

**Wellington**  
Regional  
Growth  
Framework

# Working together to plan for our future

MARCH 2021



Summary Draft  
Wellington Regional Growth Framework

# Working together to plan for our future

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Summary of the draft Wellington Regional Growth Framework

Ka ora te wai	<i>If the water is healthy</i>
Ka ora te whenua	<i>the land will be nourished</i>
Ka ora te whenua	<i>If the land is nourished</i>
Ka ora te tangata	<i>the people will be provided for</i>
Mo te iti – mo te rahi	<i>For the little – for the large</i>

**Creating a more liveable, accessible, connected, thriving, resilient and green regional future.**



Photo credit:

Carterton District Council, Horowhenua District Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Hutt City Council, Masterton District Council, Porirua City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Neil Price and Justine Hall, Wellington City Council and Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

## A growing region

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As the Wellington-Wairarapa-Horowhenua region grows, we have an opportunity to shape that growth to make the most of the aspects that make our region so special. These include things such as the cultural identities and aspirations of mana whenua, our natural environment and our histories – aspects that we must protect and nurture while we respond to the challenges and opportunities that growth brings.

Historically, cities and towns have done their own planning and growth has happened in a piecemeal fashion, not taking into account the needs of the wider region. Challenges already exist around housing, urban development, transport and resilience. These are regional issues that cross local council boundaries and are better tackled together, not individually. Actions we take now could bring about a better future for us all.

By working together, local government, central government and iwi partners in the Wellington-Wairarapa-Horowhenua region have created the draft Wellington Regional Growth Framework (the Framework). It provides us with a chance to make sure future growth enhances the region.



## What is the Framework?

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The Framework is a 30-year strategy that sets the strategic and spatial direction for decision-making on housing, infrastructure, services and investment to ensure a prosperous region.

It identifies how the Wellington-Wairarapa-Horowhenua region could accommodate a future population of 760,000 people and an additional 100,000 jobs over the next 30 years. This would mean an additional 200,000 people living in the region.

The Framework helps us to think about what would be required to deal with not only new growth, but also how we grow to achieve the best outcomes for the region. It considers potential infrastructure needs beyond the 30-year growth scenario and sets the direction for an enduring partnership of central government, local government and iwi in the region that will deliver the regional vision for growth and investment.

It will deliver on the Urban Growth Agenda objectives of the Government, which adjust the integrated approach to urban development and infrastructure planning by introducing new planning, funding and financing opportunities.

# How we developed the Framework

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In 2019 local government, central government and iwi partners in the Wellington-Wairarapa- Horowhenua region started working together on the Framework. Kaupapa principles (ki uta ki tai, wairuatanga, kaitiakitanga, tō mātou whakapono and mahitahi) informed the development of the Framework.

In developing the Framework we held workshops with mayors and councillors, mana whenua, technical experts, stakeholders, interest groups and industry organisations. We undertook new analysis and drew on existing policies from around the region, such as city and district-scale spatial plans like Wellington City's Planning for Growth, District Plan changes (for instance in Porirua City and Hutt City), iwi management plans, and central government's current and proposed policies such as the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act and the proposed Spatial Planning Act. See [www.wrgf.co.nz/about](http://www.wrgf.co.nz/about) for more information on the relationship between the Framework and other documents.



# What are our key challenges?

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The key urban growth challenges we are facing as a region are:

- A lack of sufficient and affordable housing supply and choice. Housing affordability is declining and a significant investment in infrastructure is needed to enable enough housing and quality urban environments.
- Urban areas that are vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. As the region grows and becomes more densely settled, it will become increasingly important to improve resilience and protect and enhance the region's natural environment.
- Inequitable access to social, educational and economic opportunities across the region.
- Poor access to affordable housing choices for mana whenua and Māori.

# What is our vision for the future?

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## The whole region is growing, and Horowhenua plays a role in that growth.

- Most new housing will be within the current urban footprint. The Framework includes walkable neighbourhoods with a mix of higher-density housing than we have currently, shops and local services, particularly around key public transport hubs and centres.
- Horowhenua plays a unique role as a gateway to the western side of the region.

## Improved outcomes for Māori

- Mana whenua will continue to be equal partners in the Framework's development, implementation and governance. We are partnering with mana whenua to improve housing and economic outcomes for Māori.
- We see a region where mana whenua and cultural histories are represented in urban spaces.

## A more accessible and connected region

- We want people to have easy and affordable access to housing, education, amenities, open space, jobs and services across the region.
- We want to support people to get around more on foot and by bike, making neighbourhoods safer and accessible to all people, and we want to make public transport more accessible, reliable and efficient, with key routes separated from cars to speed up journey times.
- We want to improve transport connections between Porirua in the western corridor and the Hutt Valley in the eastern corridor.

## A resilient and greener region

- We want to reduce our carbon emissions and transition to a zero-carbon economy.
- We want to avoid growth in Wāhi Toitū areas. These are areas with an enduring presence that, for the purposes of spatial planning, are to be protected from new urban development where constraints or values place limits on expansion.
- We want to increase our resilience to natural hazards.

## A well serviced region

- We want regional infrastructure to meet the needs of residents, including our three waters (drinking water, stormwater and wastewater), transport, community, health, education and cultural infrastructure.

## A more liveable region

- We want to live more locally – with more jobs and services located within walking and cycling distance of our homes.
- We want to increase the range, quality and affordability of housing, supporting a mix of densities and embracing new ways of living.

## A thriving region

- We want Wellington City to continue to thrive as the regional centre of employment, and also to create more employment opportunities in our regional cities and towns closer to where many people live.
- We want to increase access to employment and social opportunities by improving transport connections across the region.

## Key moves

The Framework includes a set of 'key moves' (significant things we are going to do differently) that provide the direction for the Framework and a spatial representation of our priority growth areas.

### **1 Harness growth to make the region's housing and urban areas more affordable and liveable and provide more housing choice – 'walkable neighbourhoods'**

By providing for, and when appropriate actively partnering (Urban Development Authority powers) to deliver quality and more intensive vibrant mixed use urban development – where people can get a large percentage of their daily needs met locally (walkable neighbourhoods), in locations with good access to rapid transit or high frequency public transport in both Future Urban Areas (greenfield) and urban renewal areas (brownfield).

### **2 Make better use of the region's limited supply of well-located greenfield land**

By undertaking future urban area development differently we can ensure that more housing is delivered at medium and higher densities (such as terraced housing or apartments), and that new development is built to support multi-modal transport options for residents, with an emphasis on being rapid transit orientated where it is easy to access rapid transport services.

### **3 Fully unlock the urban development potential of current and future rapid transit orientated corridors particularly the Let's Get Wellington Moving corridor.**

By leveraging our existing rail network and new investment in rapid transit, particularly on the Let's Get Wellington Moving corridor, to deliver transformational urban development including density changes and more affordable housing choices.

### **4 Unlock new areas for housing and urban development and deliver greater regional resilience with a major west-east multi-modal corridor**

Explore the potential for a major multi-modal west-east corridor (or corridors) that unlocks new areas for housing and urban development, improves access to social and economic opportunities across the region (including employment and freight movement) and significantly improves resilience.

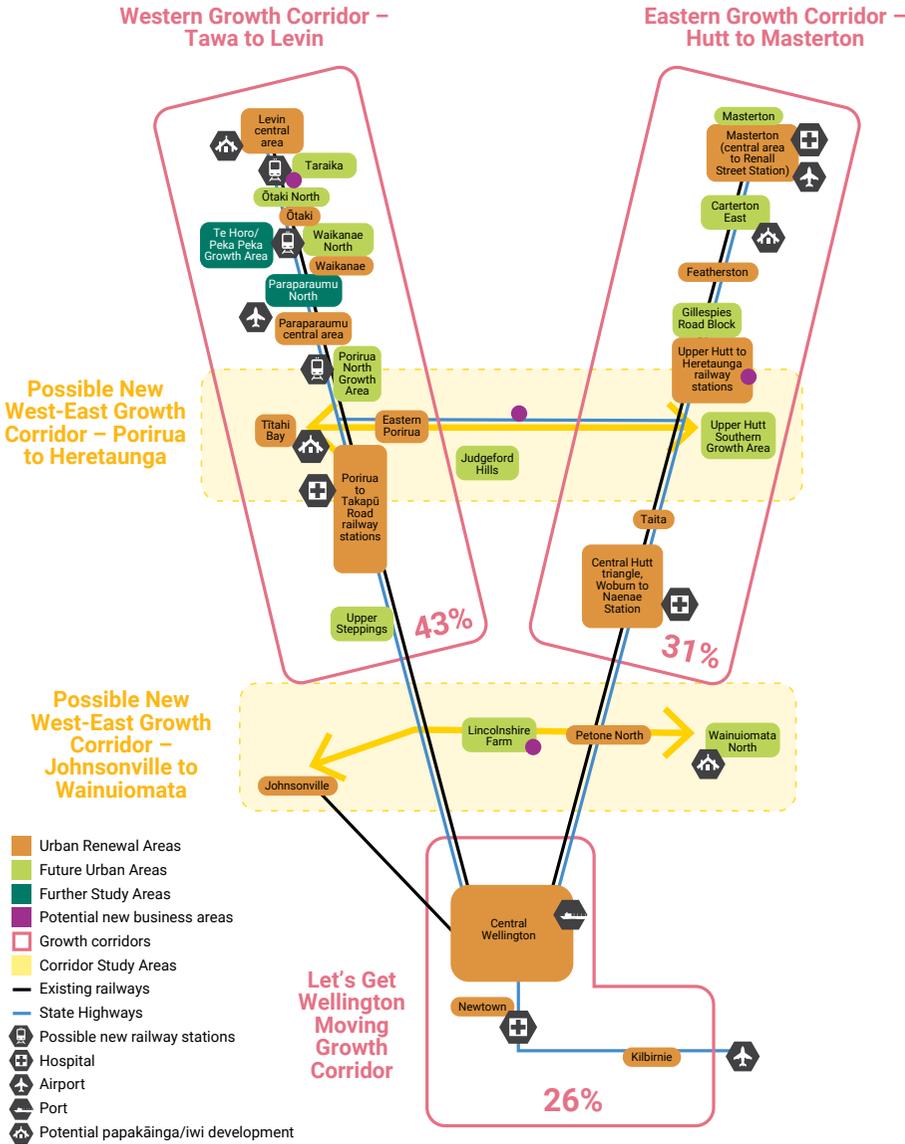
### **5 Deliver transformational housing and development outcomes for iwi/Māori**

By partnering with iwi, the Crown and councils to deliver transformational housing, urban development and economic development outcomes for iwi/Māori.

### **6 Address the urban development challenges of climate change and transitioning to a zero-carbon economy at a regional scale**

By planning and undertaking projects regionally to address the urban development impacts of climate change, particularly impacts on infrastructure and where people live and work and work to transition to a zero-carbon economy.

# Priority growth areas



We expect that all these areas will need to be developed in the next 30 years to accommodate the regional growth scenario of 200,000 additional people. Work has been undertaken on which areas should be developed first, noting that two areas (the Let's Get Wellington Moving growth corridor and the eastern Porirua development) are already underway and others are expected to start from mid-2021 onwards.



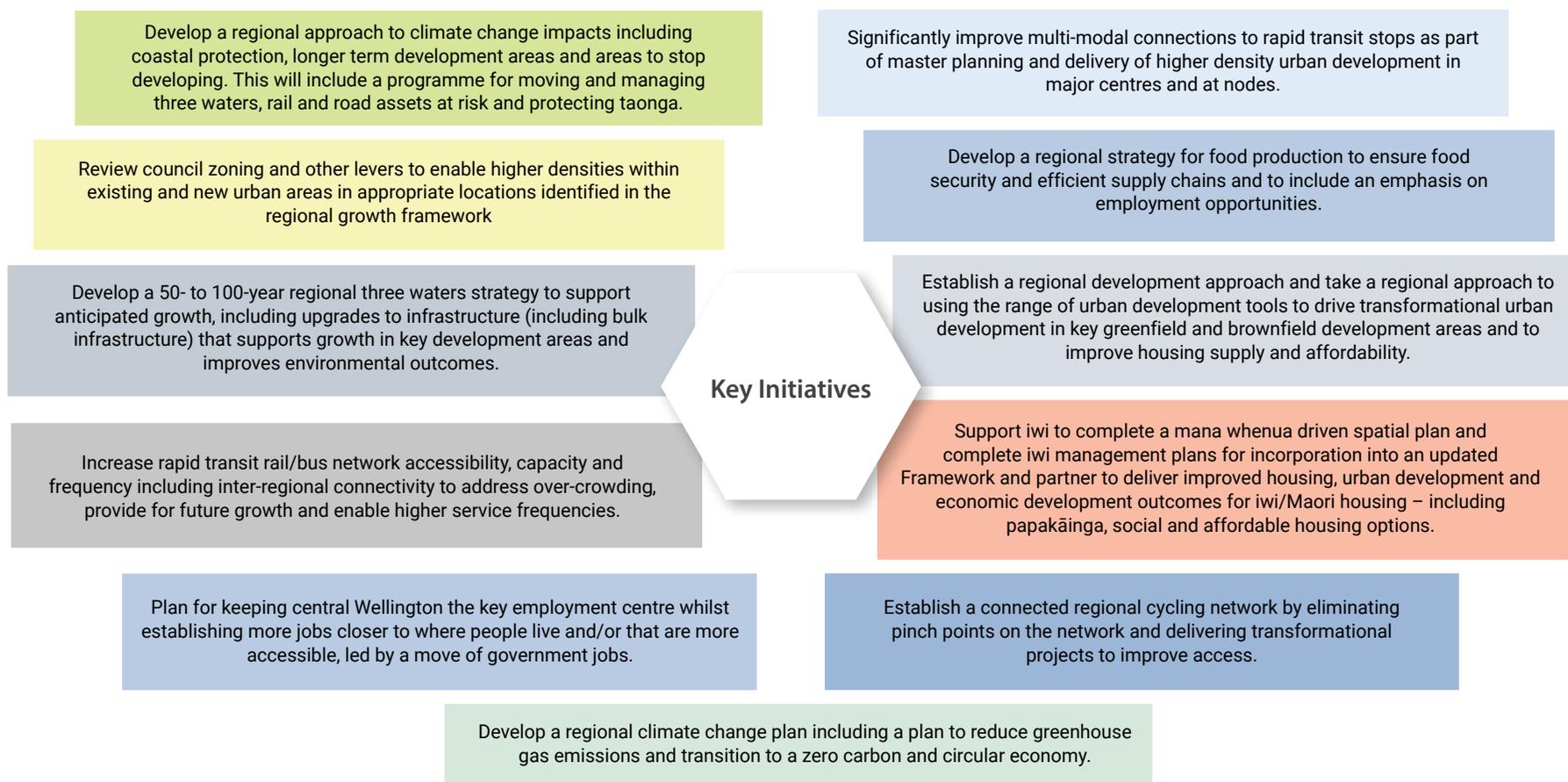
# Delivering on the Framework

## Key general initiatives

There are already a number of initiatives happening in the region that respond to our growth. The Framework brings these together under one umbrella so we can see them implemented in a cohesive and coordinated manner. We can also see where the gaps and opportunities are to identify new initiatives that might be required to support future

growth. A joint governance group will be responsible for delivering the key Framework initiatives and keeping the regional partnership strong.

The diagram shows key general initiatives. These are the larger initiatives that we will undertake collectively and within a two- to four-year period to help drive the required outcomes of the Framework.



## Why should you care?

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We have a unique opportunity to plan for future growth at a region-wide level to ensure that the right investments and planning occur to deliver the best for the future of the region. If you love our region and want to continue to live here, and want to protect what's special for future generations, this is your chance to help shape that future.

## What happens with your submission?

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We want you to know what happens next in our process and what will happen with your submission. Information that might be useful for you is:

- All submissions will be publicly available.
- Once submissions have closed in mid-May we will prepare a summary report of feedback. This report will be made available on our website. If you want to be advised when this report is available, ensure you sign up to our newsletter.
- We will undertake an analysis of the feedback and provide a report to the governance group we are currently establishing. This will include recommendations for any changes to the draft Framework for the final Framework. We expect that this reporting will be in mid-2021, after which the final Framework will be released.

## Want to know more?

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If you want to delve into the draft Framework in more detail, find out more about the project or check out our reports, visit [www.wrgf.co.nz](http://www.wrgf.co.nz).



# So... what do you think?

We'd love to know what you think about the draft Wellington Regional Growth Framework. You might like to refer to the full draft Framework document at [wrgf.co.nz/draft-framework-report/](http://wrgf.co.nz/draft-framework-report/) to help inform your submission. You can make your submission online at [wrgf.co.nz/have-your-say](http://wrgf.co.nz/have-your-say), or if you prefer you can fill out the questionnaire below, detach it from the summary document and post back to us at:

Wellington Regional Growth Framework Submission,  
 P O Box 11646, Cuba Street,  
 Te Aro, Wellington 6011.

Feedback is welcomed from **Thursday 11 March** until **Monday 10 May 2021** to align with the Long-Term Plan consultations of the councils in our region.

## Draft Wellington Regional Growth Framework

### 1. Do you agree with the general direction of the draft Wellington Regional Growth Framework (the Framework)?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

2. Why: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. What aspects of the Framework do you support?\*

	Do not support	Partially support	Fully support	Don't know
The regions key moves (see section 3.1)				
The growth scenario (see section 4.1)				
The focus on building communities and neighbourhoods (see section 4.2)				
The growth corridor view of the Future Development Areas (see section 5.1)				
The focus on what growth will look like and design elements (see section 5.1)				
The key spatial initiatives (see section 6.1)				
The key general initiatives (see section 6.1)				

\* Refer to full draft Framework for more detail on each of these aspects.

### 4. What would you like more focus on in the Framework?

Select all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> Housing affordability	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate change
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing supply and choice	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport options – active transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural hazards
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport options – public transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Three waters infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Nothing more to focus on

## Key moves

### 5. Do you support the 'key moves' identified in the Framework?

	Do not support	Partially support	Fully support	Don't know
1. Harness growth to make the region's housing and urban areas more affordable and liveable and provide more housing choice – 'walkable neighbourhoods'				
2. Make better use of the region's limited supply of well-located greenfield land				
3. Fully unlock the urban development potential of current and future rapid-transit-orientated corridors, particularly the Let's Get Wellington Moving corridor				
4. Unlock new areas for housing and urban development and deliver greater regional resilience with a major west-east multi-modal corridor				
5. Deliver transformational housing and development outcomes for iwi/Māori				
6. Address the urban development challenges of climate change and transitioning to a zero-carbon economy at a regional scale				

## Key General initiatives

### 6. Do you agree with the key general initiatives in the Framework?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

### 7. Please rank the key general initiatives in order of priority.

- Develop a regional approach to climate change impacts including coastal protection, longer term development areas and areas to stop developing. This will include a programme for moving and managing three waters, rail and road assets at risk and protecting taonga.
- Review council zoning and other levers to enable higher densities within existing and new urban areas in appropriate locations identified in the regional growth framework.
- Develop a 50- to 100-year regional three waters strategy to support anticipated growth, including upgrades to infrastructure (including bulk infrastructure) that supports growth in key development areas and improves environmental outcomes.
- Increase rapid transit rail/bus network accessibility, capacity and frequency including inter-regional connectivity to address over-crowding, provide for future growth and enable higher service frequencies.
- Plan for keeping central Wellington the key employment centre whilst establishing more jobs closer to where people live and/or that are more accessible, led by a move of government jobs.
- Develop a regional climate change plan including a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a zero carbon and circular economy.
- Establish a connected regional cycling network by eliminating pinch points on the network and delivering transformational projects to improve access.
- Support iwi to complete a mana whenua driven spatial plan and complete iwi management plans for incorporation into an updated Framework and partner to deliver improved housing, urban development and economic development outcomes for iwi/Maori housing – including papakāinga, social and affordable housing options.
- Establish a regional development approach and take a regional approach to using the range of urban development tools to drive transformational urban development in key greenfield and brownfield development areas and to improve housing supply and affordability.
- Develop a regional strategy for food production to ensure food security and efficient supply chains and to include an emphasis on employment opportunities.
- Significantly improve multi-modal connections to rapid transit stops as part of master planning and delivery of higher density urban development in major centres and at nodes.

## 8. Is there anything you think is missing from the Framework?

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## Demographics

### 9. Where do you live?

Horowhenua District	South Wairarapa District
Kāpiti Coast District	Carterton District
Porirua City	Masterton District
Wellington City	None of the above
Lower Hutt City	Prefer not to say
Upper Hutt City	

### 10. Which ethnic group or groups do you identify with?

European	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African
Māori	Other Ethnicity
Pacific Peoples	Prefer not to say
Asian	

### 11. What is your gender?

Male	Another gender
Female	Prefer not to say

### 12. Which of the following age groups do you fall into?

Under 20 Years	50 – 59 Years
20 – 29 Years	60 – 69 Years
30 – 39 Years	70 Years and over
40 – 49 Years	Prefer not to say

Thank you for making a submission.  
 Visit [www.wrgf.co.nz](http://www.wrgf.co.nz) to keep up to date with the process from here.