



# Kāpiti Recovery Plan

October 2020



# Whakataukī

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Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.

*With your basket and my basket the people will be sustained.*





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## He mihi nō te koromatua: Mayoral mihi

Nōku ka titiro kōmuri ki te orokohanga mai o te mate urutā nei, o Kowheori-19, ki tōna taenga mai ki Aotearoa i te hiku o Huitanguru, kāore i paku mōhiotia me pēhea rawa te rerekē o tā tātou noho, haere ake nei.

Ko te āhua o te mahi tēnā, o ngā hokohoko, o ngā hāereere, o tā tātou hono tahi ki ētahi atu, o te whakamahi i te hangarau, o te hono ki te kāwanatanga, tae atu anō ki te āhua o ō tātou reo. Ko ō mua ritenga, kua riro ki tua; ā, anei kē tātou kei te ara o nāiane me ngā rā e heke mai nei.

Me whakamihi ka tika tā tātou tū ngātahi ki te pare atu i te Mate Korona, mātua rā te hunga kei te mura o te ahi e kawē ana i ngā mahi e haumarū ai, e hauora ai te katoa. Nā te rawe o te mahi tahi, kua rōnaki te whakawhiti ki ētahi ritenga māori hou, he ritenga haumarū ake. Kua kitea hoki te tikanga o te kōrero, ki te kāpuia ngā kākaho, e kore e whati. Ka mutu, ehara mō tātou anake ngā painga o tā tātou noho owhiti. E hāpaitia ana ēnei tikanga hou – ēnei ritenga māori hou nei – hei tiaki i ngā tāngata e aroha nuitia ana e tātou, hei tiaki anō hoki i te hāpori whānui.

Ko tātou katoa kua rongo i te ngau o Kowheori-19, ā, e ngau tonu nei. Ka rerekē pea te āhua o te pāpā mai, engari ka pāpā tonu mai mō ētahi marama, mō ētahi tau pea kei mua i te aroaro. Ahakoa he huri tonu te āhua o te raruraru nei, he mea nui kia koke tonu ngā mahi whakarite i a tātou mō te pueatanga ake i te mate, i runga anō i ngā mea e mōhio ana tātou i tēnei wā. Heoi anō, me te takatū anō ki te urutau haere ki ngā nekeneke a Urutā.

E tutuki pai ai te pueatanga ake, me torokaha ngā taura tangata, me mahi tahi, me tautoko tahi tētahi i tētahi, tāngata mai, hāpori mai. He whānui te ahunga o tā tātou mahere. E anga ana ki ngā

take me ngā araora kei Te Kaunihera o Kāpiti pū te mana ki te whaiwhai haere, otirā, me te tautoko anō i ngā kaupapa a ētahi atu whakahaere e takahi ana i te ara ki tūhauora.

He tuhinga mataora tā tātou mahere tūhauora, he pakari te hanga, engari he tāwariwari anō, e taea ai te whakarerekē ina whakatauria me pērā.

Ko te tū kaha a te hapori ki te atawhai i te hapori, koia i ora ai a Kāpiti i te whana tuatahi a Kowheori-19. Me taku mōhio hoki koia anō te mea e puea ake ai te rohe nei i ōna whakararu ā tōna wā e rite ai. Ka roa tonu te haere, engari me kore ake tō tātou kapa e 55,000 tāngata nei te rahi, e takahi puni nei i te ara.

Toitū te whenua, toitū te wai, toitū te tangata, toitū Kāpiti.

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**When I think back to the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the virus arriving on our shores in late February, there was no way to foresee the ways in which our lives would need to change.**

From how we work, shop, travel and connect with each other, to our use of technology, our relationship with government and even our language – there is before and now there is after.

I'm humbled by our collective response in uniting against COVID-19 and would especially like to acknowledge and thank our essential workers. Our hard work to date means we have transitioned to a new, more safety conscious normal and have proven we are so much stronger when we work together. The actions we continue to take are not only to protect ourselves.

We live with these changes – our new normal – to protect the people we love and to protect our community.

COVID-19 has affected us, and continues to, in different and evolving ways, and will be with us for some time yet. While the situation will continue to evolve, it's important we progress planning for our recovery based on what we know now, and be ready to adapt.

Our recovery relies on strong partnerships and relationships, with everybody working together to support each other and our communities. Our plan takes a broad approach, tackling issues and opportunities that are both within the direct remit of the Kāpiti Coast District Council while supporting, together with other organisations, other initiatives that will contribute towards recovery.

Our recovery plan is a living document, agile and open to change.

It was community stepping up to look after community that helped Kāpiti get through our initial response and I know the same will be key to our district's recovery. We've got a long journey ahead of us but we have a great team of 55,000, and we're all in this together.

Toitū te whenua, toitū te wai, toitū te tangata, toitū Kāpiti.



**Mayor K Gurunathan**  
*Kāpiti Coast District Council*





## He mihi nō te iwi: Iwi mihi

Mai i Mīria-te-kākara ki Whitireia, mai i Waitapu ki Rangataua, whakawhitia te Moana o Raukawa, ki Wairau, ki Whakatū. Koinei te rohe mana whenua o ngā iwi e toru – Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai me Ngāti Toa Rangatira e mihi ake nei.

Tumutumu pareā, rākau pareā,  
whānui te ara ki a Tane

*Ward off obstacles so that the broad path  
to Tane is opened*

Nō te tau nei i herea ai a Aotearoa whānui i ngā pānga kino o te mate urutā, o te Kowheori-19. Nā ngā ringa rehe o te iwi i poipoi, i manaaki i te marea i te wā o te noho rāhui. Ahakoa te whakapōreareatanga ki o tātou tikanga marae, kawenga marae i kitea tonutia e tātou te wairua atawhai o te iwi Māori puta noa i te motu. Kia noho haumarua ō tātou kaumātua, ō tātou pakeke, ā tātou tamariki mokopuna hoki kia rongo ai i tēnei mea te karawhiu o te manaaki. Ahakoa te pukepuke o te moana mō ngā marama e hia kē nei, nā te eke ngātahi o te motu whānui i te waka kotahi, i pareā atu te mate Kowheori-19. Mea rawa ake kua whai hua tā tātou noho taratahi.

Mā te huruhuru te manu ka rere,  
he ao te rangi ka uhia

*By feathers, the bird flies,  
by clouds the sky is adorned*

The distribution and sharing of resources, skills  
and labour for the common good of the people.

Kua tahuri te kei o te waka inaianei ki te aronga whakamua, ki te whai huarahi e ora anō ai tātou i ngā tini pānga o te mate urutā. Ko tā te Kaunihera o Kapiti whāinga nui, ko te āta whakariterite i tētehi māhere tūhauora e ora pai anō ai tō tātou rohe i ngā tini pānga o te noho rāhui, o te mate urutā. Ko te wawata ia mā te mahi ngātahi a te iwi i te taha o tō tātou Kaunihera, ka whai hua tātou katoa. He wāhi nui tō te iwi i roto i ngā mahi whakarauora i te hāpori. Ko ō tātou pūkenga me tō tātou māramatanga ki ngā pānga motuhake o te mate urutā ki ō tātou ake uri, ka whai hua mō ngā mahi nui kei mua i te aroaro mō te Kaunihera. Me te mōhio hoki, he wāhanga nui ā o tātou ake uri i pātahi i ngā taumahatanga maha o te noho taratahi.

He huarahi roa kei mua i te aroaro, heoi kia kapohia ake e au tētehi kupu whakarite nō tāuikiuki e pēnei ana – me rite tonu tātou ki te honu manawaroa, tawhiti tana haere.

Me noho ora mai koutou me ngā manaakitanga o te mea ngaro.

Nāku, nā



*Rupene Waaka*

**Rupene Waaka**

Chair of Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti



## Te anga whakamua: Vision for recovery

Toitū te whenua, toitū te wai,  
toitū te tāngata, toitū Kāpiti.

*Working together to restore our  
community wellbeing and regenerate  
a thriving Kāpiti economy.*

## Tō mātou anga whakamua: Our approach to recovery

Our response to COVID-19 has shown us what Kāpiti is capable of, but also how significantly the way that we live, work and connect has changed. While we're still responding to the evolving nature of this pandemic, we're also thinking ahead to how we can support our community and economy to recover.

We've talked to a range of people and organisations across our community to understand their experiences through COVID-19 and their concerns for the future, making it clear that we need to look at all aspects of our lives when thinking about recovery.

Guided by the feedback from our community, this plan sets out our approach to recovery, showing how we can work together towards rebuilding our communities to be more sustainable, prosperous and resilient than they were before.

We've developed a framework to help guide our recovery work. This framework provides an anchor for everyone who is contributing to recovery. It will remind us of what we are trying to achieve, how the different parts of recovery fit together. It will also help us to keep things on track.



## **Our principles**

The foundations that guide how we approach recovery, integrating community concepts and Te Ao Māori kaupapa, both of which hold value, and together ensure a strong and holistic base for our recovery planning.

## **Our aims**

What is important, and what we are hoping to achieve.

## **Our objectives**

Specific areas of focus, to ensure we are making a difference where it's needed most.

## **Turning thoughts into action**

How we have ensured we stay informed and agile.

## **Actions to recover and rebuild**

What we're going to get started on from now to mid-2021, and who we'll be working with to achieve our aims.

## **Understanding our journey towards recovery**

What we have heard from our iwi partners, businesses, not-for-profits and the wider community about how the impacts have been felt so far, the ways that Kāpiti people took care of each other, and the opportunities they can see for building back better.

## **Our path forward**

Looking at our response to create opportunities to improve, or prepare for future generations.

# Recovery framework: Summary

## Objective 1:

### **Strengthening partnerships and leadership**

Our community, business and mana whenua leaders are effecting positive change, and are working with others to create the best outcomes for our people.

## Objective 2:

### **Enabling resilience in our economy and non-government organisations**

Our businesses and non-government organisations (NGOs) are resilient, adaptable and innovative, with sectors that provide strong opportunities for upskilling and success.

## Objective 3: **Loving local**

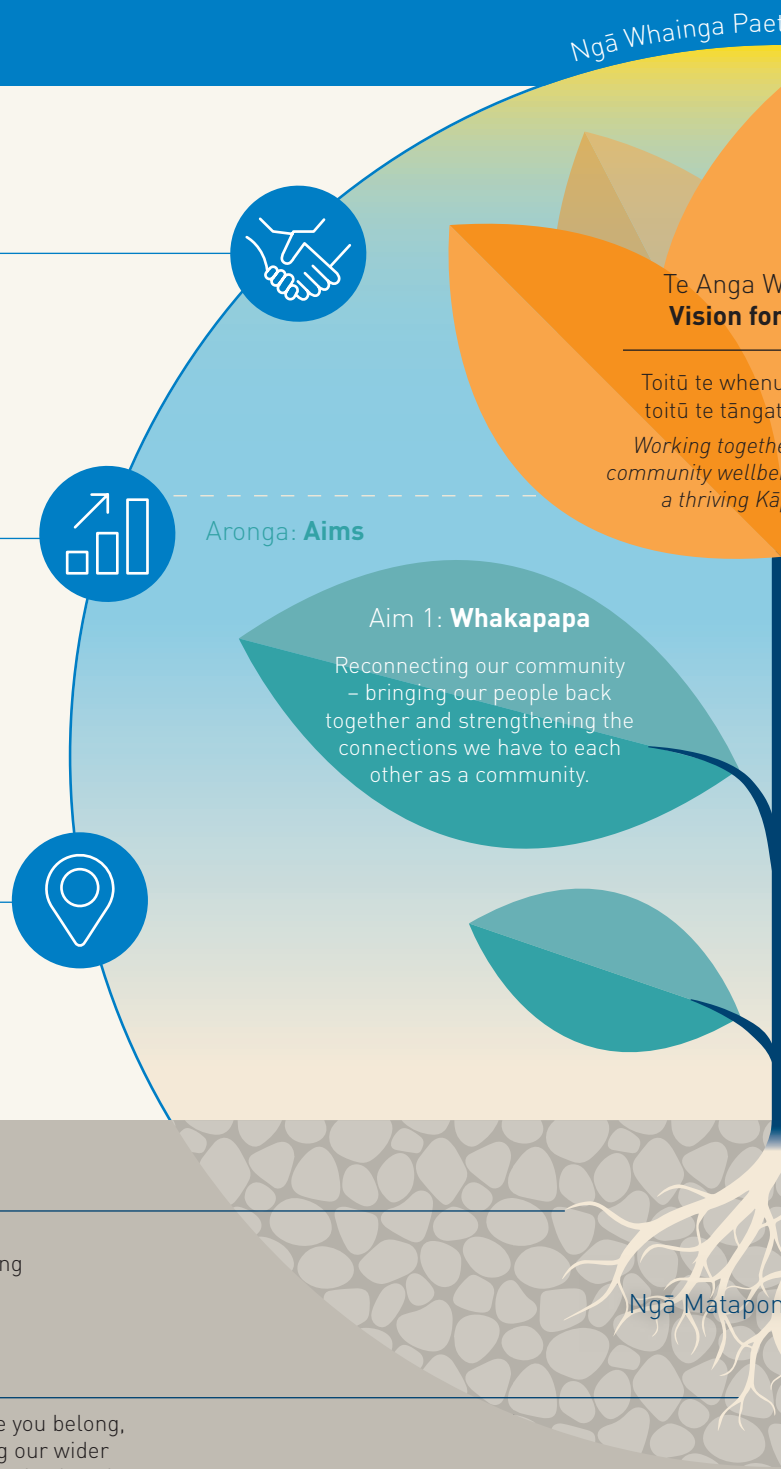
We love what Kāpiti has to offer, and are proud to support everything local. We're known as a great destination for visitors.

## Pūkengatanga: **Build on existing work**

We will use our collective knowledge and experiences to build on our existing work, creating insightful and innovative actions, and recognising opportunities that ensure the best outcomes for our community.

## Ūkaipōtanga: **Adopt a holistic approach to wellbeing**

We recognise the importance of having a strong connection with where you belong, feeling valued and able to contribute, as a foundation for strengthening our wider community wellbeing. This includes social, economic, environmental and cultural.





Whakamua:  
**recovery**  
a, toitū te wai,  
a, toitū Kāpiti.  
er to restore our  
ing and regenerate  
piti economy.

## Aim 2: **Kotahitanga**

Restoring our social wellbeing – understanding wellbeing needs of our community, and ensuring social support is available to those who needs it, and that organisations providing services are supported.

## Aim 3: **Manaakitanga**

Reactivating our businesses and our economy – ensuring that our people, businesses and visitors can contribute to a resilient and thriving Kāpiti.



### Objective 4: **Growing skills and capability**

Our people have the right skills to access quality local jobs, and have a range of education and training opportunities in Kāpiti.



### Objective 5: **Staying warm, healthy and safe**

We understand the issues our community is facing, and our people have access to food and safe and healthy housing.



### Objective 6: **Encouraging connections and kindness**

We are a connected community, we know our neighbours and look after each other.

### Whanaungatanga: **Form strong partnerships**

We work together to build strong partnerships that make a bigger difference for our community, ensuring we respect our individual strengths, and that we remain caring, empathetic and responsive to our community needs.

### Kaitiakitanga: **Focus on climate and resilience**

We care for our environment and ensure we build our communities' resilience while respecting the importance of our natural resources, reducing our emissions, and promoting the transition to a low-carbon economy.







# Te whakatinanatanga o te whakaaro:

## Turning thoughts into action

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Our approach to recovery has set the direction for Kāpiti's recovery – it highlights where we need to get to, and how we want to get there. But we are also realistic. We know that as a country we will continue to face COVID-19 resurgences, and that the full effects of the pandemic, on our economy and our people, will continue to unfold over the next few years.

Economists' forecast it could be late 2022 or 2023 before our gross domestic product (GDP) bounces back to pre-pandemic levels, so we are anticipating that the recovery of our district will take several years at least.

With all this in mind, we need to be agile, so our recovery planning has a set of initial actions to get started from now through to mid-2021. They are focused on two things; firstly, working with partners and taking immediate actions where feasible to support recovery; and secondly, doing groundwork to clarify and support medium and longer term recovery actions.

Many of the initial actions involve others, such as iwi, non-government organisations (NGOs), government and regional agencies and business, or are community-led actions, and we know that everyone is already busy with all the challenges and changes that have been brought about by COVID-19. While recovery is important, we also need to make sure we are being realistic, working together, and being considerate of what capacity everyone has to be involved. This is why we are looking to get these actions started by mid-2021, not to have them completed by then.

The initial set of actions can be found on page 16, and we're already under way with some of them. We've also identified actions where we have been able to leverage off other work already under way; for example, many areas of the refreshed Economic Development Strategy support our economic recovery and getting people back into work.

### Overarching actions

There are several overarching actions that cut across all our recovery objectives. Firstly, we have recognised a strong need to understand more than we do currently about the social impacts and variability of social need across our district. There are some significant challenges in our district, such as housing, which we know have a wide-ranging impact on people's overall wellbeing. Alongside this, we also have significant areas of deprivation in our district. In many cases the pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges, and as part of our recovery planning we want to play a part in ensuring there is appropriate and tailored support available so that all in our district have the opportunity to thrive. To do this we need to build a better understanding of the contributing factors and barriers, as these will be key to building Kāpiti back better.

We will be undertaking a housing needs and social impacts assessment, which will provide us with qualitative and quantitative data to inform responses to these challenges. This will allow us to have a more informed conversation with central government, iwi and our local community and organisations, about how we can jointly support responses across our district.

The Government has developed a range of funding initiatives to support recovery, and we will be seeking opportunities for Government support and funding both proactively and reactively as agencies provide information on funds and funding processes.

We also know there is the need to continue monitoring how impacts and recovery are unfolding, which is discussed on page 43.

## Greening our recovery

The lockdown created an opportunity for us to change the way we live and interact with our environment and each other. With much more of our community working from home, the roads became quiet and we became more connected with what we could access by walking and cycling.

Local wildlife thrived during this period, our emissions were down, and some people used the time to reflect about their own lifestyle and resilience. We know our community is becoming more interested in producing their own food and supporting local producers and businesses.

We have heard that people would like to retain these benefits, and we know that we've now got the opportunity to build on the gains made through 2020.

Two local groups together prepared an [Open letter for a Green Recovery](https://lowcarbonkapiti.org.nz/a-green-recovery-for-kapiti)<sup>1</sup> and we've used this alongside other stories from our communities to help shape our approach for recovery. We are looking broadly to support our transition to a lower carbon economy, and to improve our local environment. We want to make climate-friendly initiatives the norm, and not the exception.

1 [lowcarbonkapiti.org.nz/a-green-recovery-for-kapiti](https://lowcarbonkapiti.org.nz/a-green-recovery-for-kapiti)







## Our approach

Our infrastructure work, and the work we do with the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO), will help improve resilience in our district.

We will look for opportunities to “double up” on the benefits of supporting recovery through initiatives that have a positive result for our community’s resilience, our emissions and the environment.

We will identify and explore funding opportunities that can create local jobs and improve our local environment, such as in biodiversity, pest management and riparian planting.

Through our work alongside community groups and local businesses, we will support local producers, and local people to produce their own food.

We will continue with the initiatives we already have under way that ensure infrastructure upgrades take climate change and resilience into account.

We will continue to encourage a wider range of low-carbon transport options, by improving walking and cycling networks and advocating for improved public transport, including greater rail connectivity and expanded network electrification.

# Our actions

(to be started by 30 June 2021)



## Strengthening partnerships and leadership

Our community, business and mana whenua leaders are effecting positive change, and are working with others to create the best outcomes for our people.

### Actions

- Task the Economic Governance Group with driving the implementation of the economy recovery actions in this plan
- Coordinate economy recovery actions with wider Economic Development Strategy objectives and actions
- Engage with regional and national agencies to ensure the Kāpiti Coast's objectives are considered in contemporary and future activities
- Establish direct relationships with Government at a political and operational level to advocate for greater investment in, and support for, the Kāpiti Coast
- Promote new commercial investment opportunities across the Kāpiti Coast
- Entrust iwi to coordinate iwi initiatives and recovery actions with Council support.



## Enabling resilience in our economy and non-government organisations

Our businesses and non-government organisations are resilient, adaptable and innovative, with sectors that provide strong opportunities for upskilling and success.

### Actions

- Promote and raise awareness of available business support, and encourage peer-to-peer mentoring and support in the business community
- Identify additional Kāpiti Coast-specific business support requirements not currently available
- Promote Māori businesses in Kāpiti, and support initiatives that encourage resilience for the Māori economy
- Develop sector action plans for key sectors, including Destination, Creative Industries and those prioritised in the Economic Development Strategy
- Explore opportunities to support social service providers forum, with a focus on enhancing information sharing, collaboration and cooperation between social services providers on the Kāpiti Coast
- Identify and pursue opportunities for growing capacity of local social service providers.



## Loving local

We love what Kāpiti has to offer, and are proud to support everything local. We're known as a great destination for visitors.

### Actions

- Support and encourage buy local initiatives and campaigns
- Identify and pursue opportunities for the Council procurement process to be more inclusive of Māori businesses in Kāpiti
- Coordinate and build on existing town centre promotion and event activities, enabling a sequenced programme of events to activate town centres as well as local destinations
- Develop an authentic Kāpiti Coast story that reflects the physical, cultural and social assets of the district attractive to investors, visitors and families
- Progress the development of a destination plan for Kāpiti as part of the Kāpiti Coast story
- Facilitate and support major events in line with the proposed Economic Development Strategy
- Support the Kāpiti arts sector to create artistic pieces, initiatives and programmes that provide a holistic community benefit
- Develop a promotional campaign to boost community wellbeing and resilience through greater use of local recreational, leisure and cultural areas and facilities.





### Growing skills and capability

Our people have the right skills to access quality local jobs, and have a range of education and training opportunities in Kāpiti.

#### Actions

- Increase awareness and uptake of COVID-19 support for workers and employers
- Enable youth transitions from education to employment by progressing the Economic Development Strategy commitment to developing a Workforce Plan and Youth Initiative
- Promote uptake of Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund for relevant sectors across the Kāpiti Coast
- Engage with the Regional Skills Leadership Group and ensure that the regional Workforce Development Plan considers the Kāpiti Coast's future skill needs across key sectors
- Engage with the Wellington Regional Skills Leadership Group to ensure the education and vocational training needs of the district are being met
- Work with school principals, kura and tertiary education providers to ensure that Kāpiti youth are supported to be tertiary study and/or work ready
- Support Kāpiti iwi to explore options for greater operational funding and capacity to directly provide social and community services to Māori in Kāpiti
- Explore opportunities for Council and other major employers in Kāpiti to provide apprenticeships for Māori youth, through supporting initiatives such as Mana in Mahi and the Regional Apprenticeships Initiative.



### Staying warm, healthy and safe

We understand the issues our community is facing, and our people have access to food and safe and healthy housing.

#### Actions

- Work with housing providers to address COVID-related housing stress and homelessness
- Work with the Ministry for Social Development (MSD), Kāinga Ora, Community Housing Providers (CHPs) and social agencies to ensure there is adequate emergency and social housing available in Kāpiti to meet current and future demand
- Work with iwi to explore opportunities for affordable Māori housing developments, including emergency, rental, ownership and Papakāinga
- Explore opportunities to use surplus land (Crown, Council, iwi and others) for affordable housing development
- Assist foodbanks in Kāpiti to meet increasing demand
- Work with other funders to undertake a social and community needs and impacts assessment for the Kāpiti Coast district.



### Encouraging connections and kindness

We are a connected community, we know our neighbours and look after each other.

#### Actions

- Engage with age-based organisations to explore and identify youth and elderly wellbeing projects that will mitigate COVID-related impacts
- Jointly advocating with schools to support additional resourcing for student counselling services
- Work with other agencies to support iwi to connect with mana whenua and mataawaka in the district to ensure key services are delivered to those in need
- Assist iwi to develop COVID-19 recovery plans to ensure iwi are resilient and can build back better
- Ensure our communities' stories and experiences are shared, to encourage stronger connections and support in our community
- Develop a recovery programme to support community-led initiatives that help Kāpiti residents reconnect
- Support local recovery activities through the use of Council's key facilities, spaces and programmes
- Develop initiatives that provide opportunities to promote and support community clubs, groups and organisations.

## About our district

**53,673**

the number of people who **live**  
in the Kāpiti Coast District

**14.7%**

of Kāpiti District are  
of **Māori descent**



**19.2%**

residents in Ōtaki  
**speak Te Reo Māori**



**75%**

of households in Ōtaki have  
**access to internet**, compared to  
**87%** for the whole Kāpiti District

**27%**

of Kāpiti residents are  
**over 65** (compared to  
15.2% for New Zealand)



**Home ownership**  
in Kāpiti

**59.8%**

of residents **own or partly own**  
their own home



**Employment**  
of Kāpiti residents:

**42.3%**

in **full-time** employment

**14.5%**

in **part-time** employment



**Workforce composition**  
in Kāpiti:

**16%**

employed in **construction**

**14%**

in **healthcare and social assistance**



**\$29,700**

median income for **Kāpiti**

**\$23,200**

median income for **Ōtaki**  
(compared to the national  
median income of \$53,000)



## COVID-19 impacts on Kāpiti

### 7%

contraction in Kāpiti's **GDP forecast** in year to March 2021\*

### 11%

forecast decline in **house prices** in Kāpiti by end of 2021\*

### 338

new recipients of **Jobseeker Support benefit** in the period March–June 2020\*\*



### 1600

**jobs projected to be lost** by March 2021 in Kāpiti.



This represents 9.2% decline in employment compared to 9.8% nationally\*

### 2022/23

is when GDP is forecast to **return to pre-COVID-19 levels\***

### 48%

of Kāpiti's **workforce** was able to work under Alert Level 4 restrictions (including working from home). This increased to

### 73%

under Level 3\*

### 30%

fewer Kāpiti line **rail passengers** and

### 8.1%

fewer passengers on Kāpiti **bus network** in June 2020 compared to June 2019 patronage\*\*\*



### 97

Kāpiti residents receiving Covid Income Relief Payments at the end of June\*\*



### 29,000

special needs grants for **food** supplied in May and June for the Wellington Region

### 250

new recipients of **accommodation support** in Kāpiti (6% increase from Mar–June 2020)\*\*







# Understanding our journey towards recovery

He ao te rangi ka uhia, a, ma te huruhuru te manu e rere

*As clouds bedeck the sky, so do feathers enable a bird to fly.*

The Kāpiti Coast is diverse and vibrant, with distinctive differences between the communities that make up the district. While our diversity gives us strength, it also means that recovery support needs will be greater in some parts of the district than others.

Our district responded to COVID-19 with characteristic strength, cohesion and determination. Our community groups, social service providers, iwi, hapū and business leadership organisations have all taken a role in ensuring that we were able to look after our most vulnerable.

Our businesses have already shown that they are strong and determined to not only recover from this challenge but to build back better, and both our economy and our community are benefiting from our enthusiasm to support our local economy.

**“We talked to people, businesses and organisations across our community to understand their experiences through COVID-19, and we combined our knowledge to build a recovery plan that is based around our people.”**



## Strengthening partnerships and leadership

**Our community, business and mana whenua leaders are effecting positive change, and are working with others to create the best outcomes for our people.**

Thriving as a community as we seek to recover, and building back better from the impacts of the pandemic, can't be done by any single person or organisation. It will take our many communities, working together, to achieve this. The role of leaders in the community, and business, and our mana whenua rangatira and kaumātua will be essential. Working in partnership will be a key collectively making progress, and leadership groups such as our Economic Kotahitanga Governance Group have a key role in advocating for our district.

## Iwi response and recovery

The mana whenua of Kāpiti are playing a major role in the response to COVID-19, ensuring that vulnerable people, including kaumātua isolated by the lockdown, are supported by regular visits, food, and hygiene packs.

The marae is at the heart of Māori culture, and the pandemic has seen marae access restricted and maintenance funding curtailed. Physical distancing has had a huge impact on tikanga Māori, especially for tangihanga.



We know that food security, access to safe and affordable housing, and secure employment are all big concerns for iwi. COVID-19 has created challenges across the district and country in all of these areas, but these impacts have been felt much more strongly by Māori.

Many Māori in Kāpiti rely on kaimoana, which was unable to be collected during the lockdown. Many kaumātua assisted with delivery of food and wellness supplies during the lockdown, but many also went without basics so that others were provided for.

Initial forecasting suggested that in Kāpiti almost 200 jobs filled by Māori were expected to be lost, with the highest job losses in construction, accommodation, food service, retail and wholesale trade. Almost half of these are low-skilled jobs.

### Statistics

Nearly 15 per cent of Kāpiti residents are of Māori descent. This rises to more than 43 per cent of people in Ōtaki<sup>2</sup>.

Māori unemployment has been forecast to rise to above 15 per cent over the next two years up from 8.7 per cent in 2019, compared to around 8 per cent for the New Zealand working age population, up from 4.3 per cent in 2019<sup>3</sup>.

### Actions

We know that services provided by Māori, for Māori, have the greatest impact. Our recovery actions include:

- entrust iwi to coordinate iwi initiatives and recovery actions with Council support
- support iwi to connect with mana whenua and mataawaka in the district to ensure key services are delivered to those in need
- assist iwi to develop COVID-19 recovery plans to ensure iwi are resilient and can build back better.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Statistics NZ

<sup>3</sup> Source: Infometrics [www.infometrics.co.nz/covid-19-an-opportunity-for-maori-to-close-the-gap](https://www.infometrics.co.nz/covid-19-an-opportunity-for-maori-to-close-the-gap)



## Māori knowledge and collaboration key to recovery

Helping your people through an emergency takes a combined effort, especially as you come out of the immediate response and into the long-haul of recovery.

That's what Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust and Hora Te Pai Health Service have found on the Kapiti Coast, where one of the core COVID-19 team is supporting whānau despite being on dialysis herself.

The four-women pandemic response team includes Janine Davis who delivers the COVID-19 communications while on a dialysis machine for up to nine hours a day.

Janine says it "just wasn't an option" for her māuiuitanga (illness) from kidney failure to stop her working for her iwi.

"From the onset of Alert Level 4, the Trust has been committed to deliver the best for our people through our COVID-19 response plan. Key māori concepts enabled our team to be guided by tikanga, using the themes of manaakitanga (helping others), kotahitanga (staying safe as a whānau) and whanaungatanga (drawing on each other's strengths)."

The support provided by the combined iwi and health services, and funded in part through Te Puni Kōkiri, has ranged from practical help to community liaison and guidance.

Around 3,000 Māori live in the Te Ātiawa iwi boundary, from Waikanae to Paekākāriki, and over half of them are registered with the Paraparaumu based Hora Te Pai Health Service.

Janine says the collaboration between iwi organisation and health provider has been incredible, and it has also created new relationships with other Kāpiti Coast organisations.

"There has always been a whakapapa connection with Hora Te Pai Health Service, so we knew our whānau and their kaimahi already had a close bond and this work has further enriched our relationship with each other."

Acting Regional Manager for Te Puni Kōkiri (Te Tai Hauāuru), Jennie Smeaton says the partnership is a great example of Māori organisations sharing their strengths and resources.

"Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and Hora Te Pai quickly adapted their roles to deliver important services in extraordinary circumstances. Māori entities will continue to have a key role in the recovery and rebuilding of local communities," she says.

**"The collaboration between iwi organisation and health provider has been incredible, and it has also created new relationships with other Kāpiti Coast organisations."**

Janine says although the lockdown did have 'its moments' especially in the time she was living with four generations under one roof, there have also been silver linings.

"It is an honour to do this work as I am part of the vulnerable whānau that had to bunker down early. A life on dialysis is similar to being on lockdown anyway, so to see the nation committing to keeping vulnerable whānau and kaumātua safe was heartwarming and I'm extremely grateful," she says.

Janine says the next part of their iwi work is to look ahead to recovery of businesses, employment, the well-being of our people and sustainability for Whakarongotai Marae in Waikanae.

"A learning from the past seven weeks is the power of the internet – our people are so ingenious and creative at using this to the max. E-commerce is the way forward for our budding or existing entrepreneurs to realise their moemoeā (aspirations), so we are excited to be supporting Te Rōpū Pakihi with their online local Māori business directory."

"It's important that whānau māori should support whānau enterprises to rebuild our economy, after all our tupuna left us the blueprint to follow," she says.

"I love how our people are, I'm so proud to be Māori, but I would dearly like to feel normal again as our people deserve the best."

Story credit: Te Puni Kōkiri

## Business sector

Different business sectors will need to provide leadership to actively develop pathways for recovery. This will be important for the Kāpiti economy to recover quickly, and to restore some of the job losses by providing new opportunities.

Many businesses have had to adjust the way they were operating and engaging with their customers to deal with the situation they were facing. There has been huge uncertainty and often a need to make changes very fast in response to an evolving situation.

The Government has provided a range of support for businesses, depending on their circumstances. The wage subsidy, for example, enabled many businesses to retain staff in the short term, with a view to enabling them to quickly scale back up as restrictions lifted.

Government funding to support business recovery is also being provided through various avenues, for example investment in construction projects to support that sector. There is potential for opportunities to be created through access to funding and for partnerships to be developed to further leverage from this for the wider benefit of Kāpiti. Our business leaders will need work with our community leaders to engage with central government and regional agencies to advocate for Kāpiti, to ensure our district's challenges and objectives are known and supported.

An Economic Recovery Reference Group was convened in June to August 2020 to help develop recovery actions. This group sought direct input from different sectors of the Kāpiti economy, and considered the work already under way on the Economic Development Strategy.

Our new Economic Kotahitanga Governance Group will be instrumental in driving the implementation of economic recovery actions.

As well as business sector leadership, businesses will need to adapt and reorient to new opportunities. This is discussed on page 31.

“I was impressed with the way key stakeholders in the community came together in the initial response to recovery. The importance of a strong, joined-up voice for the district was aptly demonstrated.”

We need to build on this and organise ourselves for recovery over the medium to long term, to enable positive transformation and growth.”

Neil Mackay, Chair Economic Kotahitanga Governance Group

## Statistics

In the period from April to 9 October 65 COVID business support vouchers worth a total of \$200,000 have been issued to Kāpiti businesses. Four tourism vouchers have been issued valued at \$14,000.

In the period April to end of June, vouchers for business support and advice services were issued to 55 Māori businesses in the Wellington Region; 10 of these were in Kāpiti.

## Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- tasking the Economic Governance Group with driving the implementation of the economy recovery actions in this plan
- engaging with regional and national agencies to ensure the Kāpiti Coast's objectives are considered in contemporary and future activities.





## Council response

Our Council Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated on 23 March to help Kāpiti locals get through the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that residents most in need had access to food, clothing, and other essential items to keep them healthy, safe and warm. The EOC was staffed by 5–25 Council employees at any one time and, during the peak of Alert Levels 4 and 3, two shifts per week were running seven days a week. Many staff were doing jobs quite different to their usual roles.

We've heard from our community, social sector agencies, business and iwi that COVID-19 has tended to exacerbate existing issues and challenges. Our Council implemented a package of immediate actions<sup>4</sup> to support our community and businesses in response to some of these impacts.

We also recognised the challenges created by multiple administrative boundaries, which has meant that service delivery across the district is not always consistent or matched to needs. We worked closely with Government and local service providers to successfully work around these challenges during the response, and know that ongoing efforts around coordination and integration will be needed.

Council staff have worked hard to make sure that information on the pandemic, what people needed to do to save lives, and how they could get support, was clear, consistent and easy to find.

## Statistics

123 COVID-19 cases in Wellington region; 18 were in Kāpiti.

During Alert Levels 4 and 3 we assisted nearly 200 people to get essential supplies and around 60 Council staff were redeployed to the EOC.

Early modelling indicated that a worst-case scenario in Kāpiti could mean 200 COVID-19 deaths.

The Council has re-purposed \$250,000 for recovery-related activities in its 2020/21 Annual Plan.

## Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- establishing direct relationships with Government at a political and operational level, to advocate for greater investment in, and support for, the Kāpiti Coast
- ensuring Council's community facilities, spaces, services and programmes continue to focus on supporting local recovery.

<sup>4</sup> [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/whats-on/news/2020/financial-assistance-for-kapiti-community-and-business](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/whats-on/news/2020/financial-assistance-for-kapiti-community-and-business)



## Keeping things running in a pandemic

James Jefferson was the Lead EOC Controller, and says the response was truly unique in its nature.

“All the planning in the world has not prepared anyone for this event.”

“For example, in a major seismic event, usually we are faced with people who are forced out of their homes but this time around everyone was being asked to stay home.

“There was little interruption to the essential services that can be badly affected during a natural disaster like power, water or roads but we still had the most vulnerable people in need of our help.

“We were able to make sure nearly 200 people got essential supplies during Alert Levels 4 and 3, and we acted as a backstop to the foodbanks and welfare organisations out there, so I’m really proud of the team and the hard work they put in.

“Additionally, the ‘on the ground’ community information we were able to feed back to our central government partner agencies has proved very valuable in terms of policy settings and providing a more targeted response to those most in need.

“While our EOC may be shutting down for now, the Council will continue to support the response for as long as New Zealand remains on alert. We still have a long way to go in our fight against COVID-19 and it’s critically important that we all continue to observe the rules and work collaboratively to support our community to recover from the impacts of COVID-19,” says James.



## Kiwis spending locally become lifelines for small businesses

What do you do when you're a small business with 18 horses on the cusp of a national lockdown? If you live in Kāpiti, all you need to do is ask your community for help.

Gill Hayes, owner of Ōtaki trekking business Beachbrook Stables, was facing that predicament and, after putting the call out, she was inundated with offers of support. Collectively, her community took and cared for 12 of those horses for the entire six weeks of lockdown.

“The tremendous support she received from our community didn't stop there.”

Taking an agile approach and focusing her efforts on marketing to locals instead of the international visitors that had previously made up a large part of her business, Gill turned to Council's

Love Local – Kāpiti Coast Facebook page to promote her business. The response was fantastic.

“Two weeks before COVID-19 hit, our business declined by about 70 per cent. We came back from COVID-19 at Alert Level 2 and we have had an insane amount of business,” says Gill.

“Locals are supporting locals, which is such a cool feeling. I've seen how positive it can be in the community, I've seen the effect it has on the community. I've seen smiling faces and I really hope it can actually continue. I'm sure it will continue. Thank you so much Kāpiti, let's keep this going.”





## Enabling resilience in our economy and non-government organisations

Our businesses and non-government organisations (NGOs) are resilient, adaptable and innovative, with sectors that provide strong opportunities for upskilling and success.

### Business

While we are no longer in Alert Level 3 or 4 lockdown, the ongoing impacts on our local economy are still being felt, with businesses having to remain agile as we prepare to move through different alert levels for the foreseeable future.

The lockdown in March had an immediate impact on many of our key sectors such as food and accommodation, retail, tourism, construction and arts and recreation, as many workplaces had to close, and for many sectors working from home was limited.

Some of the Kāpiti retail sector benefited from regular commuters continuing to work from home once restrictions reduced to Alert Level 2, which helped make up for lost earnings. A 'halo' effect of domestic tourism has also helped support our tourism sector; however, many businesses are finding it difficult. While consumer spending has rebounded well overall in Kāpiti, a more nuanced picture sits beneath, with some sectors thriving and others still significantly down on pre-COVID trade.

Many businesses are rethinking how they offer their services, either to meet the safety and physical distancing criteria of different alert levels, or to meet the increasing expectation and demand from our community for online availability. This also has potential to open up new markets. As part of our recovery actions, we will be assisting local businesses to build their resilience and identify ways to remain agile and innovative.

As the uncertainty around the economy and financial stability continues and job losses grow, we're expecting that our community will become more cautious with their spending,



affecting businesses that rely on local demand. We're also anticipating that supply chain issues for local businesses will become more apparent as the pandemic continues to grow globally.

While the number of resource and building consents have held up well, there are concerns about the construction pipeline in the medium term, with 16 per cent of Kāpiti's workforce employed in the sector. Construction work is forecast to decline over the next 12 months, and not recover until well into 2022.

We are going to work with our businesses and NGOs to build the resilience of our local economy, and we're going to support our key sectors to be adaptable and innovative – we want our local economy to thrive!

## Statistics

Visitor spend in Kāpiti was down 11 per cent for the year ending May compared to last year<sup>5</sup>. The cumulative change consumer spending in Kāpiti since 3 February is +2.1 per cent compared to same period in 2019. However, it is significantly down across all categories apart from ongoing strong spending in 'food, liquor and pharmacies' category<sup>6</sup>.

From March to end June 2020 there was an 11 per cent increase in access to all benefits across Kāpiti, and 21 per cent increase in recipients of Jobseeker Support benefit payment (338 people). An additional 97 people were receiving the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment at the end of June<sup>7</sup>.

The Wellington region has benefitted from \$999 million of wage subsidy and first subsidy extension in the period to 24 July. In the period to March 2021:

- gross domestic product (GDP) of Kāpiti is anticipated to contract by 7 per cent
- employment is forecast to decline by 9.2 per cent (equates to loss of 1600 jobs)
- unemployment is forecast to increase to 8.3 per cent, up from 3.7 per cent.

This corresponds to lost earnings locally of \$86 million<sup>8</sup>.

## Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- promoting uptake and raising awareness of business support available
- encouraging peer-to-peer mentoring and support within business community
- identifying additional Kāpiti Coast-specific business support requirements not currently available
- promoting Māori businesses in Kāpiti
- supporting initiatives that encourage resilience for the Māori economy
- developing sector action plans for key sectors including Destination, Creative Industries and those prioritised in the Economic Development Strategy.

## Non-government organisations

Our community support and NGO sector have been overwhelmed with the need in our district, and this need has continued to grow – a trend that is anticipated to continue. Reductions in funding, and the demand for volunteers to help deliver assistance, are challenges that are impacting a number of our NGOs.

Another challenge for NGOs and communities are the government agency split boundaries, affecting access to information on emerging issues and services provided.

## Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- exploring opportunities to support social service providers forum, with a focus on enhancing information sharing, collaboration and cooperation between social services providers on the Kāpiti Coast
- identifying and pursuing opportunities for growing capacity of local social service providers.

5 Source: WellingtonNZ

6 Source: Marketview 16 Aug

7 Source: Ministry of Social Development

8 Source: Infometrics, May 2020



## Community Centre repositions to support Kāpiti not-for-profits

Our community support and NGO sector are also feeling the impacts of COVID-19. Fundraising efforts for 2020 have been disrupted, there is less funding to go around, and more demand being piled on volunteers to help deliver assistance.

New pressures on households will increase hardship, and our local community and social services are bracing for impact. To best support our community, it's vital that these services are connected and collaborating.

That is why Council has transitioned the Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community Centre to a community services hub that will bring our not-for-profit community sector together and establish and strengthen programmes that focus on food security and community resilience.

As the first step, the Kāpiti Community Foodbank relocated to the Community Centre in July.

"We worked very closely with Council during the lockdown and while the generosity from our community just has not stopped, our most pressing need was finding new premises," says Kerry Lovell, Kāpiti Community Foodbank co-ordinator.

"At present we are seeing about 10 families a day coming in needing food parcels and since COVID-19 we are seeing new faces and families that have never accessed services like ours before. The Community Centre gives us more space to help, and is safer and warmer for our volunteers and visitors."





## Loving local

**We love what Kāpiti has to offer, and are proud to support everything local. We're known as a great destination for visitors.**

As we continue to live through the uncertainty that COVID-19 has created, our community has rallied to support the much-loved small businesses and events that help make Kāpiti such a great place to live.

While it's easy to appreciate and be proud of what's on offer, many of these businesses and event organisers have also been struggling to adapt to the safety and physical distancing criteria of different alert levels, and to meet the increasing expectation from our community of online availability. We need to keep up our support and encourage others to as well!

By encouraging locals to support locals, we are growing our community wealth and for some in our community, discovering our local gems has been a new experience. But it's one of the positives that has come out of a situation where we have had to focus on what's close by. Our local artists have been using their creative talents to support our communities' wellbeing, and to help people stay connected and engaged, and this is something we will continue to encourage through our recovery actions.

We can also benefit by attracting our neighbours as a district close to Wellington City during a time when people are more commonly taking shorter holidays breaks closer to home. We will develop a destination plan for Kāpiti, as well as supporting and promoting major events in our district. We will build on our existing town centre promotion and event activities to activate town centres as well as local destinations.



“I’m a third-generation “Raumatian” and Kāpiti has always been an incredibly strong sustainable growing region and small business is a huge part of the region. Supporting small businesses is key, I think, to getting back up and running and getting that positive community culture going again,” says Johnnie Saunders, director of NZ Proud Property Improvements.

“So, I’m incredibly optimistic about the future of our region and I’m really proud to be part of it.”

## Kāpiti loves local

By buying local, you are strengthening our local economy, supporting local jobs and helping Kāpiti recover from our work to eliminate COVID-19.

While different sectors have been impacted in different ways, some more severely than others, there is overwhelmingly a sense of optimism and gratitude alive and well in our business community.

Watch Kāpiti Love Local at [www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/our-district/cdem/covid-19/love-local-kapiti](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/our-district/cdem/covid-19/love-local-kapiti)

### Statistics

Our initial Love Local video series created seven videos, which reached a total of 46,800 people.

### Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- develop an authentic Kāpiti Coast story that reflects the physical, cultural and social assets of the district that are attractive to investors, visitors and families
- progress the development of a destination plan for Kāpiti as part of the Kāpiti Coast story
- support arts initiatives that contribute to increasing community wellbeing, connections and resilience.





## Growing skills and capability

**Our people have the right skills to access quality local jobs, and have a range of education and training opportunities in Kāpiti.**

Along with the rest of New Zealand, unemployment in our district has risen and our families and businesses are more reliant on Government support to make ends meet. For many in our community it's more important than ever to be able to work close to home, so we need to make sure that our workforce has the skills that are required by our key employment sectors. Some people in sectors particularly hard hit by the pandemic downturn may need to look at retraining in order to secure future employment. We want to ensure that there are sufficient skills development and retraining opportunities locally to fill this need. Kāpiti has a high proportion of self-employed people, which may mean there is more agility for these small businesses to reorient themselves towards new opportunities. Sufficient support for this to occur easily will be crucial to success.

We already have a high number of youth not engaged in education, employment or training and we're expecting this to increase. There is evidence of an increase in youth living without adults, or couch-surfing, as people search for employment outside our district. We've heard that a small but significant number of secondary students have been excluded from school and/or have not returned to the classroom post-lockdown. Youth are concerned about their future opportunities, and that with higher unemployment they will find it particularly hard when looking to enter the workforce often with little or no experience. Te Wānanga o Raukawa is Kāpiti's only tertiary education provider, and is also one of the largest employers in Kāpiti. Through Te Wānanga o Raukawa, students from across Aotearoa are able to study on campus, in Ōtaki or Manukau, or they can choose to study online from home.

Our youth have rallied, expressed their needs and set out how they can be involved in the recovery. Ensuring that youth have a strong voice in the recovery and beyond is crucial.

### Statistics

12.6 per cent of our population aged between 15–24 is not in employment, education or training.

50 people attend the Kāpiti Pop-up Business School held in June 2020.

### Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- enabling youth transitions from education to employment by progressing the Economic Development Strategy commitment to developing a Workforce Plan and Youth Initiative
- engaging with the Wellington Regional Skills Leadership Group to ensure the education and vocational training needs of the district are met
- exploring opportunities for Council, and other major employers in Kāpiti, to provide apprenticeships for Māori youth, through supporting initiatives such as Mana in Mahi and the Regional Apprenticeships Initiative.





## Building up our people to enable them to build their own businesses

The Kāpiti Coast District Council, together with WellingtonNZ and the Ministry of Social Development, partnered with the PopUp Business School Aotearoa to deliver the Kāpiti Coast 2020 PopUp Business School in June, a course focused on helping entrepreneurs bring great business ideas to life.

The free two-week course consisted of online and in-person workshops and covered everything from starting a business to online sales to networking.

The course has traditionally been a programme for emerging business owners to help build the confidence and core skills then need to take the next steps. In the wake of COVID-19 however, the event attracted established members of the small business community, looking for news skills

to help them adapt and pivot to a new way of working and doing business.

Being agile and nimble in the face of change will become more and more important for businesses as the impacts of COVID-19 evolve and continue to be felt.

We've seen some exciting new businesses popping up across Kāpiti after going through the programme in previous years. 60% of participants in 2019 have either started, or in the process of starting a business.

Photo: Pop-up business School Kāpiti attendees



## Staying warm, healthy and safe

### We understand the issues our community is facing, and our people have access to food, and safe and healthy housing

Within the district we know that the impacts being felt are uneven and likely to harm some communities much more than others. We are seeing greater impacts on households that were already experiencing hardship, those on the cusp of hard times, vulnerable individuals, and the newly unemployed. We are hearing that some seeking help have not required support before from social agencies.

Our community and social organisations have told us that there is a wide range of need being experienced in our community, including a need for food and hygiene parcels, a spike in demand at foodbanks, greater housing and accommodation stress (especially for those in tenuous financial circumstances), and greater need for family support including family harm intervention, mental wellbeing and support for youth and the elderly.

Our district has a relatively small number of social houses, provided by the Council, Kāinga Ora and community housing providers. These are in high demand, and as Government income subsidies and supports are lifted, this demand is expected to increase.

As unemployment rises and incomes decrease for some, we know that our people will find it even harder to meet living and housing costs. This will see some people forced to move into different housing arrangements; for example, from private to social rental or emergency housing. For some this will mean couch surfing, overcrowding, living in garages or on the street.

It's important that those who are struggling are supported so that they don't have to make hard choices about where they spend what money they do have, and that we work together with social service providers to ensure our people have the necessities – we want everyone to have access to food and a safe and healthy home.

### Statistics

145 Kāpiti families were on the social housing register in June 2020.

Those receiving accommodation support in the district has continued to rise, with more than 4200 people receiving this support, an increase of 250 recipients since March 2020 (to June 2020).

Across the Wellington region, the number of special needs grants for food is reducing but continues to be well above pre-COVID-19 levels, with 29,000 food grants being supplied in May and June<sup>9</sup>.

87 per cent of Kāpiti households had access to internet in 2018, but only 75 per cent of households in Ōtaki do<sup>10</sup>.

### Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- working with housing providers to address COVID-19-related housing stress and homelessness
- working with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Kāinga Ora, Community Housing Providers (CHPs) and social agencies to ensure there is adequate emergency and social housing available in Kāpiti to meet current and future demand
- working with iwi to explore opportunities for affordable Māori housing developments, including emergency, rental, ownership and Papakāinga
- assisting foodbanks in Kāpiti to meet increasing demand.

<sup>9</sup> Source: Ministry of Social Development

<sup>10</sup> Source: Statistics NZ



## Supporting those in need

Life for Ripeka Thomson of the Kāpiti branch of St Vincent de Paul is busy enough in ordinary times.

In a usual week, Kāpiti-based “Vinnie” Ripeka will coordinate support to around 60 individuals and whānau, primarily in the form of food parcels but also firewood, blankets and furniture. Vinnies also provides financial assistance and advocacy across emergency housing and benefit entitlements.

Thomson says as the COVID-19 lockdown began to bite that number increased significantly, stretching the ability for local volunteers to meet demand.

“In May we fed an additional 260 people, with our busiest week being food to 89 individuals and whānau on top of our usual service, which would probably be supporting 50 to 60 people a week,” Thomson says.

They hustled their way through though, and Thomson says Kāpiti has been fortunate to have a network of agencies, charities, businesses and individuals working together to make sure those who were struggling were supported.

“There has been just so much kindness, we’re very lucky in Kāpiti. I’ve been overwhelmed by how generous and kind people are. People phoning to say they’d saved or bought some extra food they weren’t going to use and would leave by the door.”

**Read more at how Ripeka is getting on at:**  
[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/checking-in](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/checking-in)

Photo: Ripeka Thomson of St Vincent de Paul





## Working out what matters most

If you shop at New World Ōtaki, you'll likely know Joseph Te Wiata and his friendly grin from his time managing the door and keeping shoppers safe during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Joseph temporarily swapped managing his Ōtaki fitness gym Body and Soul for life as an essential worker, ensuring shoppers maintained physical distance and sanitising trolleys. Unofficially, he entertained and offered a kind, patient ear to anyone waiting in line who needed it.

"I was trying to do my bit for the community and keep people safe. You have a chat and work through the negative but focus on the positive. Community spirit is thriving out there. We look after each other. I'm so proud to be part of a community that just gets on with it," he says.

You'll find Joseph back at the gym with his regulars now. He's noticing that there is still a lot of anxiety out there with the potential for future outbreaks, especially for people with businesses. He's finding that motivation for coming to the gym is changing too. His clients, now more than ever, are seeking social connection and using exercise to improve mental health.

Joseph, a proud father of four, says that the last few months have given him the opportunity to reflect on his lifestyle and what's most important going forward.

"Work is important but family is more important. The future is uncertain so we need to live in the present and enjoy that quality time with the people that matter."

**Read more at how Joseph is getting on at:**  
[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/checking-in](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/checking-in)

Photo: Joseph Te Wiata



## Encouraging connections and kindness

**We are a connected community, we know our neighbours and look after each other.**

One of the biggest positives that has come out of the COVID-19 response is the sense of community that grew during lockdown. We were responding to the pandemic as a team, and people were going out of their way to take care of others, and thinking up creative ways to show kindness.

As we continue to move through recovery it's important we retain these positive behaviours, as the negative impacts from COVID-19 have a significant effect on many areas of our wellbeing, such as our mental health, and many feel more socially isolated. We are aware that many young people are struggling to re-engage with education and reconnect with their friends, and some of our older persons are feeling anxious and disconnected.

Through our recovery actions, we want to develop initiatives that provide opportunities to promote and support community clubs, groups and organisations. At Council we will be ensuring that our community facilities, spaces, services and programmes continue to focus on supporting local recovery.

### Actions

Our recovery actions include:

- engaging with youth organisations to explore and identify youth wellbeing projects that will mitigate COVID-related impacts
- ensuring our communities' stories and experiences are captured and shared, to encourage
- stronger connections and support in our community
- working with other agencies to support iwi to connect with mana whenua and mataawaka in the district to ensure key services are delivered to those in need
- developing a recovery programme to support community-led initiatives that help Kāpiti residents reconnect.



## The importance of kindness

Like all mental health services across New Zealand, Paraparaumu Beach-based counsellor Martin Sloman is flat out. He says there is enough need in Kāpiti that he could easily work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even then, he sometimes feels that he is the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

Martin describes COVID-19 as a pressure cooker that has widened existing cracks in mental health – things like anxiety, depression, relationship issues and substance abuse. There's also a general sense of unease – a "feeling of an impending storm" – as the pandemic rages overseas and New Zealand moves between alert levels to manage new outbreaks.

Martin, who is a co-founder of Whirlwind, a men's mental health charity enabling men to positively embrace their mental health, believes that the solution for many of the issues he helps his clients grapple with is kindness and connection.

"Kindness is how we help ourselves and connect with each other. Work within the circle of your control and focus on how our actions can make a difference rather than being a victim to what's happening around you. Giving your neighbour a wave and offering to take out the bins. Show your humanness and connect with others. Doing something nice for someone else gives you a little buzz and gives that person a little buzz too. Whatever the act is, it's reinforcing that we are all in this together."

**Read more at how Martin is getting on at:**  
[www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/checking-in](http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/checking-in)

Photo: Martin Sloman





Te Whare Pūkapa me te Pūaki Awhiā o Ōtaki  
Ōtaki Library & Service Centre



## Te huarahi ake: Our path forward

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Our plan reflects our understanding of the impacts, opportunities and imperatives that COVID-19 creates for our district as they currently stand. Because of the uncertainties around the spread of the virus, its impacts, and the response of the Government (and others), this plan will need to be regularly reviewed to adapt to changing circumstances. New actions may be required; some may need to be accelerated or scaled up, while yet others may recede in priority.

We also need to monitor our progress, both in terms of the actions we have identified in this plan and using indicators to see what is happening in the community, regionally and nationally. The Wellington Region COVID-19 Recovery Dashboard is a useful tool for this. This dashboard has been developed by the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO), with councils of the region and other agencies. It draws together a range of existing datasets to track changes and provide an early warning of trends that could signal emerging negative impacts on wellbeing. In many cases indicators act as a proxy to more specific or traditional wellbeing indicators which aren't as frequently measured.

### Monitoring progress towards our aims

The Wellington Region COVID-19 Recovery Dashboard reports on 27 indicators to track progress of how we are recovering from the significant disruption caused by the pandemic. The dashboard will be produced on a regular basis until the end of 2021. It uses indicators across the themes of employment, physical and mental health, household stress, and consumer and business confidence, as well as several COVID-19 indicators. These indicators have been grouped below under the Kāpiti Coast District's recovery aims.

#### Whakapapa

**Reconnecting our community** – bringing our people back together and strengthening the connections we have to each other as a community.

We will use the following to help monitor this aim. Number of:

- people volunteering
- physical and online library visits per capita
- events in the region
- people cycling in the region.

## Manaakitanga

**Reactivating our businesses and our economy** – ensuring that our people, businesses and visitors can contribute to a resilient and thriving Kāpiti.

We will use the following to help monitor this aim:

- SH1 traffic volume
- public transport boardings
- number of events in the region
- number of new job advertisements
- number of youth unemployed
- people seeking Jobseeker Support
- Māori seeking Jobseeker Support
- number of new dwelling consents
- consumer spending variance
- business confidence
- international and domestic tourism spend.

## Kotahitanga

**Restoring our social wellbeing** – understanding the wellbeing needs of our community, and ensuring that social support is available to those who need it, when they need it, and that the organisations providing services are supported

We will use the following to help monitor this aim:

- number of people cycling in the region
- number of people volunteering
- number of calls to Youthline in New Zealand
- antidepressant use per capita in the region
- number of reported cases to Women's Refuge
- number of emergency food parcels in the region
- number of people receiving accommodation supplements
- reported property offences
- social housing waitlist
- average household rent
- number of elective surgery bookings
- number of acute presentations at hospital emergency departments (EDs) per capita







# Appendix 1: Future recovery actions

The recovery actions here are a starting point to be further explored and refined. They represent a mix of what we have heard and our view on actions that at this time we think could be beneficial for supporting longer term recovery, and rebuilding our district better.

These will need to be investigated further, and checked against emerging information as further details about the impacts of the pandemic unfold. Where there is need for Council funding to progress some of these actions, this will need to be considered through the Long-term Plan in early 2021.



### Strengthening partnerships and leadership

Our community, business and mana whenua leaders are effecting positive change, and are working with others to create the best outcomes for our people.

#### Actions

- Promote new commercial investment opportunities across the Kāpiti Coast
- Explore opportunities with community organisations for greater partnering/ shared services with the Council to assist with COVID-19 recovery.



### Enabling resilience in our economy and non-government organisations

Our businesses and non-government organisations are resilient, adaptable and innovative, with sectors that provide strong opportunities for upskilling and success.

#### Actions

- Identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and innovation
- Identify and scope transformational projects through the Long-term Plan process, to support future economy, including transition to a low-carbon economy
- Explore funding opportunities for transformational projects for key industries
- Support and foster volunteering in Kāpiti.



### Loving local

We love what Kāpiti has to offer, and are proud to support everything local. We're known as a great destination for visitors.

#### Actions

- Encourage business-to-business-purchasing within the Kāpiti Coast and support the development of local supply chains
- Using the Kāpiti Coast story, market the Kāpiti Coast as a visitor destination to the Wellington, Manawatū, Auckland, and wider domestic markets
- Prepare for future international marketing of the Kāpiti Coast
- Encourage the use of local recreational, leisure and cultural areas and facilities
- Complete Council's Culture and Arts strategy and action plan for the Kāpiti Coast as a key component of COVID-19 recovery.



### Growing skills and capability

Our people have the right skills to access quality local jobs, and have a range of education and training opportunities in Kāpiti.

#### Actions

- Enhance education and industry links and seek employer commitment to training and workforce development
- Seek opportunities to enhance local education and training provision in Kāpiti, including making the case for new training infrastructure in the district
- Develop a business case to attract additional tertiary/vocational education provider(s) to the district, including options for a Kāpiti education and employment hub
- Enhance education and industry links in the cultural sector to support, vocation education and training in arts and recreation particularly for youth and Māori.



### Staying warm, healthy and safe

We understand the issues our community is facing, and our people have access to food and safe and healthy housing.

#### Actions

- Ensure council uses its regulatory and planning tools to facilitate and encourage affordable, good quality housing developments.



### Encouraging connections and kindness

We are a connected community, we know our neighbours and look after each other.

#### Actions

- TBC.









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