



# **Long-Term Plan 2024 - 2034**

## **Pre-engagement - interim report**

**November 2023**

## Element :1 Review of reports/workshops – key findings

### Goals

#### Social Wellbeing:

- Expand health services like mental health support and addiction treatment.
- Develop more recreation amenities and activities for youth and families.
- Address transportation barriers to healthcare access.
- Strengthen community connections and inclusion.

#### Affordability:

- Make infrastructure and core services affordable through efficiencies and appropriate funding models.
- Address cost barriers to healthcare, housing, food, and services through subsidies and support.
- Develop affordable transportation options.

#### Prosperity:

- Diversify the economy beyond traditional industries for more opportunities.
- Support small businesses, social enterprises, and tourism operators.
- Invest in vocational training and employment pathways for youth.

#### Culture:

- Preserve and promote heritage sites, traditions, and local history.
- Celebrate and increase the visibility of Māori culture and diverse identities.
- Create more culturally inclusive community spaces and events.

#### Environment:

- Sustainably manage resources, focusing on biodiversity, native ecosystems, and regeneration.
- Build resilience and prepare for climate change impacts like flooding and erosion.
- Transition to renewable energy and reduce waste.

### Priorities:

#### 3 Waters:

- Ensure water accessibility, quality, and security, especially in rural areas.
- Make stormwater and wastewater infrastructure climate resilient.

#### Climate Change:

- Build resilience against increased frequency of extreme weather events.
- Transition to renewable energy sources.

#### Commercial Infrastructure:

- Develop airport and port capabilities to support economic growth.

#### Community Services:

- Expand health, disability, social and kaupapa Māori services.
- Develop more youth recreation amenities and events.

#### Governance and Elected Members Support:

- Advocate for increased government investment in regional development.
- Improve community engagement and consultation.

#### Infrastructure Planning:

- Take a resilient, sustainable, long-term approach to infrastructure.

#### Infrastructure Resilience:

- Mitigate natural disaster impacts like earthquakes, flooding and erosion.

**Property:**

- Provide more affordable, quality housing, especially for the elderly.
- Maintain heritage buildings and sites.

**Regulatory Services:**

- Balance development and conservation through consent processes.
- Support business growth through streamlined licensing.

**Refuse and Recycling:**

- Expand recycling and waste minimisation programs.

**Roading and Transport:**

- Maintain a resilient local road network.
- Develop affordable regional public transportation.

## Element 2 Survey results- key findings

- Across locations, social well-being, environment, and prosperity were consistently rated as the most important community outcomes, scoring over 4 out of 5 on average. Affordability also scored high. Culture was ranked lowest.
- For budget allocation, Roothing and transport, Community Services, and Infrastructure Resilience were the highest priorities overall. Governance and Regulatory Services were the lowest. Priorities varied somewhat by location.
- Westport residents prioritised 3 Waters, Infrastructure Resilience, and Planning. Karamea/Little Wanganui emphasised Roothing and transport. Northern Buller focused on Roothing, Community Services, and Resilience.

## Element 4 Quick Polls key statistics- key findings

- For infrastructure investment priorities over the next 10 years, the top choices were stormwater (25%), drinking water (24%), and rubbish/recycling (22%).
- The maintenance of parks, reserves, and playgrounds garnered the highest combined importance, with 79% of participants acknowledging it as such. Local road maintenance also received substantial recognition, with 77% of responses indicating its importance. Key district projects were considered important by 57% of the participants. Lastly, resilience against climate change and natural hazards was deemed important by 51% of those surveyed.
- Regarding the usage of community facilities, 64% of respondents said they use them sometimes, while 20% use them a lot. Only 6% said they never use community facilities.
- On the potential sale of council-owned properties/buildings, 65% of respondents said they would support it if the assets weren't critical, and it reduced rates.
- When asked about reducing funding for community grants/museums to lower rates, 26% strongly disagreed, 22% disagreed, 21% were neutral, 20% agreed, and 11% strongly agreed. The data suggests a nearly even split in opinion, with a slight majority of respondents opposing the reduction or removal of funding for community assets and groups, while a significant minority supports the idea if it would lead to reduced rates. This reflects diverse perspectives on the value of community services versus financial savings in the community.
- For the most important council focus over the next 10 years, the top themes were infrastructure resilience (26%), affordability (20%), 3 waters (17%), climate change (12%), and social wellbeing (11%).