua Māori west of Coastlands, pending iwi and hapū confirmation. This process will involve ongoing dialogue with the community.
 - Ōpōtiki District will continue planning and investment into the Hukutaia Growth Area. The area will continue to be reinforced as a primary residential growth area, and planning framework will support iwi economic and housing aspirations throughout the Coastal Eastern Corridor.
 - Kawerau District will support the continued expansion of the Putauaki Trust Industrial Area as the pre-eminent industrial growth area for the sub-region. Kawerau District Council will also complete changes to the District Plan to enable infill and papakāinga housing supply opportunities.
4. Changes to infrastructure provision in smaller settlements will largely be considered through renewal programmes in the context of local aspirations, especially where these are well-known through local masterplans, such as those underway for Murupara and Minginui.



Great places for people to live for generations

Develop and improve community places and facilities to enhance the quality of life as communities change over time.

Implementation priorities:

1. The townships of Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki, and Kawerau are prioritised for placemaking activities and investments due to their key role in shaping individuals' experiences within the sub-region. Parks and open space investment plans need review as population change occurs with new development areas.
2. Greenfield urban development will be planned to include provisions for parks, facilities, and reserves. In areas anticipated to undergo significant changes, the impact on existing facilities, such as local parks, will be evaluated to determine if adjustments in service levels are required.
3. Further detailed planning activities, such as Whakatāne District Council's Local Growth Strategy and Ōpōtiki District Council's Hukutaia Growth Area, will need to establish locally-defined placemaking outcomes and methods.
4. In Murupara and Te Kaha, continue investment in community facilities and supporting retail and business growth to strengthen their roles as rural service hubs for residents, the travelling public, and the local economy.

Connect people with opportunities and freight with markets

A well-functioning transport system that enables future growth and provides access to social, recreational, housing and economic opportunities.

Implementation priorities:

1. Improve the resilience of strategic freight connections, both road and rail, to the Port of Tauranga and to Gisborne. This includes targeted improvements on SH 35 in the Coastal Eastern Corridor to support economic activity dependent on reliable connections through to the Port of Tauranga.
2. Identify packages of transport projects and investment pathways to support the delivery of the spatial plan by preparing a Transport System Programme. Develop a network demand modelling tool to assist with this programme. Engagement feedback highlighted community interest in active transport modes and improvements to public transport services.
3. Continue to assess resiliency issues on the transport network and seek improvements. The National Land Transport Programme 2024-2027 includes a resilience investigation of SH 2 from Awakeri to Ōpōtiki. This study should consider transport requirements arising from changes in settlement patterns – particularly around Awakeri and Hukutaia and evaluate the potential for a local road bypass via Waiōtahe to improve access resiliency to Ōpōtiki township.
4. Develop a list of projects to unlock Priority Growth Areas and embed these within the Regional Land Transport Programme and seek co-funding from NZTA.
5. Ensure NZTA's State Highway Improvement Programme includes development assumptions that align with the intended Priority Growth Areas.

Clear and consistent sub-regional funding priorities

Use available and new funding methods to facilitate the key moves and implementation priorities.

Implementation priorities:

1. Maintain a consistent sub-regional approach to Regional Deals and engage with the Infrastructure Commission's Infrastructure Priorities Programme as a key pathway to access central government funding for major infrastructure projects.
2. Regional Land Transport Plans and Water Services Delivery Plans will need to include the necessary investments outlined in local planning initiatives to enable Priority Growth Areas as they are determined.
3. Identify required infrastructure projects in LTPs to enable Development Contribution charging, which is likely to require a review of these charges.

Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health

Utilise integrated environmental management practices to restore a full range of ecosystems to a healthy, functioning state.

Implementation priorities:

1. Planning for environmental and sustainable outcomes will incorporate mana whenua values and priorities as shared, upholding iwi and hapū rights through Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
2. Our Places supports the reconnection and rechannelling of the Tarawera River as part of a master plan for Matatā, recognising the cultural, economic, and environmental benefits this may generate.
3. Local planning for Priority Growth Areas will identify environmental and sustainability objectives and methods as part of the initial planning processes to apply in development. These will address, amongst other matters:
4. Avoidance and mitigation of possible effects on sensitive natural or cultural areas and restoration projects.
5. Environmentally sustainable and water-sensitive design principles to guide structure plan development to support nature-based solutions and compliance with environmental regulations.

Ngā whai whakaarotanga whakatinana

Implementation considerations

Governance to implement the plan

A Project Governance Group was formed to guide and shape the development of Our Places. It includes representatives from local and central government, iwi authorities, and other key stakeholders. Maintaining this group, or a similar governance arrangement, will be essential for addressing sub-regional matters through a co-governance partnership and for supporting the plan's implementation.

Serving as the strategic voice for the Eastern Bay, this group should operate with a clear delegation of authority from

the councils. Additionally, it should be involved in broader spatial planning matters, including regional agreements, economic development, legislative reform, and upcoming changes to the Resource Management Act. The group could also be responsible for reviewing and updating the plan when necessary and receiving regular updates on key indicators.

Implementation toolbox

Our Places outlines a strategy to achieve our goals over the next 30 years. Achieving the goals will require a coordinated effort and the use of various tools available to councils.

Some implementation priorities are achievable through compliance with the policy guidance, rules and regulations in the relevant currently operative District Plans. Others may not be achievable until changes to the relevant District Plan are made, while some activities may require investments into capital projects or changes to asset management plans. Given the complexities of some of the proposed projects, it is expected that projects may need to be prioritised and phased to achieve efficiency in spending and resource use.

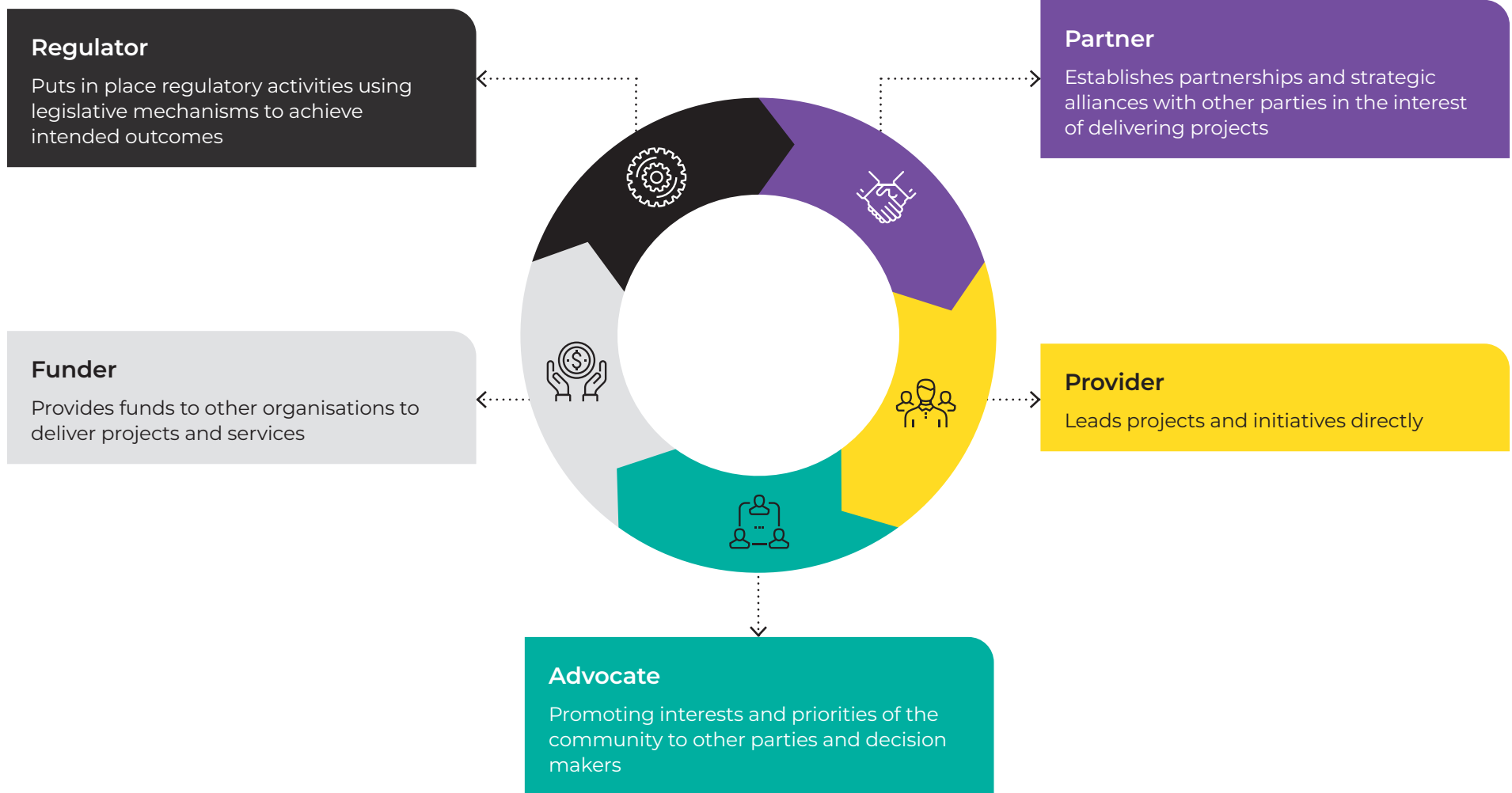


Figure 2: Councils can have different roles during implementation

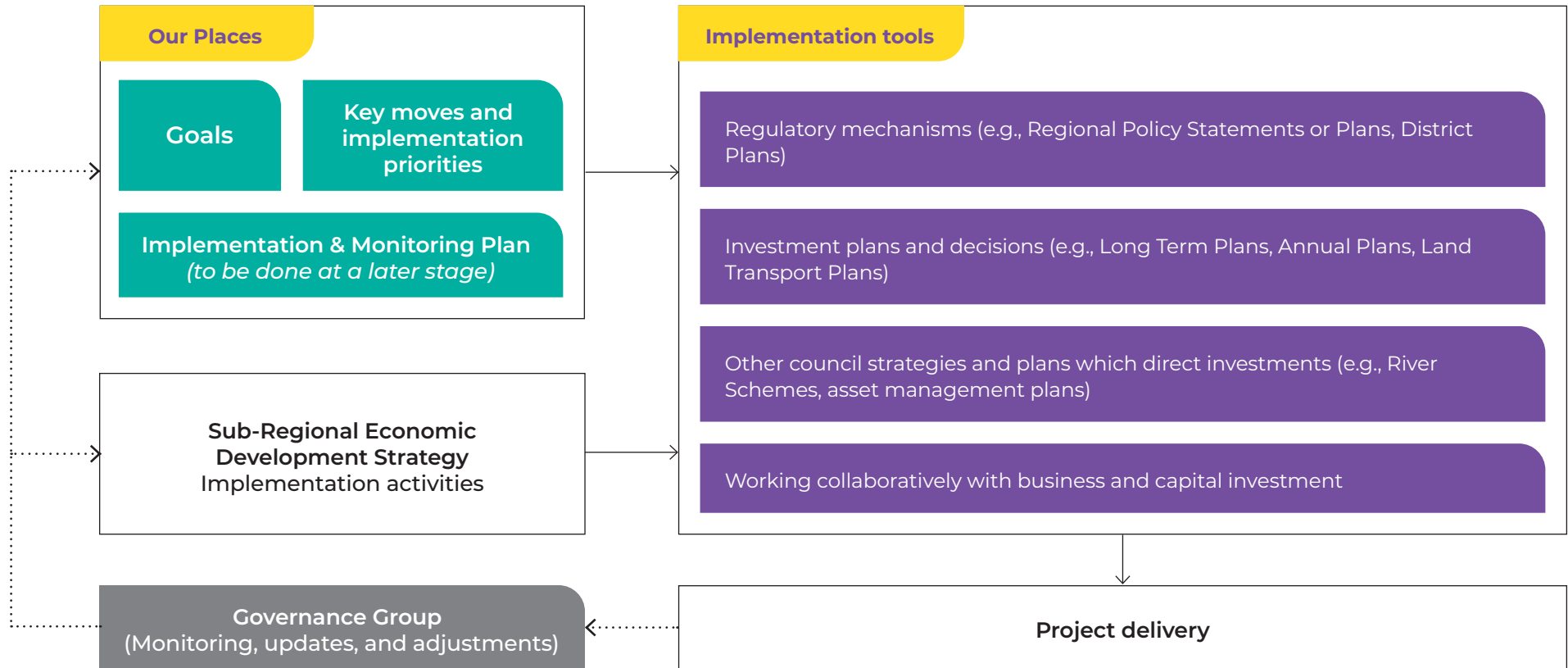


Figure 3: Implementation processes, alignment with sub-regional economic development strategy

Implementation risk

Potential high risks	Mitigation	Performance Indicator
<p>Partnerships</p> <p>Partnerships may be needed to deliver sub-regional outcomes. Without partnerships, key moves and implementation of the plan may fail to occur.</p>	<p>An agreed sub-regional governance group for the spatial plan, SREDS and other broad-scale initiatives (e.g., regional deals, responding to government policy changes) should be established with clear Terms of Reference. The group could be delegated authority to work on behalf of councils and other partners but needs to be resourced to operate effectively.</p>	<p>A Project Governance Group is confirmed with an approved Terms of Reference by July 2026. Councils provide operational funding in Annual Plans and LTPs to support the Project Governance Group's operation and to ensure that iwi partners can fully participate.</p>
<p>Commercial feasibility</p> <p>Development areas are not commercially viable due to infrastructure costs, resulting in underdeveloped housing or business land and constrained economic outcomes.</p>	<p>Councils can support viability by de-risking development areas through clear and enabling regulatory and investment frameworks; structure plans that define urban form and infrastructure requirements, accessible natural hazard information with defined mitigations, and alignment of enabling infrastructure projects in LTPs and funding plans.</p>	<p>A plan change and structure plan is undertaken for Awakeri, including an infrastructure funding plan. Infrastructure requirements for Priority Growth Areas are identified in relevant LTPs and Regional Land Transport Plans. An integrated catchment management plan is developed for Awakeri and informs future structure planning.</p>
<p>Infrastructure funding and affordability</p> <p>Infrastructure costs may be unaffordable for councils, limiting delivery of Priority Growth Areas, related placemaking and economic development activities.</p>	<p>Mitigation can include employing investment thresholds, exploring the use of private investments in public projects, ensuring required infrastructure projects are in LTPs and infrastructure strategies to enable appropriate development contributions.</p> <p>Prioritise investment into fewer development areas at any one time, and avoid opening different development areas that would compete with each other and undermine the timely recovery of council investments (e.g., through Development Contributions)</p>	<p>Development of the whenua Māori west of Coastlands area or extension of Matatā beyond existing zoned capacity does not take place until the Awakeri development is established with a funded infrastructure programme.</p>

Potential high risks	Mitigation	Performance Indicator
<p>Population growth</p> <p>Population may be lower or higher than the selected most likely population scenario, affecting commercial viability for development and funding sources.</p>	<p>The medium population growth scenario suggests that the sub-region will grow by 16,500 over the next 30 years. However, this is dependent on external factors such as immigration rates, affecting how fast development capacity will be absorbed. Mitigation measures include monitoring population change and adapting investment timing.</p>	<p>Population change, residential units consented, and commercial floorspace consented is monitored and reported at least annually to the Project Governance Group.</p>
<p>Changes in government policy</p> <p>Changes in national policy directions can influence the viability of delivering the spatial plan due to funding criteria shifts or policy requirements changing.</p>	<p>As governments change, review the strategy to determine if priorities need to be adjusted to better align with the government's current priorities. This may involve revising implementation priorities based on the opportunities at hand.</p>	<p>The Project Governance Group determines whether a review is needed within 12 months after a national election.</p>
<p>Climate change & natural hazards</p> <p>Natural hazard risks exist and are expected to worsen with a changing climate, impacting existing communities.</p>	<p>Undertake comprehensive natural hazard risk assessments for at-risk locations to consider risk management options.</p> <p>For the Priority Growth Areas of Awakeri, Hukuatia, and Matatā, undertake integrated stormwater planning at the master planning stage to inform structure planning and the objectives of the relevant river schemes.</p>	<p>In the short term, natural hazard risk assessments are completed for Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki townships to inform future risk management decisions and planning.</p> <p>Integrated stormwater management planning is completed for Awakeri, Matatā and Hukutaia.</p>

Prioritising and choosing where and when to invest

It is important to acknowledge that population and employment growth rates will vary from year to year. Councils must plan for variability and adjust the pace of implementation accordingly. The ten-year LTP provides a mechanism for funding decisions and ongoing changes to funding strategies. LTPs are one of the mechanisms that determine how quickly projects can be delivered, taking into account available resources, funding and workforce.

While the pace of implementation will be directed by available resources, funding, and demand from population and economic growth, the strategy identifies a short term focus. Awakeri and Hukutaia, as the two Priority Growth Areas, are considered the easiest to progress quickly and affordably.

Priority	Location	Details
Short-Long term	Hukutaia	Priority Growth Area, 2,000 residential units
Medium-Long term	Awakeri	Priority Growth Area, potential for 2,000+ residential units
Medium-Long term	Matatā infill	Priority Growth Area, 600-700 residential units
Long term	Matatā expansion	Potential extension of residential area eastwards of Pollen Street, following Awakeri development, with potential for 700-800 residential units
Further consideration, Medium to Long term	Whenua Māori west of Coastlands	Requires defined potential for development of this area
Ongoing	Other development locations like Murupara or Te Kaha and ongoing infill in safe places in existing townships	Enabled through ongoing asset renewal programmes

Note: Long term (10-30 years), Medium term (3-10 years), Short term (0-3 years)



Updates to this plan

Our Places will need to be reviewed regularly and in response to key events to ensure it remains current and relevant. The governance group overseeing the plan's implementation should determine when a review is required. A full review and update is recommended at least every six years. The review should include community engagement, and the timing should align with LTP updates to embed new actions in funding frameworks.

Other triggers that may prompt a review to assess whether updates are required include events outlined below or other similar developments:

- National and local elections
- Changes to legislation, including Resource Management Reform
- Development of a detailed Implementation Plan for Our Places
- Development of an Implementation Plan for the Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Release of new population statistics by Statistics New Zealand (subnational population projections, on a 2023-base, will be released on 25 September 2025)
- Further certainty of planning for Priority Growth Areas, or if they are found to be unfeasible
- Changes to funding availabilities and partner funding requirements (e.g., new GPS on Land Transport)

Āpitihanga 1: Ngā mahi whakatinana

Appendix 1: Implementation activities

Implementation of the strategy requires a commitment to resources, alignment of other strategies and investment plans, and commitment to making change happen. The activities proposed through the spatial plan are mostly unfunded and require further consideration in LTPs to confirm resource commitment.

The key moves and implementation priorities have informed a preliminary list of activities that should be considered to implement the plan. These have been developed with input from prior engagement feedback from iwi partners, stakeholders, the public, and technical assessments. The timing and funding for these activities are yet to be determined.

Once the spatial plan governance group has been established, a top priority item should be to approve a full implementation plan. This should include confirmation of the roles and inputs from partner organisations required to unlock the benefits sought through the spatial plan. Subsequent investigations, successful implementation, and detailed planning will refine and update these actions.



Spatial Plan and Eastern Bay-wide actions

Table 1: Implementation actions, Eastern Bay-wide

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
SP1	Spatial plan	1.1	<p>Governance for implementation</p> <p>Establish a governance entity to oversee the implementation of the spatial plan, engagement, and future changes to the plan – in association with the economic development strategy.</p>	Whakatāne District Council (WDC)	Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC), Kawerau District Council (KDC), Ōpōtiki District Council (OPC), NZTA, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Kāinga Ora, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand (Health NZ), iwi partners, Kānoa, Regional Services Commission
SP2	Spatial plan	1.1	<p>Funding for governance</p> <p>Ensure operational support and funding in long-term plans, including enabling the acquisition of appropriate data for monitoring risk indicators.</p>	WDC	BOPRC, KDC, ODC
SP3	Spatial plan	6.1, 6.2, 6.3	<p>Placemaking for structure plans</p> <p>Use Local Growth Strategy or District Plan engagement processes to define placemaking principles that guide inform structure plans and community revitalisation projects, particularly regarding community infrastructure, recreational facilities and impacts on existing assets.</p>	WDC, ODC	KDC
SP4	Spatial plan	2.2, 5.4	<p>Address District Plan barriers to papakāinga</p> <p>Gather more detail on the quantum and timing of papakāinga and what regulatory barriers affect its realisation.</p> <p>Review District Plans to alleviate regulatory barriers where appropriate.</p>	WDC, ODC, KDC	Iwi, hapū and Māori Land Trusts
SP5	Spatial plan	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4	<p>Facilities strategic plan</p> <p>Develop an Eastern Bay Community Facilities Strategic Plan, maximising the best use of existing and planned facilities and available funding. The plan should consider diverse community needs, multi-use open spaces, enable co-location of community facilities, and ensure equitable access across the sub-region.</p>	WDC, ODC, KDC	Sport BOP, Health NZ, iwi and hapū

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
SP6	Spatial plan	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4	<p>Transport system programme</p> <p>Develop a transport system programme, supported by a network demand modelling tool, and explore new investment pathways to enable delivery of the growth components of the spatial plan.</p> <p>Explore investigations required for an alternative access point to Whakatāne township to support the growth components of the spatial plan and projects aimed at improving network resilience.</p> <p>Consider staging triggers for growth areas within the development of the transport system programme. Work with NZTA to identify current and future levels of service requirements for the State Highway network that accommodate future growth, existing user experience and funding availability for improvements.</p>	WDC	ODC, KDC, NZTA, BOPRC, KiwiRail, Regional Transport Committee, Regional Public Transport Committee
SP7	Spatial plan	6.1, 6.2	<p>Cycling network plan for Priority Growth Areas in Whakatāne District</p> <p>Create a safe, accessible, and interconnected cycle network that supports sustainable transportation and enhances community connectivity through local planning processes, strategies and projects.</p>	WDC	ODC, KDC, NZTA, BOPRC
SP8	Spatial plan	8.3	<p>Water sensitive design practices</p> <p>Define environmentally sustainable and water sensitive design principles and standards to guide structural planning in relation to nature-based solutions and compliance with environmental regulations.</p> <p>Embed these through District Plan reviews when required.</p>	WDC, ODC	BOPRC, iwi
SP9	Spatial plan	2.2, 2.3	<p>Identify and respect sites and areas of significance</p> <p>Partner with iwi and hapū in the protection of cultural heritage sites and areas of significance and ensure tangata whenua values are recognised and respected in local planning processes. Develop a detailed understanding around each Priority Growth Area as part of master planning.</p>	WDC, ODC, KDC, BOPRC	Iwi and hapū
SP10	Spatial plan	4.1, 4.2	<p>Implement the Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>Support the Priority Growth Areas as identified in the SREDS, including prioritising infrastructure and planning.</p> <p>Prepare a local economic development plan for each district, incorporating workforce development and exploring capacity-building opportunities for iwi authorities across the Eastern Bay.</p>	WDC, ODC, KDC	BOPRC, iwi and hapū
SP11	Spatial plan	4.1	<p>Capital advisory group</p> <p>The Project Governance Group should establish a business and capital advisory group to help identify and enable public-private funding opportunities.</p>	Project Governance Group	WDC, ODC, KDC, BOPRC

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
SP12	Spatial plan	1, 2	<p>Coordinate the mapping of the pathway to an integrated regional spatial plan</p> <p>Map the development of a single, integrated regional spatial plan, including through: Coordinating a stocktake of existing spatial planning information (including any updated information) and reviewing direction provided in the spatial plan. Testing alignment between existing spatial plan initiatives and RM Reform direction. Understanding how to incorporate National Policy Requirements. Engagement with iwi and hapū, and stakeholders.</p>	BOPRC	KDC, ODC, WDC

Urban Central Corridor actions

Table 2: Implementation actions, Urban Central Corridor

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
C1	Urban Central Corridor	5.4, 6.3	<p>Local Growth Strategy</p> <p>Prepare a Local Growth Strategy through partner involvement and community engagement that includes specific activities to plan, fund and deliver infrastructure for Priority Growth Areas in Whakatāne District.</p>	WDC	BOPRC, NZTA, Ministry of Education, iwi and hapū
C2	Urban Central Corridor	9.2	<p>Water and wastewater strategy</p> <p>Prepare a water and wastewater strategy that incorporates an integrated network approach to servicing existing communities and planned Priority Growth Areas, including consideration of shared treatment facilities and alternative solutions such as package treatment plants.</p>	WDC	BOPRC
A1	Awakeri	7.2, 7.4, 7.5	<p>State Highway access and safety improvements to enable growth</p> <p>Lobby for access and safety improvements along SH 30 and SH 2 as part of the State Highway improvement programme. Apply for funding to NZTA for the installation of a roundabout at SH 2 and SH 30 intersection.</p>	WDC	NZTA, BOPRC
A2	Awakeri	7.3	<p>SH 2 Awakeri to Ōpōtiki resiliency</p> <p>Ensure growth assumptions in NZTA's SH 2 resiliency project reflect the intent of the spatial plan.</p>	NZTA	WDC, ODC, KDC, BOPRC
A3	Awakeri	6.2	<p>School capacity</p> <p>Involve the Ministry of Education in forward planning of network capacity for schools.</p>	WDC, ODC	Ministry of Education

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
A4	Awakeri	5.4	<p>Master plan for Awakeri</p> <p>Explore the best options for rezoning to urban land use, including private plan change, public plan change, or a review of strategic LTPs.</p> <p>Engage iwi, hapū, Māori Land Trusts, stakeholders, and the local community to inform design principles and options.</p> <p>Continue to engage and support Kiwinui Trust and other relevant trusts to establish a master plan for the land, including investigating rezoning from rural to enable urban residential and other urban land uses.</p> <p>Prepare a structure plan to guide phased development.</p> <p>Establish risk profile and appropriate mitigation to be considered and/or designed into three waters systems.</p>	WDC	BOPRC, NZTA, Ministry of Education, iwi and hapū
W1	Whenua Māori west of Coastlands	5.4	<p>Vision and master plan for whenua Māori west of Coastlands</p> <p>Continue to engage and support Kiwinui Trust and other trusts to establish a master plan for the land.</p> <p>Establish the aspirations of the owners of Māori Freehold Land.</p> <p>Define an appropriate planning boundary that may include other adjacent land and identify any additional investigations and implementation activities required for planning, funding, and infrastructure.</p>	WDC	Māori Land Trusts, Ngāi Taiwhakaea, Ngāti Awa, NZTA, BOPRC
M1	Matatā	2.3, 5.4	<p>Master plan for Matatā</p> <p>Develop a master plan involving the local community and engagement with iwi to understand their priorities for development aspirations for land, economic development, socio-economic risks, and infrastructure needs including parks and open spaces.</p> <p>This process may be delivered through the Local Growth Strategy and should incorporate the Tarawera River Restoration Strategy Group's intent for river reconnection and rechannelling.</p>	WDC	Ngāti Rangitahi, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Ngāti Awa, NZTA, BOPRC, others
M2	Matatā	9.2	<p>Progress Matatā wastewater treatment plant</p> <p>The current wastewater management system in Matatā is failing.</p> <p>Provide a safe and reliable wastewater system for Matatā that reduces public health and environmental risks.</p> <p>Enable growth outcomes identified in the spatial plan.</p>	WDC	Co-design group, BOPRC
O1	Ōpōtiki	5.3	<p>New zoned industrial land</p> <p>Undertake Industrial Plan Change to enable future industrial development in strategically identified locations around Ōpōtiki township.</p>	ODC	Iwi and hapū, stakeholders

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
O2	Ōpōtiki	7.1, 7.3	<p>Advocate for SH 2 bypass resiliency improvement</p> <p>Advocate for improved transport resiliency along the bypass route (Hukutaia Road-Crooked Road-Verrall Road-Brown Road-Gabriels Gully Road-Waiōtahi Valley Road) as an alternative to SH 2 through Waiōtahe, to maintain access to and from Ōpōtiki township.</p>	ODC	NZTA, BOPRC
H1	Hukutaia	3.1, 5.3, 6.3	<p>Implement Hukutaia Growth Area</p> <p>Undertake natural hazard risk assessment for Hukutaia Growth Area to direct planning decisions.</p> <p>Identify commercial and residential uses, infrastructure, and open spaces, through structure planning.</p> <p>Undertake Hukutaia Plan Change to open up rural land for urban development.</p> <p>Work with landowners and other stakeholders to develop an infrastructure finding strategy.</p> <p>Seek improvements at the SH 2 and Woodlands Road intersection by NZTA</p>	ODC	BOPRC, NZTA, iwi, landowners, Ministry of Education
P1	Putauaki Trust Industrial Area	5.3	<p>Sustain the growth of Putauaki Trust Industrial Area</p> <p>Maintain the area suitability for large-footprint, regionally significant industrial activities by avoiding reverse sensitivity limitations posed by adjacent land use activities.</p>	KDC	WDC, ODC, Whenua Māori west of Coastlands
P2	Putauaki Trust Industrial Area	4.2	<p>Support the primacy of the Putauaki Trust Industrial Area</p> <p>Within Priority Growth Areas, ensure commercial uses do not compete directly with the large-scale heavy industries sought at the Putauaki Trust Industrial Area through appropriate land use regulations.</p>	WDC, ODC	KDC

Coastal Eastern Corridor actions

Table 3: Implementation actions, Coastal Eastern Corridor

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
EC1	Coastal Eastern Corridor	7.1	<p>SH 35 Resiliency Improvements</p> <p>Advocate for improved transport resiliency of SH 35 connecting the Coastal Eastern Corridor to Ōpōtiki township.</p>	ODC	NZTA
EC2	Coastal Eastern Corridor	2.1, 2.2, 4.2	<p>Support economic development by iwi</p> <p>Ensure iwi aspirations are a consideration when setting investment priorities or making regulatory changes.</p> <p>Support iwi-led developments, including pipeline projects identified in the Coastal Eastern Corridor to drive economic growth. ODC to provide support to enable iwi to meet Māori aspirations.</p> <p>Support aquaculture as key growth sector as identified in the SREDS, including prioritisation of infrastructure and planning to enable its development.</p>	ODC	Iwi, hapū and Māori Land Trusts
EC3	Coastal Eastern Corridor	6.4	<p>Te Kaha placemaking</p> <p>Enable and support the development of community facilities, retail, and businesses for Te Kaha to establish it as a central service hub. Engage with the community to understand their needs and priorities, working on this over time.</p>	ODC	Iwi
EC4	Coastal Eastern Corridor	3.6	<p>Marae as community hubs</p> <p>Establish formal agreements between ODC and Civil Defence to support marae as community hubs in the event of natural disasters.</p>	ODC	Iwi, hapū, BOPRC
EC5	Coastal Eastern Corridor	3.5	<p>Investigate areas for managed retreat</p> <p>Partnership between BOPRC and iwi to identify, investigate, initiate and support coastal retreat in areas subject to coastal inundation and future sea level rise.</p> <p>Assess and identify infill opportunities in smaller villages along the coast east of Ōpōtiki where they are safe from natural hazards.</p>	BOPRC	ODC, iwi and hapū
EC5	Coastal Eastern Corridor	2.1, 2.2	<p>Structure planning for papakāinga</p> <p>Partner with iwi to consider structure planning that enables comprehensive development of papakāinga, including infrastructure provision, particularly for large-scale proposals.</p>	ODC, iwi and hapū	

Rural Southern Corridor actions

Table 4: Implementation actions, Rural Southern Corridor

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
SC1	Murupara	6.4	<p>Papakāinga and commercial area</p> <p>Explore the planning pathways for developing papakāinga at Evan's Park. Consider preparing a business case for a new commercial area along the Te Urewera Rainforest Route, ensuring assessment of impacts on the existing commercial uses.</p>	WDC	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa
SC2	Murupara	6.4	<p>Murupara master plan</p> <p>Develop a master plan led by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa and the Murupara Community Board. Review the Whakatāne District Plan to support master plan outcomes.</p>	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa	Murupara Community Board, WDC
SC3	Murupara	2.1	<p>Housing</p> <p>Develop a 30-home proposal at 5 Miro Drive, Murupara pending funding approval. The proposal is a combination of 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom homes, and resource consent has been granted.</p>	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare	
SC4	Minginui and Te Whaiti	2.1, 2.2, 5.4	<p>Minginui master plan</p> <p>Develop a master plan led by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and the Minginui Village Incorporated Society and review the Whakatāne District Plan to support master plan outcomes.</p>	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare	Minginui Village Incorporated Society, WDC
SC5	Te Awa o Tauranga, Rūātoki, Ruatāhuna	2.1, 2.2	<p>District Plan review / papakāinga</p> <p>Support the implementation of Ngāi Tūhoe's spatial planning and housing blueprint, ensuring the District Plan review considers whether the plan is sufficiently enabling and adequate natural hazard information can be made available.</p>	WDC	Ngāi Tūhoe

Natural hazards and climate resilience actions

Table 5: Implementation actions, natural hazards and climate resilience actions

ID	Activity group	Relevant key moves	Description	Lead agency	Collaborators
NH 1	Natural hazards	3.3	<p>Improved natural hazard information</p> <p>Coordinate and report on the implementation of National Direction & RPS requirements for natural hazards, including modelling, mapping and risk assessments undertaken by all relevant parties.</p>	BOPRC	ODC, WDC and KDC
NH 2	Natural hazards	3.3	<p>River scheme sustainability</p> <p>Progress and complete the River Scheme Sustainability Project.</p>	BOPRC	ODC, WDC, iwi and hapū, stakeholders and the community
NH 3	Natural hazards	3.1	<p>Integrated stormwater and risk management planning</p> <p>For Priority Growth Areas (Awakeri, Hukutaia and Matatā), work with BOPRC to undertake integrated stormwater and risk management planning through master planning process. This will inform the design, form, and location of detailed structure planning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect agreed levels of service of the flood schemes • Manage the effects of a changing climate over the next 100 years • Avoid increases in risk to people, property and infrastructure • Protect sensitive receiving environments including the Te Awa o Te Atua. 	ODC, WDC and BOPRC	Iwi and hapū, stakeholders and the community
NH 4	Natural hazards	3.2	<p>Climate change risk assessments</p> <p>Develop, prepare and implement localised climate change risk assessments to inform community-led adaptation planning initiatives across the sub-region, including the Whakatāne District Climate Change Risk Assessment</p>	ODC, WDC and BOPRC	Iwi and hapū, the community
NH 5	Natural hazards	3.3	<p>Regional Policy Statement natural hazard risk assessments</p> <p>Progress natural hazard risk assessments prepared under the RPS to inform future risk management planning and decision making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki townships a priority • Other locations including Tāneatua, Te Teko and Edgecumbe <p>Share the outcomes of the RPS natural hazard risk assessments and other relevant information to inform the community and consider risk reduction measures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Scheme Sustainability Project for the relevant flood scheme. • Civil Defence and Emergency Management Planning. • Climate change adaptation planning. • Asset management planning by territorial authorities. • Land-use planning including District Plan changes. • Asset management planning for life-line utilities providers. 	ODC, WDC and BOPRC	Iwi and hapū, the community

Our Places

Eastern Bay Spatial Plan

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