Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback

Rodney Volume #5

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026

Sub #	Organisation Name	Page Number
	All feedback in this volume are from individuals	

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#327

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	2
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	1
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	2
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More environmental restoration,Support for local businesses

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Regular maintenance of rural roads.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Improved parks and public spaces

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   There is talk about a gap analysis and play provision guidelines yet Leigh wih a permanent population of over 650 and a huge visitor poplation doesn't have a playground. One very small playground at the beach suitable for 3-10 years olds and an old skateboard ramp and swing doesn't provide safe accessible play areas for preschoolers, teens and young adults. The beach playground is not within easy walking distance of the village. Leigh needs a play area suitable for tennagers and young adults, plus preschoolers. Primary school agegroup is partially catered for with use of the school facilities out of school hours.

   The wider area needs something for teens and yound adults, - suggest that the Ti Poiint forest area on the corner of Leigh Rd and Ti Point Rd be planted and converted to cater for BMX/Horse riding/walking & running tracks. The community would be keen on helping with planting.

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Accessibilty & Inclusion should be a primary factor

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Better walking/cycling connections,Other, please specify:more focus on accessibility in all council spaces - building facilities, parking, & parks/beaches

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Not well at all

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

ALL residents experiencing disabilities - whether from birth, temporary accidents, or ageing related - and whether due to mobility, cognition, speech/language/hearing/vision, or other impairments - should ALL be able to access public spaces. Accessibilty and Universal Design should be fundamental to all Local Board planning and implementation, and the wording of the Rodney Local Plan should reflect this intention from the outset.

https://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/universal-design.html

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

You are asking people to score on PAST TENSE generic statements/objectives that Rodney has apparently already achieved. Focus areas are meant to be forward thinking and aspirational

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Better community facilities,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   The local board plans I have read are 80% generic text that could apply to any area. There is not enough information that relates to specific local areas, for residents to comment on. What is the value in providing feedback on generic mumbo jumbo?

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Improvement of equestrian facilities and creation of bridleways / trails in Warkworth and Matakana region. Inclusion of horses on future shared trail initiatives, as per the Greenways Path & Trails Plan Pūhoi to Pakiri (May 2017): https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/about-council/local-

boards/rodney/puhoi-pakiri-greenways-part-one.pdf Plus the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023. Inclusion on the Coastal Trail.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Improved parks and public spaces,Better walking/cycling connections,Other, please specify:ANd horse riding connections! As the local climate becomes increasingly tropical, I recommend investing in improved equestrian facilities, including all-weather arenas and dedicated horse riding trails in the Warkworth / Matakana area. Riding on public roads is no longer a safe or practical option due to increasing traffic and associated safety risks. Enhancing these facilities would provide a safer environment for riders and horses while supporting the continued growth of the local equestrian community.

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Not well at all

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

Include horse in local plans and infrastructutre. The need for dedicated equestrian facilities in the Warkworth and wider Rodney area cannot be overstated. There is a large and diverse equestrian community, encompassing many disciplines beyond Pony Club, all of whom would benefit significantly from investment in safe, accessible, year-round facilities, regardless of the season. The economic boost equestrians bring to the local economy is huge and other regions in NZ have embraced this.

As road riding becomes increasingly hazardous due to growing traffic and population volumes, purpose-built equestrian infrastructure is essential to ensure the safety of both horses and riders while supporting the continued growth of this important multi generational and primarily female, recreational and sporting community.

There are many potential untapped opportunities at Regional Parks such as Te Muir, Wenderholm and other recreation areas such as Whangateau, Pūhoi that may be enhanced.



NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES STRATEGY

| 2023

VISITOR SOLUTIONS

EQUESTRIAN SPORTS NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND PONY CLUB

SPORT NEW ZEALAND IHI AOTEAROA

INFORMATION

Document Reference	National Equestrian Facilities Strategy
Authors	Andy Adams, Craig Jones, Anita-Coy-Macken, Gordon Cessford
Sign off	Project Steering Group
Version	Final
Date	December 2023

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Alison Law – Manager Spaces and Places, Tauranga City Council

Don Robertson – Convenor, National Equestrian Centre, Christchurch

Duncan Pearce – Spaces and Places Team Lead, Sport Bay of Plenty

Emma Barker – Chair, New Zealand Pony Club Association

Hannah Walton – Board Member, Equestrian Sport New Zealand

Julian Bowden – Chief Executive Officer, Equestrian Sport New Zealand

Lizzie Turnbull – Chief Executive, New Zealand Pony Club Association

Zanta Jones – Spaces and Places Consultant, Sport New Zealand

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The National Equestrian Facilities Strategy has been developed in response to constraints being experienced by the equestrian community. These constraints include difficulty accessing suitable land and facilities, competing demands and pressures on existing sites, urban spawl, demands on volunteer and participant time and discretionary dollar, the funding climate and facility condition issues. These factors have formed the impetus for considering a more collaborative, inclusive, and pragmatic approach to facilities planning and management, with need for prioritised direction.

A primary focus for Equestrian Sports New Zealand (ESNZ) and New Zealand Pony Club Association (NZPCA) is to make equestrian activities more accessible by reducing barriers to participation. Key to the success of this initiative is having the right facilities in the right locations and providing participants and equine with quality experiences.

1.2 SCOPE

The strategy's scope includes:

- Collating an extensive inventory of equestrian facilities used nationally.
- Understanding and considering the wider context and potential impacts on equestrian facilities and subsequent delivery (i.e. environmental challenges and demographic shifts).
- Understanding if changes in demand and participation require a change in the shape, number and mix of facilities in the current network.
- Establishing a hierarchy of equestrian sites which considers the different disciplines and facility types.
- Setting of a prioritised recommendations for effective implementation.

For clarity, the strategy focuses on:

a. **'Base' Equestrian Sites:** these are the core equestrian facilities typically used for more structured and organised equestrian activities – and generally associated with hire or lease arrangements for access. These include pony club grounds, A&P Showgrounds, Racecourses, Equestrian Parks, and other dedicated equestrian activity sites (including private facilities).

   Primary focus is placed on **ESNZ disciplines** (jumping and showhunter, dressage, eventing, endurance, and Competitive Trail Riding/CTR, Para-Equestrian) and **pony clubs**. While consideration and reference are given to other equestrian activity where relevant and information is available.

b. **Public Open Spaces:** these are generally sites which attract more casual/recreational use and are open to the wider equestrian community. Typical sites are bridle trails, beaches, forests, parks, and the roadside. Due to the vast nature of these spaces nationally, high-level insights will be provided only to complement base equestrian sites.

Note: the wider racing industry is out of scope, however, its current and prospective role in supporting equestrian activity was considered.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The development of the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy has used a range of primary and secondary data sources and analysis. These include:

PRIMARY DATA INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS

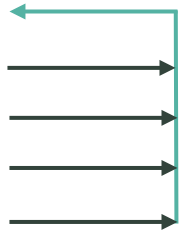
- 34 site visits across the country,
- 229 club/group and facility operator survey responses. This was further supplemented with interviews during site visits,
- 3,329 National Equestrian 'Have Your Say' survey responses,
- National Project Steering Group engagement,
- ESNZ and NZPCA staff engagement,
- Stakeholder engagement (Councils and funders).

SECONDARY DATA INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS

- Membership, participation and grazing data and analysis,
- Catchment analysis,
- Demographic analysis,
- Review of strategic documents of key stakeholders,
- Weather analysis,
- Economic impact and funding research, review, and analysis,
- Event schedule analysis,
- Full national equestrian facility inventory.

The dataset, analysis and insights were used to inform the development of the strategy. The strategy has been set out to provide the 'Overview and The Way Forward' at the start, which is underpinned by the remaining sections of the report. The strategy is set out as follows:

- Part A: Overview and The Way Forward
- Part B: Background Context
- Part C: Equestrian Setting
- Part D: Equestrian Facility Network Approach
- Part E: Regional Insights



A glossary of terms is provided in the Appendix to assist with any unknown terminology.



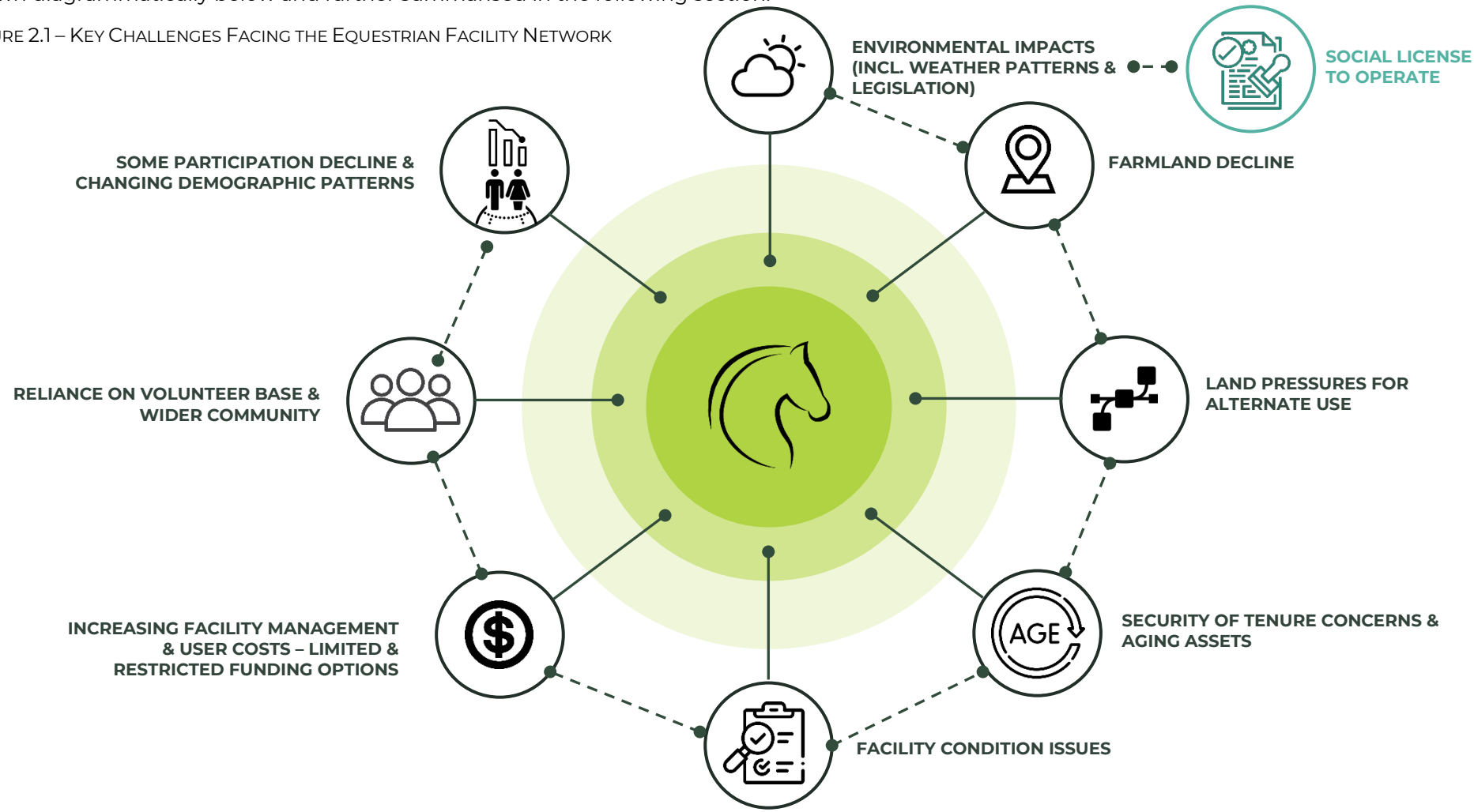
PART A | OVERVIEW & THE WAY FORWARD

2.0 SUMMARY FINDINGS

2.1 KEY CHALLENGES

Equestrian activity and the wider equestrian community are experiencing a range of challenges which are or may impact current and prospective facility provision. While some are inherently common across the sport and active recreation sector, many are unique to the equestrian community. These are shown diagrammatically below and further summarised in the following section.

FIGURE 2.1 – KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK



SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE

The Social License to Operate (SLO) is the concept of ongoing local community and public approval or acceptance of certain activities. As has been evident from overseas and in recent New Zealand examples, a loss of a SLO can impact on an activity (in the form of either not permitting or altering the activity) via changes in public perception and/or a loss of political support.

It is vital that equestrian activity retains a strong social license. It should also be used as the catalyst for driving facility responses to support equine welfare. Taking a focused and proactive facility response approach to addressing welfare outcomes is essential.

Some other equestrian facility network challenges identified which should be considered within the context of the SOL include:

- Aging network of equestrian facility assets,
- Facility condition issues are evident which require significant investment across the country,
- Type and level of provision of yards for certain equestrian activities,
- Legislation impacts (i.e. health and safety) and focus on environmental outcomes to improve water quality,
- Strong reliance on volunteers and the wider community to undertake developments, maintain facilities, source funding, and oversee activity operations. This is in a backdrop of a changing landscape with reducing volunteerism and increasing compliance,
- The above points are further pronounced for eventing and Endurance/CTR events which typically rely on access to private sites. Anecdotally, some event organisers have expressed concerns with compliance (i.e. health and safety, traffic management plans) and have removed their sites from being considered to host future events.

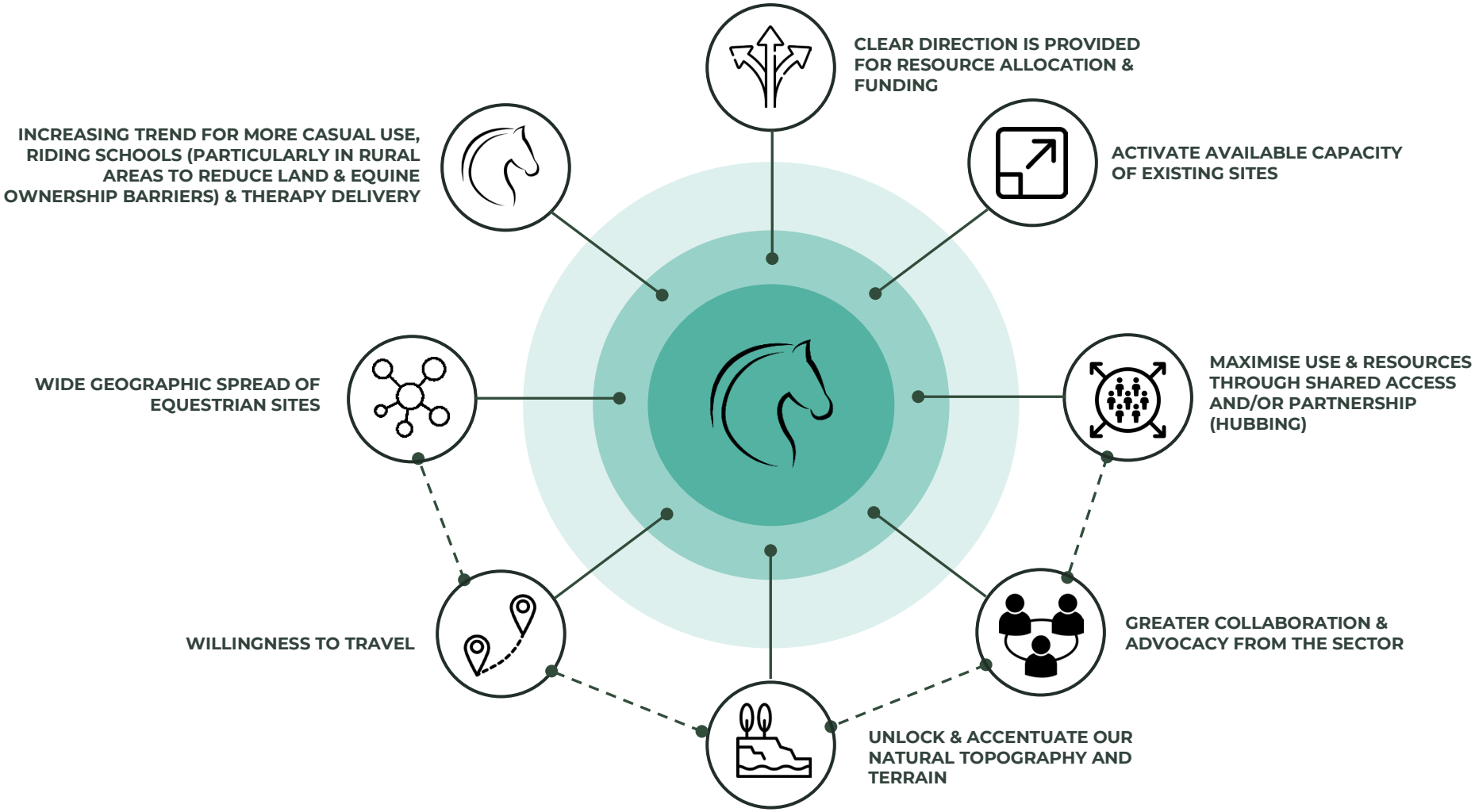
OTHER KEY CHALLENGES

- Some equestrian membership decline is evident across the country. Changing future demographic patterns could further impact some delivery (i.e. aging population impacting pony club activity).
- Key stakeholders have limited understanding of equestrian activity which is compounded by equestrian groups working in isolation.
- Limited data collection and working in isolation restricts the ability to clearly demonstrate the equestrian investment value proposition.
- Equestrian representation or input is often overlooked when exploring public space and trail opportunities.
- Land pressures which are evidenced by:
    a. Reducing farmland across the country (13% decline with variability across the country – see Part E – Regional Insights).
    b. High land demand to meet other local community needs i.e. housing, health and other sport and recreation needs. This is placing pressure to repurpose land used for equestrian activity - leading to tenure concerns.
    c. Closure of racecourses which are used by equestrian groups (formally and informally).
    d. Potential private landowner land sales could impact tenure. There is a current reliance on private landowners as they own 28% of primary equestrian sites.
    e. Less lifestyle blocks for owning and grazing horses/ponies.
- Financial-related challenges include:
    a. Difficulties sourcing grant funding for privately owned land and facilities. Funder reluctance centres around the risk associated with length of tenure for equestrian activity and who benefits from the investment and/or a potential land sale.
    b. Strong perception that equestrian activity is elitist and for the wealthy. For many equestrians this is not reality as they have more moderate income brackets.
    c. Cost of living crisis – equestrian, equine and facility operator-related costs. These costs include fuel, feed, attire and gear, vet and other support, venue hire (with facility costs typically pushed back down to equestrians), transport costs, labour, materials, and contractors.
    d. Some equestrians seek alternate private venue hire as sites used for club/group activity are deemed unsuitable – adding more cost.

2.2 KEY OPPORTUNITIES

There is a wide array of opportunities that exist which will help guide the development and implementation of the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy. These are shown diagrammatically in Figure 2.2. Opportunities primarily centre around collaboration, connection, and partnerships within the equestrian community and across the wider sector. These are further outlined in 'The Way Forward' in the following sections.

FIGURE 2.2 – KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK



3.0 THE WAY FORWARD

3.1 THE CONTEXT

Equestrian activity continues to play a key role in the fabric of our society, stretching beyond sport and active recreation and for many it is a 'way of life'. The very nature of equestrian activity is unique, providing notable contribution to local, regional, and national economies through the supply chain.

As outlined in Section 2.0, there are a myriad of challenges and opportunities being experienced across the equestrian community, which impacts and shapes how we need to respond in the future.

Equestrian activity occupies substantial land areas to accommodate the necessary activity spaces and support infrastructure. Land tenure is being increasingly questioned in many parts of the country (particularly where the land supports a small number of users and other land pressures are emerging i.e. housing and sports fields). This often results in the displacement of equestrian sites. It can also lead to offering similar experiences within a geographic area, competition for funds and volunteer resource, aging and poorly maintained facilities.

The equestrian community is operating in the context of a constrained funding landscape, increasing concerns regarding security of tenure and a stretched volunteer base. With reliance largely on volunteers to undertake maintenance and drive capital projects. A pragmatic approach is required within the current landscape to deliver and invest in quality prioritised equestrian outcomes. Key general approaches include:

1. **Utilising our existing sites and facilities** (including privately owned). There is no need or demand to warrant the establishment of additional 'base equestrian sites'. Quality and suitable access are larger issues impacting the network (which in some instances may require possible replacement).
2. **Establish more partnerships** (across equine activity/sites and the wider community) to optimise use and meet current and future needs. This includes working alongside the racing industry as racecourses grapple with their own future and seek to increase use. As there is a direct parallel between some infrastructure needs, these options should be fully explored across all equine parties (rather than operating in isolation).

   This approach should also include working in partnership to provide increased access to public spaces (i.e. trails).
3. **Explore consolidation of sites** to reduce volunteer burden, increase site use (where practicable), secure long-term tenure and maintain assets. This will involve reinvesting into fewer, high quality and multi-use sites – and allocating events to sites which have the requisite specifications (alignment between event and facility tiers).
4. **Prioritise planning and investment** into equestrian sites which play a critical role in the overall network and deliver the widest-reaching equestrian outcomes (i.e. high use, domiciled clubs/groups, large participation base and event/show delivery).

   Diverting investment, resource, volunteers, and materials away from identified priority projects will be detrimental to the overall network and impact participation outcomes.

3.2 EQUESTRIAN FACILITY FRAMEWORK

Key components of the Equestrian Facility Framework are outlined in Figure 3.1 and detailed in **Part D: Equestrian Facility Network Approach**.

An optimal equestrian facility network (and associated specifications) sets out the future direction for equestrian facilities. It is designed to guide the identification of geographic and functional gaps across our network and to support improving the overall equestrian experience and equine welfare. Importantly, the optimal network will help focus where future development and investment is best directed to drive equestrian outcomes. A 5-Tier Equestrian Facility Network has been devised to best service equestrians across the country:

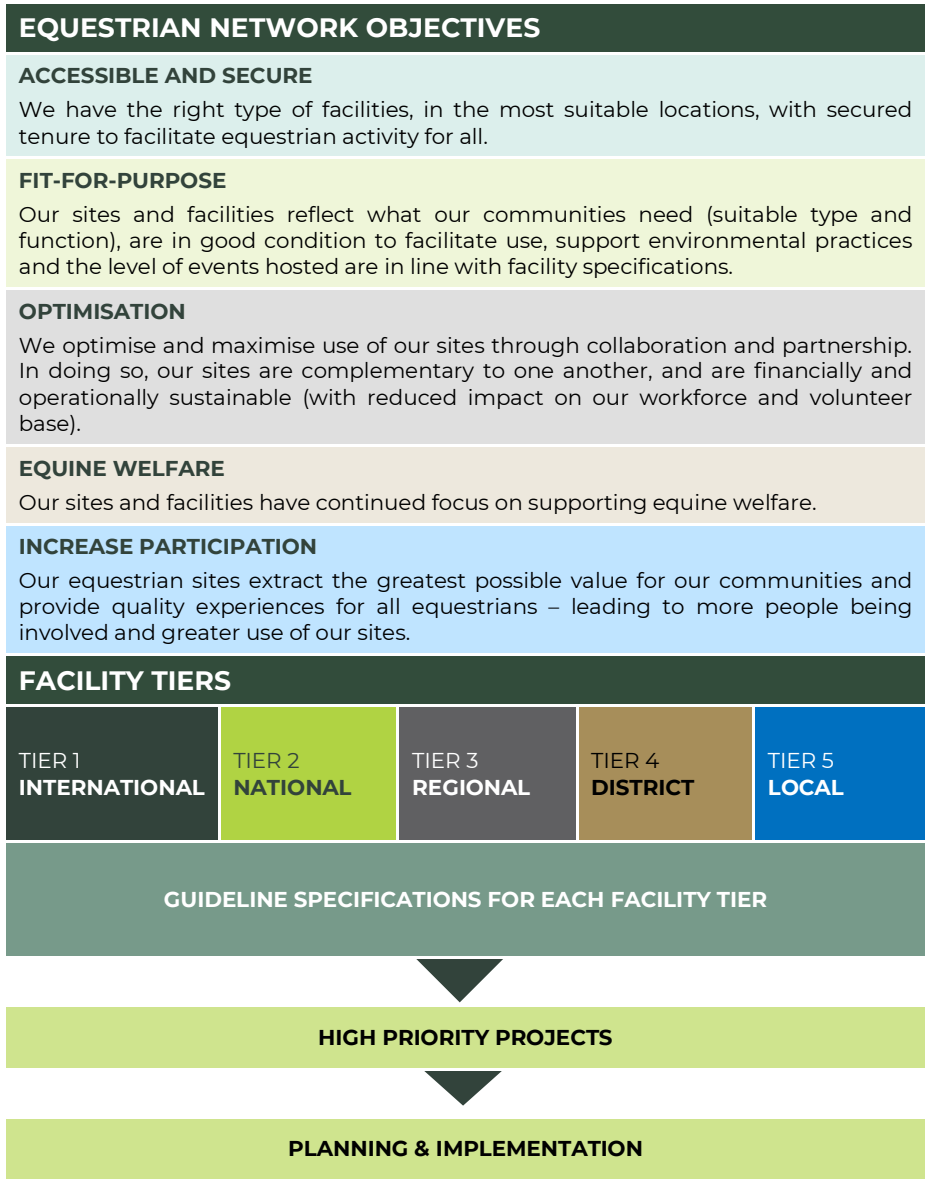
- **Tier 1** – International
- **Tier 2** – National
- **Tier 3** – Regional
- **Tier 4** – District
- **Tier 5** – Local

It should be noted **the proposed network is an 'optimal state'** and will take an extended period of time to develop. It is acknowledged many sites do not currently meet the guideline specifications. The specifications should be used to **guide how we can move towards providing the best equestrian facility experiences – in line with identified priorities.** We need to take a view of looking beyond the now and start establishing the path for the next 25-years.

The establishment and continued support of **Regional and District Equestrian Parks and other multi-use equestrian facilities are the preferred delivery models.** Meeting wider network objectives and the optimal facility network approaches will also be important. Key success factors of this approach can include:

- Maximising the use of sites,
- Enhancing sustainability,
- Pool volunteers and workforces,
- Reinvesting into infrastructure,
- Increasing the value proposition to stakeholders and landowners for potential investment,
- Improving security of tenure.

FIGURE 3.1 – EQUESTRIAN FACILITY FRAMEWORK



3.3 EQUESTRIAN SECTOR PRIORITIES

Various asset and non-asset focus areas need to be addressed to advance development of an optimal Equestrian Facility Network. These national-level focus areas will form the foundation to support the delivery of equestrian outcomes for years to come.

FOCUS AREA 1 - LEADERSHIP

a. **Equestrian Facility Advisory Group** - Oversight is required to support the implementation of the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy. It is recommended that a multi-disciplinary Equestrian Facility Advisory Group (with independent stakeholder representation) is formed to oversee the advancement of priority projects, alignment, resource allocation and to provide advocacy.

   A key role will be to not endorse facility developments which do not align with the National Equestrian Facility Strategy. Thus avoiding diverting funding away from a high priority project or negatively impacting the wider network.

   Once the Advisory Group's terms of reference are established, consideration may be given to seeking funding to support a part-time position or a contract role to drive outcomes.

   The Advisory Group should be tasked with reviewing priority projects annually, alongside reviewing new or progressed projects as they arise (through the Assessment Framework and Criteria outlined in Appendix A). It is important that the form and function of equestrian sites within the wider network are assessed at a local and regional level.

b. **Engagement** - Socialise and promote the strategy with other national equestrian organisations, Councils, landowners, and funders.

c. **Events/Shows** - Explore establishing facility criteria for event/show hosting (across different levels and in line with Provision Guidelines – Section 10.2) to facilitate quality experiences and meet equine welfare standards. Wider considerations should also include sustainability and viability impacts of allocating events/shows to sites which are near one another. Spreading events and having sites competing against each other for hosting higher tier events can cause long-term financial and facility condition impacts.

FOCUS AREA 2 - COLLABORATION

a. **National** - Continuing to engage and partner with other national equine groups. This should include exploring a possible strategic partnership with NZ Riding for the Disabled, Racing and the Royal Agricultural Society New Zealand. Gaining collective buy-in and direction will set the tone for more regional and local collaboration. In doing so, it will provide a larger participation base, offer a more compelling case and value proposition to stakeholders (including funders), and be viewed as being coordinated (across the equestrian and wider equine community).

   As various locations around the country have sites with aging facilities that are also within proximity to one another (often with different landowners and/or equestrian activities), national direction is required. In some cases, this may mean needing to take a wider view of all equestrian activity (i.e. sustainable operations and viability of developments) rather than a narrow focus. The current funding and volunteer landscape dictates we must think and respond differently.

b. **Regional** - Continue supporting regions which are demonstrating a strong desire to collaborate in the best interests of equestrian activity. This has been particularly evident in Taranaki, and at a more sub-regional level in Bay of Plenty.

   Where possible, it is strongly encouraged that regions start exploring opportunities to work together more. This could manifest in various forms depending on what is most appropriate in each area (different needs). Blueprints and learnings from other regions should also be shared to demonstrate the benefits of collaboration.

c. **Wider Sector** – Form greater connections with trail advocacy network groups to increase influence and leverage.

d. **Research** - Support research into environmental practices and equine welfare, with direct insights, tools, and resource for supporting facility operators on how they can best respond to these challenges (with consideration given to Social Licence to Operate issues). This should also include developing and sharing facility case studies, resources and approaches from across the country.

FOCUS AREA 3 - DATA AND INFORMATION RESPONSES

Access to standardised and up-to-date data is extremely limited across the equestrian sector. Ultimately, not having quality data hinders being able to paint an accurate picture of the value of equestrian activity. This includes:

a. **Casual Use** - Limited data on casual site and arena use, with most available data focused on organised equestrian activity. This does not provide a true representation of use and understates how or when facilities are used.

   Not having this data becomes problematic when trying to demonstrate why investment is required or why a lease should be extended. The data would also assist with understanding what loading is being placed on surfaces and what treatment/maintenance is required (and when).

b. **Platforms** - Event calendars and registrations are housed across numerous platforms limiting a holistic understanding of site use and trends.

c. **Data** - Membership data is categorised differently across different organisations.

Where possible, opportunities for streamlining and/or consolidating data sources should be pursued.

FOCUS AREA 4 - EQUESTRIAN DELIVERY

It is important to reflect changing community needs. For example, as the population ages, housing intensification occurs, and financial pressures continue to increase, we need to consider how our offerings and facilities are adapting to remain relevant. For example, riding schools or hiring/using horses in lieu of owning them. Put simply, how do we remain relevant and encourage wide ranging interest in equestrian activity?

FOCUS AREA 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

As increased focus is placed on our response to environmental issues, it is important that the equestrian community demonstrates its commitment to environmental improvement. For example, the value of maintaining large green areas to support stormwater management, the environmental sustainability practices already being used and continuing to investigate and implement new or improved environmental practices.

FOCUS AREA 6 – MAINTAIN AND INVEST

Ongoing maintenance and investment in our facilities is critical. This applies as much to club and group owned assets as it does to those that are privately owned. In doing so, we will help attract and retain members and casual equestrians (through improved equestrian and equine experiences/welfare), drive more income, help enable and maximise use (including to non-equestrian users), and to help support the case for securing tenure renewals (particularly with Council-owned land). This should also balance the cost of using facilities to ensure they remain accessible for a wide cross-section of the community.

We also need to consider analytically how resilient our sites are and how much we should be investing in them, if at all (i.e. those on flood plains and old landfills should not be overinvested in).

FOCUS AREA 7 - SECURING TENURE

With 29% of sites signalling tenure concerns, securing lease arrangements is critical (where deemed important within the network). Unsecure tenure can have notable downsides which can in some instances be irreparable including:

a. Drop in membership and volunteers,

b. Lack of investment into maintenance and upgrades.

The greater the community value provided, the greater the value proposition for securing long-term tenure (especially for Council leases).

FOCUS AREA 8 – PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Greater collaboration and connection between equestrian groups, advocacy groups and other key stakeholders (i.e. Councils, forestry owners, Ministry of Transport, and the Department of Conservation). An evidence-based approach is required to best support advocacy. This should include:

a. Using insights from the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy.

b. Within all Regional Equestrian Facility Plans include public open space analysis and investigation (where identified). OR,

c. Undertake specific Open Space Equestrian Needs Assessments. This should be focused in identified areas where needs are not being met.

d. Establish a series of case studies showcasing the successful development and implementation of open space initiatives. These case studies should be used for advocacy and the optimisation of approaches.

e. Establish guidelines and practices outlining how to effectively develop and integrate equestrian public spaces.

f. Explore opportunities to integrate / link public spaces with base equestrian sites (where possible) to maximise existing infrastructure.

3.4 PRIORITY PROJECTS

Part E – Regional Insights outlines background context, planned projects and proposed actions for each Regional Council area. Prospective projects and actions were identified via a mix of community insights and analysis undertaken as part of the National Equestrian Facility Strategy.

Current and proposed projects and actions were assessed against the Assessment Framework and Criteria outlined in Appendix A. This assessment was based on known and available information sources.

It should be noted that inclusion as a high priority project does not replace the need for detailed analysis, planning and viability assessment (i.e. needs and options assessment, cost-benefit analysis, feasibility analysis and/or business case assessment), nor does it guarantee funding commitment.

REGIONAL PLANNING PRIORITIES

It is recommended that more in depth regional and localised equestrian facility planning is undertaken in certain regions. Similar approaches have been completed in the Bay of Plenty and Taranaki to provide more in depth understanding and wider context to support future decision-making and prospective investment. Regional planning should expand upon data and information sourced through the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy.

Priority focus should be placed on the following regions:

REF #	PRIORITY REGIONS	RATIONALE OVERVIEW FOR PRIORITISATION	NEXT STEPS
3.4.1	Auckland **(High Priority)**	• Update the 2014 Auckland Equestrian Facilities Plan by taking account of information from the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy. • Further understanding of club/site catchment areas is required and the prospect of rationalising some sites in Rodney needs to be explored. • There is a possible functional gap in quality training sites which can accommodate a wide range of user groups and equestrians (this should be considered alongside site rationalisation – less sites with higher quality facilities generating greater use). • There is limited access to indoor/covered arena provision across the city. • Numerous facilities need upgrading across Auckland which requires them to be better understood and prioritised. • The City has the largest membership base nationally. • High number of sites located in the region, with a majority located on Council land. • The scope of the 2014 Plan should be widened to include public spaces (i.e. bridle trails, beaches, forests and parks).	• Engage Aktive – Auckland Sport & Recreation, Auckland Council, Sport NZ, and wider Auckland equestrian representatives on opportunities for updating the plan. • Establish an Auckland Equestrian Facility Steering Group – needs to be representative of a wide cross-section of the Auckland equestrian community. • Note: optimally both the Auckland and Waikato Equestrian Facility Plans should be developed concurrently due to the large concentration of equestrians and overlapping catchments between the Franklin Local Board and Waikato District. • The plan should inform whether specific national priority projects exist in Auckland. Note there are no current High Priority Projects identified, with priority placed on regional planning.
3.4.2	Waikato **(High Priority)**	• Large membership concentrations and a wide variety of equestrian-related activity is located in the Waikato. • Vast geographic spread with varying needs and demands, while some site optimisation appears evident (which needs to be further explored). • The region plays a key event role across all disciplines and equestrian-activity. • Various tenure concerns exist across the region. Of note is the Waikato Equestrian Centre which is critical in the network (lease ends in 2032). • Specific opportunities can be explored to complement insights gained from neighbouring Bay of Plenty and Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plans.	• Engage Sport Waikato, relevant Councils, Sport NZ, and wider Waikato equestrian representatives on opportunities for developing a Waikato Equestrian Facilities Plan. • Establish a Waikato Equestrian Facility Steering Group – needs to be representative of a wide cross-section of the equestrian community. • Note: optimally both the Auckland and Waikato Equestrian Facility Plans should be developed concurrently due to the large concentration of equestrians and overlapping catchments between the Franklin Local Board and Waikato District.
3.4.3	Horizons *(focus on Manawatū District, Palmerston North City and Whanganui – to a lesser extent)* **(Medium -High Priority)**	• High level of equestrian engagement across the region. • The region plays a critical role in event/show delivery. • Low proportion of all-weather arena, which is likely to be more impactful for day-to-day use than for events/shows. • Limited insights are available on demand, delivery, facility condition and tenure. It is also important to understand the public space network. • Some opportunities for site optimisation and/or consolidation exist.	• Engage Sport Manawatū, relevant Councils, Sport NZ, and the wider equestrian community to undertake a Facility Network Assessment.

REF #	PRIORITY REGIONS	RATIONALE OVERVIEW FOR PRIORITISATION	NEXT STEPS
3.4.4	Canterbury *(focus on Waimakariri, Selwyn and Christchurch City – with consideration given to the wider equestrian network)* **(Medium Priority)**	• Primary focus should be placed on Waimakariri and Selwyn Districts, and Christchurch City to a lesser extent (but Christchurch remains important from a wider network perspective). • Condition issues, capacity, constraints, overlapping catchments and facility function need further exploration. • Second largest membership base nationally, with changing demographics which may impact the facility network.	• Engage Sport Canterbury, relevant Councils, Sport NZ, and wider equestrian representatives on opportunities for developing a Sub-Regional Equestrian Facilities Plan. • Establish a Sub-Regional Equestrian Facility Steering Group – representative of a wide cross-section of the equestrian community.

TOP-10 PRIORITY PROJECTS

Note the priority projects are listed in ascending order by region, and not in priority ranking order.

REF #	REGION	COUNCIL(S)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE OVERVIEW	NEXT STEPS
3.4.5	Bay of Plenty	Tauranga City & Western Bay of Plenty District	Wider Tauranga	Explore long-term options for establishing a Regional Equestrian Park	• Uncertain tenure at Tauranga Racecourse with 2 of 3 proposed options excluding equestrian activity. • Tauranga RDA are seeking alternate site options due to capacity constraints. • Various sites in the wider Tauranga area have notable condition issues and there are opportunities for rationalising. • Partnership opportunities exist to maximise complementary use and increase the value proposition when seeking third-party funding. • Would benefit most equestrian codes and disciplines across the region and should seek opportunities for casual/recreational activity. • There is no capacity for access to an indoor/covered area at Tauranga RDA and no other provision in the Western Bay of Plenty.	• Collaborative approach (involving TESA, Tauranga RDA, TCC and WBOP) to investigate site options and feasibility.
3.4.6	Bay of Plenty	Whakatāne & Ōpōtiki Districts	Te Teko Racecourse	Explore the opportunities for developing a District Equestrian Park at Te Teko Racecourse or another site within Whakatāne District	• Oversupply of sites in the Easten Bay of Plenty relative to the population and equestrian base, with opportunities to rationalise. • Many sites are underutilised, and condition/flooding issues have been cited. • Difficulties to develop on the Eastern Bay of Plenty RDA site as it is an old landfill. • There are no all-weather arena in the district outside of Eastern Bay of Plenty RDA. • Potential connection to future trail opportunities.	• Establish a Project Working Group comprising the Trust (landowner), equestrian representatives, Councils, Sport Bay of Plenty and other key stakeholders to explore collaboration opportunities.

REF #	REGION	COUNCIL(S)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE OVERVIEW	NEXT STEPS
3.4.7	Hawke's Bay	Hastings District	Tōmoana Showgrounds	Continue exploring upgrades and developments of the showgrounds.	• Condition issues exist. • Hosts Horse of the Year – largest show nationally. • Facilities are well underspecified to meet National tier guidelines. • *Note: consideration should be given to the **wider equestrian network** as numerous facilities are located within 15-minutes drive time.*	• ESNZ to continue engaging with HDC and other relevant parties. • Explore potential implications and opportunities with the wider equestrian facility network.
3.4.8	Northland	Whangarei District	Barge Showgrounds	Explore outdoor arena improvements, including investigation of the suitability and viability of an all-weather arena.	• Centrally located to a large membership catchment. • Drainage concerns with the grass arena. • Tenure concerns at other sites in the region may increase demand. • More all-weather arena will help negate adverse weather conditions.	• Engage with WDC on opportunities to undertake options assessment and feasibility analysis on possible arena works.
3.4.9	Otago	Dunedin City	Taieri	Explore potential opportunities to develop a Regional Equestrian Park on the Taieri Plains	• Large membership concentration located in and around the Taieri Plains. • Various equestrian sites are in close proximity. • Some condition issues have been cited. • Relatively low proportion of all-weather arena across the region. • Relatively low number of members per site – indicating some optimisation is required. • Equestrian functions are dispersed across sites without having consolidated infrastructure in the form of a Regional Equestrian Park.	• Establish a Project Steering Group with a wide cross-section of equestrian representation, wider equine industry, and key stakeholders to review and explore options.
3.4.10	Otago	Queenstown Lakes	TBD	Explore site options for the Wakatipu Pony Club to secure long-term tenure.	• Relatively large pony club. • Degree of uncertainty due to land pressures (operate from privately owned land). • Limited other provision in the Wakatipu region (all sites are privately run) and some are used as alternate facilities by the club.	• Engage QLDC to explore potential site options.
3.4.11	Southland	Gore District	Gore Showgrounds	Explore potential optimisation opportunities at the Showgrounds.	• Relatively large membership catchment is located around the Showgrounds (including cross-Council boundaries). • Premier equestrian site in Southland. • Nearby sites have low membership and upcoming investment is likely required. Rationalisation opportunities exist, with careful consideration of accessibility.	• To guide future investment complete a wider site assessment to determine how the Regional Equestrian Park could be optimised.

REF #	REGION	COUNCIL(S)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE OVERVIEW	NEXT STEPS
					• Some condition issues also exist at the showgrounds, therefore investment would be best placed at the Regional Equestrian Park to gain greatest value.	
3.4.12	Southland	Invercargill City	Invercargill	Complete needs and options assessment for equestrian activity in Invercargill.	• Development interest in Donovan Park which creates a level of uncertainty for future use. • Eventing sites are limited in the region. • Donovan Park provides geographic coverage to the north of the city. • Multiple equestrian sites are in relative proximity across Otatara and Sandy Point. • Sandy Point Reserve Master Plan identifies opportunities for consolidating equine activity and provides connection/access to trails. • Operational efficiencies, optimisation of investment and resource, and potentially site rationalisation opportunities exist.	• Engage ICC and Sport Southland to complete a needs and options assessment to inform deliberations on Donovan Park.
3.4.13	Taranaki	New Plymouth District	TBD	Explore the development of a District Equestrian Park in North Taranaki.	• Several tenure concerns exist in the immediate area around New Plymouth. • Opportunities exist to consolidate sites for optimising equestrian outcomes. • Lack of access to suitably specified indoor/covered arena in North Taranaki. • A large membership catchment is in North Taranaki.	• Undertake site options assessment with NPDC, TEN and equestrian groups.
3.4.14	Wellington	Masterton District	Solway Showgrounds	Review and prioritise specifications for prospective developments.	• Premier equestrian venue in the region. • Services a large membership catchment area. • Wide ranging use of equestrian activity. • Key event venue for Wellington and Wairarapa. • Some facilities need improvement and upgrades in line with Regional Equestrian Park guidelines.	• Review and prioritise prospective developments, with particular focus on cross-country upgrades, arena upgrades, provision of covered yards and improved shower and toilet facilities.

3.5 IMPLEMENTATION

As outlined in Section 3.2 – Equestrian Sector Priorities, leadership, collaboration and clarity of roles and responsibilities are all critical elements for the effective implementation of the strategy. The following key components are recommended to help guide the equine community.

1. EQUESTRIAN FACILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Purpose: the overarching purpose of the group is to support and guide the identified focus areas and oversee the advancement of priority projects.

Composition: it is advised that the group comprises representatives of a wide cross-section of the equestrian community (i.e. ESNZ, NZPCA, Royal Agricultural Society, New Zealand Riding for the Disabled, New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network and the Racing Industry) and includes key independent stakeholders (i.e. Councils or Regional Sports Trusts) – ideally totalling no more than eight members.

It is advisable that an independent chair is sought. This person should have the requisite skillset to establish the group and its required processes. They should also be impartial for transparency reasons. Sport NZ, alongside the current Project Steering Group, should help lead the groups establishment.

Key Roles and Responsibilities:

- Leadership/Direction: including upholding the integrity of the strategy in relation to suitable event allocation, supporting priority projects and collecting and sourcing data.
- Connect: be a conduit and connect equine groups either together or with key stakeholders relevant to their project and/or locality.
- Knowledge Sharing: assist equine groups on a range of topics. For instance, how to navigate politics and Council processes and funding strategies/opportunities.
- Resource: coordinate and assign resource development. This could include development of case studies, toolkits and/or human resource support.
- Advocacy: advocate as a collective equine group for advancing priority projects.
- Review: review the status of priority projects annually and reassess as needed to determine priority levels – using the assessment criteria in Appendix A as a consistent and objective tool.

  As new projects arise or non-prioritised projects evolve, the projects should be assessed using the criteria so focus remains where equine needs are the greatest.

2. INITIAL RESOURCE FOCUS

It is recommended initial focus be placed on developing a series of case studies to demonstrate, and in some cases conceptualise, how to best operate, develop and or establish equestrian facilities. Some key areas could include:

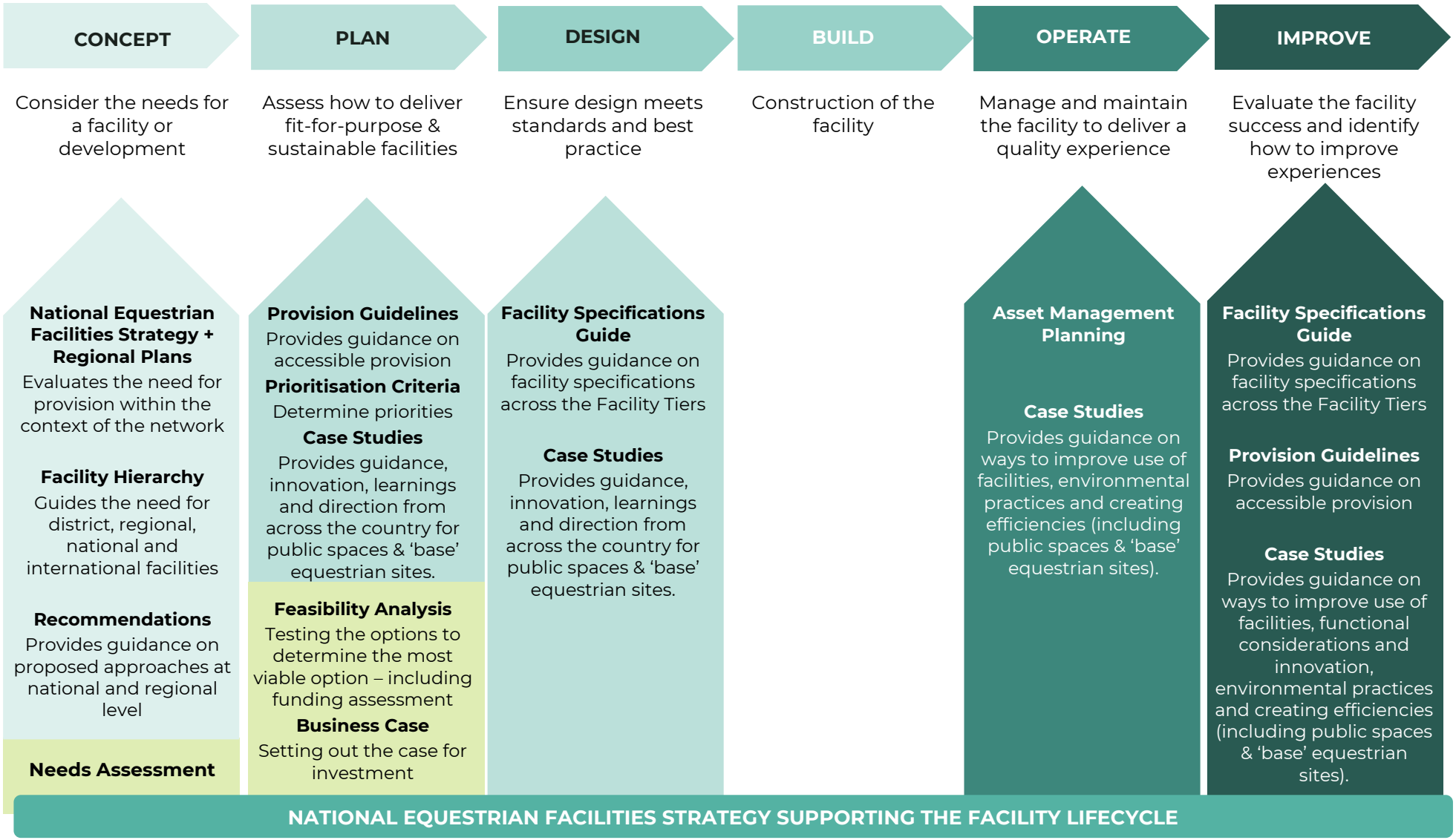
a. The development of equestrian facilities across different tiers (which demonstrate collaboration between groups to consolidate sites to deliver better quality facilities and experiences).
b. Outlining the wellbeing and economic impacts of equestrian activity (including day-to-day activity and events – across a range of equestrian facility types).
c. Outline how equine groups across a region are collaborating (or can collaborate) to provide a unified direction while demonstrating the collective value of the equine community. Where a full regional approach is desired, it is recommended more support is provided to drive these outcomes (across a range of potential support parties).
d. Demonstrate good practice examples of initiatives and interventions that are used to support equine activity on public open spaces. These examples should be tailored to support informing and working with Councils and Crown agencies to effectively deliver suitable and considered approaches.

3. PRIORITY PROJECTS

All priority projects will need to:

a. Use case studies to demonstrate value and to gain insights on how developments have progressed nationally.
b. Have high engagement and collaboration with landowners, Councils and Regional Sports Trusts.
c. Optimise the level of use and seek partnerships between equine groups and/or the wider community.
d. Seek support and guidance from the Equestrian Facility Advisory Group.
e. Follow the recommended next steps outlined in Section 3.4.

Sport New Zealand's Sporting Facilities Framework outlines six stages in the lifecycle of a facility. The diagram below outlines how the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy supports this lifecycle and how priority projects and public open space initiatives/projects advance through the outlined stages.





PART B | BACKGROUND CONTEXT

4.0 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

The diagram on the following page highlights the strategic context that the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy is placed within. Importantly, the Strategy and its identified priorities need to demonstrate alignment of how equestrian activity can facilitate sought outcomes across the wider sector.

As strategy and direction varies from region-to-region, it is important to understand the local setting and wider strategic context to help inform the way forward.



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Regional Spaces and Places Strategies

Council strategies, plans, policies and by-laws

Funder direction and outcomes



Direction from other equestrian groups

Central Government legislation and direction

Sport NZ National Facility Guidance

- Vision – "To enrich the lives of humans and horses through equestrian pursuits."
- Key focus areas include:
  a. Quality horse and human recreational experiences
  b. Quality horse and human competitive experiences
  c. World winning performances

While facilities are recognised as being critical in supporting these focus areas, specific facility references in the Statement of Strategic Intent include National Equestrian Centres recognised as a national lead on environmental practices; events are held at venues that meet the facility criteria.

FEI

EQUESTRIAN SPORTS NEW ZEALAND

Equestrian Sport

- Mission – "NZPCA exists so that young people can participate in and enjoy equestrian activities, while being knowledgeable and safe.
- Key strategic outcomes that directly relate to the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy include:
  a. Improve rider performance and opportunities.
  b. Communicate and collaborate.

NEW ZEALAND PONY CLUB

MISSION NZPCA exists so that young people can participate in and enjoy equestrian activities

- Vision – "Enabling women and girls to realise their potential in and through sport and active recreation."
- Three key priority areas that underpin the strategy:
  1. Leadership – more women and girls are leading, working, coaching and volunteering at all levels.
  2. Participation – more women and girls are physically active.
  3. Value and Visibility – women and girls in sport and active recreation are valued and visible.

WOMEN AND GIRLS

- Focus placed on tamariki (5-11 years) and rangatahi (12-18).
- This phase of life provides the greatest chance of establishing lifelong involvement in Play, Active Recreation and Sport (through quality experiences).

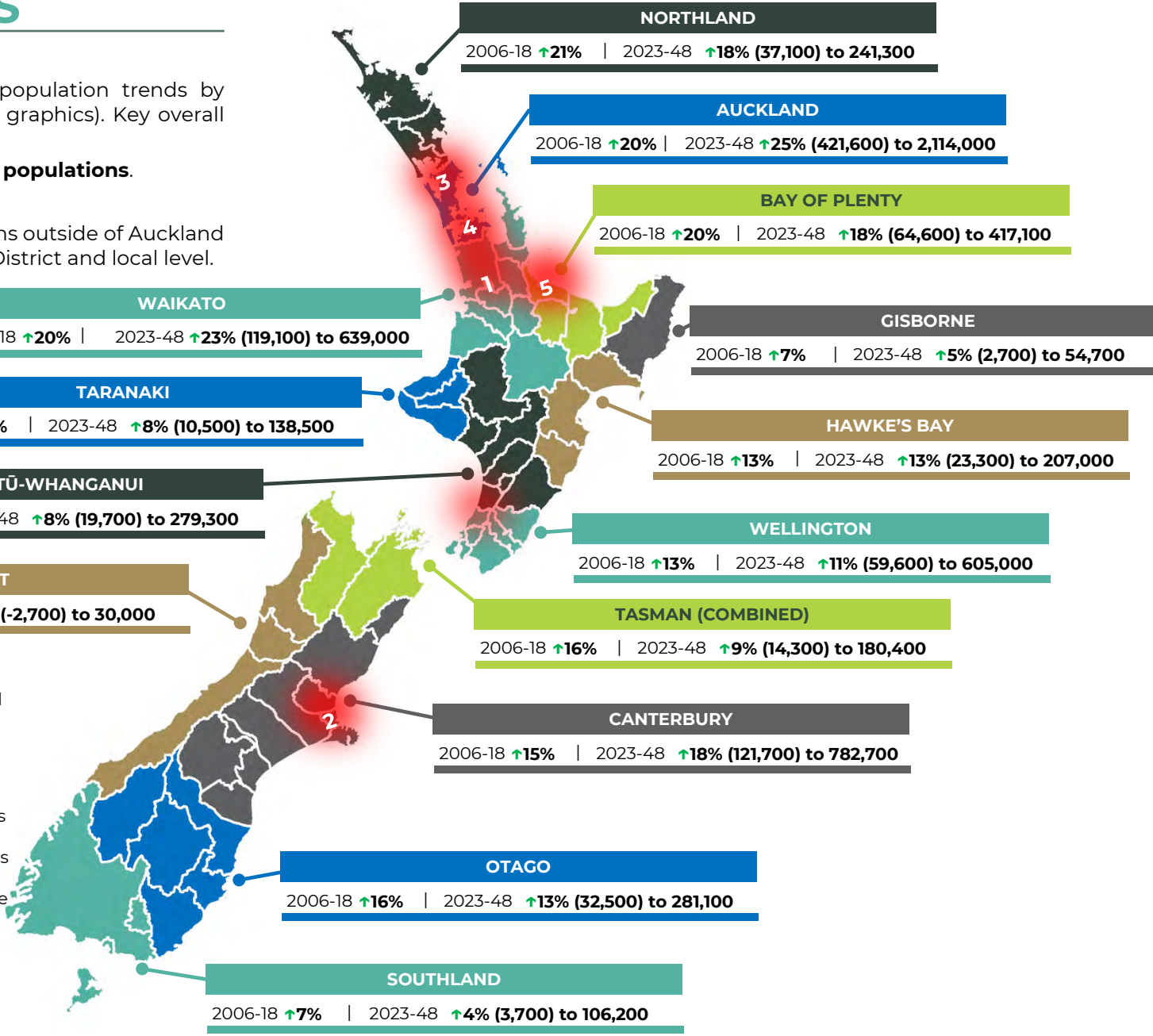


5.0 DEMOGRAPHICS

This section provides a high-level overview of population trends by Regional Council area (as shown in the map and graphics). Key overall national trends include:

- Most areas are projected to have **slow growing populations**.
- Slowly **aging population** profiles.
- **European ethnic predominance** in most regions outside of Auckland and Gisborne, with variance evident at a more District and local level.

Note: regional insights are outlined in Part E.



PROJECTED POPULATION HOTSPOTS

By 2048 the top-5 projected population growth hotspots (numerically) are in three cities (Hamilton, Christchurch, and Tauranga) and two areas in Auckland which are more rural (Rodney and Franklin Local Boards) – highlighted on the map.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Careful consideration needs to be given to demographics, as population growth may increase the potential 'market' for equestrians, it may also bring land pressures on certain areas (i.e. intensification in urban areas), wider land demands and private site sales (because of the financial returns) – alternate delivery approaches may therefore need to be explored. These pressures have been evident over the last two decades with farmland decreasing by 13%. While an aging population may present opportunities for some equestrian offerings, younger rider programmes will need to increase their profile to attract new members within a smaller 'market'.

6.0 WEATHER IMPACTS

Weather is a critical variable that needs to be considered when determining the location of equestrian sites and the type of facilities needed.

From one viewpoint, the provision of equestrian land can be advantageous by maintaining large permeable areas to absorb heavy rainfall and flooding (particularly on sites located in low lying areas or located in areas subject to high rainfall). Many equestrian-leased sites are located on land that is susceptible to flooding which is why they are typically not used for other purposes.

However, from a sport and recreation perspective, having low resilient sites (i.e. located in a flood plain, sea-level rising and erosion) creates uncertainty of use, can cause notable damage (with potential cost ramifications), leads to ongoing maintenance issues, and impacts the overall participant experience and possibly effect horse welfare.

WEATHER PATTERNS

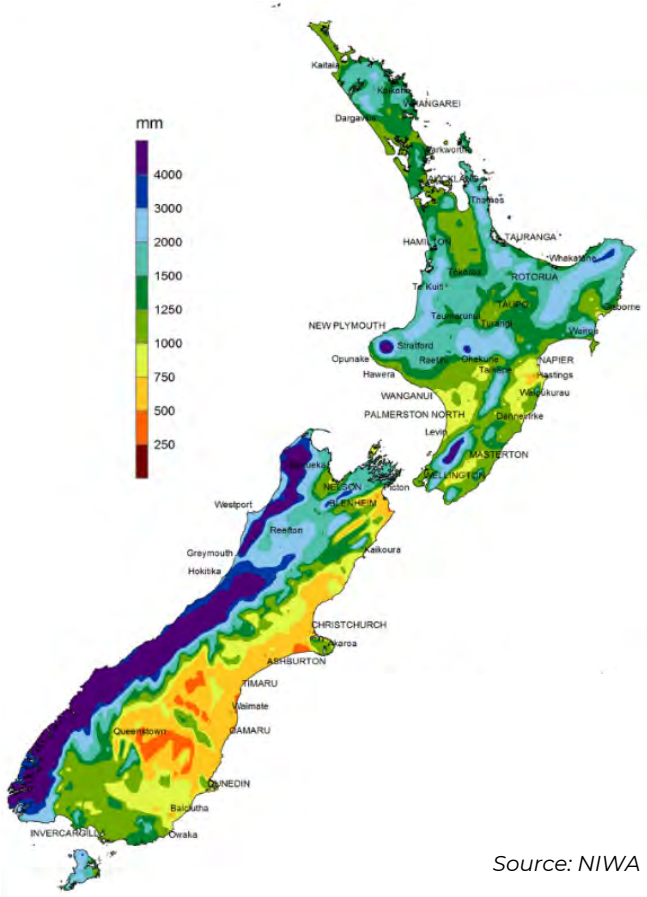
Figure 6.1 shows national median annual rainfall levels over a 30-year period from 1981-2010. This demonstrates there are relatively high rainfall areas on the west coast of the South Island and in pockets of high lying and coastal areas of the North Island.

When analysing more recent weather trends, parts of the North Island in particular, have experienced high monthly rainfall during the main event/show season. This has negatively impacted equestrian activity (casually, organised activity and events). Assuming this level of rainfall continues to be prevalent regardless of traditional seasons, equestrian facilities need to be more resilient and capable of responding to emerging issues.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- We need resilient sites with suitable access, reduced recovery times (so surfaces can bounce back), and more resistant to damage to reduce repair costs and associated volunteer time.
- To increase certainty of participation we need suitable surfaces (i.e. good draining natural arenas and all-weather arenas) and indoor/covered facilities that are accessible.
- To support equine welfare (suitable footing and support infrastructure) and the quality of rider/handling experiences.
- Increase the certainty of hosting competitions and shows (and avoid potential financial risks from cancellations and reduced participation).
- Locate as many trails as possible in areas less susceptible to high rainfall (while still developing suitable surfaces and undertaking regular maintenance to provide safe and positive experiences).

FIGURE 6.1 – NATIONAL MEDIAN ANNUAL RAINFALL (1981-2010)

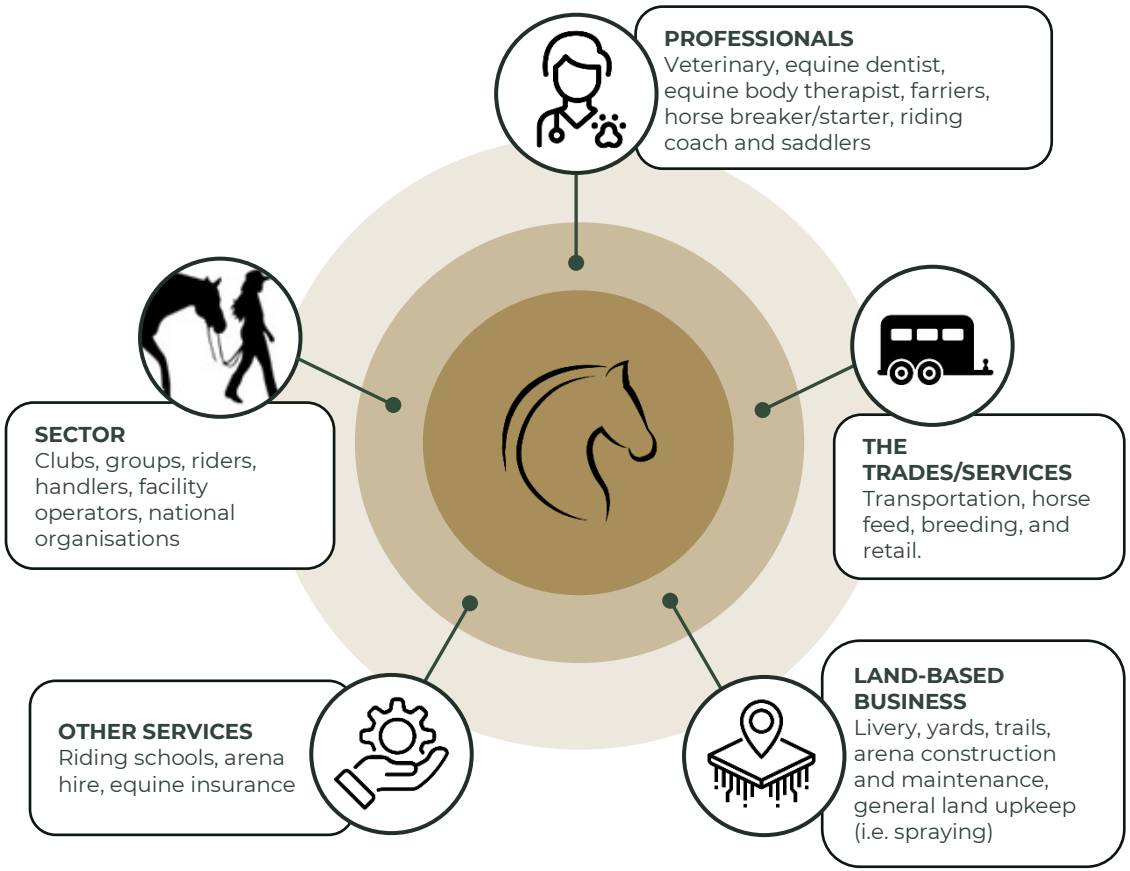


Source: NIWA

7.0 ECONOMIC IMPACT & FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

Equestrian activity goes well beyond the realms of sport and active recreation – for most, it is a way of life. Equestrian activity operates within a wider industry and supply chain. It makes a substantial economic contribution to local, regional, and national economies, which sets it apart from many other sport and recreation activities. Some of the key components of the equestrian supply chain are highlighted in Figure 7.1.

FIGURE 7.1 – KEY COMPONENTS OF THE EQUESTRIAN SUPPLY CHAIN



7.1 ECONOMIC IMPACT

Various economic impact reports have been commissioned over the last decade within the horse racing and equestrian industries – both in New Zealand and abroad. While the most recent equestrian report was completed in 2012, it provides contextual understanding to demonstrate the monetary value of the activity, in addition to the inherent health and wellbeing outcomes.

In 2012, an economic report of the New Zealand Sport Horse Industry was completed by Alex Matheson and Michèle E.M. Akoorie. While there are limitations to this analysis, it provides insights on the level and type of spend associated with sports horses.

The greatest level of expenditure was associated with annual vehicle expenses and maintenance ($2,780), followed by grazing, agistment or livery ($1,350), feed ($1,220) and farrier or hoof trimmer costs ($1,000).

The study found the average cost per horse was $12,457 per annum (2012). Note that these costs do not include capital expenses (i.e. horse, property and/or floats/trucks). When applying general CPI inflation to the average cost per horse of $12,457 this would equate to around $16,000 per horse annually in 2023.

NATIONAL IMPACT

On average, National Equestrian 'Have Your Say' respondents indicated they own 2.3 horses which are used for informal and formal equestrian activity.

ESNZ and NZPCA membership total 14,754, translating to 33,934 horses. Based on all the above assumptions from the economic impact report, it is expected that the equestrian community are investing around $543 million annually (potentially up to $800 million if there are around 50,000 sport horses nationally). This is largely into local and regional economies (depending on travel and available services within a particular area).

When also considering the economic impact from events, capital purchases and breeding, there is significant economic and social benefit derived from supporting and facilitation equestrian activity.

A WAY OF LIFE

There are some misconceptions in the wider public that equestrian-activity is elitist. Although participation costs are relatively high due to the nature of the activity (both in terms of participant and equine needs), for many it is their lifestyle, and they are choosing to prioritise equestrian expenditure.

In a survey undertaken by Equestrian Sport New Zealand, 27% of respondents have a household income of under $70,000, while a further 26% were over $150,000. To enable comparative insights, the average annual household income in 2021 was $111,000.

The 'way of life' can be further demonstrated in Ōpōtiki, Bay of Plenty. Visual surveys undertaken across the township have identified around 140 horses. Horses are invariably located or tethered on any vacant land within close walking distance to where the riders reside. Many are used for local recreational rides and/or used as a mode of transport in an area of high deprivation.

7.2 FINANCIAL INSIGHTS

The following insights were gained from a mix equestrian clubs/groups and facility operators.

- **Short-term financial outlook is relatively positive** with 26% forecast to make a surplus and 57% to breakeven.
- **Medium-term financial outlook is more negative** with 59% forecasting to remain stable and 27% to worsen or become more challenging.
- Operating grants on average only comprise 17% of total revenue – **limited reliance on funding**.
- Most respondents are **operating on lean revenue**, with 66% of entities receiving annual income between $0-25,000. Subsequently, this necessitates prudent cost management through volunteers, contra and in-kind services, but can also result in **deferring facility maintenance and renewals**.

7.3 FUNDING CLIMATE

GRANT FUNDING

Operational and capital funding into equestrian activity from Class 4 grant funders (gaming machines in pubs and clubs outside of a casino setting) totalled $2 million and $2.7 million in 2019 and 2022 respectively. Note COVID-impacted years have been excluded for analysis purposes.

Additionally, from 2018 to 2022, $726,000 was granted from Lotteries into equestrian capital projects.

While there is variability in recipient activity over time, Riding for the Disabled is the primary beneficiary with 36% of total equestrian funding in 2019 and 52% of funding in 2022. While 99% of Lotteries capital funding was attributed to RDA/therapy projects.

All other equestrian activity varies significantly year-on-year, with varying proportions and changing rank between pony club, ESNZ disciplines and other types of equestrian-related activity.

When factoring in all horse activity (including racing), equestrian-related activity accounts for around 63% of grant funds received. While the success rate of funding application is between 66-73% (with RDA showing a high success rate).

FUNDING DIRECTION

As the funding landscape continues to be constrained, it is important to understand where funders are targeting their investment. In general terms, the following are key aspects funders have cited:

- Maximise investment value through multisport or community hub projects. For equestrian, this could include shared trails, collocation (multiple clubs, groups, disciplines, and activities) other use of facilities/land (i.e. cross-country running, dog obedience or archery), and other partnership opportunities.
- Fund into low socio-economic areas and increasing equity.
- Funders are less inclined to invest into private facilities as there is a perceived inherent risk. This is mainly associated with improving land or capital value which could be sold with no guarantee financial gain is attributed to community benefit.
- Need to demonstrate high community value with secured tenure – providing some assurance that funding is being granted in the right place and for an extended period.
- Funders will concentrate distributing most of their funds into the communities it was generated within and aligned to local/regional strategies and plans.



PART C | EQUESTRIAN SETTING

8.0 EQUESTRIAN PARTICIPATION

SUMMARY

- There are around 15,000 ESNZ and NZPCA annual members nationally.
- In total, annually it is estimated there are around 49,000 participating equestrians. Notable variances were evident between membership levels and total equestrian numbers in Nelson, Gisborne, Northland, Manawatū-Whanganui, Otago, and Wellington (far higher expected rates of participation than current membership levels suggest).
- Membership has shown an overall decline over the last 5-years. However, this has stabilised over the last 3-years.
- Key membership features include being primarily female (92%) and a relatively even age-distribution between children, youth and adults.
- Equestrians are multi-disciplinary and typically engage in numerous forms of organised and unstructured equestrian activity (1.9 member affiliations per equestrian).
- Showjumping is the most popular discipline from a membership and event registration perspective.
- The primary membership catchments include Auckland, Canterbury, Waikato, and Wellington (50% of ESNZ and NZPCA membership).
- Other hotspots include Whangarei, New Plymouth, Hastings, Tasman and Southland Districts, and Dunedin City.
- 70% of survey respondents graze their horses and/or ponies at their residential address, with lower proportions evident in larger urban areas.
- More localised facility provision is required for rallies and training purposes (under 30 minutes travel time). There is willingness to travel to attend local and regional shows/events.

8.1 NATIONAL OVERVIEW

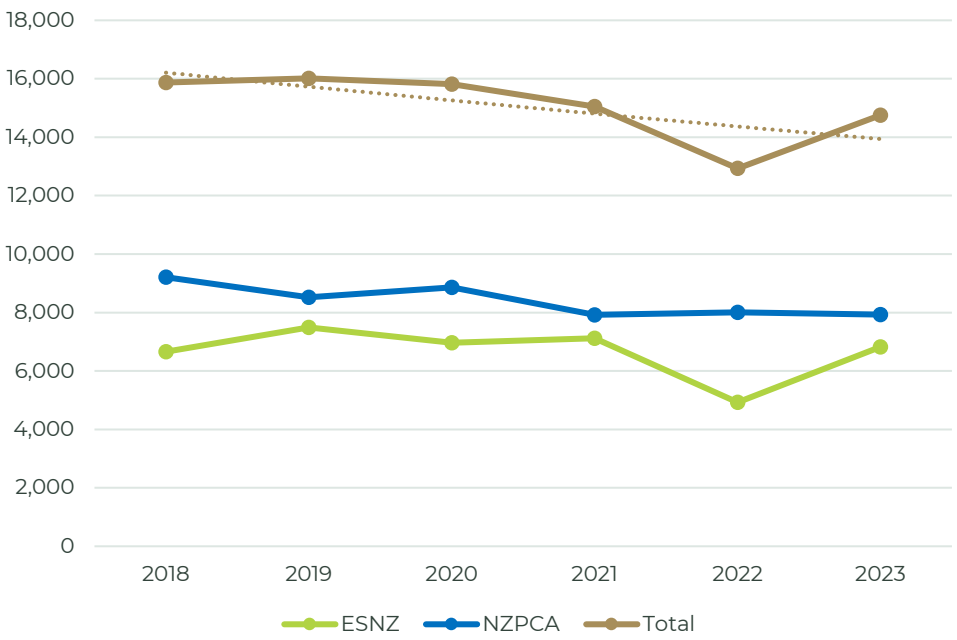
MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

Figure 8.1 shows 5-year membership trends for ESNZ and NZPCA. Key findings include:

- There are around 15,000 registered national equestrian members.
- Overall, there has been 7% decline in membership over the last 5-years.
- This decline is attributed to pony club membership with a decrease of 14%. Over the same period ESNZ membership experienced 3% growth.
- In more recent years, these trends have slightly changed:
    a. Some volatility in ESNZ membership with a large drop in 2022. Although membership has bounced back and more in line with 2020 and 2021 levels. Overall, 2% decline over the last 3-years.
    b. The rate of decline has reduced over time for NZPCA membership. After a large drop-off in 2021, membership has remained very stable around 8,000 annual members.

Note: the number of ESNZ members differs in Figure 8.1 compared to other membership references throughout the remainder of the strategy. Figure 8.1 includes all membership types for comparative analysis over the 5-years, while all other figures contained are represented as individual riding members.

FIGURE 8.1 – 5-YEAR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TRENDS



8.2 MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

The overall membership profile for ESNZ and NZPCA is summarised below:

ESNZ	33%	44%	
	AGED UNDER 18	AGED 19-50	92% FEMALE
NZPCA	45%	44%	
	AGED UNDER 18	AGED 26+	93% FEMALE

ACTIVITY INSIGHTS

Table 8.1 outlines the breakdown in ESNZ discipline membership registrations. This analysis shows:

- Jumping has the largest discipline affiliation with 57% of all members.
- 48% of jumping members also have discipline affiliation with show hunter – indicating strong pollination between the disciplines.
- Dressage also has a notable proportion of total membership affiliations with 46%.
- The lowest proportion of membership relates to Eventing (30%) and Endurance/CTR (5%). There is a direct link with the number of sites which can accommodate this activity. Due to the land required to facilitate the activity, access is typically more restricted and confined to private landownership.
- When undertaking further analysis at an individual equestrian level, 41% of ESNZ members are affiliated to more than one discipline.
- Members who affiliate to both jumping and showhunter (as their only disciplines) accounts for 13% of total membership/or 31% of all multi-discipline equestrians).
- While 19% are affiliated with three or more disciplines.

TABLE 8.1 – ESNZ DISCIPLINE BREAKDOWN

DISCIPLINE	REGISTRATION	%
Dressage	2,036	46%
Endurance/CTR	200	5%
Eventing	1,348	30%
Jumping	2,548	57%
Showhunter	1,399	31%

In additional to multi-disciplinary affiliations evident across ESNZ members, the National Equestrian 'Have Your Say' survey further highlights cross-equine activity membership (see Table 8.2).

While the range of activity cited varied extensively, the strongest proportion of membership affiliation was associated with ESNZ (48%), NZPCA (43%) and adult riding clubs (40%) – all others were less than 11%.

TABLE 8.2 – OVERVIEW OF EQUESTRIAN MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATIONS

42%	58%	17%
ONE AFFILIATION	2+ AFFILIATIONS	3 AFFILIATIONS
1.9		
AVERAGE NUMBER OF AFFILIATIONS PER EQUESTRIAN		

It is important to recognise and understand the impact of multiple affiliations. It demonstrates a strong willingness (where possible) to be involved in various equine-related opportunities.

While in isolation membership numbers may appear relatively low compared to other sport and recreation codes, multiple affiliations directly translate into higher facility use (day-to-day and event activity use). This translates into greater demand pressures and can necessitate needing to have different facility requirements/specifications to be fit-for-purpose for the different activities.

8.3 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Table 8.3 outlines the breakdown of ESNZ and NZPCA membership by Regional Council boundaries (this dataset is used for benchmarking purposes. This data is also presented in Maps 8.1 and 8.2. The geographic spread of membership is critical to understand possible demand pressures and facility catchments. Key findings include:

- 50% of membership is located in Auckland, Canterbury, Waikato and Wellington.
- 22% of membership is located in Auckland, comprising 24% of total pony club and 18% of ESNZ membership.
- There are high levels of equestrian engagement relative to population in Marlborough, Otago, Southland, Taranaki, and Tasman (further detailed in Part C and Part D).
- When taking a more geographically refined approach:
    a. The greatest level of membership resides in the Rodney Local Board in Auckland (836 members).
    b. The next banding is the closely connected areas of Franklin Local Board in Auckland and Waikato District (591 and 556 members respectively).
    c. The third largest banding includes both the Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts surrounding Christchurch City (470 and 436 members respectively).
    d. Outside of Auckland, Canterbury and Waikato, other high specific member concentrations are in Whangarei, New Plymouth, Hastings, Tasman and Southland Districts, and Dunedin City.

TABLE 8.3 – 2022 MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN BY REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA

REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA	PONY CLUB MEMBERS	ESNZ MEMBERS	TOTAL
Auckland	1,891	883	**2,774**
Bay of Plenty	424	299	**723**
Canterbury	1,125	845	**1,970**
Gisborne	40	102	**142**
Hawke's Bay	234	272	**506**
Manawatū-Whanganui	361	276	**637**
Northland	344	231	**575**
Otago	648	280	**928**
Southland	318	176	**494**
Taranaki	398	155	**553**
Tasman	273	243	**516**
Waikato	1,027	760	**1,787**
Wellington	562	424	**986**
West Coast	111	5	**116**
Overall	**7,756**[1]	**4,951**[2]	**12,707**

Note: more breakdown within each region is outlined in Part D – Regional Insights.

DRIVE TIME INSIGHTS

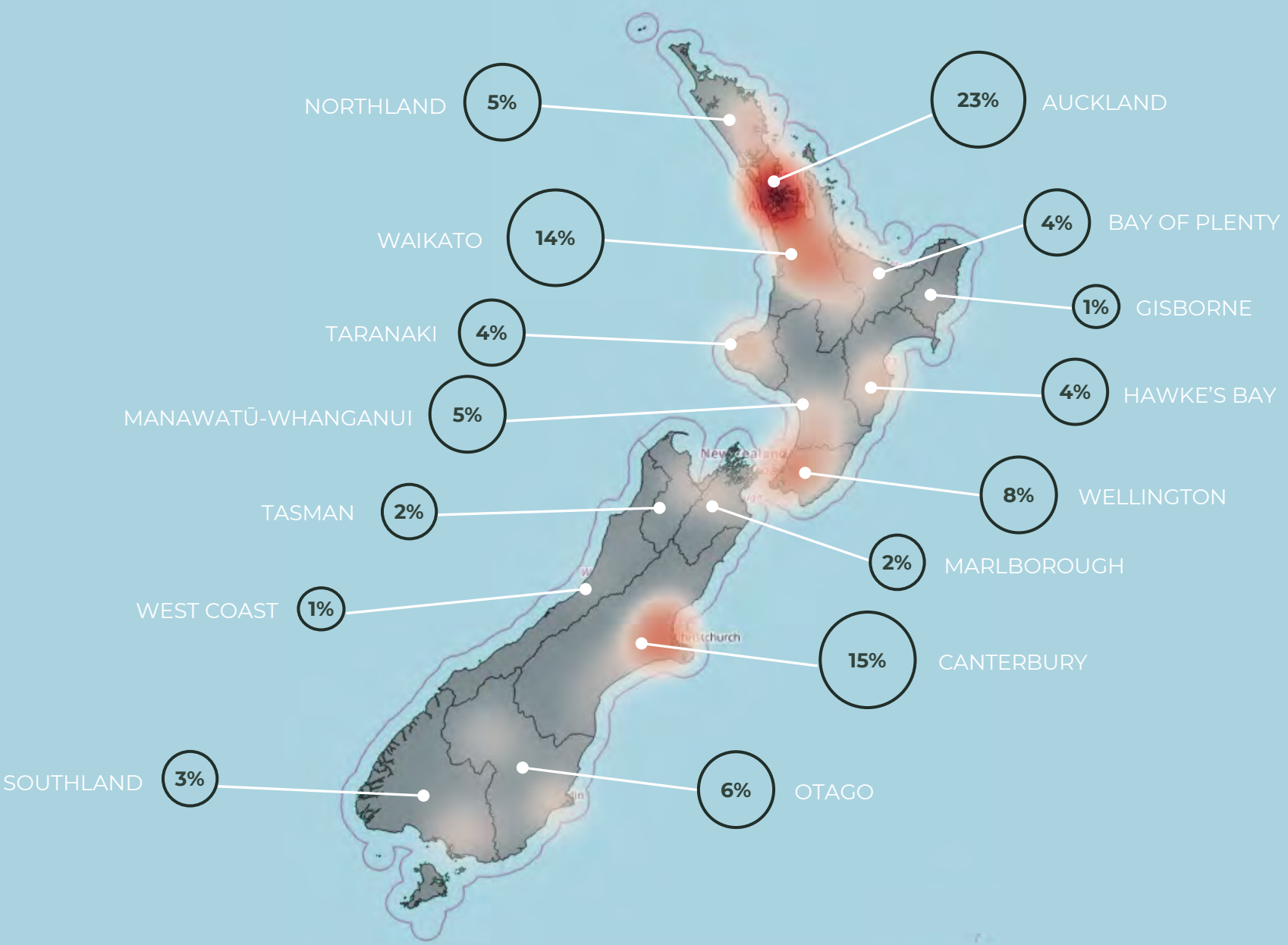
Typical drive times vary depending on the type of equestrian activity/event. Distinct geographic variability also influences drive times.

- **Rallies/Trainings** - in more rural settings, a high proportion of equestrians travel 1-30 minutes. While in larger urban settings, there is a higher proportion driving 16-45 minutes. For both settings, the largest cohort drive 16-30 minutes.
- **Local Shows/Events** – rural settings show a lower drive time for attendance (16-45 mins) compared to larger urban settings (31-60 mins).
- **Regional Shows/Events** – equestrians regardless of setting are largely prepared to travel 60+ minutes to attend regional shows/events. Although slightly lower in rural settings.
- **Horse Welfare/Heath Services** – follows a similar trend to regional shows/events – depends on infrastructure and services available in different areas of the country.

Note: for comparative purposes, this analysis is based on drive times from grazing sites. Section 7.4 outlines further insights on drive times to grazing sites (where this is required).

[1] There is a slight overall discrepancy with overall NZPCA membership (Section 8.1) as detailed membership records were prepared mid-season and some records could not be assigned to a particular geographic area.

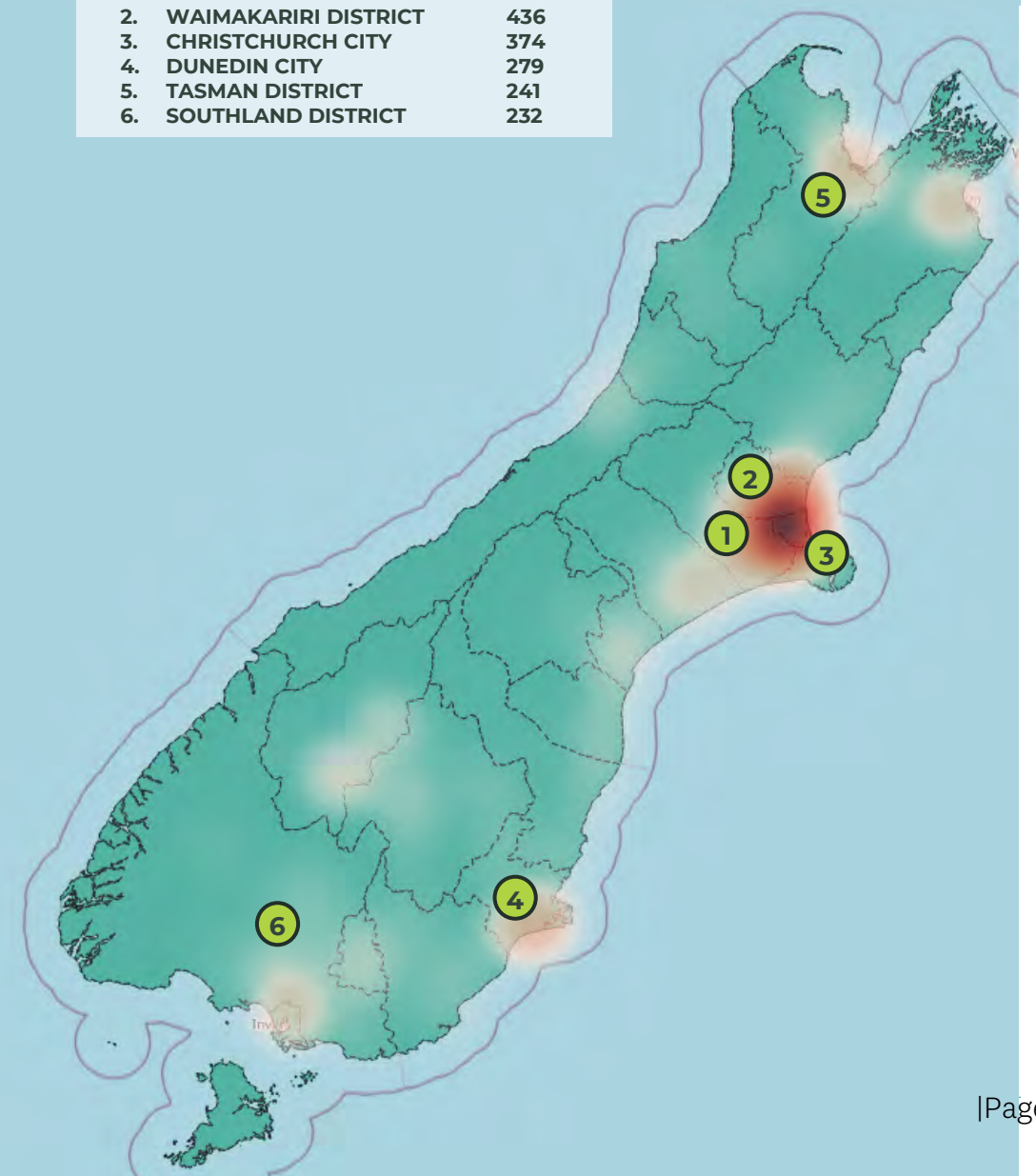
[2] Note this dataset represents all individual rider registrations only, and therefore shows a discrepancy with overall ESNZ membership detailed in Table 8.1 (where members can be affiliated to multiple disciplines).

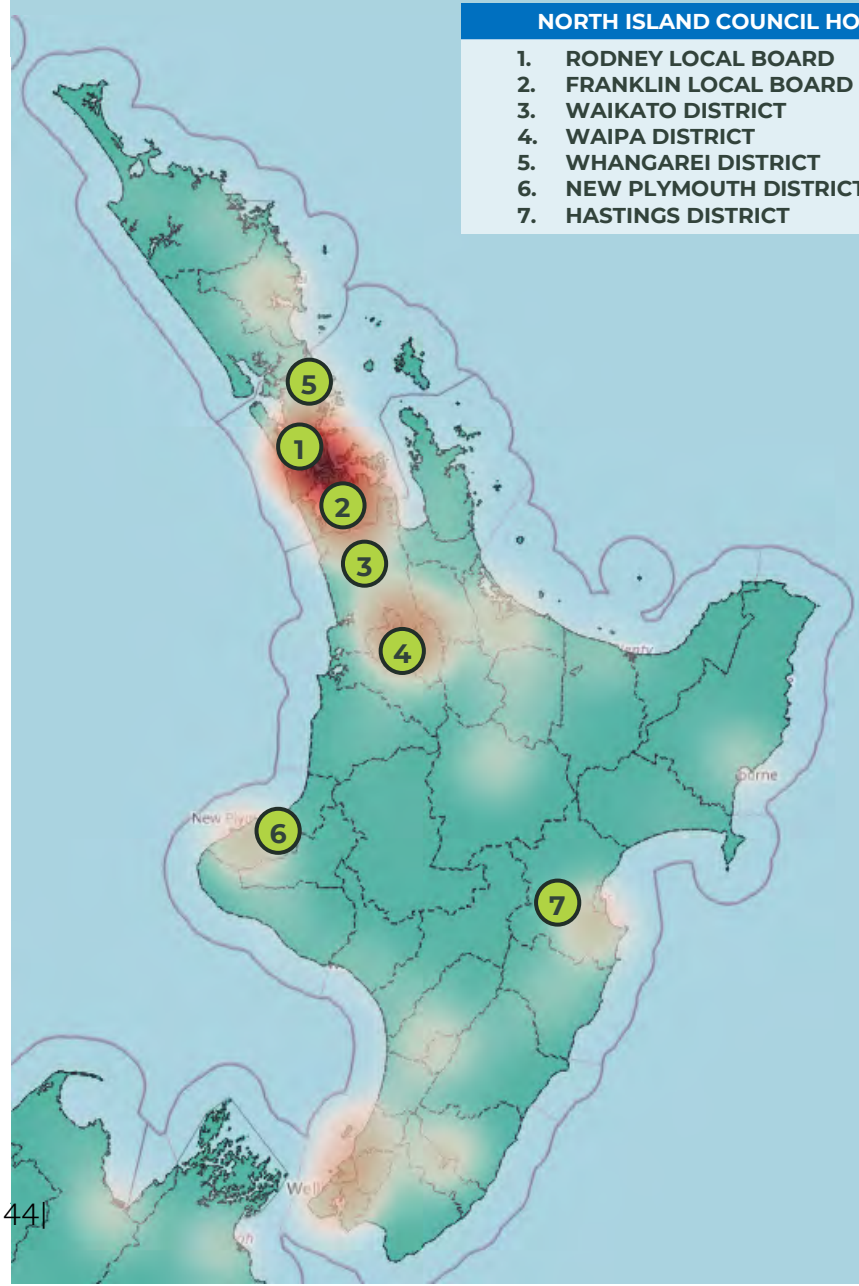


11,890 USABLE & CLEANSED DATA POINTS

SOUTH ISLAND COUNCIL HOTSPOTS		
1.	SELWYN DISTRICT	470
2.	WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT	436
3.	CHRISTCHURCH CITY	374
4.	DUNEDIN CITY	279
5.	TASMAN DISTRICT	241
6.	SOUTHLAND DISTRICT	232

NORTH ISLAND COUNCIL HOTSPOTS		
1.	RODNEY LOCAL BOARD	836
2.	FRANKLIN LOCAL BOARD	591
3.	WAIKATO DISTRICT	556
4.	WAIPA DISTRICT	359
5.	WHANGAREI DISTRICT	329
6.	NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT	322
7.	HASTINGS DISTRICT	303





8.4 GRAZING SITES

While the residential addresses provide a general overview of where the membership is concentrated, the location of grazing sites for horses and ponies is of more importance to the equestrian facility network.

Grazing sites provide more in depth understanding of where horses and ponies are located across the regions, their location relative to equestrian facilities and overall travel time for members to participate.

Table 8.4 provides analysis sourced through the National Equestrian 'Have Your Say' survey.

SUMMARY

- Overall, 70% of survey respondents graze their horses and/or ponies at their residential address.
- Lower proportions of home grazing sites are associated with larger metropolitan areas – notably Auckland, Wellington and around Dunedin to a lesser extent (63-65% respectively). The West Coast has the lowest proportion (55%) but has a low sample size.
- With 70% of grazing occurring at residential addresses, the geographic distribution of membership shown in Maps 8.1 and 8.2 should generally resemble geographic grazing patterns.
- Survey respondents indicated they typically travel between 1-15 minutes to their grazing site (where applicable). More refined analysis shows higher drive times from the resident address to the grazing site in Auckland, Tauranga, and Wellington.
- Distance and associated drive times to grazing sites can in some places be a barrier to participation i.e. large urban areas (because of time and cost constraints). The introduction and use of riding schools may become more prevalent to help reduce these barriers and to maintain or grow equestrian participation (through removing horse/pony ownership).

TABLE 8.4 – GRAZING SITE BREAKDOWN

REGIONAL COUNCIL	HOME GRAZING	OTHER SITE	BOTH	TOTAL	% HOME
Auckland	306	164	33	503	**63%**
Bay of Plenty	273	116	2	391	**70%**
Canterbury	285	107	17	409	**71%**
East Coast	15	2	3	20	**78%**
Hawkes Bay	58	23	4	85	**70%**
Manawatū-Whanganui	128	46	10	184	**71%**
Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough	102	39	9	150	**70%**
Northland	148	26	16	190	**80%**
Otago	119	54	17	190	**66%**
Southland	53	9	5	67	**81%**
Taranaki	292	117	2	411	**71%**
Waikato	263	61	22	346	**77%**
Wellington	74	42	3	119	**63%**
West Coast	16	12	6	34	**55%**
Total	**1631**	**614**	**149**	**2394**	**70%**

8.5 EVENTS

Events play a significant role in the delivery of equestrian experiences. Forming an overall picture of events and registrations is difficult because multiple IT platforms are used and no consolidated event schedule exists. Insights gained from available data sources include:

- On average, equestrian sites are used 9 days annually for events. There is considerable variability ranging from 1 day up to 80 annual event days (with the largest bracket being under 5 annual event days).
- Of ESNZ affiliated events, dressage has the highest number of scheduled events within the season, followed by jumping & showhunter, eventing and endurance/CTR – see Table 8.5.

  Auckland, Canterbury, and Waikato account for 50% of all scheduled events. This pattern is not evident with Endurance/CTR primarily due

to large land requirements. Marlborough, Manawatū-Whanganui, and Wellington were other prominent areas (there were no Auckland events). There is also a high number of jumping and showhunter events scheduled in Manawatū-Whanganui and Northland.

- Across a sample of 171 equestrian sites used by various equestrian activities, event registrations follow the same pattern as ESNZ discipline registrations. On average (combining pony club, discipline and other clubs/groups), each site had around 763 annual show jumping registrations (across 76 sites - ranging up to 10,299 at Woodhill Sands), 614 annual dressage registrations (across 54 sites - ranging up to 5,533 at NEC Taupo), 212 eventing registrations (across 63 sites - up to 1,269 at NEC Taupo) and 22 endurance/CTR registrations (across 24 sites - up to 54 at Wairau Valley, Marlborough).
- Event hosting at equestrian sites is vast and includes the disciplines listed above (across numerous levels) and extends further into Pleasure Horse, Miniature Horse, Showing, Gymkhana, ribbon days and Show Hacks.

TABLE 8.5 – ESNZ SCHEDULED EVENTS OVERVIEW – 2022/23 SEASON

REGIONAL COUNCIL	DRESSAGE	ENDURANCE / CTR	EVENTING	JUMPING & SHOWHUNTER	TOTAL
Auckland	26	-	8	23	**57**
Bay of Plenty	8	1	2	7	**18**
Canterbury	29	5	12	15	**61**
Gisborne	9	-	-	4	**13**
Hawke's Bay	9	-	4	6	**19**
Manawatū-Whanganui	8	4	2	15	**29**
Marlborough	3	7	-	3	**13**
Northland	10	-	2	12	**24**
Otago	8	3	2	2	**15**
Southland	5	-	5	3	**13**
Taranaki	2	-	1	5	**8**
Tasman	6	-	-	3	**9**
Waikato	30	4	8	20	**62**
Wellington	9	5	2	6	**22**
Total	**162**	**29**	**48**	**124**	**363**

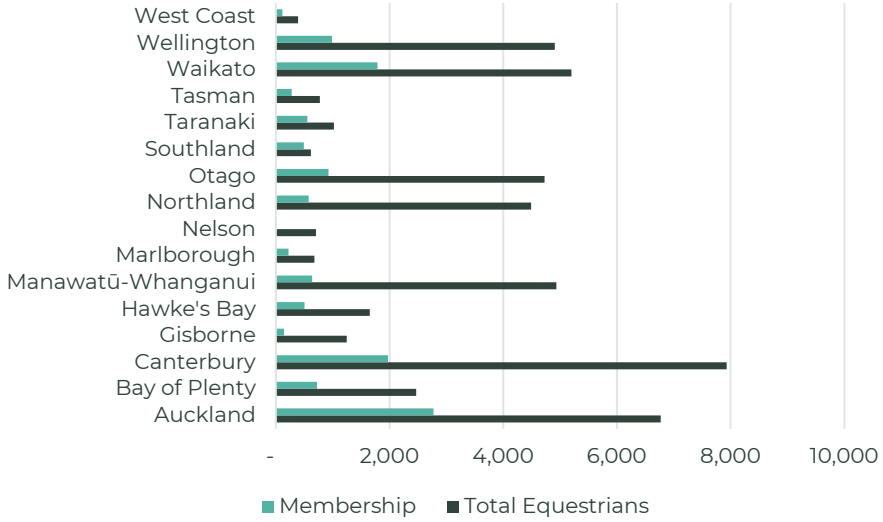
8.6 WIDER EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITY

It is important to recognise that there is a high concentration of horse riding and leading which occurs outside of ESNZ and NZPCA membership. This includes activity which is more informal in nature (non-structured or membership based). Most will be using the same equestrian facilities as ESNZ and NZPCA members.

To assist with providing a broad overview of equestrian participants, the Sport New Zealand Insights Tool has been used to calculate the 'expected number' of equestrians. Nationally there are 48,517 expected equestrians.

Using a statistical sample, an expected participation rate for each area of the country has been calculated and applied against the population. Figure 8.3 shows the expected number of equestrians alongside ESNZ/NZPCA membership. This is further detailed in Part D – Regional Insights.

FIGURE 8.3 – EXPECTED NUMBER OF EQUESTRIAN PARTICIPANTS



9.0 EQUESTRIAN FACILITY PROVISION

Due to the vast and complex nature of equestrian facilities across the country, the full inventory of facilities has been compiled separately (not fully detailed in the strategy) and stored in Sport New Zealand's Online Facility Planning Tool.

Facility information is summarised in the **Facility Dashboard** on the following page and mapped with high-level detail in **Part D: Regional Insights**.

To focus analysis and to support benchmarking insights across the country, attention was placed on 'primary equestrian sites'. For clarity, these are equestrian sites that are most regularly used by pony clubs and ESNZ disciplines. In total, 264 sites were identified. An additional 176 sites were also considered for wider contextual understanding.

KEY NATIONAL INSIGHTS

From a national perspective, the Facility Dashboard identifies the following (from available data sources):

- There is an extremely **high proportion** of all facility types that are perceived to be in **average condition**. When coupling this with the level of facilities already in poor condition, **substantial investment is likely to be required** across the full facility network. Not addressing facility issues will result in poor user experiences and potentially impact equine welfare.
- There are **slightly higher perceived condition issues** with **ancillary facilities** (i.e. clubroom/event facilities and changing rooms/toilets) than 'core' equine-related facilities (arena and yards/stables).
- There is **available capacity** within the equestrian network across **all activity areas** (outdoor arena, indoor arena and cross-country).
- **Levels of use vary significantly from site-to-site**, averaging 110 annual training days and 9 annual event days. Many sites only counted formal use. As 49% of members indicated they use these sites at least weekly, with 19% 3+ times a week, the level of use is therefore understated. More data and analysis is needed at a local site level to provide a more accurate use profile.
- The **facility network is aging** with a high proportion of sites over **30+ years**. The condition of facilities in many cases is commensurate to their age.
- **Councils are the main landowner** (45%), followed by private (26%) and A&P Societies (11%).
- While the majority of landownership sits with Council and private owners (71%), **managing and maintaining facility assets is predominately borne by clubs/groups** (70%).
- There is a relatively **high proportion of sites with tenure concerns** (29%). This mainly relates to landownership with land value/financial return, pressures for repurposing land (i.e. housing developments), the nature of Council leases (renewal processes coupled with land demand in certain areas of the country) and reliance on private owners continuing to provide business and community services/access.
- There is **wide geographic coverage** across the country.
- 2 National Equestrian Centres under operation of ESNZ.

FIGURE 9.1 – EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK OVERVIEW



PRIMARY EQUESTRIAN SITES	264	Used by ESNZ disciplines and Pony Clubs as 'primary sites'	INSIGHTS RECEIVED ON EQUESTRIAN SITES	440

INSIGHTS RELATING TO PRIMARY EQUESTRIAN SITES

CONDITION INSIGHT	ARENA		YARDS/STABLES		CLUBROOM/EVENT		CHANGING/TOILETS	
	12%	38%	11%	38%	20%	40%	15%	42%
	POOR CONDITION	AVERAGE CONDITION	POOR CONDITION	AVERAGE CONDITION	POOR CONDITION	AVERAGE CONDITION	POOR CONDITION	AVERAGE CONDITION

CAPACITY	OUTDOOR ARENA	INDOOR ARENA	CROSS – COUNTRY	AVERAGE USE	
	66%	82%	67%	110 ANNUAL	9 ANNUAL
	AVAILABLE CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY	AVAILABLE CAPACITY	TRAINING DAYS	EVENT DAYS

	COUNCIL	PRIVATE	A&P SOCIETY	CLUB / GROUP
LANDOWNERSHIP	45%	28%	10%	7%
MANAGE & MAINTAIN	10%	10%	10%	70%

AGE & TENURE	30+ YEARS	20-29 YEARS	10-19 YEARS	5-9 YEARS	UNDER 5 YEARS	TENURE UNCERTAINTY
	57%	19%	13%	6%	5%	 29%

9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

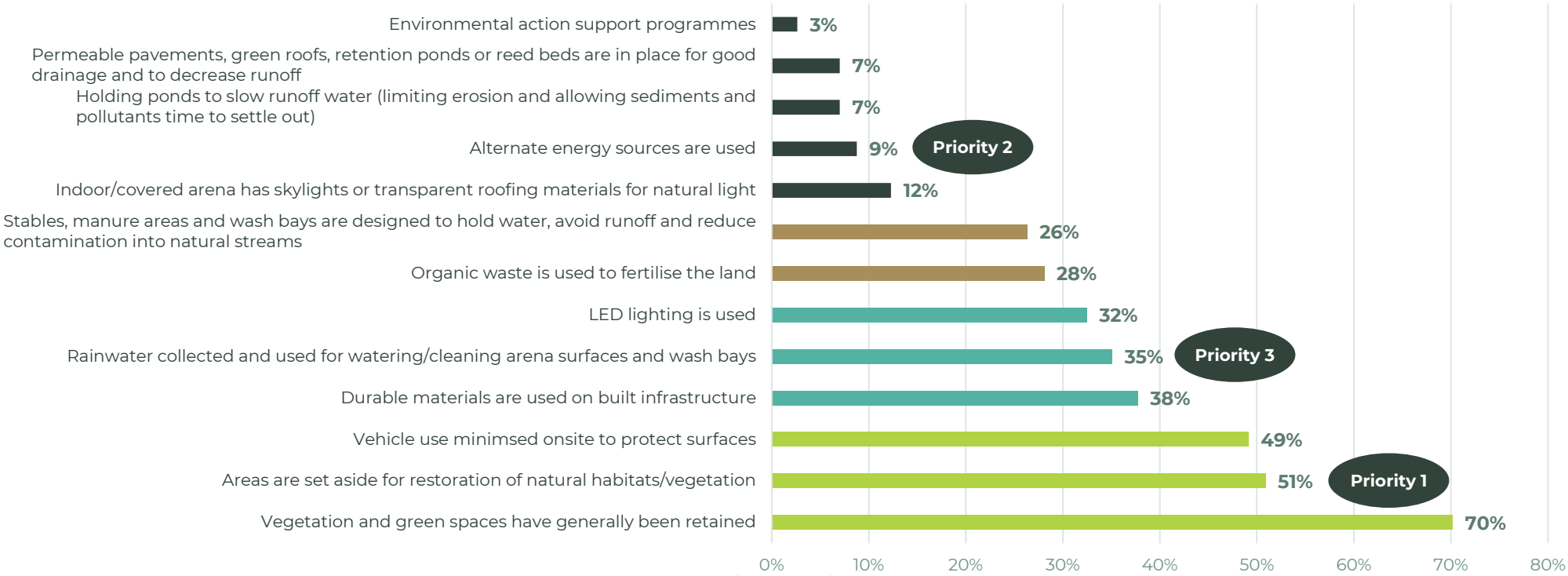
As more focus continues to be placed on improving the country's environment, and pressures exist regarding security of tenure, it is important that the equestrian community demonstrates its value and implements initiatives to support environmental outcomes. For certain sites and facilities, environmental improvements may strengthen the equestrian value proposition.

Figure 9.2 provides an overview of environmental practices used by 114 equestrian facility owners and operators across the country (sourced from survey insights).

The main practices used are maintaining green space and setting areas aside for restoration of natural habitats/vegetation. The importance of this has been more pronounced in recent years with increased rain volume placing strain on service infrastructure. Large green space areas, such as equestrian sites, are vitally important to support stormwater management.

While a wide array of environmental practices are used, most are organic with limited development or intervention required. When facility owners and operators were prompted on what environmental practices they would prioritise, they overwhelmingly selected restoring natural habitat/vegetation, installing solar and collecting and using rainwater. Every site is unique with its own challenges and opportunities that need to be explored. It is important that proactive approaches are taken where possible to mitigate environmental issues (real and perceived) to provide long-term environmental gains from equestrian activity.

FIGURE 9.2 – ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES OF FACILITY OWNERS & OPERATORS



9.2 PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN SPACES

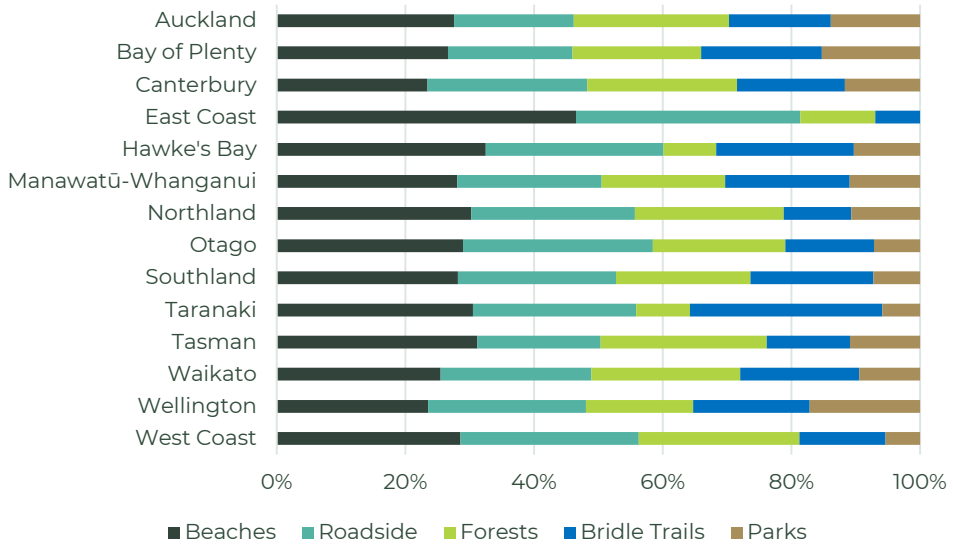
The overall network of public equestrian spaces is vast and is best depicted at a more regional and local level. It is recognised that public spaces (i.e. bridle trails, beaches and forests) are critical complementary 'facilities' for equestrians to gain quality access to. Crucially, these spaces provide everyday access for any equestrian that wants to participate in formal or informal activity.

A high-level national overview of community insights on public open spaces is outlined in the 'Community Dashboard' on the following pages and is discussed in more detail below.

USE OF PUBLIC EQUESTRIAN SPACES

- The primary public spaces used by survey respondents were beaches (81%) and roadside (68%), followed by forests (59%) and trails (54%).
- Unsurprisingly, there is natural variance across the country which is directly associated with coastline and natural topography. Areas with coastal access have higher levels of beach access, while more land-locked areas have higher roadside and forest access. This trend is broadly shown in Figure 9.3.

FIGURE 9.3 – REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF USE BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS



Frequency and Time of Use

- The highest use rates across all spaces is 1-2 times a week.
- The highest number of respondents used beaches (compared to all other public space types). However, they were less frequently used (1+ times a week – with notably high fortnightly and monthly use). Some reasons for this include:
  a. Many beaches have restricted access during daylight savings (typically after 6-7pm), this limits the use window for long rides/leads.
  b. Many beaches are only suitable for equestrian use at low tides, further restricting when they can be accessed.
- All other public spaces have similar use trends with between 50-52% of respondents accessing areas 1+ times a week.. Of respondents that access public spaces more than once a week, roadside use has the highest proportion of use (3+ times a week). There is notable variability in the frequency and types of spaces used across the country.
- There is around a 20% difference between summer and winter use of public spaces – indicating weather and conditions play a significant role in frequency of use. There is very little difference nationally between all public spaces. However, at a more regional and local level this does change. In some areas, there is less drop-off for roadside use during winter compared to other public spaces.
- Primary use occurs between 9am and 3pm during weekends, with little variance between the types of spaces used (except for roadside). Roadsides have a notably lower level of use between 9am-3pm, with high comparative use between 3-6pm and after 6pm.
- The second highest period of use occurs between 9am and 3pm on weekdays. All other time periods are noticeably lower.

Travel Time

- There is a necessity and preparedness to travel to access public equestrian spaces. Overall, circa 39% of survey respondents travel more than 31 minutes to undertake equestrian activity (22% travel 41+ mins).
- This is skewed when considering that 58% of roadside use is onsite (a further 22% occurs within 10 minutes drive). When analysing other public equestrian spaces, drivetimes for beaches and forests are typically greater than 31 minutes (for around 50% of respondents).

Why Use These Public Spaces?

There are four key reasons given for using public spaces. These are:

1. Offers different terrain (53%)
2. Only space(s) publicly available (51%)
3. Best place(s) to ride (49%)
4. Close to home (47%)

Factors attracting the use of public spaces include equestrians seeking a range of terrain to provide diversity of experiences, offering different distances, sites being less impacted by poor weather (leading to poor condition and limiting use), being suitable for differing skill levels and offering safe and controlled environments.

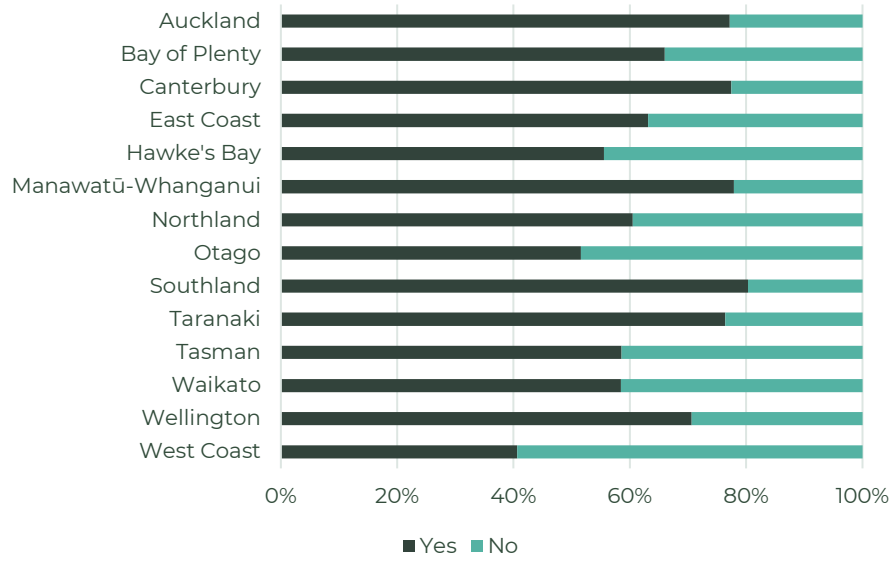
MEETING NEEDS

Overall, the public spaces meet the needs of 7 in every 10 equestrians (based on survey responses). This is further refined by Regional Council areas in Figure 9.4.

Highest levels of dissatisfaction were cited in the West Coast (59% - note this was a relatively small sample size), Otago (48%), Hawke's Bay (44%), Waikato, Tasman and Northland (40-42%).

When refining these findings further by sub-regions, and only taking a sample size of 50+ respondents, most dissatisfaction was evident in the Far North District (55%), Eastern Otago/Dunedin (54%), Central Waikato/Hamilton (46%), Central & Northern Hawke's Bay (45%) and Central Tasman/Nelson (42%) areas.

FIGURE 9.4 – WHETHER PUBLIC SPACES MEET NEEDS - REGIONAL BREAKDOWN



While reasons for not meeting their needs varies considerably, key reasons cited included availability of limited site options, too much conflicting use (access restrictions), safety concerns with shared use and vehicle speeds, condition issues and parking/access issues.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS (SURVEY RESPONDENTS)

- Overwhelmingly, survey respondents were supportive of more dedicated spaces for horse riding/handling (88%). This was generally consistent across the country.
- When refined further by sub-regions (with sample sizes of at least 50 respondents), the highest support for dedicated spaces were in Central Waikato/Hamilton (66% of respondents), Southern Northland & Whangarei (63%), Southern Waikato (59%), Eastern Otago/Dunedin (56%) and Northern Local Boards of Auckland (53%).
- There are contrasting views on shared trails within the community. While numerous health and safety concerns were raised, many respondents took a more pragmatic approach pointing to the value and opportunity of accessing existing and new trails. This is

highlighted with 65% indicating a desire for more shared use spaces for horse riding. This was more pronounced in Northland, East Coast, Wellington, and the West Coast, and notably lower in Southland.

- Improved or suitable roadside use was favoured more highly by respondents on the West Coast and in Northland, while ratings were also relatively high elsewhere.
- Encouraging equestrian activity in public spaces would be aided by having reduced travel times (more sites) and having improved parking and yards.
- Greater utilisation of existing sites / infrastructure could be achieved by improving trail surface quality and creating connections with existing equestrian sites.

Working through these improvements at a regional and local level will support greater utilisation. This will need to involve prudent planning and greater engagement with the equestrian community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Greater collaboration and connection between equestrian groups, advocacy groups and other key stakeholders (i.e. Councils, forestry owners, Ministry of Transport and Department of Conservation). An evidence-based approach is required to best support advocacy. This should include:
  a. Using insights from the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy.
  b. Within all Regional Equestrian Facility Plans include public open space analysis and investigation (where identified). OR,
  c. Undertake specific Open Space Equestrian Needs Assessments. This should be focused in identified areas where needs are not being met.
  d. Establish a series of case studies showcasing the successful development and implementation of open space initiatives. These case studies should be used for advocacy and the optimisation of approaches.
  e. Establish guidelines and practices outlining how to effectively develop and integrate equestrian public spaces.
  f. Explore opportunities to integrate / link public spaces with base equestrian sites (where possible) to maximise existing infrastructure.

PUBLIC SPACES - TYPE OF USE



BEACHES
81%



ROADSIDE
68%



FORESTS
59%



TRAILS
54%

PUBLIC SPACES - SEASONAL USE

	SUMMER - 47% WINTER - 30%	USED 1+ WEEKLY
	SUMMER - 52% WINTER - 32%	USED 1+ WEEKLY
	SUMMER - 51% WINTER - 32%	USED 1+ WEEKLY
	SUMMER - 50% WINTER - 31%	USED 1+ WEEKLY

WHY THESE SPACES?

ALL TYPES



53%
OFFERS DIFFERENT TERRAIN



51%
ONLY PLACE(S) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE



49%
THE BEST PLACE TO RIDE



47%
CLOSE TO HOME

DO THESE SPACES MEET YOUR NEEDS?

69%
YES

NO



LIMITED SITE OPTIONS



CONFLICTING USE



SAFETY CONCERNS



PARKING / ACCESS ISSUES

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS?

77%
YES



MORE SHARED USE SPACES



IMPROVED TRAIL SURFACE QUALITY



CONNECTION WITH EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES



MORE DEDICATED HORSE SPACES

PART D | EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK APPROACH



10.0 OUR NETWORK APPROACH

10.1 NETWORK OBJECTIVES

To establish and support equestrian outcomes, the following key network objectives have been identified:

ACCESSIBLE AND SECURE
We have the right type of facilities, in the most suitable locations, with secured tenure to facilitate equestrian activity for all.

FIT-FOR-PURPOSE
Our sites and facilities reflect what our communities need (suitable type and function), are in good condition to facilitate use, support environmental practices and the level of events hosted are in line with facility specifications.

OPTIMISATION
We optimise and maximise use of our sites through collaboration and partnership. In doing so, our sites are complementary to one another, and are financially and operationally sustainable (with reduced impact on our workforce and volunteer base).

EQUINE WELFARE
Our sites and facilities have continued focus on supporting equine welfare.

INCREASE PARTICIPATION
Our equestrian sites extract the greatest possible value for our communities and provide quality experiences for all equestrians – leading to more people being involved and greater use of our sites.

10.2 PROVISION GUIDELINES

The provision guidelines outlined in this section should be considered as a **guide/tool only** and used to **focus where more refined investigation should be undertaken**. It is recognised there is complexity and variability in the way equestrian activity is delivered across the country.

To account for this with all available datasets, the provision guidelines are primarily determined by using ESNZ, NZPCA and Sport New Zealand data and insights to provide a consistent base level of analysis for benchmarking across the country. More unique features including other facility provision, condition, and use are factored in and further refined within each regional section (see Part E – Regional Insights).

These guidelines outline a **mix of variables to gain a high-level appreciation of provision and participation levels** at a Regional Council level. It is important to recognise that one variable alone should not be used as a driver for decision-making.

Essentially, at a macro-level, the national benchmark guidelines ask:

1. What is the geographic distribution of our equestrian sites?
2. How many equestrians do the sites service?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND OVERLAYS

- The provision guidelines **should not be used in isolation** as the number of sites and equestrians may also be **determined by other variables** such as land size, land suitability (i.e. slope and soil/drainage conditions), the surrounding area (i.e. housing), grazing sites, function (i.e. disciplines or activity that can be accommodated), and facility condition. Some of these variables are further highlighted in the regional sections of this strategy (where this information is available).
- Indoor/covered facilities and arena surface needs and requirements differ from site-to-site and region-to-region. On average, 45% of equestrian sites comprise all-weather surfaces (based on available data). The proportion of all-weather arena vary notably across the country with insights applied at a regional level. Additionally, there are 21 indoor/covered facilities used by ESNZ and NZPCA clubs and groups nationally.

VARIABLE	GUIDELINE
OVERALL PROVISION	
Regional Council Land Area to Number of Equestrian Sites	Outside Auckland - guide of 118,000 hectares per equestrian site (used by ESNZ and/or Pony Clubs). Auckland is examined in the Regional Section in isolation.
Members to Number of Equestrian Sites	Outside Auckland – guide of 55 ESNZ and Pony Club members per site. Auckland – guide of 83 ESNZ and Pony Club members per site.
Overall Equestrians to Number of Equestrian Sites*	Outside Auckland - guide of 210 equestrians per site. Auckland - guide of 193 equestrians per site.
PARTICIPATION	
Pony Club and ESNZ Members to Population	Outside Auckland - guide of 3 members per 1,000 residents. Auckland - guide of 1.6 members per 1,000 residents.
Equestrians (all)* to Population	Outside Auckland - guide of 12 equestrians per 1,000 residents. Auckland – guide of 4 equestrians per 1,000 residents.

Notes:

*'Equestrians' relates to the expected number of equestrians (regardless of whether they participate in horse-related activity casually or as a member). This data is sourced from Sport New Zealand's Insights Tool.

Sites exclude alternate sites used by pony clubs irregularly and endurance only sites.

ESNZ members are reflective of individual members regardless of how many disciplines or groups they are associated with.
Other variables such as equestrian site area were not used as a metric due to considerable variability in size and function.

The guidelines have been applied at a Regional Council level to help identify where more refined investigation and potential intervention is required – See Part E: Regional Insights.

10.3 OPTIMAL EQUESTRIAN FACILITY NETWORK

An optimal equestrian facility network and associated specifications set out the future direction for equestrian facilities. These are designed to guide the identification of geographic and functional gaps across our network and to support the overall equestrian experience and equine welfare. Importantly, the optimal network will help focus where future development and investment is best placed to drive equestrian outcomes.

The framework was developed using a mix of sources including:

- Facility specifications of existing sites across the country.
- Specific insights from ESNZ, NZPCA and discipline experts.
- Consideration given to international and regional equestrian plans.
- FEI facility specifications and insights.
- Current equestrian delivery including competition/show hosting/allocation.

INTENTIONS OF THE OPTIMAL NETWORK

It should be noted the proposed network is an 'optimal state' and will take an extended period of time to develop. It is acknowledged many sites do not currently meet the specifications. The specifications should be used to guide how we can move towards providing the best equestrian facility experiences.

Where facilities do not currently meet specifications, they should be used to help guide future improvements (in line with identified priorities). They should not be used as a sole determinant for not using or closing an equestrian facility.

The framework and specifications will be critical for informing key stakeholders (not just limited to funders and Councils) on what is needed across the various tiers of equestrian sites. This will provide greater clarity and understanding for future planning, investment and development.

The optimal equestrian facility network and specifications are outlined in the following sections.

TIER	EVENTS	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY TIERS
TIER 1 **INTERNATIONAL**	**EVENTS:** Hosting World Championships and other top tier FEI equestrian events. Future hosting should consider the specification of core equestrian facilities and suitability of support infrastructure (i.e. accommodation, tourism, and visitor services) to meet FEI requirements.	**ACTIVITY/OPERATION:** • Potential for hosting international tier events in line with bidding requirements (in conjunction with FEI) – subject to detailed feasibility assessment. • Ability to host national tiered events. • Provision of high performance hubs through the National Equestrian Centres (Taupo and Christchurch). **PROVISION GUIDELINES:** • **National Equestrian Centre**: one located centrally in both the North and South Island respectively, supporting up to international level events and providing high performance hubs. • **Wider Coverage:** There are no requirements for additional National level sites. Alongside the National Equestrian Centres in Taupo and Christchurch, the following sites have been identified: - **Takapoto Estate (Cambridge):** premier facilities, located greater than 2-hours driving time from the NEC – Taupo, large membership catchment and in relatively close proximity to Auckland International Airport. - **Tomoana Showgrounds (Hastings):** Host Horse of the Year, located greater than 2-hours driving time from the NEC – Taupo and relatively large catchment area. - **Manfeild Park (Feilding):** established site, quality facilities, located greater than 2-hours driving time from the NEC – Taupo, and access down to Wellington (large catchment area).
TIER 2 **NATIONAL**	**EVENTS:** Hosting ESNZ National Championships, Horse of the Year and World Cup Qualifying Events. + all other events held at regional, district and local tiered facilities.	
TIER 3 **REGIONAL**	**EVENTS:** Premier and grand prix events, NZPCA Island Championships[3], Island Championships and in some cases Agricultural and Pastoral Show. + all other events held at district and local tiered facilities.	**ACTIVITY/OPERATION:** • Enables a diversity of everyday equestrian activity on a single or adjoining sites (in addition to events). This concept termed a 'Regional Equestrian Parks' facilitates hubbing and/or collocation of multiple equestrian clubs, groups, disciplines and/or sports. • These sites can host up to regional level events (including premier and grand prix discipline events), regional clinics, rallies, and camps. • For financial sustainability and overall site operations, securing at least one core anchor tenant is recommended. • On occasions some national level events could be hosted at Regional Equestrian Parks (when required and deemed suitable). This only occurs when an event cannot be hosted at a national tier facility. It must not involve any facility upgrades as this will likely divert local funding away from other local/regional priorities. • It is preferable for sites to accommodate most disciplines (noting suitable land provision for cross-country courses maybe restrictive).

[3] Based on NZPCA event strategy – rotating the events around the country.

TIER	EVENTS	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY TIERS
		PROVISION GUIDELINES: • Each regional council area to comprise a Regional Equestrian Park (or a higher provision tier 1 or 2 site). • Some areas may require more provision based on site location, membership catchment and accessibility (see the respective regional sections for further details). • Located at least 2 hours drive time from another tier 1, 2 or 3 site. • Note multiple tier 1 to 3 sites may exist in closer drive times where event only sites are needed (where complementary to Regional Equestrian Parks).
TIER 4 **DISTRICT**	**EVENTS:** As above as for Tier 3 – Regional.	**ACTIVITY/OPERATION:** • Enables everyday equestrian activity on a single or adjoining sites (in addition to events) as a standalone club/group/sport site or via a multi-use equestrian facility. • Multi-use equestrian facility or collocation of multiple equestrian clubs, groups, disciplines and/or sports. • Event hosting will vary dependent on disciplines but will primarily host grand prix level events and lower. • For financial sustainability and overall site operations, securing at least one core anchor tenant is recommended. • Primarily service the population and membership base in the wider district (for day-to-day equestrian activity, noting events attract a wider catchment). **PROVISION GUIDELINES:** • Service a district catchment size 30,000-40,000 population and/or • Typically located 1.5-2 hours drive time from a District or higher-tiered facility which may host events for the same discipline(s). • Multiple sites may be required where there is insufficient land or suitably specified facilities in the immediate or adjacent territorial authority boundaries (city, districts, wards or local boards).

NOTE

Note that Regional Equestrian Parks and multi-use equestrian facilities are the preferred delivery models to:

- Maximise use of sites,
- Enhance sustainability,
- Pool volunteer and work forces,
- Reinvest into infrastructure,
- Increase value proposition to stakeholders and landowners for potential investment,
- Security of tenure.

In some areas where land and facility provision cannot meet event specifications, and Equestrian Parks cannot be effectively established or optimised, event only sites will be used to complement day-to-day equestrian facilities (for example A&P Showgrounds).

TIER	EVENTS	EQUESTRIAN FACILITY TIERS
TIER 5 **LOCAL**	**EVENTS:** Up to local and training level, local ribbon days, club competitions, hack days...	**ACTIVITY/OPERATIONS:** Sites that predominately cater for local equestrian community needs and services. These can include: • Local Pony Club delivery (with a mix of rallies – branch and area, training, schooling and various competitions & shows i.e. jumping dressage, ribbon days, ODE's), • Riding for the Disabled facilities, • Adult Riding Clubs, • Western Riding Clubs, • Rodeo Riding Clubs, • Polo facilities, • Private providers (typically providing riding schools and/or private training), • Casual use/access. **PROVISION GUIDELINES:** • There are no set provision guidelines for local sites. Key variables such as geography, facility network, demand, offerings/function, utilisation, and financial sustainability need to guide localised provision. • Whilst taking account of the above variables, and drive time insights from members, optimally equestrian sites are not located within a 30-minute drive time. • Supplementary provision analysis is provided at a regional level in Part E: Regional Insights.

FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS GUIDE

TIER 1 – INTERNATIONAL

TIER 1 **INTERNATIONAL**				
Disciplines	**Dressage**	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Events - Ability to Host (up to this level + all other events hosted at regional, district and local tier facilities)	International – CDI3*-5*	International – CSI1*-5* and CSI1*-W	International - CCI3*-5	N/A
TIER 1 **INTERNATIONAL – SITE SPECIFICATIONS**				
Site Land Area	At least 40 hectares		At least 50 hectares	Sufficient to accommodate 160km of trail and support infrastructure.
Overall Horse Capacity	Capacity for 250 to 500 horses			
Competitors | Spectators	1,000+	1,000+	1,000+	
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Site – Total Arena Area	**Dedicated Equestrian Sites** – at least 30,000m^2 in arena area (combined grass and all-weather), with around 15,000m^2 of all-weather arena space (dividable by the disciplines as required for day-to-day and event use). Desirably one all-weather surface and practice area is floodlit. **Event Sites** – ability to meet event requirements. As a guide the arena area should be a minimum of 15,000m^2.			N/A
Events - Competition Area(s)	Min. 7 60m x 20m arenas or total space to erect international standard surfaces. Safe delineation fencing between warm up and competition	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena Min. 1 50m x 80m arena Cross country course up to 6,840m (CCI-L5*).	
Events - Practice Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena (same footing as the main competition arena)	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena (same footing as the competition arena)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena (same footing as the competition arena)	

TIER 1 **INTERNATIONAL**				
	Sufficient warm-up areas to service the number of competition arenas.	Each competition arena to have its own practice area.	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena (same footing as the competition arena). At least 2 knockdown obstacles. Cross country training area at a min. of 6,000m^2.- at least 2 fixed or knockdown obstacles.	
Events – Arena Surface Type	All-weather sand-based equestrian artificial footing	All-weather sand-based equestrian artificial footing	All-weather sand-based equestrian artificial footing	
Floodlit	No	No	No	
Stabling/Yards	• 250 to 500 yards and/or stables (it is desirable for 200 yards to be covered) • Min. 20 stables • Min 5 Stallion stables • Clean bedding **FEI Requirements** • Min. 3m x 3m with 20% at 4m x 3m. • Ventilation, lighting & water (with good pressure) • Wash down areas • Min. 2 treatment stables • Min. 2 isolation stables • Area for horse examination • Ability to secure stables • Clean bedding and disinfected stables			
Admin/Offices	Offices for Organising Committee, front of house, reception & back office, stable managers and Veterinary Services. Meeting areas for officials, medic room, lockable room for Drug Free Sport operations, with close proximity to a separate toilet.			

TIER 1 **INTERNATIONAL**		
Technology Requirements	The site should have free reliable high-speed WIFI and internet connection to support online streaming, rider/officials' communication and for the spectator experience. Satisfactory speaker systems.	
Horse Inspections	30m strip for horse inspection Firm, level non-slip surface Stewarding area 'Holding Box' for further inspection	
Other Horse Welfare	Equine referral clinic nearby with diagnostic imaging & surgical facilities. Horse Ambulance facilities. FEI Regulations to be met for FEI events.	
Events - Accommodation and Parking	Powered and non-powered sites are required, with access to water, shower and toilet facilities. Parking capacity for 250-500 trucks and floats (on suitable ground to reduce impact from inclement weather). Note that parking can be temporary and not necessarily located on-site to meet peak parking capacity needs.	

TIER 2 – NATIONAL

TIER 2 **NATIONAL**				
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Events - Ability to Host (up to this level + all other events hosted at regional, district and local tier facilities)	ESNZ National Championships, Horse of the Year and World Cup Qualifying Events	ESNZ National Championships, Horse of the Year and World Cup Qualifying Events	ESNZ National Championships, Horse of the Year	Up to 3*, National & Island Championships, FEI World Cup – Pacific League
TIER 2 **NATIONAL – SITE SPECIFICATIONS**				
Site Land Area	At least 40 hectares		At least 50 hectares	Sufficient to accommodate 160km of trail and support infrastructure.
Overall Horse Capacity	Capacity for at least 500 horses			
Competitors | Spectators	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Indoor Arena	Min. 40x80m structure with sand or sand-fibre blend surface (when accommodating both dressage and jumping)			
Site – Total Arena Area	**Dedicated Equestrian Sites** – at least 30,000m^2 in arena area (combined grass and all-weather), with around 15,000m^2 of all-weather arena space (dividable by the disciplines as required for day-to-day and event use). Desirably one all-weather surface and practice area is floodlit. **Event Sites** – ability to meet event requirements. As a guide the arena area should be a minimum of 15,000m^2.			N/A
Events - Competition Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena Min. 1 50m x 80m arena Cross country course up to 6,840m (CCI-L5*).	Up to 160km trails – firm footing
Events - Practice Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena (same footing as the competition arena)	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena (same footing as the competition arena)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena (same footing as the competition arena)	

TIER 2 **NATIONAL**				
	Sufficient warm-up areas to service the number of competition arenas.	Sufficient warm-up areas to service the number of competition arenas.	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena (same footing as the competition arena). At least 2 knockdown obstacles. Cross country training area at a min. of 6,000m^2 - at least 2 fixed or knockdown obstacles.	
Events – Arena Surface Type	All-weather sand-based equestrian artificial footing, or high-quality grass surface.	All-weather sand-based equestrian artificial footing, or high-quality grass surface.	All-weather sand-based equestrian artificial footing, or high-quality grass surface.	
Floodlit	Yes	Yes	No	
Stabling/Yards	• 250 to 500 yards and/or stables (it is desirable for half of the yards to be covered) • Min. 20 stables • Min. 5 Stallion stables • Min. 3m x 3m with 20% at 4m x 3m. • Ventilation, lighting & water (with good pressure) • Wash down areas • Min. 1 treatment stables • Min. 1 isolation stables • Area for horse examination			
Admin/Offices **Technology Requirements**	Offices for Organising Committee, front of house, reception & back office, stable managers and Veterinary Services. Meeting areas for officials, medic room, lockable room for Drug Free Sport operations, with close proximity to a separate toilet. The site should have reliable high-speed WIFI and internet connection to support online streaming.			
Horse Inspections	30m strip for horse inspection Firm, level non-slip surface Stewarding area 'Holding Box' for further inspection			Recovery, vetting and hold areas

TIER 2 **NATIONAL**		
Other Horse Welfare	Equine referral clinic nearby with diagnostic imaging & surgical facilities.	Water needs to be provided on the course at least every 10km
Events - Accommodation and Parking	Powered and non-powered sites are required, with access to water, shower and toilet facilities. Parking capacity for at least 250-500 trucks and floats (on suitable ground to reduce impact from inclement weather) – with sufficient space to safely support horses being tied to trucks. Note that parking can be temporary and not necessarily located on-site to meet peak parking capacity needs.	

TIER 3 – REGIONAL

TIER 3 **REGIONAL**				
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Events - Ability to Host (up to this level + all other events hosted at regional, district and local tier facilities)	Premier and grand prix events, NZPCA National Championships, and in some cases Agricultural and Pastoral Shows	Premier and grand prix events, NZPCA National Championships, and in some cases Agricultural and Pastoral Shows	Up to CNN L3*, NZPCA Eventing Championships	Up to 2*
TIER 3 **REGIONAL – SITE SPECIFICATIONS**				
Site Land Area	At least 10 hectares		At least 35 hectares	Sufficient to accommodate 80km of trail and support infrastructure.
Total Horse Capacity	At least 200 horses	At least 350 horses		
Competitors | Spectators	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000	Up to 1,000
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Indoor Arena	Desirable for sites with everyday equestrian use where certainty of use is critical (and where financially viable and sustainable).			N/A
Site – Total Arena Area	**Dedicated Equestrian Sites** – at least 10,000m^2 in arena area (combined grass and all-weather), with around 4,000m^2 of all-weather arena essential (preferably 8,000m^2) - dividable by the disciplines as required for day-to-day and event use. **Event Sites** – ability to meet event requirements. As a guide the arena area should be a minimum of 10,000m^2.			N/A
Events - Competition Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena	Up to 80km trails – firm footing

TIER 3 **REGIONAL**				
			Min. 1 50m x 80m arena Cross country course up to 5,550m (CCI-L3*).	
Events - Practice Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena)	Min. 1 40m x 50m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena)	Min. 1 40m x 50m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena) Min. 1 50m x 80m arena (same footing as the competition arena). At least 2 knockdown obstacles. Cross country training area at a min. of 5,000m^2.- at least 2 fixed or knockdown obstacles.	
Events – Arena Surface Type	Preferably an all-weather sand surface. Where this cannot be met, suitable free-draining and permeable surface soils are required to increase the overall experience and competition certainty (removing the likelihood of weather elements impacting surface quality for both competition hosting and day-to-day use).			Firm footing
Floodlit	No	No	No	No
Stabling/Yards	150-200 yards and/or stables (it is desirable for one-third of the yards to be covered) At least 1 for isolation At least 1 for medication control			Grass or compacted area for tie-ups.
Admin/Offices **Technology Requirements**	Temporary or permanent (for Regional Equestrian Parks) office space(s) with electricity, meeting space(s), kitchen, medic room and separate scoring office. The site should have reliable high-speed WIFI and internet connection to support online streaming.			N/A
Horse Inspections & Welfare	30m strip for horse inspection Firm, level non-slip surface Stewarding area 'Holding Box' for further inspection			Recovery, vetting and hold areas Water needs to be provided on the course at least every 10km
Events - Accommodation and Parking	Powered and non-powered sites are required, with access to water, shower and toilet facilities. Parking capacity for at least 200-400 trucks and floats (on suitable ground to reduce impact from inclement weather). Note that parking can be temporary and not necessarily located on-site to meet peak parking capacity needs.			

TIER 4 – DISTRICT

TIER 4 **DISTRICT**				
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Events - Ability to Host (up to this level + all other events hosted at regional, district and local tier facilities)	Premier and grand prix events, NZPCA National Championships, and in some cases Agricultural and Pastoral Shows	Premier and grand prix events, NZPCA National Championships, and in some cases Agricultural and Pastoral Shows	Up to CNN L3*	Up to 2*
TIER 4 DISTRICT – SITE SPECIFICATIONS				
Site Land Area	At least 10 hectares		At least 30 hectares	Sufficient to accommodate up to 40km of trail and support infrastructure.
Total Horse Capacity	At least 200 horses	At least 350 horses		
Competitors | Spectators	500	500	500	500
	Dressage	**Jumping**	**Eventing**	**Endurance/CTR**
Indoor Arena	Desirable, not essential			N/A
Site – Total Arena Area	**Dedicated Equestrian Sites** – at least 8,000m^2 in arena area – it preferable for around 4,000m^2 of all-weather arena (desirably 8,000m^2) - dividable by the disciplines as required for day-to-day and event use. **Event Sites** – ability to meet event requirements. As a guide the arena area should be a minimum of 8,000m^2.			N/A
Events - Competition Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena	Min. 1 50m x 80m arena	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena Min. 1 50m x 80m arena Cross country course between 4,400-5,500m (CCN L3*).	Up to 40km trails – firm footing
Events - Practice Area(s)	Min. 1 60m x 20m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena) Sufficient warm-up areas to service the number of competition arenas.	Min. 1 40m x 50m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena) Sufficient warm-up areas to service the number of competition arenas.	Min. 1 40m x 50m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena) Min. 1 50m x 80m arena (preferred footing as the competition arena). At least 2 knockdown obstacles.	

TIER 4 **DISTRICT**				
			Cross country training area at a min. of 5,000m^2.- at least 2 fixed or knockdown obstacles.	
Events - Surface Type	Preferably an all-weather sand surface. Where this cannot be met, suitable free-draining and permeable surface soils are required to increase the overall experience and competition certainty (removing the likelihood of weather elements impacting surface quality for both competition hosting and day-to-day use).			Firm footing
Floodlit	No	No	No	No
Stabling/Yards	100-200 yards and/or stables (it is desirable for 15% of the yards to be covered) At least 1 for isolation At least 1 for medication control			Grass or compacted area for tie-ups.
Admin/Offices	Temporary or permanent office space(s) with electricity, kitchen, meeting space, medic room and separate scoring office.			N/A
Horse Inspections & Welfare	30m strip for horse inspection Firm, level non-slip surface Stewarding area 'Holding Box' for further inspection			Recovery, vetting and hold areas Water needs to be provided on the course at least every 10km
Events - Accommodation and Parking	Powered and/or non-powered sites are required, with access to water, shower and toilet facilities. Parking capacity for at least 200-400 trucks and floats (on suitable ground to reduce impact from inclement weather). Note that parking can be temporary and not necessarily located on-site to meet peak parking capacity needs.			

TIER 5 – LOCAL

TIER 5 **LOCAL**	
Activity Use	Localised venues predominately cater for the immediate equestrian communities around them and range in their delivery and service. The distinct facility offerings include: • **Local Pony Club delivery** (with a mix of rallies, training, schooling and various competitions & shows i.e. jumping dressage, ribbon days, ODE's (eventing – with access to usable land). • **Riding for the Disabled** facilities • **Adult Riding Clubs** • **Western Riding Clubs** • **Rodeo Riding Clubs** • **Polo facilities** • **Private providers** (typically providing riding schools and/or private training) In some instances, some of the above offerings are co-located or part of a wider precinct of facilities.
Provision Guide	There are no provision guidelines for local sites as this is determined by geography, facility network, demand, offerings/function and financial sustainability at a more localised level. Supplementary provision analysis is provided at a regional level in Section x.
TIER 5 **LOCAL – FACILITY SPECIFICATION**	
Outline	The specification of local sites varies markedly across the country due to factors such as land size & suitability, ownership, geographic location (i.e. urban or rural) and type of use/services. To best support equestrian activity at a local level, the following functions and standards should be sought (where possible and deemed viable): • At least 4-5 hectares (with the ability to access adjacent land or other existing sites for cross-country courses – where applicable). • Flat and rolling land – preferably in higher lying land for site resilience i.e. prevent flooding and the inability to use the facilities. • Free draining and robust land to reduce the impact of weather conditions on day-to-day use. • Access to all-weather arenas in the wider area if not already provided for, where deemed not viable, sustainable or permissible on the site. Due to the cost (capital and ongoing) and dependence on volunteer resource, it should not be considered a goal for every equestrian site at a local level to have an all-weather surface arena. • Yards – covered, wooden or pipe and/or tie-up areas.

TIER 5 **LOCAL**	
	• Good parking access – with preference for all-weather surface during wet weather conditions. • Water and electricity connections (including wash-down facilities). • Storage shed, meeting/admin area and toilets. • To increase site use, connectivity and financial sustainability, either having on site or being in close proximity to grazing paddocks. • Suitable safe access into and through the site (for both vehicle and horse movement). • Compliance with all Work Safe requirements. • Medium to long-term tenure is secured for certainty of activity, enable required resource and investment into the site and to support participation outcomes (quality experiences and more equestrians involved more often). • Focus should be placed on collaboration and partnership with other equestrian groups/clubs to maximise use and demonstrate the value the site is extracting for the sport and recreation sector. Note in some cases local sites may support more advanced activity due to land size (i.e. support cross-country), well-located in the network or the quality provided. As many higher tiered venues are for competitions/shows only, the day-to-day activity in certain areas falls back to localised provision. Therefore, these facilities are critical in the overall network to meet ongoing equestrian and community needs.

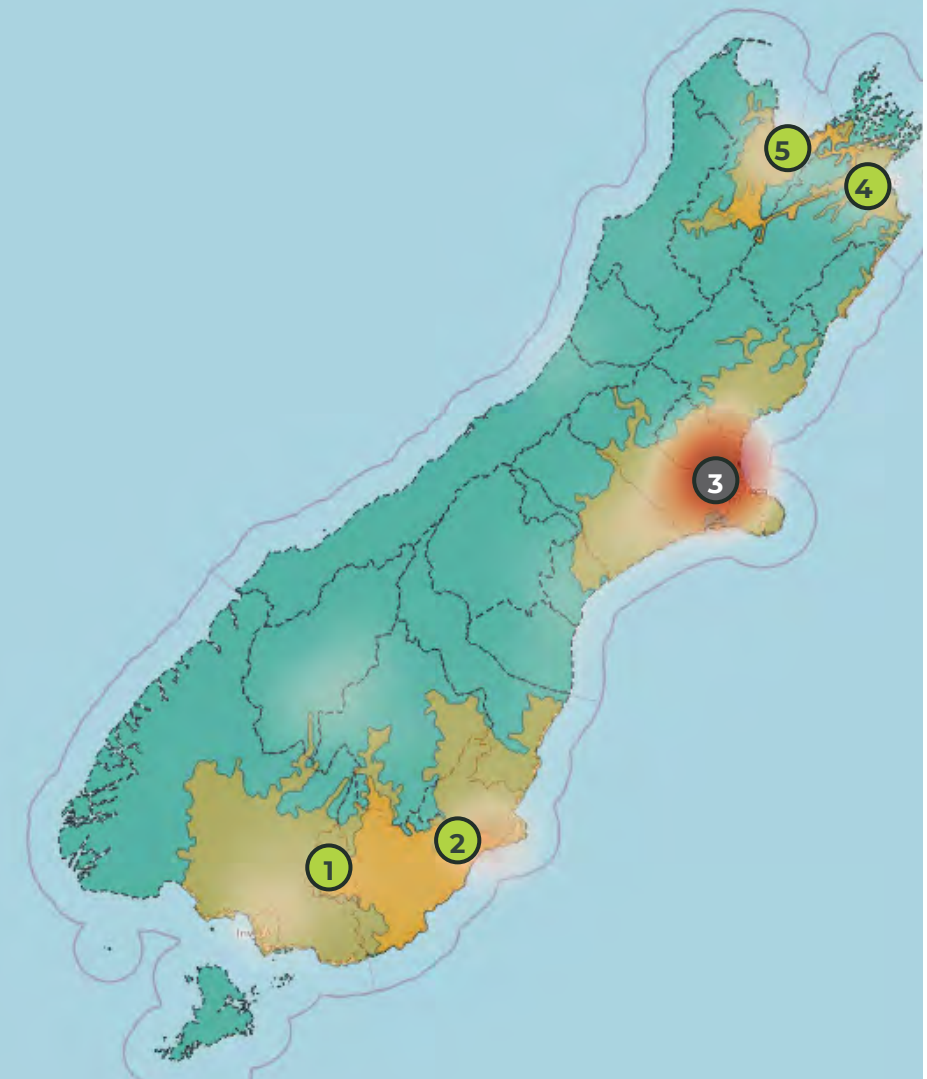
Note: Formalised arenas should optimally be sized to meet jumping arena specifications. This enables the arenas to then be multipurposed to accommodate dressage.

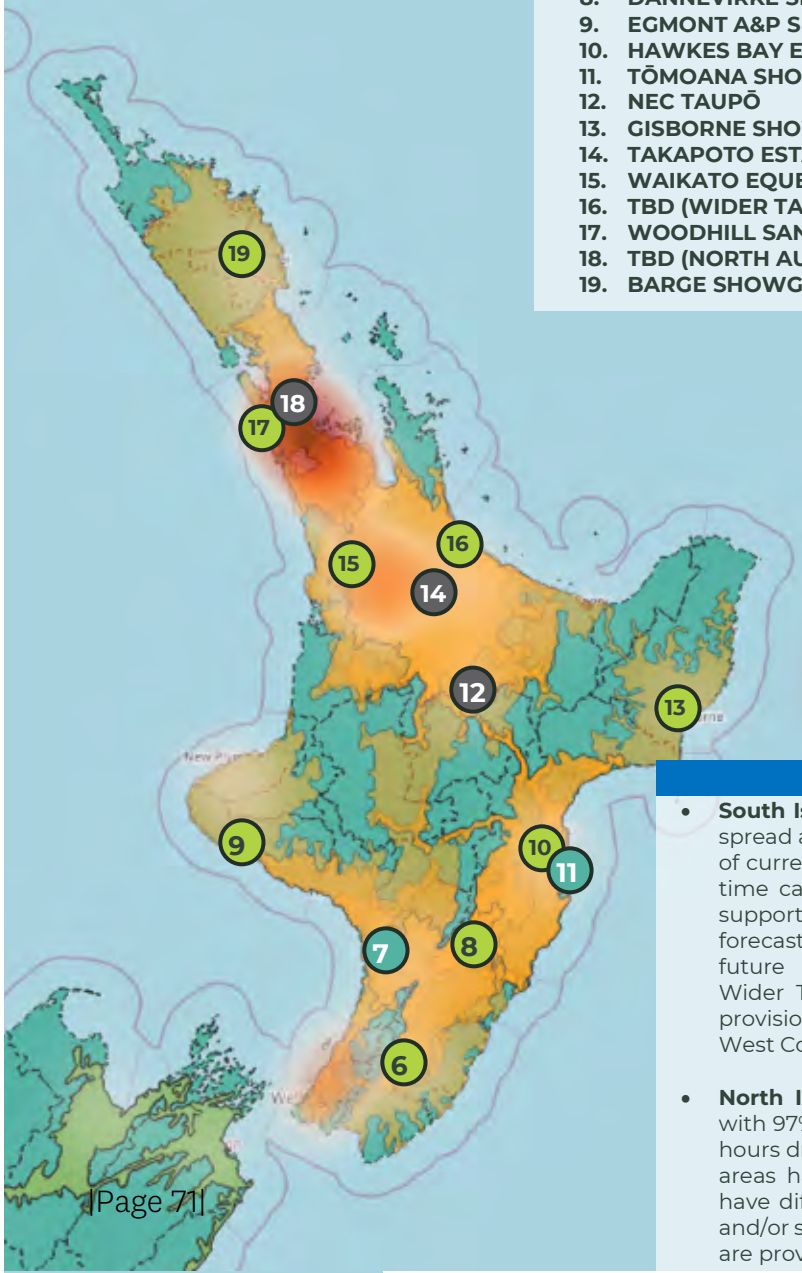
SOUTH ISLAND EQUESTRIAN SITES

1.	GORE SHOWGROUNDS	REG
2.	TBD (TAIERI PLAINS)	REG
3.	NEC CHRISTCHURCH	INT/NAT
4.	MARLBOROUGH EQUESTRIAN PARK	REG
5.	ROUGH ISLAND	REG

NORTH ISLAND EQUESTRIAN SITES

6.	SOLWAY SHOWGROUNDS	REG
7.	MANFEILD	NAT
8.	DANNEVIRKE SHOWGROUNDS	REG
9.	EGMONT A&P SHOWGROUNDS	REG
10.	HAWKES BAY EQUESTRIAN PARK	REG
11.	TŌMOANA SHOWGROUNDS	NAT
12.	NEC TAUPŌ	INT/NAT
13.	GISBORNE SHOWGROUNDS	REG
14.	TAKAPOTO ESTATE	INT/NAT
15.	WAIKATO EQUESTRIAN CENTRE	REG
16.	TBD (WIDER TAURANGA)	REG
17.	WOODHILL SANDS EQUESTRIAN	REG
18.	TBD (NORTH AUCKLAND)	NAT
19.	BARGE SHOWGROUNDS	REG





KEY

- REGIONAL
- NATIONAL
- INTERNATIONAL / NATIONAL
- 2 HOUR DRIVE TIMES
- MEMBER HOTSPOTS

INSIGHTS OVERVIEW

- **South Island** - while there is a wide geographic spread across the five sites, they account for 85% of current membership within their 2-hour drive time catchments. They are also well placed to support where main population growth is forecast. The mapping shows the importance of future prospective regional provision on the Wider Taieri Plains area. Suitable district level provision is required in Central Otago and the West Coast to meet geographic gaps.

- **North Island** – has wide geographic coverage with 97% of current membership located with 2-hours drive time of a Tier 1,2 or 3 site. While some areas have notable overlaps, the sites typically have different functions (i.e. event venues only) and/or service distinct catchments. More insights are provided in Part E: Regional Insights.

DELIVERY MODELS/APPROACHES

A range of facility delivery models are evident across the country. These are in response to a myriad of factors including contexts within a local setting, land availability, historic decision-making, changing community needs and opportunities that arise. The models are briefly outlined in the following table.

STANDALONE EQUESTRIAN PARK



Description: Facilitates hubbing and/or collocation of multiple equestrian clubs, groups, disciplines and/or sports.

Example: Marlborough Equestrian Park

- Creates a 'home' for Equestrian activity.
- Pools and best utilises available resource.
- Maximises use of facilities.
- Greater value proposition for funders (higher critical mass for greater investment return).

EQUESTRIAN PARK ('HUB') AND 'SPOKE'

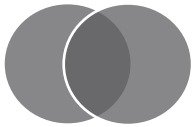


Description: Standalone Equestrian Park which has an additional site(s) to accommodate other activity e.g. eventing.

Example: Rotorua A&P Showgrounds

- This approach reaps the benefits of an Equestrian Park, while not necessarily needing to own, manage or maintain all land parcels (particularly for eventing).
- Land could be adjacent or in relative proximity.
- This can lead to tenure concerns if the 'spoke' is privately owned.

COLLOCATION



Description: Two or more equestrian groups collocated on the same ground with distinct or some shared facilities.

Example: Westport (pony club and RDA)

- Enables some specific facilities to be set-up alongside other equestrian facilities i.e. rodeo arena and grass arena for a pony club.
- Can establish connection and pathway opportunities i.e. pony club and disciplines.
- Possible efficiencies, but in some cases can lead to duplication of facilities and services.

EVENT VENUE



Description: Dedicated equine or non-dedicated sites primarily or solely used for events (venue-for-hire).

Example: Manfeild, Feilding

- Due to the business nature of events, these venues can typically have higher condition quality and have large support infrastructure to support large event delivery. This is not often available elsewhere in the wider area.
- Can be expensive and have competing demands.
- Can include specific equestrian infrastructure which has limited overall use (no or very limited day-to-day activity).

'POP-UP' EQUESTRIAN EVENT VENUE



Description: Temporary equestrian event venues which may fill a gap in provision and/or taking equestrian activity 'to the people' (marketing tactic).

Example: Puhinui Reserve, Auckland

- They are extremely important for Endurance/CTR events which require private land.
- Provides flexibility to delivery, but hire arrangements are typically one-off or short-term leases.
- Can be expensive and resource intensive.
- Provide opportunities for creating greater exposure i.e. tourism hotspots during summer.
- Important they do not detract investment or use of other equestrian facilities.

STANDALONE SITE



Description: Equestrian sites used by one group.

Example: Hawea Wanaka Pony Club

- Can provide autonomy, with management and maintenance control of the grounds.
- Can provide localisation to best service particular areas.
- In some cases, smaller land parcels can be secured commensurate to group needs.
- Depending on the size of the group, and its geographic location, investment potential can be more limited.
- Can in some cases have limited utilisation relative to other operating models.



PART E | REGIONAL INSIGHTS

REGIONAL INSIGHTS

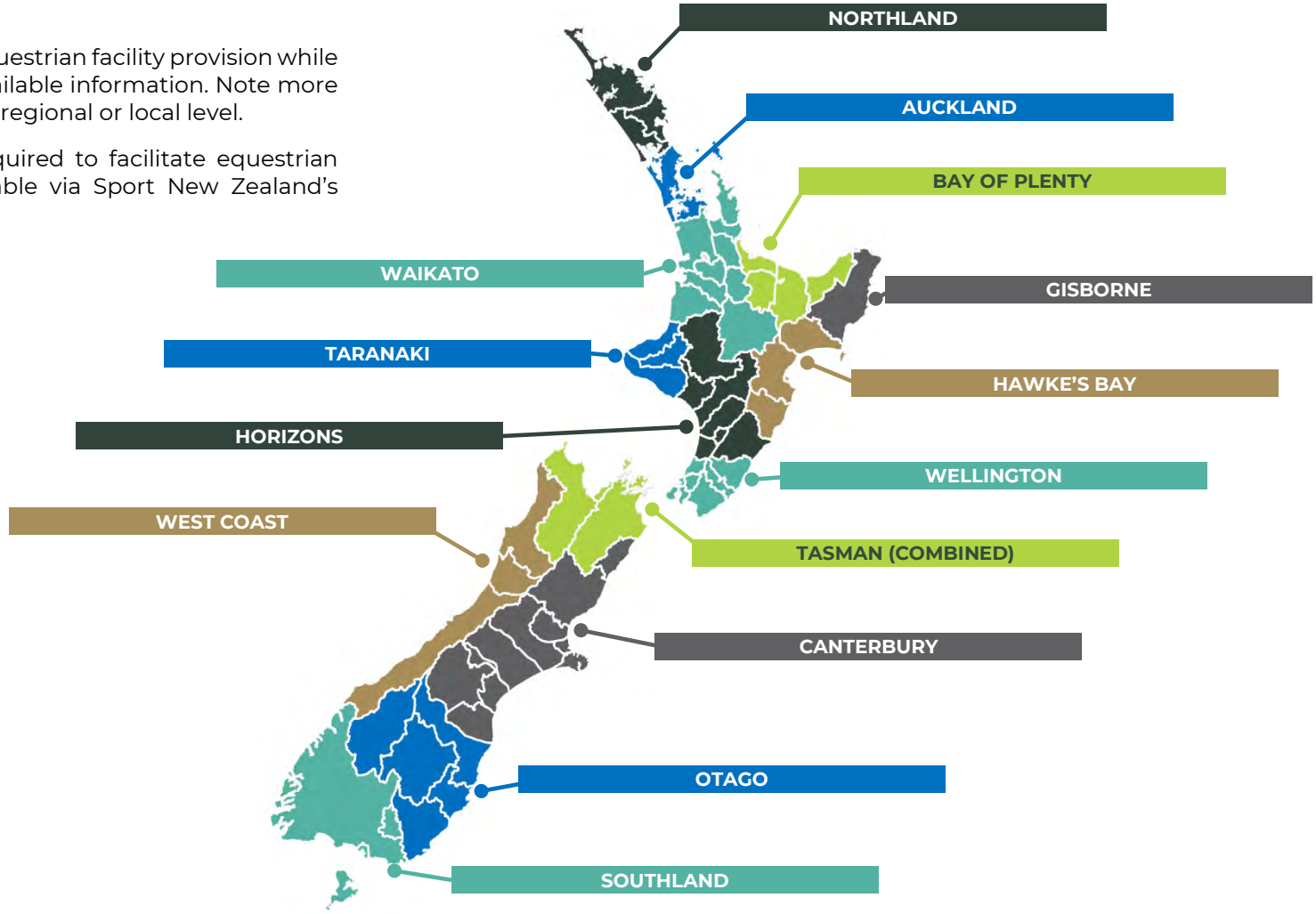
This section provides a high-level overview of base equestrian sites and facilities across Regional Council boundaries. These insights are based on available data and information sourced during the strategy's development.

To provide a level of a consistency across the regions to support benchmarking analysis, focus is placed on primary equestrian sites used by pony clubs and ESNZ disciplines. Other notable key equestrian sites are referenced where identified.

The overview is provided as an outline of equestrian facility provision while providing proposed direction based on available information. Note more detailed analysis will likely be required at a regional or local level.

Due to the vast array of facility types required to facilitate equestrian activity, a full detailed inventory is available via Sport New Zealand's Facility Planning Tool.

Click on each region below or scroll through to view individual regional sections.



AUCKLAND DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	2,774	3,465
Total Equestrians*:	6,770	8,456

*Expected participation rate: 0.4% of population

21% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (in line with national trends). 35% of groups cited increasing participation and 23% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

30% of membership are located in Rodney Local Board, with a further 21% residing in Franklin. All other local boards have membership of 5% or less. Those with 5% include Upper Harbour, Ōrākei and Waitākere Ranges Local Boards.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Regional Land Area to # of Sites: 14,117↓

Members to Sites: 79

Equestrians to # of Sites: 193

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

Population to Members: 1.64 members per 1,000 residents

Population to Equestrians: 4 equestrians per 1,000 residents.

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

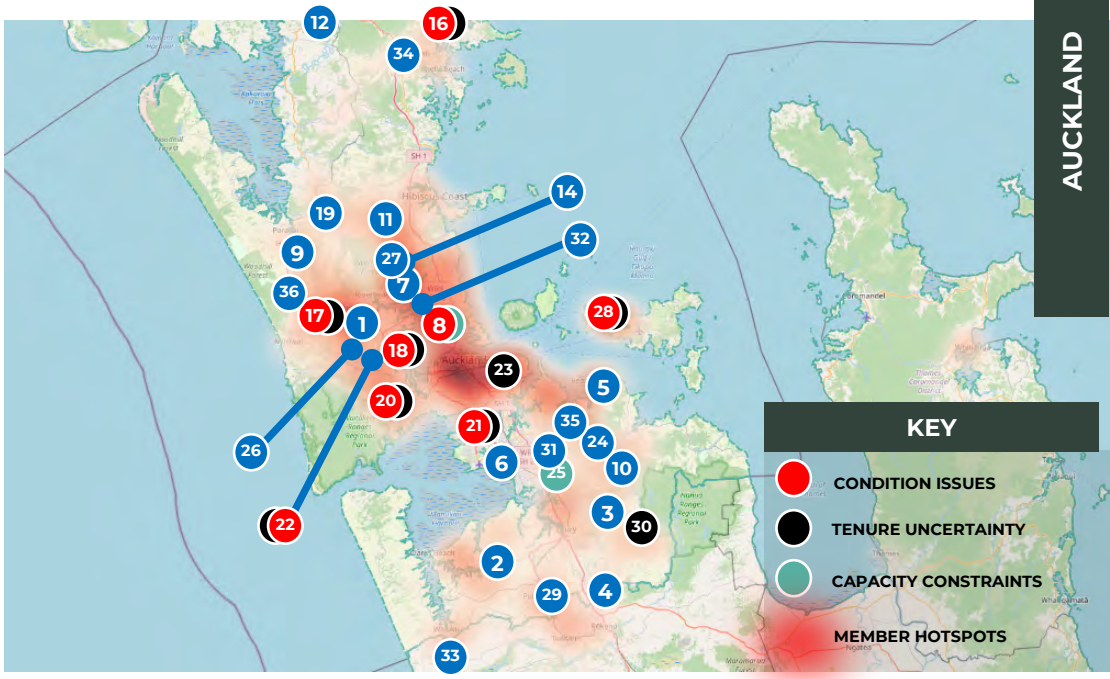
Farmland Change: -11% since 2002 (lower than national trends)

Demographic Overview: pop. 1,571,718 (2018 census)

Up 25% by 2048, led by Rodney, Franklin and Upper Harbour.

Projected aging trend, with the 65+ year age-group increasing 81% by 2043 (growing most in Rodney & Franklin), while 0-14 year age-group declining 1% overall (but growing in Rodney, Franklin and Upper Harbour)

High ethnic diversity is projected to increase, especially Asian.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP

- COUNCIL 53%
- PRIVATE 23%
- CLUB 11%
- A&P 9%

ALL-WEATHER ARENA

57%

SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA

FUTURE PLANS

8

SITES WITH PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

POOR CONDITION

- ARENA – 22% (28% AV.)
- YARDS/STABLES – 20%
- OTHER ANCILLARY – 9%

ARENA CAPACITY

64%

Have Available Capacity

AGE & TENURE

68% Over 30 Years Old

60% Uncertain Future

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Geographic Importance** - Franklin and Rodney Local Boards play a critical role in the provision of equestrian sites. Of sites used by ESNZ and NZPCA members across Auckland, two-thirds are located within these two Local Board boundaries. The Local Boards areas comprise of 51% of Auckland membership. Land ownership is evenly split between Council, private and other (i.e. club/group, A&P Society or Trust). Rodney sites are primarily occupied by a single activity (63% of sites with most having pony club activity). More collaboration between clubs and groups is evident across Franklin and West Auckland.
- There will likely be heightened importance for equestrian provision in Franklin and Rodney where there is high population growth forecast, and as housing intensification and land repurposing pressures continue as the urban areas expand.
- There are a high number of sites to overall land mass in Auckland comparative to the rest of country (with higher membership per site).

Recommendation 1: *some opportunities appear to exist for exploring the possible consolidation of sites across wider Rodney. Short drive times/overlapping catchment areas and varying levels of membership exist. This will require more detailed analysis and stakeholder engagement.*

- **National Tiered Equestrian Site** – Takapoto Estate near Cambridge provides premier equestrian facilities for events/shows. The site is within relative proximity of Auckland and in line with drive time preferences. There is a possible functional gap in quality training sites capable of accommodating a wide range of user groups and equestrians – addressing this should be explored further alongside Recommendation 1.
- **Indoor Arena** - Totara Park (Manurewa) is the only current indoor/covered arena in Auckland regularly used by domiciled clubs and groups). It is regularly used by a pony club or a discipline group. A covered arena is currently being developed at Henderson Valley Park (West Auckland RDA and Henderson Valley Pony Club site). There is a further indoor arena at Ambury Park Centre in Mangere Bridge (RDA site).

  Key Finding: *There is limited access to indoor/covered arena across the city, most notably for equestrians North of Auckland. As weather patterns continue to impact equestrian activity, access to all-weather facilities will be needed to increase the quality of participant and equine experiences.*

  Recommendation 2*: Future provision should be explored within Rodney to reduce travel barriers (with focus placed on both day-to-day use and events to provide continuity of use) – this should be completed alongside Recommendation 1.*

- **Security of Tenure** - the current equestrian network is vulnerable with tenure uncertainty (noticeably in Local Board areas between Franklin and Rodney Local Boards). Reasons for this include repurposing of land for other activities and housing intensification.

  Recommendation 3: *despite relatively lower membership concentrated in the more urban areas of Auckland, it is imperative some provision remains across 'Central' Auckland to provide accessible opportunities. Doing so, also maintains green space within the city for absorbing stormwater. Ongoing engagement is required with Auckland Council.*

- **Other Providers** – there is an extensive number of private equestrian sites across the region. Activity varies but includes riding schools, riding clubs, polo, and some alternate site use by pony clubs. Additionally, there are three Riding for the Disabled sites which are primarily used for RDA activity.
- **ESNZ Event Delivery** – there are four primary sites used to accommodate eventing – 8 events were scheduled in 2022/23 (Puhinui Reserve – 'pop-up' venue, Clevedon A&P Showgrounds, Papatoetoe Pony Club and Springbush Equestrian). Dressage sites comprise of Clevedon A&P Showgrounds (main site), Warkworth Showgrounds and Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre (at a local level). A total of 26 events/series were scheduled in 2022/23. The three primary jumping and show hunter event sites include Papatoetoe Pony Club, Pukekohe Showgrounds and Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre which hosted 23 events in 2022/23 (the highest nationally) and 18 at Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre alone. There is also potentially some uncertainty around future access of Puhinui Reserve which will need further investigation.
- **Arena Condition and Capacity** – there is available arena capacity across the region which can be optimised. We need to utilise what is available to its full potential. This could include partnerships with other

clubs/groups, riding schools and potentially other activities. Where capacity does not exist, this is typically linked to poor arena condition.

Of note is the required arena upgrades at Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre. There is currently a strong event reliance on the site.

Recommendation 4: *Update the 2014 Auckland Equestrian Facilities Plan to reflect insights gained from the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy. This should include focus on:*

i. Understanding club/site catchments and the prospect of rationalising some sites in Rodney.

ii. Explore rationalising sites to create higher quality and well-utilised training facilities - including indoor/covered arena provision in the north of the city.

iii. Prioritise specific arena upgrades.

iv. Widen the scope to understand availability and use of open public spaces (i.e. bridle trails, beaches, forests and parks).

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	LOCAL BOARD	PROPOSED TIER
1	Kumeu Showgrounds	Rodney	Local
2	Abderrry Equestrian Centre	Franklin	District
3	Sonshine Ranch	Franklin	Local
4	Bombay Papakura Pony Club	Franklin	Local
5	Beachlands Maraetai Pony Club	Franklin	Local
6	Puhinui Reserve	Otara-Papatoetoe	TBD
7	Coatesville Pony Club	Rodney	Local
8	Chelsea Pony Club	Kaipatiki	Local
9	Helensville A&P Showgrounds	Rodney	Local
10	Clevedon A&P Showgrounds	Franklin	District
11	Dairy Flat Pony Club	Rodney	Local
12	Albertland Pony Club	Rodney	Local
13	Diamond Lodge Equestrian	Rodney	Local
14	Southstar Equestrian	Rodney	Local
15	South Auckland Area Endurance		Local
16	Diamond Jubilee Park, Matakana	Rodney	Local
17	Glasgow Park, Muriwai Road	Rodney	Local
18	Harbourview Oringahina Reserve	Henderson-Massey	Local
19	Kaukapakapa Pony Club	Rodney	Local
20	Henderson Valley Park	Henderson-Massey	Local
21	Mangere Pony Club	Mangere-Otahuhu	Local
22	Massey Pony Club	Henderson-Massey	Local
23	Meadowbank Pony Club	Orakei	Local
24	Papatoetoe Pony Club	Franklin	District
25	Pointways Pony Club	Papakura	Local
26	Redhills Pony Club	Rodney	Local
27	Silverdale Pony Club	Rodney	Local
28	Te Huruhi Bay Reserve	Waiheke	Local
29	Pukekohe Showgrounds	Franklin	District
30	Springbush Equestrian	Franklin	Local
31	Totara Park Equestrian Centre	Manurewa	Local
32	Wainoni Park	Upper Harbour	Local
33	Waiuku Pony Club	Franklin	Local
34	Warkworth Showgrounds	Rodney	Local
35	Whitford Pony Club	Franklin	Local
36	Woodhill Sands Equestrian Centre	Rodney	Regional

BAY OF PLENTY DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	723	855
Total Equestrians*:	2,468	2,920

*Expected participation rate: 0.7% of population

21% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (in line with national trends). 36% of groups cited decreasing participation.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is primarily concentrated in Western Bay of Plenty District (36%) and Rotorua Lakes (26%). Followed by Whakatāne (15%), Tauranga City (10%) and Ōpōtiki (3%).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 67,067↓

Members to Sites: 40 -

Equestrians to # of Sites: 137↓

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

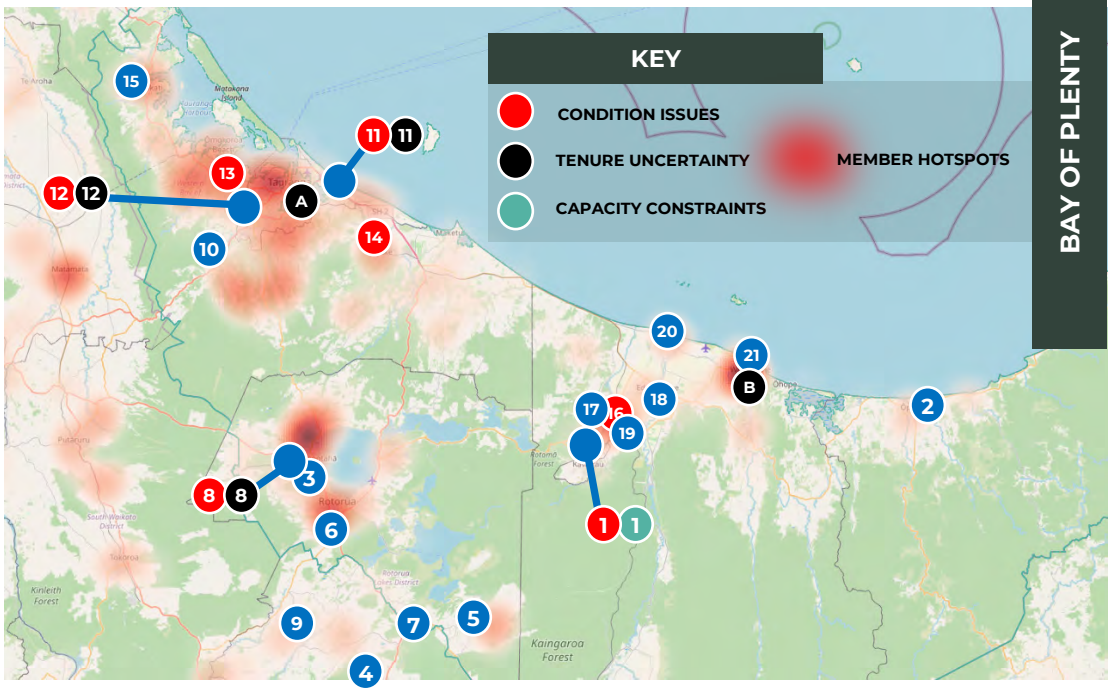
Population to Members: 2.05 members per 1,000 residents

Population to Equestrians: 7 equestrians per 1,000 residents.

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -3% (lower than national trends)

Demographic Overview: 18% growth by 2048, with strong growth in Tauranga City, followed by Western Bay of Plenty and Rotorua Districts. Aging profile with 59% growth for 65+ age group, and 3% overall decline of 0-14 years (slight increase in Tauranga City). Primarily European in Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty, with greater than 50% of residents projected to be Māori across Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Whakatāne Districts.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 53% PRIVATE 18% A&P 12% CLUB 12%	**33%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**17%** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 10% (50% AV.) YARDS/STABLES – 27% OTHER ANCILLARY – 38%	**80%** Have Available Capacity	**71%** Over 30 Years

BAY OF PLENTY EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES PLAN

In-depth and wider analysis of the full equestrian facility network is outlined within the Bay of Plenty Equestrian Facilities Plan. The information contained in this section presents a snapshot of the region (in comparative form to the rest of the country).

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement** – overall there is a relatively low level of equestrian engagement (measured by members per 1,000 residents), which is primarily attributed to Tauranga City. Comparatively, Western Bay of Plenty District has a notably higher level of community engagement (members per 1,000 residents).
- **Spatial Distribution** – there is a relatively well distributed network of sites which are primarily influenced by topography constraints and the scale of the region. There could be opportunities in and around Tauranga City and Whakatāne to consolidate sites to maximise equestrian opportunities and outcomes.
- **Tenure** – there is a high degree of uncertainty and potential impact on the equestrian facility network. Most of this uncertainty centres around the future of the Tauranga Racecourse (which is used by a wide range of equestrian groups), eventing at the Rotorua A&P Showgrounds and Tauranga Riding for the Disabled which has capacity constraints.
- **Condition** – Most outdoor arenas are perceived to be in poor or average condition. Poorly rated facilities were more often associated with built infrastructure (yards/stables, clubroom/event facilities and changing rooms/toilets).
- **Functionality** – there is limited access to indoor/covered arena provision in the wider Western Bay of Plenty area (with Tauranga RDA operating at capacity).

  Given the prevalence of adverse weather events, developing a higher proportion of sites with quality all-weather arena facilities should be explored.

  Tauranga Racecourse and Rotorua A&P Showgrounds are the predominant equestrian sites across the region, complemented by the National Equestrian Centre and Takapoto Estate in neighbouring Waikato and more localised sites across the Bay of Plenty. The Rotorua A&P Showgrounds is limited to around 22 event days annually as per the lease arrangement with Agrodome.
- **Proposed Opportunities** – opportunities exist for establishing a District Equestrian Park at Teko Racecourse. Various sites in the immediate area are underutilised and have condition and/or site issues. Opportunities may also exist for accommodating eventing and adjacent/nearby sites could potentially facilitate trail access.

  Partnership opportunities exist between Tauranga Equestrian Sports Association (TESA) and Tauranga RDA to establish a Regional Equestrian Park.
- **Other Sites** – the network is complemented by a wide range of equestrian sites including therapy-related, other RDA sites, riding schools/centres, hunt, adult riding club, and other private sites.

Recommendation 1: *Explore options for developing a Regional Equestrian Park in the wider Tauranga City/Western Bay of Plenty area.*

Recommendation 2: *Explore opportunities for establishing a District Equestrian Park at Te Teko Racecourse (or another site within the Whakatāne District.*

Recommendation 3: *Continue maintaining and upgrading facilities at the Rotorua A&P Showgrounds as a key site for domiciled user groups and event/show delivery.*

Recommendation 4*: In line with the above recommendations, continue to explore securing long-term eventing tenure.*

Note: please see the Bay of Plenty Equestrian Facilities Plan for more in-depth insights and recommendations.

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Kawerau Pony Club	Kawerau	Local
2	Memorial Park	Ōpōtiki	Local / District
3	EquiSucceed*	Rotorua Lakes	Local
4	Reporoa Pony Club	Rotorua Lakes	Local
5	Rerewhakaaitu Domain	Rotorua Lakes	Local / District
6	Mokoia Pony Club	Rotorua Lakes	Local
7	RM Equestrian	Rotorua Lakes	Local
8	Rotorua A & P Showgrounds	Rotorua Lakes	District
9	Waikite Valley Pony Club	Rotorua Lakes	Local
10	McLaren Falls Equestrian Park	Tauranga City	Local
11	Papamoa Mount Pony Club Grounds	Tauranga City	Local
12	Tauranga Racecourse	Tauranga City	TBD
13	Otumoetai Te Puna Pony Club	Western Bay of Plenty	Local
14	Te Puke A&P Showgrounds	Western Bay of Plenty	Local
15	Uretara Domain	Western Bay of Plenty	Local
16	Te Teko Racecourse	Whakatāne	District
17	Edgecumbe Pony Club	Whakatāne	Local
18	Jacks Arena	Whakatāne	Local
19	Eivers Cross Country Course	Whakatāne	Local
20	Thornton Beach	Whakatāne	Local
21	Keepa Road, Whakatane	Whakatāne	Local
A	Tauranga Riding for the Disabled	Tauranga City	Local
B	Eastern Bay of Plenty Riding for the Disabled	Whakatāne	Local

CANTERBURY DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	1,970	2,333
Total Equestrians*:	7,932	9,392

*Expected participation rate: 1.2% of population

22% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (in line with national trends). 38% of groups cited increasing participation and 17% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

A majority of members reside in Selwyn (24%) and Waimakariri Districts (22%), followed by Christchurch City (19%) and Ashburton District (11%). All other areas have around 100 members or less (under 5% of regional membership).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 120,281↑

Members to Sites: 53↑

Equestrians to # of Sites: 214↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

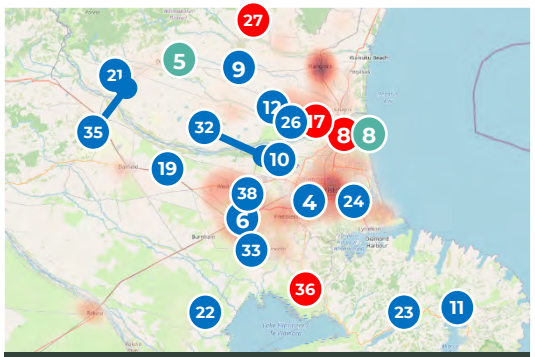
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 2.98 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 12 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -18% (higher than national trends)

Demographic Overview: Overall growth of 18% by 2048, centred around Christchurch City, followed by Selwyn and Waimakariri. Aging population (increase of 54% for 65+ age group), with increase in 0-14 year olds in Selwyn and Waimakariri. Predominately European, with growing rates of ethnic diversity across the region.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 50% PRIVATE 28% A&P 13% TRUST 6%	**38%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**14%** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 21% (36% AV.) YARDS/STABLES – 43% AV. OTHER ANCILLARY – 12%	**70%** Have Available Capacity	**50%** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Geographic Importance** – Canterbury has the second highest membership within its catchment area, although it has moderate market penetration relative to the population base. Waimakariri District, Christchurch City and Selwyn District comprise 65% of residing members, whilst accommodating 54% of the region's equestrian sites.
- There is likely to be increased pressures for land in the Selwyn District while the potential demand for equestrian activity will also grow (given high population forecasts).
- There appears to be some opportunities for better utilising and/or rationalising some sites in Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts
- **Capacity** – Notable capacity is evident across the region.

Recommendation 1: *further examine condition issues, use and distribution of equestrian sites on the southern boundary of Waimakariri District and those centralised areas within Selwyn District.*

Recommendation 2: *explore greater collaboration to increase use of existing resources. This could include seeking additional users from across the equestrian community and/or the wider community (i.e. archery, cross-country, dog obedience). Where drive times are less than 15-minutes between site, potential rationalisation should also be considered.*

- **Indoor/Covered Arena** – There are currently two indoor arena located in the region including the Canterbury Agricultural Park (Christchurch City) and N-Lee Downs Equestrian Center (private facility in Waimate District).
- The Canterbury Agricultural Park is well located to provide access from north, central and south via the State Highway system. The facility is used by Christchurch RDA, pony clubs and discipline groups.

Recommendation 3: *Maintain existing provision. Indoor or covered arena provision could be explored at the National Equestrian Centre if overall demand levels increase. Any future provision would need to complement the Canterbury Agricultural Park (due to its relative proximity).*

- **Asset Condition** – 57% of sites have arena in poor or average condition (based on a self-assessment), while 43% have yards/stables in average condition.

Recommendation 4: *Maintain a proactive asset management approach to prevent 'average' condition assets slipping to poor condition (which would start impacting the equestrian experience and equine welfare). Where possible, coordinate asset management activity across the region to identify potential cost and resource savings.*

ESNZ Event Delivery – the primary event venues include the National Equestrian Centre, Ashburton A&P Showgrounds, Eyreton Domain & Rangiora A&P Showgrounds (dressage) and Waimate A&P Showgrounds (jumping and show hunter).

All-Weather Arena – the number of sites in the region with all-weather arena are below the national average. However, this is partially offset by 35,200m^2 of all-weather surfaces across 4 separate arena at the NEC. Provision of and the need for all-weather arena are increasing with more volatile weather patterns.

Recommendation 5: *explore the viability and sustainability of all-weather provision at Waimate A&P Showgrounds (due to its event delivery role, domiciled users, and limited access to other arena in the wider area).*

Other Activity and Sites – there are various other sites and user groups active across the region including four separate Riding for the Disabled sites (in Timaru, Rangiora, Ashburton, and Geraldine), rodeo, urban polo (pop-up at Hagley Park), endurance and riding groups and various other private riding centres.

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Amberley Domain	Hurunui	Local
2	Amuri Showgrounds	Hurunui	Local
3	Ashburton A&P Showgrounds	Ashburton	District
4	Canterbury Agricultural Park	Christchurch City	District
5	Carlton Domain	Waimakariri	Local
6	Carnmore Pony Club	Selwyn	Local
7	Cave Domain	Timaru	Local
8	Chaneys Plantation	Christchurch City	Local
9	Cust Endurance & CTR	Waimakariri	Local
10	Dunstan Fiber Fresh NEC Christchurch	Christchurch City	International / National
11	Duvauchelle A & P Society Showgrounds	Christchurch City	Local
12	Eyreton Pony Club	Waimakariri	Local
13	Geraldine Pony Club	Timaru	Local
14	Grigg Park	Ashburton	Local
15	Hurunui Pony Club	Hurunui	Local
16	Ikawai (East Coast Endurance Club)	Waimate	Local
17	Kaiapoi Pony Club	Waimakariri	Local
18	Kaikoura Pony Club	Kaikoura	Local
19	Kirwee Showgrounds	Selwyn	Local
20	Knottingly Park - Equestrian X-country Course	Waimate	Local
21	Kowhai Riding School	Waimakariri	Local
22	Leeston Showgrounds	Selwyn	District
23	Little River Pony Club	Christchurch City	Local
24	Mary Duncan Park	Christchurch City	Local
25	Methven Showgrounds	Ashburton	Local
26	Eyreton Domain	Waimakariri	Local
27	Private Farm	Waimakariri	Local
28	Orari Racecourse	Timaru	Local
29	Parimanui Farm	Waimate	Local
30	Pleasant Point Pony Club Grounds	Timaru	Local
31	Rakaia Domain	Ashburton	Local
32	Roydvale Pony Club Grounds	Christchurch City	Local
33	Springston Pony Club	Selwyn	Local
34	Tinwald Pony Club	Ashburton	Local
35	View Hill Domain	Waimakariri	Local
36	Waihora Domain	Selwyn	Local
37	Waimate A & P Showgrounds	Waimate	District
38	West Melton Weedons Pony Club	Selwyn	Local
39	Willowbridge Endurance & CTR	Waimate	Local

GISBORNE DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	142	149
Total Equestrians*:	1,248	1,313

*Expected participation rate: 2.4% of population

20% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (in line with national trends). 38% of groups cited increasing participation and 25% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

All members reside in Gisborne. There are various members who reside in the District but are members of clubs/disciplines outside of the region. Gisborne District is relatively well populated with equestrian members. Most are concentrated around the wider Gisborne township.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 279,500↑

Members to Sites: 47↑

Equestrians to # of Sites: 416↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

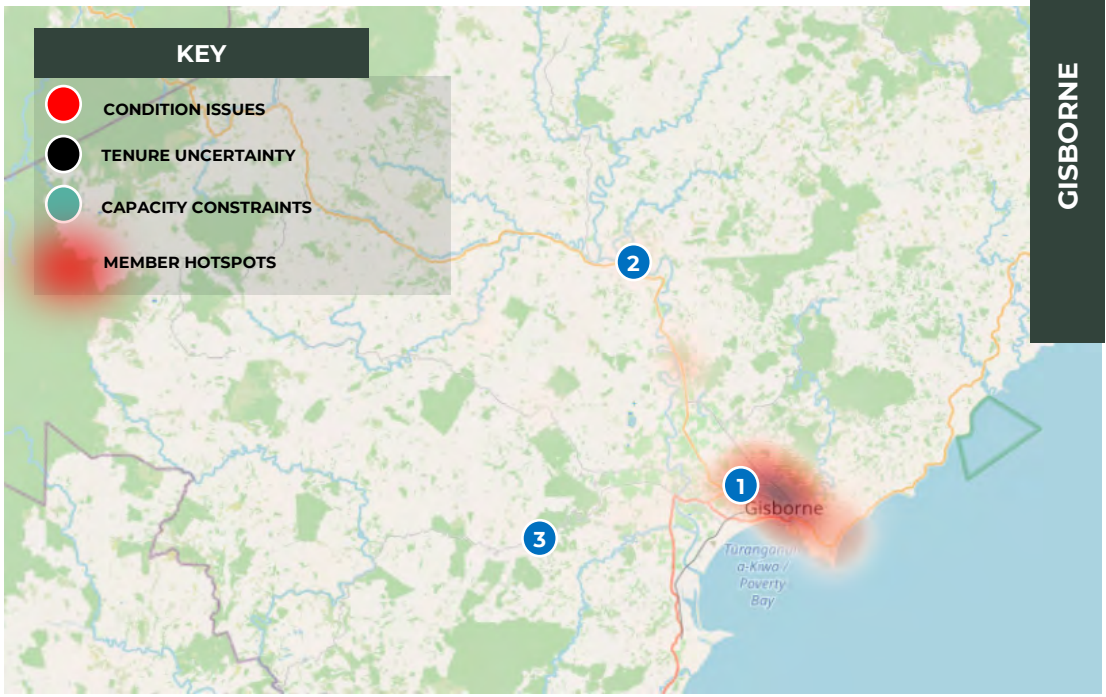
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 2.73 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 24 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -17% (higher than national trends)

Demographic Overview: Small projected growth (5%). Aging profile 65+ years to increase up to 51% by 2043), while 0-14 years decrease by 14%. Growing predominance of Māori population, with growth across all other ethnic groups.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
PRIVATE 67% A&P 33%	**67%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**0%** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 33% AV. YARDS/STABLES – GOOD OTHER ANCILLARY – GOOD	**N/A** Capacity	**100%** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Geographic Importance** – Existing provision is well located to service the membership and the main population concentrations of the region.
- **Equestrian Engagement** – While the ratio of members to residents is moderate compared to national benchmarking, Gisborne has the highest expected participation rate for equestrian activity in the country (2.4% of residents are likely to engage in some form of equestrian activity). While this may have some impact on demand for traditional base equestrian sites, there is likely to be more demand for suitable public spaces (i.e. beaches, trails and roadside).
- **Function** – Gisborne Showgrounds (Regional Equestrian Park) is the primary site for event and day-to-day equestrian activity. The site supports multiple disciplines, pony club, RDA, and other activity.

  The site comprises an indoor arena (80x40m – sand-rubber chip blend), multiple outdoor arena (grass and sand), yards (mix of open and covered), accommodation options (powered sites and cabins) and other facilities associated with the showgrounds.
- **ESNZ Event Delivery** – the Showgrounds is the primary event site for dressage, jumping and show hunter disciplines with 9 dressage events and 3 jumping/show hunter scheduled in the 2022/23 season.

Recommendation: *Continue repairs, maintenance and renewals on existing assets across the region (most notably at the showgrounds) and ensure long-term tenure is secure.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Gisborne Showgrounds	Gisborne	Regional
2	Pinehollow Riding School	Gisborne	Local
3	Waerenga - O - Kuri - The Laurels	Gisborne	Local

HAWKE'S BAY DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	506	570
Total Equestrians*:	1,653	1,863

*Expected participation rate: 0.9% of population

109% increase in pony club membership over the last 5-years (significantly higher than national trends).

CATCHMENT AREAS

Members are primarily concentrated in the Hastings District (58%), a further 23% located in Central Hawke's Bay, while Napier City and Wairoa District have 10% and 9% of total membership respectively. As a standalone Council area, Hastings District has the 10th highest membership concentration.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 108,762

Members to Sites: 39↓

Equestrians to # of Sites: 127↓

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

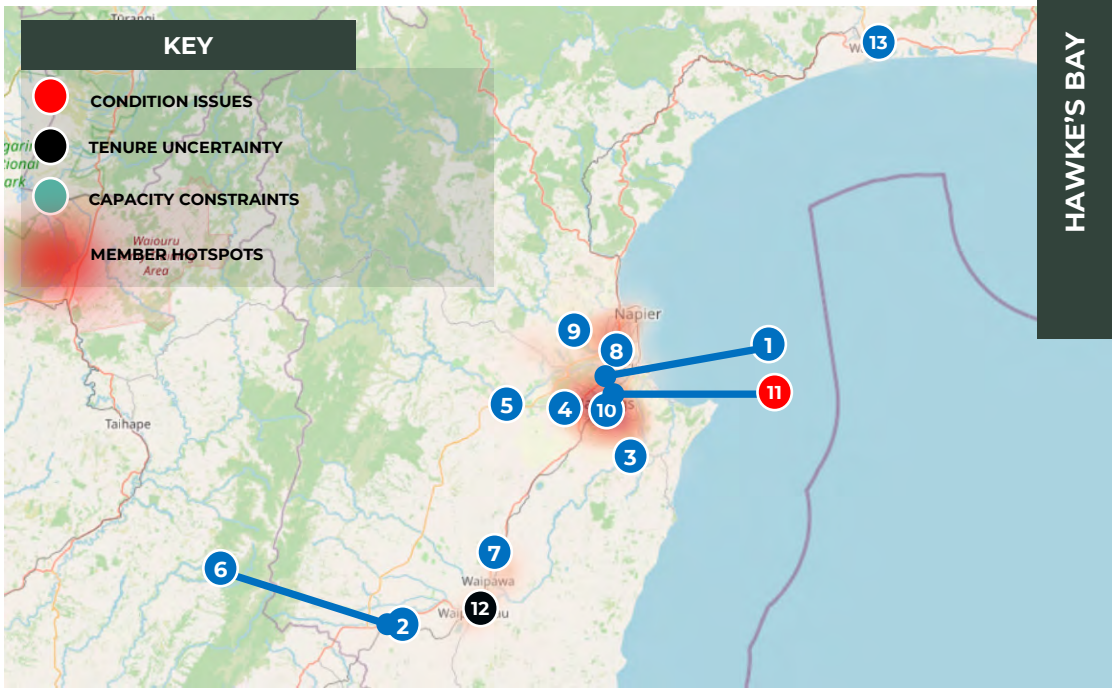
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 2.75 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 9 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -6% (lower decline than national trends)

Demographic Overview: 13% growth by 2048, mostly concentrated in Hastings District, followed by Napier City. Aging population (65+ year bracket to increase by 50%), with slight increase in 0-14 years in Hastings District. Slight overall trend of increasing Māori ethnicity and more diversity (in lower numbers) across the region.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
PRIVATE 46% COUNCIL 31% GROUP 15% A&P 8%	**38%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**1** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 60% AV. YARDS/STABLES – 17% OTHER ANCILLARY – 20%	**67%** Have Available Capacity	**50%** Over 30 Years Old

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Geographic Importance** – most sites are located in Hastings District which is commensurate with the level of demand.
- **Site Distribution and Capacity** – there appears to be an oversupply of equestrian sites within a 15-minute drive time of Hastings, while most sites have available capacity.
- **Land Ownership** – there is a notably high proportion of private ownership across the region which can result in tenure uncertainty, accessing funding opportunities and approaching potential rationalisation of sites.
- **Event Venues** - there are five primary event sites which are located across the region including Arran Station (mainly eventing and cross-country activity), Waipukurau A&P Showgrounds (dressage, jumping and show hunter activity) – around 15 minutes' drive time between the sites, Hawkes Bay Equestrian Park - Hastings (jumping and show hunter events) and the Wairoa Showgrounds (jumping).

  13-minutes drive from the Equestrian Park is Tōmoana Showgrounds (Hastings). The site hosts the largest equestrian event in the country (Horse of the Year) and various other events. The site is currently underspecified to meet National Tiered equestrian facility provision.

  Recommendation 1: *Explore the opportunity for partnerships, optimising site utilisation and potential rationalisation of sites to better utilise available resource and provide improved facilities around the wider Hastings area.*

  This should include exploring how to optimise use of the Tōmoana Showgrounds. This approach would increase the value and benefit of any future investment into infrastructure on the site (establishing a nationally tiered Equestrian Park).

- **Facility Type** – there are two indoor facilities available across the region located at Papakura Domain and The Joan Fernie Centre (both home to RDAs). The Joan Ferrie Centre is more conducive to wider use due to its larger footprint.

  There is a lower proportion of sites with all-weather arena when compared to national benchmarking.

  Recommendation 2: *Adverse weather patterns are likely to continue impacting equestrian activity. Therefore, facilities need to have more resilience. In line with investigations in Recommendation 1, a higher proportion of all-weather arena should be considered to provide continuity of activity and help avoid event cancellation.*

  Other notable equestrian sites include Elwood Park (Hastings) which is located adjacent to Tōmoana Showgrounds and used by Hawkes Bay Polo Club.

- **Tenure Uncertainty** – there is tenure uncertainty at the Waipukurau A&P Showgrounds with conflicting code use of the sports fields and restrictions on when and where riding can occur.

  Recommendation 3: *Consideration should be given to exploring opportunities to relocate to the Waipukurau Racecourse where suitable infrastructure already exists and the potential for more autonomy.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Arena on Ormond	Hastings	Local
2	Arran Station	Central Hawke's Bay	District
3	Euchre Flats	Hastings	Local
4	Hawkes Bay Equestrian Park	Hastings	Regional
5	Maraekakaho Sports Grounds	Hastings	Local
6	Memorial Sports Park	Central Hawke's Bay	Local
7	Otane Pony Club	Central Hawke's Bay	Local
8	Papakura Domain	Napier City	Local
9	Poraiti Pony Club	Hastings	Local
10	The Joan Fernie Centre	Hastings	Local
11	Tōmoana Showgrounds	Hastings	National
12	Waipukurau A&P Showgrounds	Central Hawke's Bay	District
13	Wairoa A&P Showgrounds	Wairoa	Local

HORIZONS DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	637	685
Total Equestrians*:	4,932	5,307

*Expected participation rate: 1.9% of population

45% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (higher decline than national average). 29% of groups cited increasing participation and 43% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is relatively evenly distributed across the region with 14-19% represented across Manawatū, Horowhenua, Tararua and Whanganui Districts and Palmerston North City respectively. Lower levels are evident in Rangitikei (11%) and Ruapehu (5%).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 108,762

Members to Sites: 39↓

Equestrians to # of Sites: 127↓

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

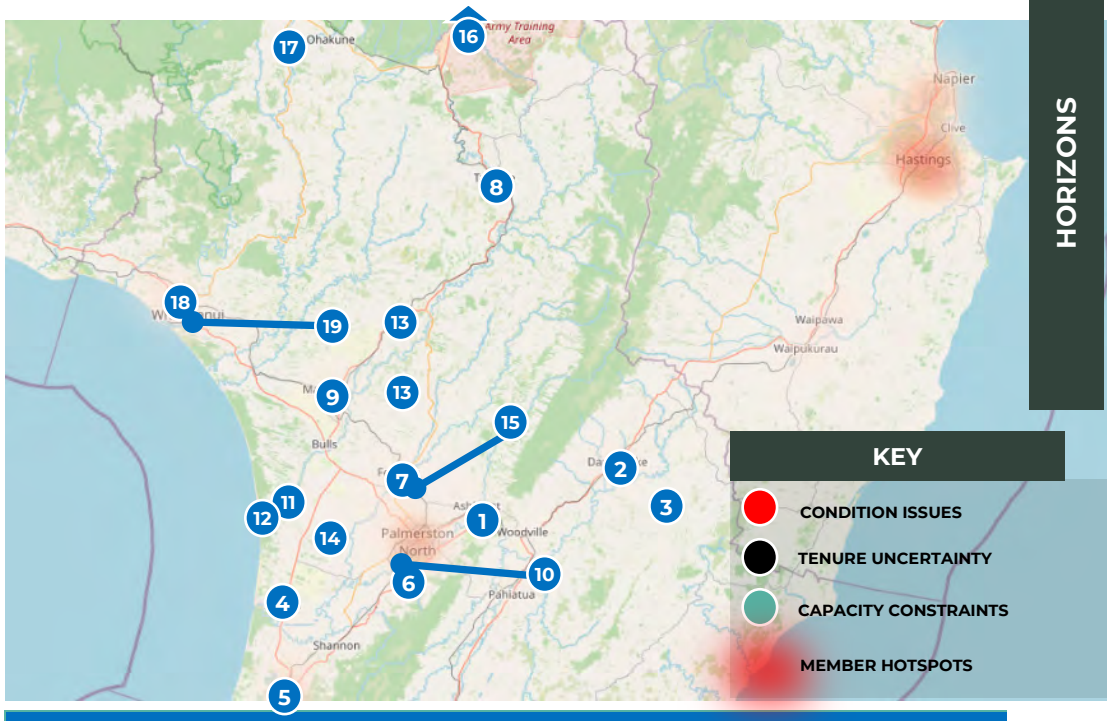
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 2.45 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 19 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -12% (on par with national trends)

Demographic Overview: Forecast growth of 8% by 2048, led by Palmerston North City, followed most by Manawatu and Horowhenua Districts. Aging profile (65+ years to increase up to 43%), with overall decline of 10% for 0-14 years (most decline in Ruapehu & Tararua Districts).



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 44% PRIVATE 22% A&P 11% RACING 11%	**18%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**0** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – N/A YARDS/STABLES – N/A OTHER ANCILLARY – N/A	**67%** Have Available Capacity	**63%** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Geographic Importance** – when considering the function / type of the equestrian sites there is a relatively good distribution around the region to service rural and urban areas. This is reflected with the even distribution of membership across the respective district council boundaries.

  The region has the third equal highest number of expected equestrians per 1,000 residents (2.45 members). This requires suitable access to a range of equestrian facilities (in the form of both base and public spaces).

- **Site Collaboration** – the region is characterised by numerous sites which are used by various and compatible groups/activity types. This includes optimising the use of racing clubs (Foxton – domiciled and event use; and Whanganui – primarily event use), A&P Showgrounds (Levin, Dannevirke and Waimarino – domiciled and event use), education sites (Nga Tawa Diocesan School) and Manfeild Park (event use).

  This collaboration is extremely important given the number of NZPCA and ESNZ members across the region is low per equestrian site (compared to national benchmarking).

- **Optimisation** - Some opportunities appear to exist for increasing use of equestrian sites, improving facilities and the overall experience and efficiently use available funding and resource.

  Feilding – Feilding has numerous sites operating within proximity, albeit with different landownership. These include Manfeild Park (events venue), Johnston Park (Western Riding Club), Manawatu Riding for the Disabled and Timona Park (Feilding Pony Club).

- **Function** – there is a notably lower proportion of all-weather arena per site compared to national benchmarking. However, this appears less impactful for events because of the use of Manfeild Park and Dannevirke A&P Showgrounds. To provide all-weather alternate sites, a range of indoor and outdoor all-weather surfaces are already available.

  There are three primary indoor arena used across the region. These include Manfeild Park (an event venue), Manawatu and Whanganui (Riding for the Disabled sites, which are limited due to access and arena size). Access to indoor arena space has been reduced with Tielcey Park Stables and Events Centre being sold in 2020 (with no current access available).

  Other Sites – there are a host of other equestrian sites located across the region including Riding for the Disabled (separate sites for Whanganui, Tararua, Levin and Manawatu), Massey University Equestrian Centre (alternate site for Manawatu pony clubs), Dragon Equestrian Jump Park (Manakau), Manakau Domain (adult riding), Manunui Domain (polocrosse), Marton Hunt Club, McIntyre Reserve (alternate site for Taihape Showjumping), Rangitikei Polo Club, as well as various endurance sites and other private facilities.

Recommendation: *A wider equestrian facility network assessment should be undertaken to fully ascertain demand, delivery, facility condition, and tenure issues. This assessment should also explore opportunities for greater optimisation. Primary focus should be on Manawatū District, Palmerston North City and Whanganui (to a lesser extent). This assessment is critical to provide more in-depth and contextual insights to help inform future development and investment.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Ashhurst Domain	Palmerston North City	Local
2	Dannevirke A&P Showgrounds	Tararua	Regional
3	Dannevirke Endurance & CTR	Tararua	Local
4	Foxton Racecourse	Horowhenua	Local
5	Levin Showgrounds	Horowhenua	District
6	Linton Domain	Palmerston North City	Local
7	Manfeild Park	Manawatū	National
8	Memorial Park, Taihape	Rangitikei	Local
9	Nga Tawa Equestrian Centre	Rangitikei	Local
10	Otira Park	Palmerston North City	Local
11	Pukemarama Farm	Manawatū	Local
12	Scotts Ferry Beach	Rangitikei	Local
13	Stanway Pony Club	Manawatū	Local
14	Te Kawau Pony Club	Manawatū	Local
15	Timona Park	Manawatū	Local
16	Tuhua Domain	Ruapehu	Local
17	Waimarino A&P Showgrounds	Ruapehu	Local
18	Wanganui Petre Pony Club	Whanganui	Local
19	Whanganui Racecourse	Whanganui	Local

NORTHLAND DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	575	679
Total Equestrians*:	4,492	5,309

*Expected participation rate: 2.2% of population
31% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (higher decline than national average). 100% of groups cited staying about the same.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is primarily located in Whangarei District (53%), with 27% located in Far North District and 19% in Kaipara District.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 83,387↓

Members to Sites: 38↓

Equestrians to # of Sites: 299↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

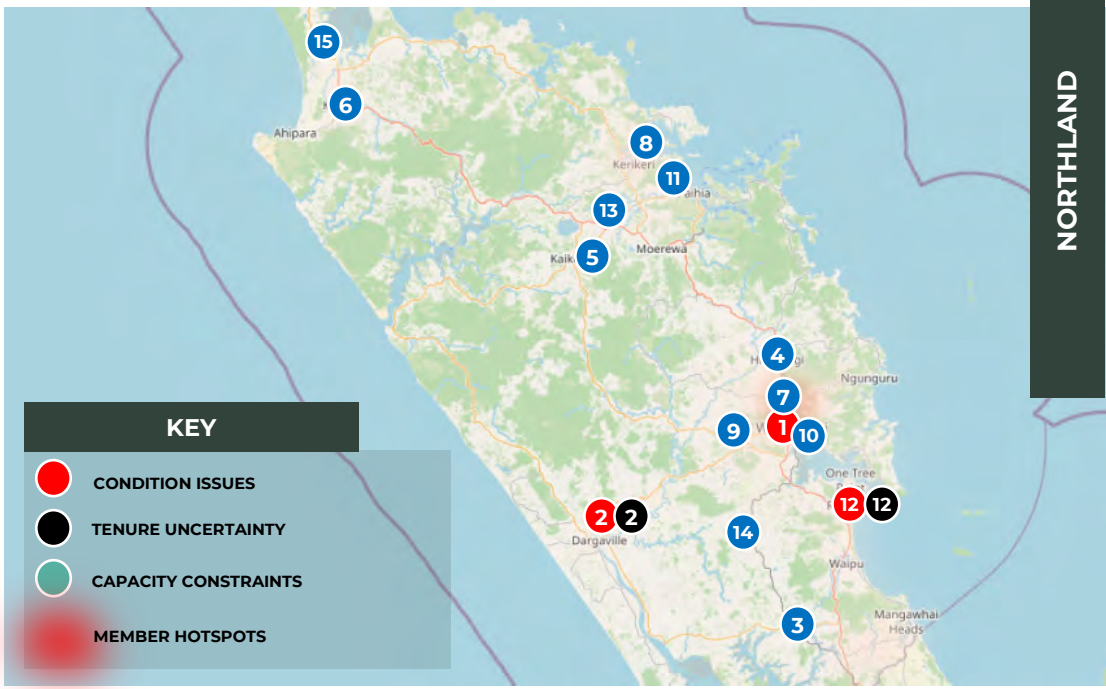
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 2.82 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 22 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -13% (on par with national trends)

Demographic Overview: Forecast growth of 18% by 2048, largely concentrated in Whangarei District. Aging profile with 65+ age group to grow by 59% (growing most in Kaipara), and no overall change in 0-14 years. Māori growth by 50% in the Far North, with overall projections numerically highest for Europeans and Māori, and proportionally higher for Asian ethnicities.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 47% A&P 20% CLUB 13% RACING 13%	**40%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**2** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 1 YARDS/STABLES – 1 OTHER ANCILLARY – 1	**100%** Have Available Capacity	**63%** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Spatial Distribution of Facilities** – there is relatively good distribution of equestrian facilities within the network. Some key features of the network include:
  a. **Barge Showgrounds** (Regional Equestrian Park) located centrally with good accessibility across Northland. It is situated in the primary membership catchment.
  b. **Tenure Concerns** – uncertainty surrounds the future tenure of equestrian activity at the two racecourses in Dargaville and Ruakaka where pony clubs are located. Both sites are proposed for future housing developments. Both sites serve local catchments with limited existing alternative provision. The second largest pony club in Northland is located at the Ruakaka Racecourse.
- **Showgrounds** – Showgrounds play an integral role across the Northland equestrian network. Four sites (Barge, Kaikohe, Kaitaia and Waimate North) support multi equestrian activity (i.e. mix of pony club, discipline groups, RDA, rodeo and other activity). This demonstrates good site optimisation.
- **Primary ESNZ Event Venues** – Barge Showgrounds is the premier events venue in Northland, accommodating dressage, jumping, showhunter and eventing. These are complemented by more localised venues in Kaikohe (dressage) and Waimate North Showgrounds.
- **Functionality** – 40% of sites have all-weather arena (including indoor) which is slightly lower than the national average (42%). With increasing adverse weather conditions, a higher proportion of sites with all-weather capability may need to be considered. This would provide greater site resilience and enable better certainty of use (day-to-day activity and event use).

  Indoor/Covered Arena - There are three sites with indoor/covered arena. Two are primarily used for RDA activity (Barge and Waimate North Showgrounds), and one private site used by the Kerikeri Pony Club at Kate's Riding Centre (the latter two are newer facilities). All three have size restrictions which can limit some equestrian activity.
- **Condition** – there are notable outdoor arena condition issues that were raised at Barge Showgrounds due to limited drainage. The indoor arena is deemed in average condition and was built during the 1990s. Other facilities cited as having components that were in poor condition were the two racecourses which also have tenure issues.
- **Other Sites** – there is a further standalone RDA site in Katiaia, while other private and showground sites are scattered across the region. Northgate Lodge is a prominent private facility often used by One Tree Point Pony Club members, the wider equestrian community, and local events. It is adjacent to the Maungatapere Equestrian Centre.
- **Equestrian Participation** – there is a high-level of expected equestrians in the region (not necessarily member based), which places extra emphasis on access to open spaces.

Recommendation 1: *Explore outdoor arena improvements at Barge Showgrounds. This should include investigating the suitability, viability, and sustainability of an all-weather arena.*

Consideration should also be given to exploring the opportunity of accommodating more equestrian groups on the site (gain the most from any potential investment)

Recommendation 2: *Explore possible relocation options and/or secure tenure at the Racecourse for One Tree Point Pony Club.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Barge Showgrounds	Whangarei	Regional
2	Dargaville Racecourse	Kaipara	Local
3	Hakaru Pony Club	Kaipara	Local
4	Hikurangi Sports Park	Whangarei	Local
5	Kaikohe A&P Showgrounds & Equestrian Centre	Far North	Local
6	Kaitaia A & P Showgrounds	Far North	Local
7	Kamo Pony Club	Whangarei	Local
8	Kate's Riding Centre	Far North	Local
9	Maungatapere Equestrian Centre	Whangarei	Local
10	Onerahi Sports Park	Whangarei	Local
11	Paihia Pony Club	Far North	Local
12	Ruakaka Racecourse	Whangarei	Local
13	Waimate North Showgrounds	Far North	Local
14	Waiotira Domain	Whangarei	Local
15	Waipapakauri Domain	Far North	Local

OTAGO DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	928	1,049
Total Equestrians*:	4,723	5,341

*Expected participation rate: 1.9% of population

9% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (lower decline than national average). 50% of groups cited increasing participation and 20% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is primarily concentrated within the large Dunedin City boundary (37%), with more moderate levels in Queenstown-Lakes (22%) and Central Otago (17%), and lower in Clutha (14%) and Waitaki (10%).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 155,930↑

Members to Sites: 46↓

Equestrians to # of Sites: 236↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

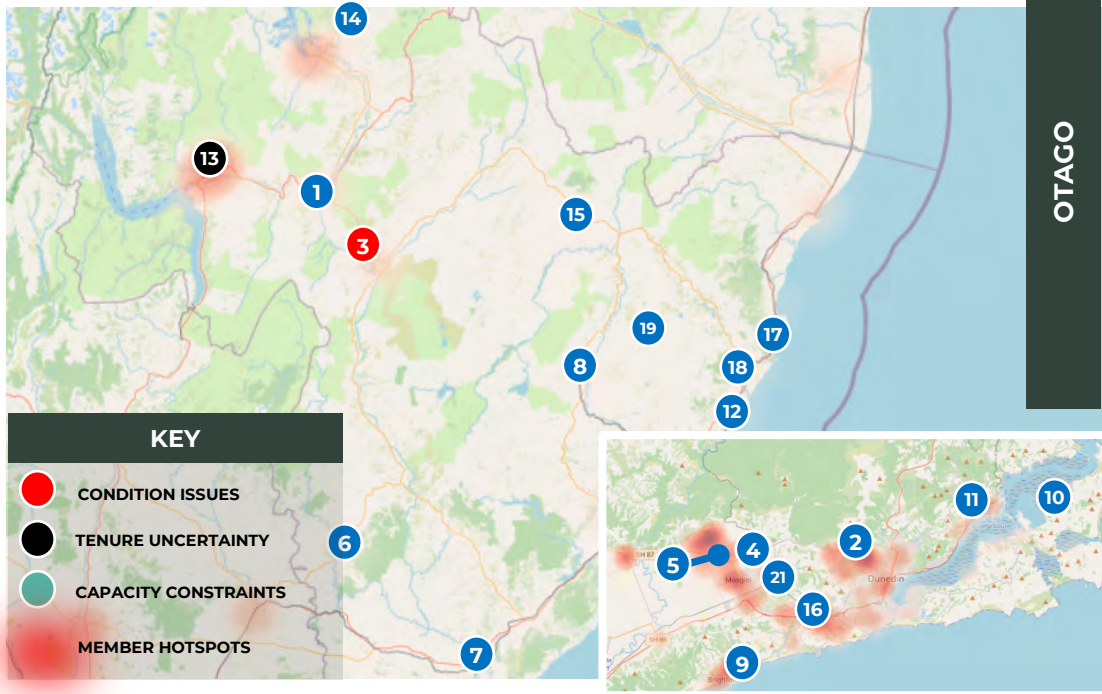
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 3.73 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 19 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -10% (lower decline than national average)

Demographic Overview: Forecast growth of 13% by 2048, led by Queenstown Lakes, followed by Dunedin City and Central Otago District. Aging profile with 65+ age group to increase 54% (up most in Queenstown Lakes), with overall decline in 0-14 years (but increasing across Central Otago). Predominantly European, but numeric decline in all areas.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 37% PRIVATE 32% TRUST 11% A&P 11%	**37%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**2** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 0 YARDS/STABLES – 1 OTHER ANCILLARY – 1	**100%** Have Available Capacity	**38%** Over 30 Years Old

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement** – overall the wider Otago region has a high-level of equestrian engagement (for both member and non-member related equestrian activity per 1,000 residents).
- **Spatial Distribution of Facilities (Wider Otago)** – there is good distribution of equestrian facilities serving local catchments outside of Dunedin City. The spread is likely to be contributing to the level of engagement in equestrian activity – with higher pony club membership in Queenstown Lakes and Maniototo.
- **Spatial Distribution of Dunedin City** – Dunedin City is the most populated area of Otago comprising the highest membership. Whilst there is good relative cover across coastal areas and on the outskirts of the main city, a notable number of sites are located on the Taieri Plains.

  There are 4 primary equestrian sites within a 15-minute drive time on the Taieri Plains (5 when considering an alternate private equestrian site that is used irregularly). All sites comprise different landowners (excluding Council).
- **Event Sites** – the primary event venues across Otago include the Otago-Taieri Showgrounds and the Otago Equestrian Centre (a 3 minute drive time apart). The latter features an indoor facility which is used for dressage during winter and inclement weather (providing some complementary features between the respective sites). Wingatui Racecourse is used entirely for eventing with its cross-country course.

  Other key sites across the region include Cromwell and Oamaru Racecourses which collectively provide full regional coverage.
- **Features** – there is a slightly lower proportion of all-weather arena across Otago. Specific future consideration should be given to all-weather arena options on the Taieri Plains for resilience purposes (responding to cited condition concerns).

  Aside from the Otago Equestrian Centre, all other indoor or covered arena are located at RDA sites in Alexandra, Balclutha, and Dunedin (which also includes learn-to-ride lessons). Where suitable and capacity exists, more access and use of these arena should be targeted.
- **Other Sites** – In addition to the sites mentioned above, there are various private facilities scattered across Otago which are used as alternate facilities for clubs/groups, cross-country courses, or riding school providers. This includes showgrounds and rodeo sites which are primarily event based.
- **Tenure** – the Wakatipu Pony Club have the largest membership in Otago. They have cited tenure concerns as they are on private land (which is under housing development pressures).
- **The Need to Optimise** – overall, there is a lower number of members to equestrian sites when compared against national benchmarking. There are noted arena condition issues and various assets are aging and in need of investment. Collaboration and optimisation are required to provide quality equestrian experiences and to support equine welfare.

Recommendation 1: *Explore potential opportunities to develop a Regional Equestrian Park on the Taieri Plains (on either an existing or new site). The site should accommodate multiple domiciled user groups and be the premier event venue for most disciplines.*

Recommendation 2: *Explore site options for the Wakatipu Pony Club to secure long-term tenure.*

Recommendation 3: *Ensure suitable support infrastructure is available for day-to-day activity at Hawea Domain.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Central Lakes Equestrian Club / Cromwell Racecourse Reserve	Central Otago	District
2	Dunedin Branch Pony Club	Dunedin City	District
3	Dunstan Equestrian Centre	Central Otago	Local
4	Edinburgh Realty Otago Equestrian Centre	Dunedin City	Local
5	Otago-Taieri Showgrounds	Dunedin City	District
6	Tapanui Racecourse	Clutha	Local
7	Riverside Reserve	Clutha	Local
8	Middlemarch Showgrounds	Dunedin City	Local
9	Brighton Pony Club	Dunedin City	Local
10	Peninsula Pony Club	Dunedin City	Local
11	O'Sullivan Park	Dunedin City	Local
12	Waikouaiti Park	Dunedin City	Local
13	Private Farm	Queenstown Lakes	Local
14	Hawea Domain	Queenstown Lakes	Local
15	Maniototo Park	Central Otago	Local
16	Miller Park	Dunedin City	Local
17	Oamaru Racecourse	Waitaki	District
18	Taieri Peaks Endurance & CTR	Waitaki	Local
19	Waitaki Goldfields	Waitaki	Local
20	West Taieri Pony Club	Dunedin City	Local
21	Wingatui Racecourse	Dunedin City	Local

SOUTHLAND DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	494	512
Total Equestrians*:	615	637

*Expected participation rate: 0.6% of population

9% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (lower decline than national average). 1 group cited increasing participation.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is primarily concentrated within the Southland District – 59% (largest land area of the territorial authority boundaries), followed by Invercargill City (24%) and Gore District (17%).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 155,930↑

Members to Sites: 46↓

Equestrians to # of Sites: 236↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

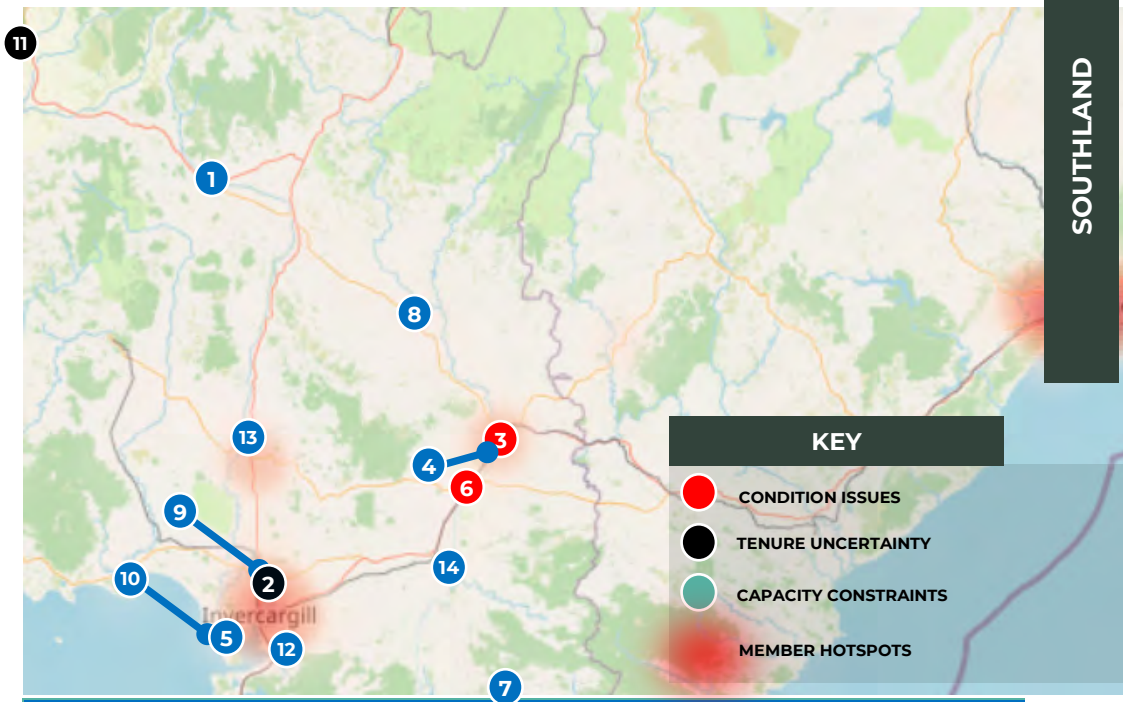
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 4.82 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 6 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -12% (on par with national average)

Demographic Overview: Forecast 4% growth by 2048, led by Invercargill City. Aging profile with 65+ age group to increase by 41% (most in Southland District), with decline in 0-14 years (15% decrease – most in Gore District). Predominantly European, but with numeric decline in all geographic areas.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 43% PRIVATE 29% A&P 14% OTHER 14%	**29%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**2** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 0 YARDS/STABLES – 2 Av. OTHER ANCILLARY – 2	**N/A** Have Available Capacity	**N/A** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement** – overall Southland has the highest number of members per 1,000 residents compared to all other Regional Council areas – demonstrating high levels of equestrian engagement.

  When overlaying the overall number of expected equestrians in the region, membership is an extremely high proportion of total equestrians. This means that equestrians are typically involved in membership related activity and/or the number of expected equestrians is understated.

  The number of equestrians per 1,000 residents is considerably lower than national benchmarking.

- **Spatial Distribution of Facilities** – facilities are relatively well distributed. Due to the lower population in Southland the number of members per site is lower than national benchmarking.

- **Invercargill** – Invercargill has various equestrian sites located in relative proximity across Otatara and Sandy Point – including the Southland Equestrian Centre and Griffin Equestrian Centre. While other provision is located north and south of the city respectively.

  The Sandy Point Master Plan includes consolidating equine activities over a 25-year period including connection and access to trails. This should include exploring potential optimisation and rationalisation of sites in the wider area to create operational efficiencies and improve participant and equine experiences.

- **Gore District** – the Gore A&P showgrounds is the premier events venue in Southland for dressage, jumping and show hunter disciplines. Eventing is more widely spread across sites such as Donovan Park, Gore Racecourse and Ryal Bush (privately owned). Facilities are well located to service and attract equestrians from both Southland and Otago.

  Most membership for the district is located around Gore. A wider catchment includes bordering council areas (South Otago and Southland District).

  While there are no clubs domiciled at the showgrounds, trustees of the Southern Equestrian Park Trust include wide representation from the equestrian sector (including dressage, show jumping, Gore A&P Association, Eastern Southland Pony Club and Riding for the Disabled, as well as the Gore District Council).

  Near to the showgrounds are the Eastern Southland RDA (next block over), Gore Racecourse and Henderson Park (Mataura). The latter two have relatively low pony club membership.

  Condition issues have been cited on some ancillary facilities at the showgrounds and Henderson Park, while other facilities are cited as being in average condition. All will need upcoming investment (most notably for yards).

Recommendation 1: *Explore potential optimisation opportunities at the showgrounds (as a potential Regional Equestrian Park). This could include potential rationalisation of nearby sites where membership is relatively low and upcoming investment is likely to be required. This approach would assist with optimising the potential of a Regional Equestrian Park, assist the investment proposition and make best use of available volunteer and other resource. Careful consideration will need to be given to accessibility.*

Tenure – there is tenure uncertainty for the Te Anau Pony Club who have a casual agreement with the Rodeo Club to gain access to 1 hectare at the Te Anaua Recreation Reserve.

With land pressures increasing within Invercargill City, developer interest in Donovan Park creates a level of uncertainty. The site hosts eventing and previously accommodated pony club activity. Loss of this site will place pressure on securing additional use of other private sites (based on current accessible provision).

Recommendation 2: *As Te Anau Pony Club membership is relatively low, it is recommended that Council and the Rodeo Club are engaged to determine how tenue for the club could be secured (rather than attempting to find an alternative location for the club).*

Recommendation 3: *Complete a needs and options assessment for equestrian activity across Invercargill. This includes investigating impacts of potential displacement from Donovan Park and opportunities to realise and optimise the vision for Sandy Point Reserve (operational efficiencies, optimise investment and resource, and potentially site rationalisation).*

Other Sites and Function: other prominent equestrian sites include the Mataura Rodeo Club and Southland RDA. Southland RDA comprises the only indoor area available (outside of any wider private facilities). Although Southand has the second lowest proportion of access to all-weather arena, existing sites are relatively well spread commensurate to where membership is concentrated.

Potential consolidation and maximising use of available arena through partnerships will help provide suitable access for the region. Future consideration could be given to exploring all-weather arena provision in Winton where there is a current gap and a good membership catchment.

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Castlerock Mossburn Pony Club	Southland	Local
2	Donovan Park	Invercargill City	Local
3	Gore A & P Showgrounds	Gore	Regional
4	Gore Racecourse	Gore	Local
5	Griffin Equestrian Centre	Invercargill City	TBD
6	Henderson Park	Gore	Local
7	Otara Pony Club	Southland	Local
8	Riversdale Community Sportsgrounds	Southland	Local
9	Ryal Bush Event Venue	Invercargill	Local
10	Sandy Point Domain	Invercargill	TBD
11	Te Anau Recreation Reserve	Southland	Local
12	Woodend-Blyth Reserve	Invercargill	Local
13	Winton Racecourse	Southland	Local
14	Wyndham A&P Showgrounds	Southland	Local

TARANAKI DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	553	598
Total Equestrians*:	1,025	1,108

*Expected participation rate: 0.8% of population

8% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (lower decline than national average). 44% of groups cited increasing participation and 34% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is primarily concentrated within the New Plymouth District (65%), South Taranaki (23%) and Stratford (12%).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 55,808↓

Members to Sites: 43↓

Equestrians to # of Sites: 79↓

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

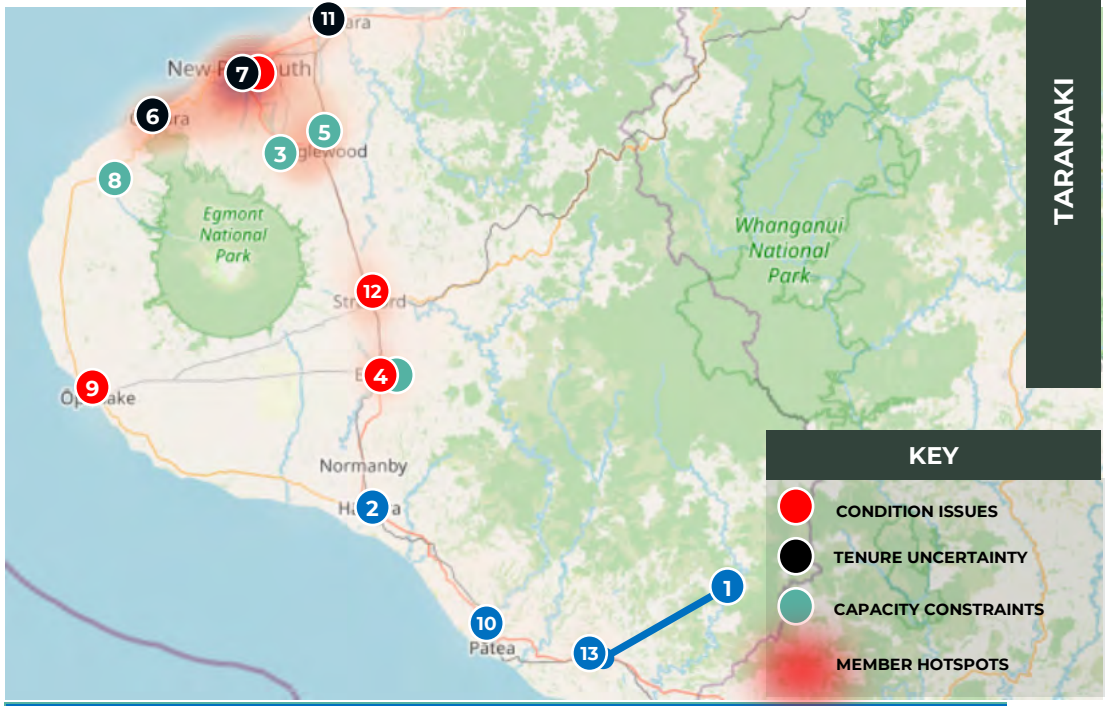
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 4.32 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 8 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -9% (on par with national average)

Demographic Overview: 8% growth by 2048, with most in New Plymouth District. Aging profile with 65+ age group to grow by 53%, with 0-14 years to decline by 12% (least amount of decline in New Plymouth District). Predominantly European, with numeric growth highest for Māori (especially in New Plymouth and South Taranaki Districts).



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 54% CLUB 23% A&P 15% PRIVATE 8%	**69%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA	**3** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 1 Poor & 55% Av. YARDS/STABLES – 50% Av. OTHER ANCILLARY – 30%	**60%** Have Available Capacity	**67%** Over 30 Years

TARANAKI EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES PLAN

More in-depth and wider analysis of the full equestrian facility network is outlined within the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan. The information contained in this section presents a snapshot of the region (in comparative form to the rest of the country).

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement** – the region has one of the highest member engagement rates in the country.

  However, factors such as topography and smaller population catchments across the more remote areas of Taranaki results in a lower number of members per site.
- **Spatial Distribution** – there is a relatively well distributed network of sites which is primarily borne by the need to service local and remote communities.

  Most sites are concentrated in New Plymouth District which is commensurate with the largest population and member concentrations.
- **Tenure** – there is a high degree of tenure uncertainty and potential impact on the equestrian facility network in the New Plymouth District. This is in specific regard to New Plymouth Racecourse, Ranfurly Park and Taranaki Hunt. Most of this uncertainty surrounds prospective land developments on the respective sites.
- **Condition** – most facilities were perceived to be in average condition. When considering the scale of facilities in this banding, considerable investment is required to support quality experiences and equine welfare.
- **Function** – access to indoor/covered arena is restricted by geographic location and sufficient size of arena to enable activity by a wide range of equestrian users (Egmont A&P Showgrounds New Plymouth RDA – Barrett Domain).

  A large proportion of activity centres around Egmont A&P Showgrounds, Stratford A&P Showgrounds and Ranfurly Park for event hosting, access to cross-country courses and to accommodate most equestrian activity.

  Egmont A&P Showgrounds is the premier equestrian events site in the network. Due to its location in Hawera, most use is event-related with limited day-to-day equestrian activity.

  The region has a high proportion of all-weather arena which is valuable when considering weather patterns that are experienced.
- **Proposed Development** – the proposed development of Stratford Park is extensive as it encompasses a wide range of facilities and services. Unlocking the existing land requires relocating equestrian activity to newly purchased land.
- **Other Sites** – the network is complemented by various other sites including therapy-related, riding schools/centres, hunt, adult riding club, RDA, and other private sites.

Recommendation 1: *Explore the development of a District Equestrian Park in North Taranaki to improve network tenure and consolidate sites to optimise use and investment return. This should also include investigation into covered arena provision.*

Recommendation 2: *Complete required renewal and upgrade works at Egmont A&P Showgrounds to maintain Regional Equestrian Park status.*

Recommendation 3: *Continue planning and development of core equestrian facilities at Stratford Park.*

Note: please see the Taranaki Equestrian Facilities Plan for more in-depth insights and recommendations.

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Dallison Park, Waverley	South Taranaki	Local
2	Egmont A & P Showgrounds	South Taranaki	Regional
3	Egmont Village Riding School	New Plymouth District	Local
4	Eltham Pony Club	South Taranaki	Local
5	Jubilee Park	New Plymouth District	Local
6	McKellar Park	New Plymouth District	Local
7	New Plymouth Racecourse	New Plymouth District	Local
8	Okato Domain	New Plymouth District	Local
9	Opunake Pony Club Grounds	South Taranaki	Local
10	Patea Pony Club	South Taranaki	Local
11	Ranfurly Park	New Plymouth District	Local
12	Stratford A&P Showgrounds	Stratford	Local
13	Waverley Pony Club	South Taranaki	Local

TASMAN DASHBOARD

(Comprising Nelson, Marlborough & Tasman Regional Council Areas)

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	516	560
Total Equestrians*:	2,159	2,345

*Expected participation rate: 1.3% of population
15% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (slightly lower decline than national average). 1 group cited decreasing participation and others remaining stable.

CATCHMENT AREAS

Membership is relatively evenly split between Tasman District (49% - with wide geographic spread), Marlborough District (42% - most located in the wider Blenheim area) and the remainder in Nelson City (8%).

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 256,200↑

Members to Sites: 65↑

Equestrians to # of Sites: 270↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

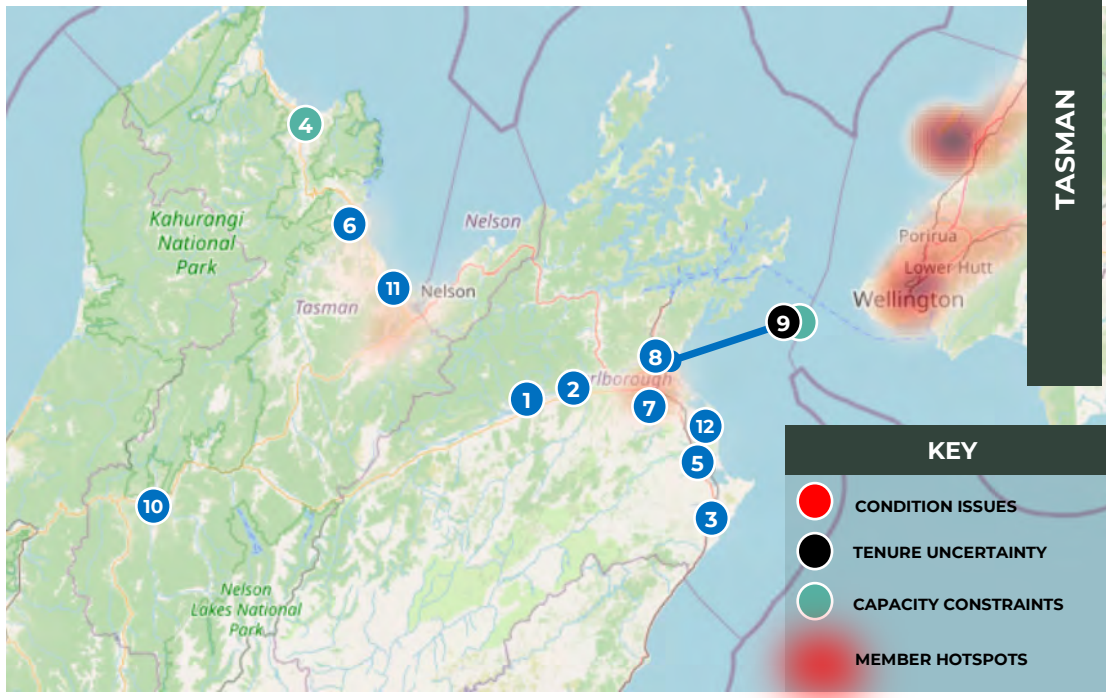
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 3.11 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 13 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -25% (larger decline than national average)

Demographic Overview: 9% growth by 2048, led by Tasman, followed by Marlborough (Nelson to a lesser extent). Projected aging profile with 65+ age group to grow by 52%, with decline in 0-14 and 15-39 age brackets (10% and 12% respectively. Predominantly European (91%). Low numbers in other ethnic groups, but high relative growth rates.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 50% PRIVATE 42% A&P 8%	**75%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA (EXCLUDES ENDURANCE/CTR SITES)	**2** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 2 Av. YARDS/STABLES – 2 Av. OTHER ANCILLARY – 1 Av.	**60%** Have Available Capacity	**33%** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement** – the region has relatively high equestrian engagement, most noticeably for the total number of expected equestrians across Tasman. The number of members per 1,000 residents is also higher than the national average.
- **Spatial Distribution of Sites** – overall, there is good distribution of sites across the region reaching all main population and member catchments. The geographic catchments the respective sites serve is further illustrated when removing the primarily event-based endurance/CTR private sites (numbered 1, 2 and 12 in the map).
- **Site Ownership** – Councils are the main landowner in the region. This is further illustrated when endurance sites which are all located on private land are removed.
- **Importance of Regional Sites** – there are two regional sites located at Rough Island (west of Nelson) and the Marlborough Equestrian Park. There is collaborative use between various disciplines, pony clubs and western riding to optimise the sites. They are also the primary event venues for the Tasman region (outside of Endurance/CTR).

  Rough Island Equestrian Park is a critical site for servicing the wider Nelson area (as a primary member catchment area). This includes accommodating two pony clubs on the site. Outside of Marchwood Park in Motueka and some use of Richmond Park (events), there are no other equestrian sites used.
- **Blenheim** – there is a large member catchment situated around the wider Blenheim area, with various equestrian sites located within its boundary. These include the Marlborough Equestrian Park, Marlborough A&P Showgrounds and Marshlands Pony Club. There are current tenure and capacity issues at the Marshlands Pony Club (private site) and the Showgrounds is used for events.

  Additionally, Blenheim is home to Churchward Park (RDA) and Rewi Murray Polo Park.
- **Condition** – overall, the condition of assets appears suitable across the region (i.e. not cited as being poor). However, many assets were cited as being in average condition and are likely to require investment in the next 3-5 years.
- **Arena Types** – the region has the second highest proportion of sites with all-weather arena (with multiple arena at the two regional sites). There is one indoor arena located at Marlborough RDA which is 60m x 20m.
- **Other Sites** – various alternate sites are used primarily for access to cross-country courses including The Redwoods, Marfell Downs and Waihopai (there is limited publicly available courses across the region).

  There are five Riding for the Disabled sites including Golden Bay (which is a shared site with the pony club) and standalone sites in Blenheim, Motueka, Nelson and Richmond.

Recommendation 1: *Explore opportunities to optimise the use of the Marlborough Equestrian Park to address wider tenure and capacity issues being experienced elsewhere. Review the event delivery model in Marlborough so future infrastructure investment can be prioritised and not diverted away from the Equestrian Park.*

This should be assessed further when determining any proposed developments at the Regional Equestrian Park.

Recommendation 2: *Due to the distribution of the equestrian facility network it is critical that these sites have secure tenure and are well maintained in line with asset management plans.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Erina Downs Endurance & CTR	Marlborough	Local
2	Fareham Lane CTR	Marlborough	Local
3	Flaxbourne/Ward Domain	Marlborough	Local
4	Golden Bay RDA & Pony Club Grounds	Tasman	Local
5	Lions Back Endurance & CTR	Marlborough	Local
6	Marchwood Park	Tasman	Local
7	Marlborough A&P Showgrounds	Marlborough	Local
8	Marlborough Equestrian Park	Marlborough	Regional
9	Marshlands Pony Club Grounds	Marlborough	Local
10	Murchison Domain	Tasman	Local
11	Rough Island Equestrian Park	Tasman	Regional
12	Seaview CTR	Marlborough	Local

WAIKATO DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	1,787	2,196
Total Equestrians*:	5,199	6,390

*Expected participation rate: 1.0% of population

11% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (lower decline than national average). 29% of groups cited increasing participation and 21% cited it was decreasing.

CATCHMENT AREAS

The primary membership catchments are Waikato District (34% - relatively dispersed) and Waipa District (22% - strong concentration in and around Cambridge). Taupō with (10%) is the next highest area, with the remaining membership spread across the Waikato.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 74,691↓

Members to Sites: 56

Equestrians to # of Sites: 162↓

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

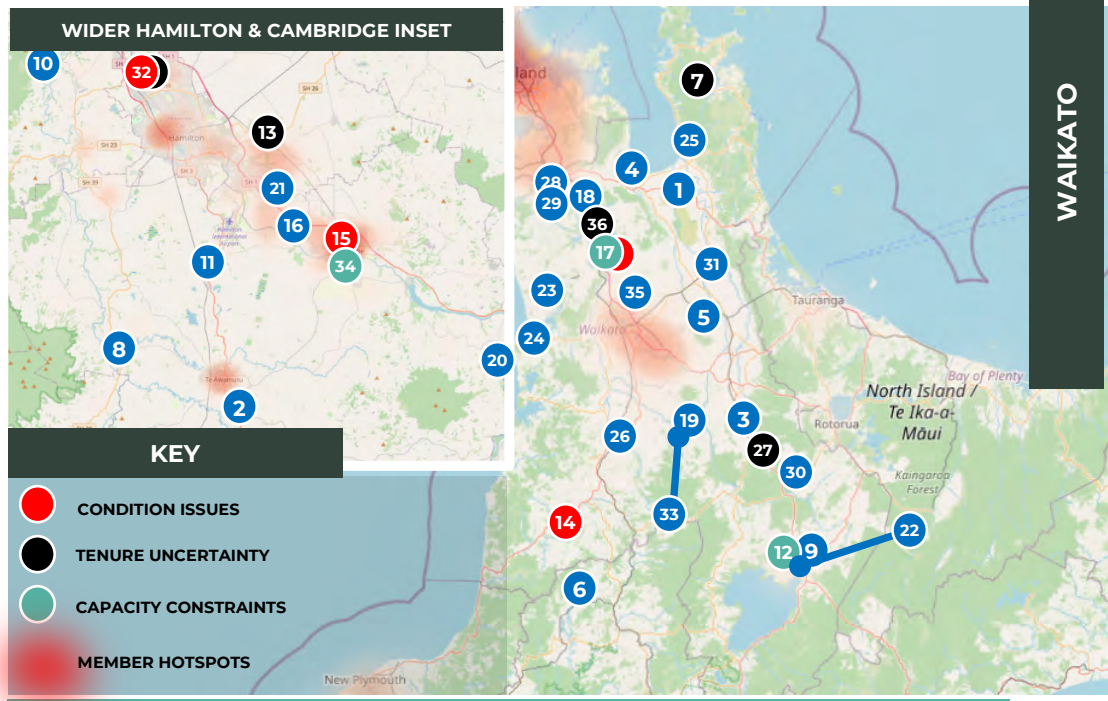
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 3.44 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 10 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -12% (on par with national average)

Demographic Overview: 23% forecast growth by 2048, led by Hamilton City and Waikato District. Aging profile with 65+ age group to increase by 81% (most growth in Waikato District and Hamilton City), with small growth in 0-14 years. Highest relative growth rates for Asian and Pacific ethnicities, with European and Māori to continue numeric predominance.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
PRIVATE 46% COUNCIL 37% OTHER 17%	**48%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA (EXCLUDES ENDURANCE/CTR SITES)	**5** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 50% Av. YARDS/S – 31% Av. OTHER ANCILLARY – 31%	**63%** Have Available Capacity	**56%** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement** – the Waikato region has the third largest membership base in the country and a higher than average ratio of members per 1,000 residents. The total number of expected equestrians, while numerically relatively high (just over 5,000), is on par with the national average for the number of equestrians per 1,000 residents. This indicates there is relatively high equestrian engagement – with more pronounced levels in Waikato and Waipa Districts.

- **The Network** – while overall there appears to be a high number of equestrian sites used by pony clubs and ESNZ disciplines, the sites cover a large geographic area with distinct population catchments. Additionally, there are various sites which are primarily used for event purposes only (particularly privates sites used for Endurance/CTR).

  The network is also characterised by a high proportion of private landowners (mostly attributed to pony club activity). This demonstrates the importance the support of the wider equine community plays in achieving equestrian-related outcomes. Private ownership can help provide sites which may not necessarily be available elsewhere (i.e. on public sites). Some private sites can also be linked to higher quality facilities (mainly associated with other business-related activities). While these private sites provide significant value to the network they can also be subject to sale, raising some uncertainty/vulnerability in the network.

- **Tiered Sites** – Waikato comprises two International/National Equestrian Parks and one Regional Equestrian Park (National Equestrian Centre – Taupō, Takapoto Estate – Cambridge and the Waikato Equestrion Centre – Hamilton).

  The three sites provide geographic coverage for the region effectively servicing the member catchments and covering various functions (i.e. events, domiciled club/group use, casual access and high performance). Takapoto Estate is the premier events venue in the country – with events being its primary activity. The National Equestrian Centre is centrally located in the North Island to provide wider accessibility and to complement the other prominent sites to the north.

- **ESNZ Event Venue Network** – the three tiered sites account for 75% of all scheduled events across the region (2022/23 season) for dressage, eventing and jumping. This demonstrates the strong dependence on these sites. Other notable sites include the Waihou Showgrounds (dressage), Hampton Downs (jumping) and Kihikihi Domain (jumping and eventing). While various other private sites are used for eventing and Endurance/CTR).

- **Tenure Concerns** – there are various sites where users or owners have cited tenure concerns. Reasons for this vary including Council leases expiring in coming years, private land being sold and health and safety constraints for hosting events on private land.

  The sites hold geographic and/or functional significance for the network.

  a. Mercury Bay – geographic provision in the Coromandel with moderate membership size.
  b. Tokoroa Forest – event venue for the Waikato Bay of Plenty Endurance Riding Club (reliance on access to private sites).
  c. Karetu Farm – very localised provision in Whangamarino.
  d. Phillips Equine – located in high membership catchment, large pony club membership and with wider equestrian services offered.
  e. Waikato Equestrian Centre – Regional Equestrian Park which is used extensively by a full range of users and a primary event venue for most disciplines. There is a degree of uncertainty regarding the lease renewal and its location adjacent to the Waikato River.

- **Function** – the number of sites with all-weather arena is slightly higher than the national average. There appears to be a potential gap in all-weather arena provision in the wider Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel region (particularly sites used by pony clubs and disciplines). The rest of the region appears to have good coverage, with multiple all-weather arenas located at key sites.

  There are seven indoor arena located across the Waikato which are primarily located in high member concentration areas (Hamilton, Cambridge and Taupō).

- **Other Sites** – there are a plethora of other equestrian facilities located throughout the Waikato. Many are used by equestrians individually or

by pony clubs as alternate sites. There are a further seven RDA sites which are spread across the region, with most operating as standalone entities. Other notable sites include St Peter's School (Cambridge), Matamata Equestrian Group, MC Polo Club, and various racecourses.

- **Condition** – overall, most condition issues cited relate to support infrastructure (yards/stables, clubroom/event facilities and changing rooms and toilets), as opposed to arena. Of note, Waikato Equestrian Centre users referenced the need for covered yards and built infrastructure in closer proximity to the main activity areas.

  Of upcoming concern is the number of arena and support infrastructure which was perceived in average condition. Investment in the near term will be required before these facilities reach poor condition resulting in wider reaching impacts.
- **Site Optimisation** – there appears to be some opportunities for site optimisation and/or consolidation around Cambridge and Taupō (available capacity and an overlap of local drivetime catchments) which needs further analysis.

Recommendation 1: *Work with Hamilton City Council and other relevant parties to secure long-term tenure of the Waikato Equestrian Centre. The site is critical to the overall equestrian network and decision-making around tenure will provide certainty given the imminent investment required.*

Recommendation 2: *Undertake a Waikato Equestrian Facilities Plan which builds upon national-level insights. This should include taking a more in-depth view of current and proposed provision, consider activity within adjacent Council boundaries, and incorporate a wide scope to fully understand other equestrian facility provision (including public spaces i.e. beaches, bridle trails and parks) and prioritised direction. Additionally:*

a. *Specific consideration should be given to insights and possible opportunities with the Bay of Plenty and Taranaki (where specific Regional Equestrian Plans have already been completed).*
b. *Consideration should be given to undertaking the plan alongside Auckland's Equestrian Facility Plan refresh. This is particularly relevant given the large concentration of equestrians in Franklin and Waikato District and the amount of cross-boundary activity.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Kerepehi Domain	Hauraki	Local
2	Kihikihi Domain	Waipa	District
3	Lichfield Reserve	South Waikato	Local
4	Maramarua Endurance	Waikato	Local
5	Matamata Pony Club	Matamata-Piako	Local
6	Matiere Endurance	Ruapehu	Local
7	Mercury Bay Pony Club	Thames-Coromandel	Local
8	Mount Pirongia Pony Club	Waipa	Local
9	National Equestrian Centre	Taupō	International / National
10	Ngaruawahia Pony Club	Waikato	Local
11	Ohaupo Equestrian Centre	Waipa	Local
12	Oruanui Pony Club	Taupō	Local
13	Phillips Equine	Hamilton City	Local
14	Piopio Domain	Waitomo	Local
15	Pony Club Grounds	Waipa	Local
16	Pony Tales Riding School	Waipa	Local
17	Rotongaro Huntly Pony Club	Waikato	Local
18	Showfields Equestrian Centre	Waikato	Local
19	Stonehill Horse Treks	Waipa	Local
20	Takapoto Estate	Waipa	International / National
21	Tamahere Pony Club	Hamilton City	Local
22	Poihipi Road Equestrian Centre	Taupō	Local
23	Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex	Waikato	Local
24	Te Uku Pony Club	Waikato	Local
25	Thames Pony Club	Thames-Coromandel	Local
26	Tippings Reserve	Ōtorohanga	Local
27	Tokoroa Forest, Tokoroa	Ōtorohanga	Local
28	Tuakau Recreation Reserve	Waikato	Local
29	Pakuranga Hunt	Waikato	Local
30	Upper Atiamuri Pony Club	South Waikato	Local
31	Waihou Recreation Ground	Matamata-Piako	Local
32	Waikato Equestrian Centre	Hamilton City	Regional
33	Wharepapa South Domain	Waipa	Local
34	Leamington Recreation Reserve	Waipa	Local
35	Gordonton Reserve	Waikato	Local
36	Karetu Farm, Te Kauwhata	Waikato	Local

WELLINGTON DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	986	1,094
Total Equestrians*:	4,909	5,445

*Expected participation rate: 0.9% of population
29% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (notably higher decline than national average). 50% of groups cited increasing participation.

CATCHMENT AREAS

63% of membership is concentrated across Wellington City (25%), Masterton District (20%) and Kāpiti Coast District (18%). The remaining Council areas range between 5-11% of total membership (Upper Hutt, Porirua and Lower Hutt Cities, and Carterton and South Wairarapa Districts.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 57,493↓

Members to Sites: 70↑

Equestrians to # of Sites: 351↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

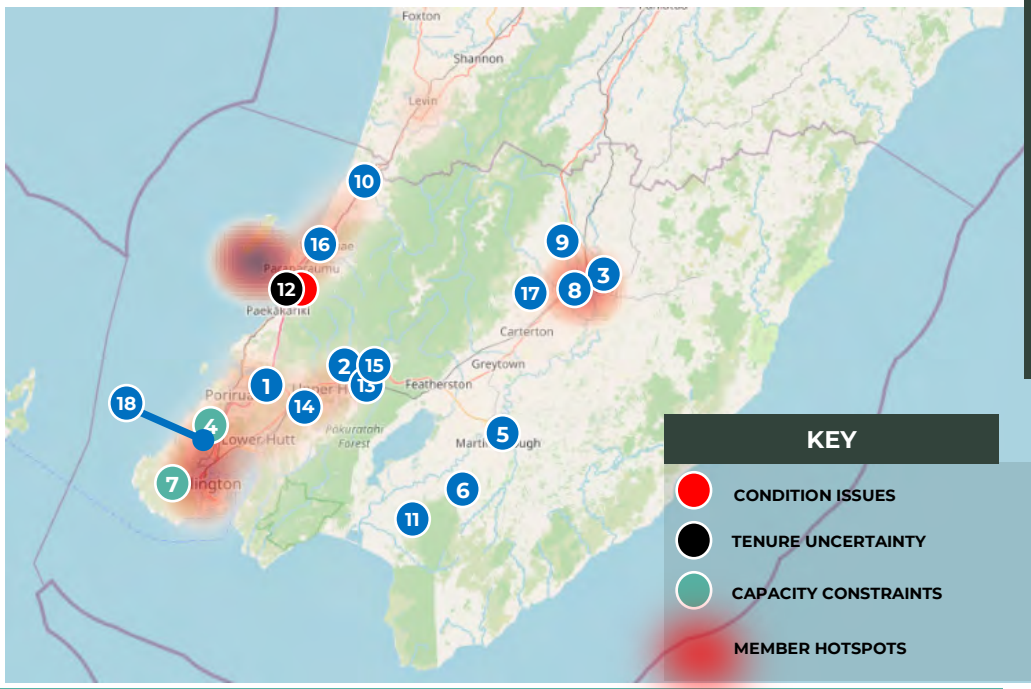
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 1.81 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 9 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -10% (slightly lower decline than the national average)

Demographic Overview: forecast growth of 11% by 2048, led by Wellington City, followed most by Porirua, Lower and Upper Hutt's. Aging profile with 53% growth in the 65+ year bracket (up most in Porirua), with 5% decline forecast for 0-14 years (slight increase in Wellington City and Carterton District). Mostly European, with ethnic diversity in Wellington (mainly Asian & Lower Hutt), Māori & Pacific (Porirua) and Māori in Masterton District.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 38% PRIVATE 25% CLUB 13% A&P 13%	**57%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA (EXCLUDES ENDURANCE/CTR SITES)	**1** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – 33% Av. YARDS/S – 50% Av. ANCILLARY – 57% Av	**N/A** Limited Data	**56%** Over 30 Years Old

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement & Sites** – the wider Wellington region has a relatively low number of members to population. However, there is a high-level of members per equestrian site (when excluding private and typically event-based Endurance/CTR sites).

  The natural topography of the region plays a key role in where 'base' equestrian sites are located. Subsequently, this may result in a lower number of members per population due to access constraints (primarily in the populated central suburbs of Wellington). With suitable land at a premium, there is higher demand for available sites (more members per site) than most other areas of the country.

  The natural topography can be valuable when forming trails and providing access for Endurance and CTR events. This is demonstrated with the level of demand and sites used across the region (primarily privately owned land – account for 17% of scheduled events nationally.

- **Function** – the region has a higher than average number of sites with all-weather arena. While there are three sites with indoor or covered arenas located in Porirua, Hutt, and Wellington City Councils respectively.

  While there appears to be a potential gap in indoor/covered provision around Masterton, Masterton RDA owns an indoor arena on land adjacent to Masterton AFC. There is a further RDA site with an indoor arena in Hutt Valley, and privately owned sites in Porirua and Ohariu Valley.

- **ESNZ Event Delivery** – Solway Showgrounds is the primary events venue in the region, hosting most dressage events scheduled for Wellington and various jumping and show hunter events.

  Clareville Complex (Wairarapa A&P Showgrounds) hosts jumping and show hunter events and can accommodate eventing alongside Queen Elizabth Park as the primary eventing sites.

  Other venues include Trentham Memorial Park in Hutt City (dressage) and Waikanae Pony Club (show hunter). As previously mentioned, Wellington plays a critical role in Endurance/CTR events – typically on private land.

- **Geographic Importance** – Ohariu Valley in Wellington City provides critical provision for equestrian activity in the wider region (taking account of topography and membership concentrations). This area includes a mix of private, community and Council owned sites.

  Queen Elizabeth Park provides key provision for the Kāpiti District which has a large member and non-member equestrian base, as well as the wider region. The site caters for a full range of equestrian activities and is relatively close to Wellington City-based equestrians.

  Solway Showgrounds in Masterton is categorised as the Regional Equestrian Park. The facilities cater for a wide range of users and disciplines, multiple large clubs/groups are domiciled there, and the area is an identified equestrian hotspot.

- **Distribution** – there is a relatively strong concentration of facilities in Kāpiti Coast. There are three sites (all with different landownership and varying membership levels) within 15 minutes of each other (Queen Elizabth Park, Kapiti Equestrian and Vaulting Club and Waikanae Park).

  While the membership concentration is relatively low in Upper Hutt, there are a high number of sites. These include two pony club sites (1 being a private riding school), Hutt Valley RDA, Trentham Memorial Park (event site), Birchville Park and various private equestrian centres. It is likely with land provision and business interest there is high demand for equestrian activity in the area, and whilst servicing local catchments, there is probably some additional pull from Wellington City where membership is the highest.

  Queen Elizabeth Park and Clareville Complex are in relative proximity but collectively provide complementary functionality across dressage, jumping, show hunter and eventing disciplines (in addition to nearby Endurance/CTR and RDA sites). They are also located in different Council boundaries. Clear planning is required to ensure the best use of investment and human resource.

- **Condition** – while most facilities are not perceived to be in poor condition (from survey insights), many facilities were deemed in average condition. This indicates that significant upcoming investment is likely to be required across the equestrian network for assets to remain fit-for-purpose.

Recommendation 1: *Explore network opportunities in Kāpiti Coast to inform potential equestrian facility investment and development. Particular focus should be placed on the role and tenure of Queen Elizabeth Park. This should include consideration of where clubs and groups are drawing their membership from, and the facilities needed for both day-to-day and event activities.*

Recommendation 2: *Review and prioritise the specifications for prospective developments at Solway Showgrounds (in line with Regional Equestrian Park guidelines). Focus should be placed on cross country, jumping and arena upgrades, covered yards and improved shower and toilet facilities.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Battle Hill Farm Park	Porirua	District
2	Belmont Domain	Hutt City	Local
3	Blackrock Endurance	Masterton	Local
4	Bryant's Farm	Wellington City	Local
5	Considine Park	South Wairarapa	Local
6	Daisybank Station	South Wairarapa	Local
7	Makara Pony Club	Wellington City	Local
8	Masterton A&P Solway Showgrounds	Masterton	Regional
9	Matahiwi Endurance & CTR	Masterton	Local
10	Otaki Racecourse	Kāpiti Coast	Local
11	Pirinoa Endurance	South Wairarapa	Local
12	Queen Elizabeth Park	Kāpiti Coast	District
13	Thompsons Horse Centre	Upper Hutt City	Local
14	Trentham Memorial Park	Upper Hutt City	Local
15	Upper Valley Pony Club	Upper Hutt City	Local
16	Waikanae Park	Waikanae Park	Local
17	Wairarapa A&P Showgrounds, Clareville	Carterton	District
18	Wellington Indoor Riding School	Wellington City	Local

WEST COAST DASHBOARD

BY THE NUMBERS

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION (CURRENT & FORECAST)

	2023	2048
ESNZ & NZPCA Membership:	116	106
Total Equestrians*:	392	360

*Expected participation rate: 1.2% of population

9% decline in pony club membership over the last 5-years (notably lower decline than national average).

CATCHMENT AREAS

44% of members reside in Westland District, with a further 30% and 26% in Buller and Grey Districts respectively.

NATIONAL BENCHMARKING

Land Area to # of Sites: 57,493↓

Members to Sites: 70↑

Equestrians to # of Sites: 351↑

EQUESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT RATES

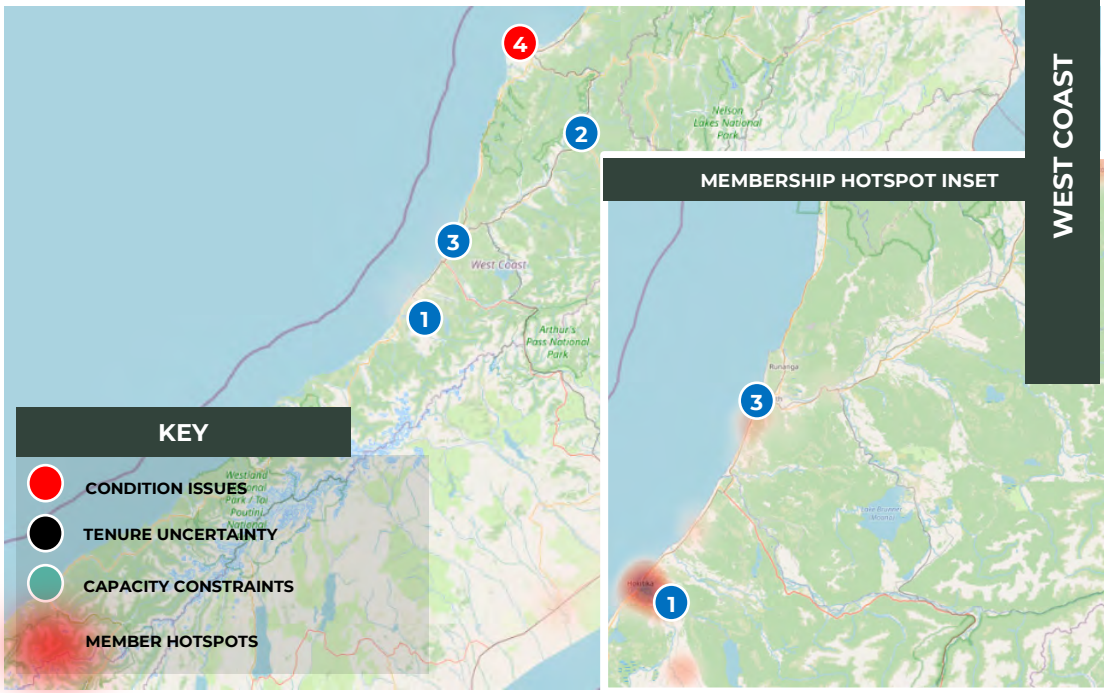
Members to 1,000 Pop.: 3.55 members per 1,000 residents

Equestrians to 1,000 Pop.: 12 equestrians per 1,000 residents

EQUESTRIAN SETTING

Farmland Change: -15% (slightly higher decline than the national average)

Demographic Overview: forecast decline of 8% by 2048, with most decline in the Buller District. Aging profile with 21% growth in the 65+ age group (most growth in the Westland District), and 26% decline in 0-14 years. Predominantly European, with low numbers in other ethnic groups, but high relative growth rates projected.



FACILITY OVERVIEW (PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS)

LAND OWNERSHIP	ALL-WEATHER ARENA	TENURE
COUNCIL 75% OTHER 25%	**75%** SITES WITH ALL-WEATHER ARENA (EXCLUDES ENDURANCE/CTR SITES)	**0** UNCERTAIN FUTURE
POOR CONDITION	**ARENA CAPACITY**	**EQUESTRIAN USE**
ARENA – N/A YARDS/S – N/A ANCILLARY – 1	**N/A** Limited Data	**N/A** Over 30 Years

SUMMARY FINDINGS & THE WAY FORWARD

- **Equestrian Engagement & Sites** – the West Coast has a notably higher level of equestrian engagement (members per 1,000 residents) compared to the national average. This is contributed by the geographic spread of sites within or around the main townships.
- **Geographic Spread** – while there is wide geographic spread of members, most membership demand is centred around with wider Hokitika area.
- **Hokitika Racecourse** – In addition to the sites referenced above, Hokitika Racecourse is another notable site used by the equestrian community. The site accommodates West Coast RDA on an adjacent land parcel. Wider racecourse facilities are used on a day-to-day basis. The site is also used for various shows and for wider casual equestrian use.

  The RDA parcel is also under construction with an indoor arena being developed alongside other support infrastructure.

  There are current tenure concerns for certain equestrian activities and facilities at the racecourse given proposed developments.
- **Other Sites** – the identified sites are complemented by a range of equestrian sites across the region. These include South Westland Area School (Harihari) and various racecourses (i.e. Westport).
- **Optimisation and Collaboration** – with relatively low membership and an aging set of facilities, greater optimisation and collaboration is required to best use available funding and resource. This is already evident in the region with collocation between of the Westport Pony Club and Kawatiri RDA.

Recommendation 1: *continue to advocate for use of the Hokitika Racecourse. This includes exploring the optimisation of existing assets, consideration of consolidating sites to establish more of an equestrian hub, and maximising investment outcomes from current developments undertaken by the RDA. This is best achieved via an options assessment which can inform the racecourse master plan.*

Recommendation 2: *Due to the distribution of the equestrian facility network it is critical that these sites have secure tenure and are well maintained in line with asset management plans.*

PRIMARY SITES USED BY ESNZ DISCIPLINES AND PONY CLUBS

MAP REF #	SITE NAME	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	PROPOSED TIER
1	Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Pony Club	Westland	Local
2	Reefton Reserve	Buller	Local
3	South Beach - Paroa Domain	Grey	District
4	North Beach Reserve	Buller	Local

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

ACCESS & SECURITY (25%)	We have the right type of facilities, in the most suitable locations, with secured tenure to facilitate equestrian activity for all.
IMPACT (35%)	Our equestrian sites extract the greatest possible value for our communities. This includes equine welfare, making the most of what we have got (greater utilisation and more partnerships) and providing the best overall experience to all equestrians.
SUSTAINABILITY (15%)	Our facilities remain financially, operationally, and environmentally sustainable.
ACHIEVABILITY (25%)	Our facility projects are functional, practical and complementary (meets the primary needs), the ability to leverage investment is high to support project viability ('do-ability') and we have the required skillset to drive and implement the project.

Under the principles a series of 10 criteria were developed to assess and prioritise equestrian facility projects. A paired comparison matrix was used to provide focus for future support, investment, and resource.

The following criteria will be used for assessing all current and proposed projects/opportunities within the context of the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy. It will be a **living tool** which enables consistent evaluation of projects and opportunities as they arise and evolve over time.

ACCESS & SECURITY

NETWORK IMPORTANCE - (20%)

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

LOW IMPORTANCE — **HIGH IMPORTANCE**

Considerations: the criticality of the facility in the network to service a geographic area or where a proposed facility may meet an identified gap (geographically and/or functionally). This also includes possible optimisation of sites to best meet network outcomes.

SECURITY OF SITE OR FACILITY PROVISION - (5%)

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

LOW LIKELIHOOD OF IMPACT — **HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF IMPACT**

Considerations: The extent to which existing sites/facilities are or likely to be removed or lost (i.e. not renewing lease) – impacting on participation and/or pathway outcomes.

IMPACT

PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE - (10%)

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

LIMITED CHANGE IN EXPERIENCE — **HIGHLY IMPROVED EXPERIENCE**

Considerations: The potential of the proposed project to enhance the participant and spectator experience. This could be achieved by improving the condition of surfaces and facilities, limiting or mitigating adverse weather and the provision of quality support infrastructure. It could also include technology solutions and the social environment created for day-to-day and/or event activity.

EQUINE WELFARE - (10%)

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

LIMITED HORSE WELFARE OUTCOMES — **SUPPORTS HORSE WELFARE OUTCOMES**

Considerations: The extent to which the proposed development maintains or improves horse/pony welfare outcomes (i.e. covered yards, water supply, arena surface quality) – commensurate to facility tier specifications.

MAXIMISES VALUE – PARTICIPATION IMPACT & LEVEL OF USE - (15%)



RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL OF USE

SUPPORTS ONGOING & HIGH-LEVEL OF USE

Considerations: How many people and/or equine benefit from the project? Does it align with projected equestrian and demographic trends? Does it facilitate use for various groups and/or partners? Does it support day-to-day and event functions throughout the year?

SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS - (8%)



LOW RETURN

HIGH RETURN

Considerations: Degree of impact the project will have on improving site operations through increased revenue and/or decreased expenditure. Consideration needs to be given to the long-term view of meeting maintenance costs, renewals, and reliance on volunteers and/or staff to undertake this work – with less reliance on grant funding. Further consideration given to site location and resilience.

ENVIRONMENT - (7%)



LOW POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

HIGH POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Considerations: Degree to which the project supports environmental practices onsite i.e. water collection, storm and waste water management, preserves land and vegetation.

ACHIEVABILITY

FACILITY SPECIFICATION - (7%)



OVER-SPECIFIED

SPECIFIED TO MEET NEEDS

Considerations: Is the specification of the proposed development commensurate with what is required in the overall network? For example, the arena surface type or size within the context of what is available and/or proposed in the wider area.

INVESTMENT ACHIEVABILITY - (13%)



LOW LIKELIHOOD OF INVESTMENT

HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF INVESTMENT

Considerations: Level of investment required to deliver the project. Investment leverage is high. High proportion of funds already in place to get the project across the line.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY – (5%)



LIMITED PLANNING & DRIVE TO DELIVER

STRONG PLAN & DRIVE TO DELIVER

Considerations: The level of capacity and capability of the project proponent to undertake the development. This includes track record, expert guidance/assistance to progress the project and a clear and defined implementation plan.

APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Agistment – letting out pasture to horse (or other livestock) owners.

All-weather arena – an area that can typically be used in most weather conditions (these most commonly exist in some form of sand footing).

Arena – a set area for training, riding or leading horses (with varying surface types).

Base Equestrian Sites – these are the core equestrian facilities typically used for more structured and organised equestrian activities – and generally associated with hire or lease arrangements for access. These include pony club grounds, A&P Showgrounds, Racecourses, Equestrian Parks, and other dedicated equestrian activity sites.

Competitive Trail Riding (CTR) – where the horse and rider complete the marked course in an optimum time, with the goal to complete the marked course as close to the optimum time as possible.

Covered arena – roof structure with no, 1 or 2 side walls accommodating an arena.

Cross-country – jumping and endurance test (forms one phase of Eventing).

Dressage – an Olympic discipline based on classical principles of horsemanship, involving taking tests designed to gauge the training level of horses/ponies in classical dressage.

Endurance Riding – horse and rider complete the marked course within a minimum and maximum time.

Equestrian – an individual that rides or handles a horse.

Equitation – the skill of riding a horse.

Eventing – an Olympic discipline that includes three types of riding: cross-country, dressage and jumping.

Grazing – allows horses to move around naturally outdoors and socialise with other horses with easily available grass.

Hack – an informal ride, usually for leisure or exercise.

Handling – generally includes everything other than riding i.e. haltering, leading and grooming.

Indoor arena – enclosed building which accommodates an arena.

In-hand – horse show competition where the horse is led, rather than ridden, and judged on its conformation and movement.

Jumping (Show) – Olympic discipline where the horse/pony is judged on the number of obstacles it clears and the speed in which the course is completed.

Leading – leading a horse/pony when the handler is on the ground (not ridden).

Livery – a place where horse owners pay to keep their horses.

Lunging Rings – provide a safe circular enclosed area for lunging, breaking or schooling horses.

Paddock – a fenced enclosure where horses/ponies are kept.

Pony – for competition purposes, the International Federation for Equestrian Sports defines the cutoff height at 148cm.

Public Open Spaces – these are generally sites which attract more casual/recreational use and are open to the wider equestrian community. Typical sites are bridle trails, beaches, forests, parks, and the roadside. Due to the vast nature of these spaces nationally, high-level insights will be provided only to complement base equestrian sites.

Rallies – working rallies are held under instruction and maybe mounted or unmounted. An unmounted rally is usually for horse and pony care instruction. Mounted rallies follow a rally plan which is tailored to the level of riding groups. This includes a gear checking/safety brief, 'lesson of the day', horse management lesson, games and activities.

Show hunter – horse show competition judged on its movement, manners, and way of going and ability to maintain an even pace over a course of at least eight fences.

Stables – a building/shelter in which horses/ponies are kept.

Western Riding – class that is judged on a pattern, evaluating smooth gaits, flying lead changes, responsiveness to the rider, manners and disposition (comprising elements of reining, trail and western pleasure).

Yards/Covered Yards – a day yard is usually a temporary short-term holding area for horses/ponies.

VISITOR SOLUTIONS

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#336

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	3
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration,Better walking/cycling connections,Safer roads

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#337

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	3
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	2
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	1

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration,Better public transport options,Safer roads

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#338

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**1**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	1
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

No

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

No

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#340

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**1**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	3
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	1
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	1

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Improved parks and public spaces,Better public transport options,Other, please specify:more bus shelters in the Huapai Kumeu area eg Tapu Road, as well as more fenced playgrounds so it is safe and inclusive for children who are runners or playground is next to a road

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

Please consider putting in more bus shelters in Huapai eg Tapu Rd so passengers and high school students are not soaked waiting for buses in winter.

Also, as the parent of an Autistic child who goes to the local Special School, can we please have playgrounds fenced to ensure all who are included are also safe (some children are runners including little ones and neurodiverse) some playgrounds are near a waterway, road or high traffic area so it is a matter of safety. If you look up fenced playgrounds in Auckland, there is not one single fenced playground in Rodney area.

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#341

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**2**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	2
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	1
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	2
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More local activities and events,Improved parks and public spaces,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   The Warkworth Football Club is in huge demand and needs facilities that can keep pace with it, including:

   All-weather and all-season playing options

   Improved and additional sports fields

   Better field lighting

   A fit-for-purpose clubhouse

   Modern changing rooms and facilities that are worthy of our growing community

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#342

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Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**2**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	1
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	1
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Transport. Leading question. Safer and more reliable than what? Nothing

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Safer roads

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Not very well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

Submission re Boat Ramp at Port Albert. Our submission is that this project proceeds without delay to bring this facility up to the standards of all other non tide restricted boat launching facilities in the Auckland area. At present there are possible Health and safety issues that require addressing. These include exposed metal rods brought about by the ongoing decay of the concrete base. There is also considerable danger with the amount of exposure to mud while launching or retrieving. Major tidal flows and wind direction also pose risk for individuals attempting to hold a boat. This could easily result in a person getting squashed by their own boat, as a result of either tide, wind, or mud. These risks would be negated by the upgrading of the present ramp to a level that included a floating island. This would ensure safe disembarking from a boat in any tide and also provide protection to stop a person getting injured by the tide movements, wind or mud, as above.

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More local activities and events,More environmental restoration,Better public transport options

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Prioritising access to ecologically important areas for access and recreation should not be an objective of the Local Board. This is inappropriate as a sweeping statement as recreation and access may; cause significant environmental harm in some areas, may limit restoration opportunities, and create high levels of risk for disease transmission and disturbance. It may also contravene other existing legislation and bylaws.

   Growing pressures on ecology and biodiversity (development, habitat loss and fragmentation, human disturbance, introduced predators, climate events, new invasive disease and increasing human population) mean our environmentally sensitive areas can't be access and used as they were by earlier generations.

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#344

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

It's important to note that some spaces in the environment need to be project from human disturbance. Environmental need must trump human want.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?

(Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   We need to emphases that some of our unique and special environments in Rodney need to be protected from human disturbance. Even if it means humans need to sacrifice access and leisure activities so these habitats and ecosystems are able to survive.

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#345

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Infrastructure we need roads and schools that can cope with the level of intensification we have now, not in twenty years time. What we have now doesn't meet current needs, let alone future plans

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Improved parks and public spaces,Better public transport options,Other, please specify:Better roads designed to manage the level of traffic we have now and in the future

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#346

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Yes, Rodney has the largest equestrian group in New Zealand and according to the ESNZ extensive research document, the most under-facilitated. There is nothing in the RLB about supporting this community in the safeguarding of existing and the developing of new facilities and trails for the expanding community. Horses and riding as a preferred sport and mode of

transport need to be included in all greenway plans and trails, its simply discriminatory not to.

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Better community facilities,Improved parks and public spaces,Other, please specify:A dedicated Equestrian facility with all weather arenas, safe riding trails that are off the dangerous roads.

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   The strong need for a dedicated equestrian facility in the Warkworth/ Matakana area has been long overdue and repeatedly requested and it is disappointing, despite multiple presentations to the board over the years that proves the size of the equestrian population and lack of facilities and safe riding areas, that there is no still no inclusion or consideration of the need. A purpose built equestrian center is essential in supporting the local clubs safety (including and not limited Warkworth Dressage, showing, Cowboy challenge, Equitation, Show Jumping and Eventing teams, warkworth and matakana pony clubs) as well as opening up opportunities to those new to the sport. Horses and their riders have a right to also enjoy the outdoors with safe riding trails and tracks in the community that can be shared and enjoyed by all, it is essential for their mental health and well being as it is for cyclists, walkers and dogs.

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Heritage Museums

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More local activities and events,Other, please specify:A swimming pool in north Rodney

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

As a curator of the Albertland Heritage Museum Inc I find the lack of financial support for the heritage of Port Albert, Wellsford and the surrounding district shameful. The collections we hold in our care, mostly unsupported by our local board, are an important part of New Zealand which is eroding around the nation. Increased cost for insurance, power and compliance have become crippling for most small Museums. The cost of conservation supplies in NZ are on the rise meaning we get less and less each year to preserve our artifacts. Rare and historic documents need healthy environments which increase cost for power. Our Harold Marsh glass slides are a national treasure along with the Ted Halfpenny, Cliff Grant collections. Please consider more support for all the different heritage Museums and Heritage sites around Rodney so we can continue to work with the community and school history curriculum plus anyone who may request help with historic photos for books Murals other museums and descendants. We also encourage the tourist twin coast highway and need better signage for all the tourist spots along the way

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#351

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More environmental restoration,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   For community spaces, it would be so beneficial to the community to have a public swimming pool in the Warkworth region that can have multiple uses- children's lessons, swim squads, general fitness, community gathering, an accessible gym. This community lives by the coast and has limited opportunities to gain vital life skills in swimming. The cost of driving to the closest option, in Silverdale, is prohibitive for many. It is imperative for water safety, and would improve the quality of lives.

   It would also be great to have investment in the warkworth football and athletics ground, which is a vital and thriving community space catering to a huge range of ages and sports. Having all weather options, adequate field lighting for winter, a fit for purpose club house and changing rooms and facilities would all be so beneficial to the community.

   Finally, a strong focus on cleaning up our waterways should be prioritised. Our rivers are so polluted, and the waterways around are suffering from terrible waste infrastructure (not only the well-known Watercare situation, but also from old, insufficient septic tanks). Our community is connected to place through our ocean and rivers, and many of these places are unsafe for swimming, fishing and general use such as kayaking. This is so important to get right for current and future generations.

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#353

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Support for local businesses while the warkworth wastewater line is improved.

Better support for Mahurangi oyster farmers, enormously affected by wastewater overflow into the mahurangi river.

Better community centres, improving sports infrastructure and club houses. Improving existing community areas such as playgrounds and skateparks.

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Better community facilities,More environmental restoration,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

not sure

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Support for local businesses,Safer roads

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

The Port Albert Wharf low water ramps are in very poor condition with the steel reinforcing now showing through the concrete which is breaking down. The build up of mud has made the ramp very dangerous underfoot, slipping and sliding. I would also love to see some sort of pontoon structurer to assist launching and landing of people and boats.

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#356

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Improved parks and public spaces,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Better walking/cycling connections,Other, please specify:I would love to see more pedestrian friendly road crossing. I find it dangerous and challenging to cross roads for the most vulnerable members of our community like elderly people, children and disable. I dream to see a Pedestrian right of way sign on town centers. Vulnerable people or any Pedestrians shouldn't have to wait on the side of the road for someone comfortably seating in their car to go through in a shopping, restaurant area. I cringe seeing people running in front of my car when I stop to let them through. In Snells, we have children running between cars because of the lack of proper pedestrian crossings.

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   I don’t know

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   We would love to see one great playground in the Warkworth, Snells area. All are quite limited and often redundant for children past 6yo.

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2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Better walking/cycling connections,Better public transport options

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

traffic management on and off motorway at silverdale. Increasing building of dwellings before extending infrastructure so existing residents are not penalised. Trucking effluent to Whangarei is a crazy idea. If developers want to develop, they should provide their own waste water facilities.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Improved parks and public spaces,Better public transport options,Other, please specify:Better provision of horse riding spaces.

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

I have lived in Rodney for over 25 years on a lifestyle block. I accept that change is inevitable but am disturbed by the most recent fast track development of Delmore's. There is enough pressure on the roads now - another 1250 homes with no proper infrastructure before building is not going to help this. I congratulate those involved in getting Green Road Park up and running. Please spend more money on this for the whole of the community. The extra parking for horse owners with its' own gate is a fantastic safely feature. I think the existing signage is too small and does not explain well enough the length of the tracks in km. From a purely riding point of view - stiles on each side of a gate would make getting back on a lot easier - especially for older riders. Having walked down there a lot - it is so great to have the limestone path. I spoke to a friend of Green Road Committee and she told me that they are looking to put a QR code in the carpark so numbers can be monitored - great idea so please fund this. I have been down there on the crisp winter days we have been having and there is a lot of people who are not being captured - it is becoming increasing popular.

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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Yes. However, there is an opportunity to place greater emphasis on the visitor economy and destination management as drivers of Rodney's prosperity. Tourism supports local jobs, hospitality, retail, accommodation providers, producers and community facilities, while also enhancing the experiences available to residents.

There could also be stronger recognition of the need for visitor infrastructure, including public amenities, wayfinding, parking, walking and cycling connections, and investment in destination planning. These improvements benefit both residents and visitors and help ensure growth is managed sustainably.

Supporting vibrant town centres, events and experiences that encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more locally should also be recognised as part of building a resilient local economy.

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   More local activities and events,Support for local businesses,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Overall, this is a well-considered plan that reflects many of Rodney's strengths, challenges and aspirations. It appropriately recognises the importance of sustainable tourism as part of Rodney's economic future.

   I encourage the Local Board to strengthen the implementation of this by placing greater emphasis on destination management and visitor infrastructure. Investment in public amenities, wayfinding, parking, walking and cycling connections, public open spaces and visitor servicing benefits both residents and visitors while helping to manage growth sustainably.

   Rodney's visitor economy supports local businesses, hospitality, accommodation providers, retailers, producers and community events. Continued investment in vibrant town centres, destination experiences and partnerships with organisations that support sustainable tourism will help create thriving communities and encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more locally.

   The Local Board should consider how it can support organisations that deliver destination management, regional collaboration and visitor economy initiatives. Investment in these organisations enables coordinated planning, business support, visitor dispersal, destination stewardship and stronger economic outcomes for Rodney's communities.

   Finally, as growth continues across Rodney, ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with both residential growth and visitor demand will be critical to maintaining the unique character and quality of the places people choose to live, work and visit.

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Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	3
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	1
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

The 996 and 995 buses are often empty this is not value for ratepayers money

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Improved parks and public spaces,Better public transport options

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

You state an aim of equitable outcomes. Snells Beach (and others) do not have Food Waste collection which most of Auckland enjoy. This is neither an equitable outcomes nor does it comply with the Council's claim of a uniform consistent waste collection across Auckland.

Empty buses eg 996 does not comply with your value for money claim

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#367

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	2
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	3
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration,Support for local businesses,Better public transport options

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

I'm pretty happy with the draft.

The reason I'm adding feedback is that I felt the wording in the Community resilience section: "Connect and develop new community, faith-based, schools and marae groups" could be read as a prescriptive list and went against what I eventually perceived to be a more inclusive intent.

In-fact it took several readings for me to see the sentence as anything but a list of restrictions on a new group.

It may be better served by removing plurality from schools and rearranging the order. e.g.:

"Connect and develop new community, school, marae and faith-based groups"

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#368

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	3
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	1

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

In the Transport section I would like to see better active transport options available between from Warkworth to Leigh. It is currently unsafe to walk and particularly to bike ride along this road. An active transport option bike/walk path built to encourage people to leave their cars at home and get some exercise would be a great asset and link in with the Omaha to Matakana cycle way.

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Better walking/cycling connections,Safer roads,Other, please specify:Better care of our waterways and harbours with no sewerage outflows going into either

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   It is one area that I think Rodney is sadly lacking in is cycle paths. I am a keen bike rider but it is simply too dangerous to consider riding a bike on our local roads. Some key bike path links would be a great asset and create an environment where people can more easily exercise cheaply and keep fit.

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#372

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: N/A

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	4
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More local activities and events,More environmental restoration,Improved parks and public spaces

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

LOVE Pūhoi!

· Recovery Planning Appendices ·

A Report to Pūhoi Vision and Action, Pūhoi Forum and Auckland Council

Report completed by Catalyse Network
Report period: March to June 2025
Report completed July 2025

Appendix 1: Data

Heart Pulse

A total of 112 people engaged with the Heart Pulse tool (74 at the Photo Exhibition, and 38 at the $10 Pizza Night). These people identified themselves in all sorts of ways, with almost everyone having more than one role and many identifying as children, parents and/or grandparents, volunteers, nature lovers and workers, business owners or retirees. Less people were teens, rock stars, tradies, artists or super heroes. Two people identified as pet/animal lovers, one as a musician, and one as a student.

Most of these people live in Pūhoi or within about 4 kilometres (84), with five from Waiwera; three each from Ahuroa, Warkworth and Wainui; and two each from Makaurau and Mahurangi West. The remainder were from other nearby areas (Wenderholm, Silverdale, Orewa and Red Beach as well as Auckland). A significant number of these people have enjoyed Pūhoi for between 1-10 years, or for more than 30 years, with those who came to the Pizza Night tending to have enjoyed the area for less time than those who came to the Photo Exhibition.

Years	<1	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	20-30	31+	Total
Photo	3	19	11	5	11	8	17	74
Pizza	5	4	15	4	3	3	4	38
Total	8	23	26	9	14	11	21	112

109 people rated Pūhoi a 4 or 5 out of 5, and only 3 people rated it a 3. Most people indicated that everything listed is one of the best things about Pūhoi, with people adding fancy dress nights, night sky, bird life, wholesomeness, historical buildings and "Coffee @ the store in the sunshine".

The "most important things to look after" (n=120[1]) are:

- **The natural environment (85)**,
  including protecting and "cleaning the river up" (52), "looking out for our native wildlife" through pest control and caring for the environment (30), "protect and upkeep of our walkway" (9), "save our night sky" (8) and "the environment" more generally (17)

- **Caring for Pūhoi - past and present (13, 14)**,
  including history (18), the market (4) and trails (3)

- **Local businesses (8),**
  especially reopening the Pūhoi Cheese Cafe (8)

- **Culture of volunteering and kindness (8)**

- **Rural feeling and events (8)**

[1] People could nominate more than one thing

193 ideas were gathered to “make Pūhoi even better”. The most frequently mentioned ideas were:

Environmental care & river restoration (88)	Paths, walkability & accessibility (46)	Transport amenities (26)	Local business and facilities (18)	Public space governance and development (15)
• Clean up the river and riverbank, including planting/removal of pest plants – 43 • Protect Te Muri & Wenderholm waterways/tidal zone – 11 • River Park 80% planted in natives - 11 • Bring back kiwi – 9 • Protect the night sky (reduce light pollution) – 7 • Replanting wetlands and native bush in upper catchment - 3 • Clear river from Fire Station to Wenderholm of debris – 2 • Treat the earth kindly – 2 • More spray-free areas – 1	• Safer and more walking paths – 13 • New swing bridge for Pūhoi walk – 13 • A footpath to Fire Station, cottage, Rosa Villa – 12 • More bush walks – 9 • Boardwalks over drainage gulleys for pedestrians from village to Remiger Rd - 5 • Pets allowed in more places – 2	• Bus service from Waiwera – 14 • Bus to Orewa – 11 • Bike park – 1	• A gym (for kids too) - 10 • Reopen cheese cafe - 8	• River park as a community space with walks– 4 • More adventure activities incl. pump track/ dirtbike track - 6 • More people to join the Pūhoi Forum - 3 • Community garden with covered meeting space – 2

Fewer people (70) nominated the one thing they thought focus should be on. These priorities largely echo previous thoughts:

More planting along the river bank to prevent flooding (11)	The River Park (11)
Marine protection of Te Muri & Wenderholm waterways/tidal zone (11)	Bring kiwi and other birds back (9)
Dredge the river so water flows away (7)	The Pūhoi Catchment Plan (6)
Preserve historical buildings (5)	More community events supporting local relationships (4)
Clean up but don't dredge the river (2)	New museum building (2)
Better transport links (2)	

— Would love to see our River Park planted in natives with walkways throughout.

— Investing in our local park for local use - walking, dog walking, pump track, kids cycle tracks, picnics etc.

— Clean the river up. Forestry area clean up their slash and invasive species gone.

— Shorter commuter bus links.

Ideas Boards

189 separate entries were made on five different ideas boards at three different events:

- **10 of these were at the Pūhoi Emergency Group hui in March**
- **93 were at the Photo Exhibition in May**
- **86 were at the $10 Pizza Night, also in May**

These Ideas Boards asked people for their thoughts about what they would "like to see happen" in Pūhoi. Some of these entries contained multiple ideas and the most nominated received a total of 640 ticks[2]. Some people suggested ways to pay for improvements too, including making a book, postcards and prints of the photos from the exhibition and making and selling 'Love Pūhoi' t-shirts. The most supported ideas for change were:

Ideas		Number	Comments
1	**A healthier river**	115	Cleaning, planting, fencing, weeding, dredging, protecting native flora and fauna, education, etc ideally via a catchment approach
2	**Walking, cycling and equestrian infrastructure**	112	Footpaths, paths, tracks and trails within the local area and linking to areas beyond, as well as a new swingbridge
3	**Various activities and facilities**	66	Upgraded facilities (pitch lights, a lift, a better pavillion, petanque court), games/creative activities night for kids
4	**Events**	65	Large and small: movies, music, picnics, fairs, workshops, competitions, celebrations eg for Matariki/Christmas, sporting events

Continued on the next page >>>

[2] Entries were ticked when people agreed with them. This total is for the number of ticks plus the entry itself

5	**Protect history/character from too much growth**	45	Keep the village feel, save the night sky, celebrate and retain the history, character and culture, incl. in all new projects and building
6	**Public transport**	44	A bus station, more busses and routes, esp continuing/extending the bus service from Waiwera, and to Orewa and Warkworth
7	**Road safety**	43	Lower speed limits on Krippner and Ahuroa Rds plus in the village, road sealing, onramp north, less motorbikes and muscle cars
8	**Village Market**	36	Permanent home and more support (promote and grow)
9	**Beautification**	34	Mural under the bridge at the turnoff, wildflowers on the roadside, flowers, hanging baskets, Xmas/Matariki/mid winter lights
10	**Mountain bike trail**	31	Sponsored by the industry
11	**Business development**	30	Reopening the Pūhoi Cheese cafe, tearooms, retail stores showcase local goods, keep/grow kayak tours down the river
12	**Playgroup and museum**	19	Make these public assets again and revamp playgroup building

Some of these same things were suggested by young people and children too, including lights on the field (80 ticks), and a range of events and activities. They also suggested an indoor pool - 55, a “free arcade” - 46, a gym - 46, a water park - 28, lucky dip - 26, bigger playground/more playgrounds - 22, a skate park - 22, a flying fox- 7, water slide - 12, pony club - 10, more ice cream options - 9, more football pitches - 7, new kit for the under 12s football team - 5 and movie nights - 5

— Love this photo expo, amazing community - thank you for asking for feedback.

Detailed data

1. **A healthier river - 115,** including cleaning the river up, more riparian planting, picnic areas, less weeds and less runoff - 22, the river needs dredging!!! - 12, marine protection of Te Muri and Wenderholm regional park waterways - 2, unblock drains, culverts - 7, take care of the river - 3, sort out the arondo grass on the river bank again - 6, no slash in our river - 8, restore rivers and streams to bring back more native fish and other aquatic life - 8, protect native species - 5, install weta motels in the bush walk - 9, bring back kiwi - 5, more wildlife wetlands - 4, turn the farm park into an eco sanctuary - 2, protect waterways from cattle; fence and plant - 4, education signs about biodiversity and trapping on Loop Track - 4, More trees - 7, More action on weed control - 4, a monthly weed amnesty bin down in the car park so we are encouraged to do a working bee - 3
2. **Walking/biking/equestrian paths and infrastructure - 112,** including footpath to fire station - 26, footpath from town to cemetery - 2, footpaths from Bruce MacGregor Lane to village - 5, footpath from Remiger Rd to village so track can be a loop and safer - 1, footpath past cottage, fire station to Rosa Villa Lane -5, car free footpaths (bollards) - 13, track to Wenderholm- 8, trails for bikes and walking around our roads- 5, walkway/bike track from River Park to main road along the river- 6, pedestrian bridge to create a loop for river walk - 4, dog walking trails - 9, off leash dog paths - 12, path around perimeter of the park - 2, connect with Matakana via walking/cycling track, more walks in Pūhoi - 4, more pram/child friendly - 1, bike tracks and bush walks - 4, new swing bridge for Pūhoi walk - 5
3. **Sporting activities/amenities - 70,** including lights for playground and football pitch - 18, a lift at the Sports Club - 12, games/ activities night for kids - 11, a sack race - 9, petanque court by the orchard - 8, more board games at the Sports Club - 4, replace the sports field pavilion - 3, big harness trampoline - 2, more sports events (football, basketball, golf) - 4
4. **Events - 61,** including making room for rivers workshop event- 5, bring back the Pūhoi show! - 7, more community events - 5, big events - music, movies etc - 1, meet and greet groups, smaller community events - 1, picnic/music in the park - 1, party at the hall and country fair event - 6, free community use of the Pūhoi Hall periodically - 2, Better parking for market and events - 2, Book festival - 3, AG day for kids - 1, Events eg Matariki, mid winter fair - 6, joke competition - 7, cheese rolling competition - 6, raft building competition in cleaned up river - 5, Keep the wood chopping comp! - 3
5. **Protect history/character from too much growth - 45,** including keep the village feel - 17, save the night sky - 17, protect our historical buildings - 2, Keep celebrating and retaining the history and culture - 2, Keep the character of Puhoi in all new projects and buildings -7

6. **Public transport - 44,** including more busses and routes, a bus station especially continuing and extending the bus service, from Waiwera, and to Orewa and Warkworth - 18
7. **Road safety - 43,** including lower speed limits on Krippner and Ahuroa Roads - 16, speed limit 40kms in the village - 4, **Road sealing - 5,** Less motorbikes and muscle cars - 10, On onramp to the north - 8
8. Permanent home and more support (promote and grow) for the Village Market - 36
9. **Beautification - 34,** including, mural under the bridge at the turnoff - 4, wildflowers at the road side - 7, more flowers, hanging baskets - 7, Pūhoi Xmas lights - 7, Mid winter lights (Christmas, Matariki) - 9
10. Mountain bike trail (sponsored by the industry) - 31
11. **Business development - 30,** including reopening the Pūhoi Cheese cafe - 22, retail stores showcase local goods- 1, keep/grow kayak tours down the river- 6, Tea rooms - 1
12. Support for playgroup and museum, and make these public assets again - 19, including revamp the playgroup- paint walls inside and out, new kitchen, polish floors - 5
13. Funding - 18, including make a book (postcards and prints too!) of the photos to fundraise for Pūhoi - 4, Local Board funding for Pūhoi - 3, Council funding for sports club - 5, make and sell 'Love Pūhoi' t-shirts- 6
14. **More groups - 13,** including Art, photography and craft group(s) - 5, Dance school/drama group - 5, Choir - 3, regular gatherings hosted by the different community groups - 3
15. **Sand bags - 10**
16. **Boat ramp- 10**
17. **Composting - 6,** including Carbon cycle compost bins for Sports Club and the park - 4, Council to give compost bins - 2
18. **Grow community spirit, more volunteering - 5**

As well as:

Pūhoi is more than just the town - 3	Road toll discount for Pūhoi residents (we only use half of it!) - 3
More spray free areas - 2	Community garden - 1
Fire station - 1	Pontoons instead of fixed jetties - 1
Rules about smouldering fires - the valley lies under smoke in winter - 1	

Maps

Visitors to the Photo Exhibition had the opportunity to identify the things they love)red heart stickers) and would like to change (green dot stickers) on three maps of different scales. Some people added notes to the map, such as Waiwera being "the forgotten part of Pūhoi", and "the photo expo is so bonding <3".

Overall, the key things people love are the various businesses, services and community spaces in the village. The things they'd like to change or happen are more paths for walking, cycling and horse riding; protection for the dark night sky, development of River Park; clearing culverts and drains, sealing various roads, lowering speed limits and a community noticeboard
Data from each map is collated together below:

Amenity	Love	Change
Things we already have:		
Pūhoi Heritage Museum	17	1 (learn about history)
Pūhoi General Store	15	1 (wider range)
Church of Saints Peter and Paul	13	
Pūhoi Centennial Hall	12	
The pub	11	
The town library	10	
Sports Club	8	2
Playground	7	
Continued on the next page >>>		

Pioneers Memorial Park	5	
Continue the bus service from Waiwera	5	1 (improve)
The river	4	2 (clean/improve)
Krippner Road	4	
Pūhoi Fire Station	3	
Pūhoi kayaks	2	
Pūhoi River walkway	1	2 (create)

Things we'd like to happen

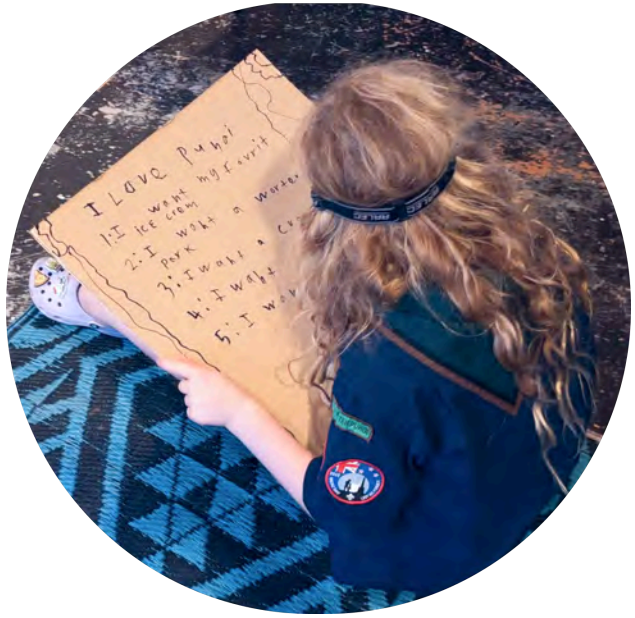
Equestrian, cycle and walkways, including along roads		18
Protect the night sky		15
Development of River Park - pump track, dog walking, bike tracks, wetlands, native trees (5)		12
Clear culverts and drains on all roads		12
Seal various roads - Krippner, Remiger, Tunnel, Noaks Hill and Razor Back		12
Lower speed limits		11
Community notice board		6
Think about night sky protection when developing more houses		5
Rosa Villa Lane footpath to village		4

Continued on the next page >>>

Lower speed limit to Rosa Villa Lane		4
Footpath to Fire Station and to river park		4
Natural amphitheater, develop for concerts etc		4
Boatramp		3
Path from Remiger Rd to store		2
A home for the Village Market		2
On-ramp north		2

Rock painting and 'Future Pūhoi' art

23 rocks were decorated by tamariki and rangatahi at the $10 Pizza Night and a total of 34 comments were recorded. These rocks are now displayed in the community garden and playground.



These rocks were already painted and invited artists to share a thought about what they love about Pūhoi on one side, and what they wanted for Pūhoi on the other. Thoughts were shared in a mixture of images and words and not everyone completed both sides of their rock. 18 people recorded what they love about Pūhoi, and 16 shared things they want for Pūhoi.

Images have been interpreted into words in the table below and similar thoughts have been collated together. Some images and text are illegible and these have been excluded. Legible images and text are collated below.

I love Pūhoi (18)	I want for Pūhoi (16)
The old buildings	The river is clean
So much; Love hearts; Because it's Pūhoi; Because it is a nice place; Pūhoi is the best	Amusement park
The playground	Ice cream!
The swing in the tree	More kids events
The river (x3); The lovely river	A huge flying fox
Community spirit; The people in Pūhoi	A big willow tree where peace is welcome
The Club	Lights on the field (x4)
Soccer (x2)	Pool party
Scouts	Fishing
	Big slide
	Renew the pony club
	Fish in the river
	The Sports Club open more

'Future Pūhoi' art reiterated and expanded on these themes, with a particular emphasis on play, fun activities and food, as well as better pathways and engagement with the river. Along with private islands, a space place, space ships, fast cars, a taniwha, a hot chocolate river, a free all-you-can-eat buffet, more french fries, more icecream, a big warehouse for food, a unicorn, a games shop, a "lab", a "tent on the field to play soccer in" and giant pizzas, key suggestions were:

- An improved playground: slide (3, possibly in the shape of a giraffe), a giant flying fox, giant climbing pole, massive trampoline, large sandpit, pool (2), fake snow in winter, a water park and "wonderland" (12)
- Infrastructure along the river and connecting key places together - footpaths, bridges and a boat ramp (6)
- A cleaner river to swim with fish in (3)
- "Renew the pony club" (3)
- More "arts nights like this" (3)
- The sports club made larger and open more often (2)
- More public celebrations - Easter egg hunt, Matariki (2)
- An art wall "with everyone's art"
- A movie theatre
- Offleash places for dogs



Survey

The survey was open from early May to mid June and accessed via weblink or QR code promoted on Facebook, posters, postcards and coasters. 51 responses were received, with most people living in Pūhoi or within 4 kms of the village (92%). Most are very satisfied with life in Pūhoi (range from 2.75/5 to 5/5, with a median of 4.75) and the things they love about Pūhoi are:



1. Community Spirit & Friendliness. ~50+ mentions

- Strong sense of connection, care and pride
- “The people” and how they look out for each other
- Active and engaged community groups
- Events and gatherings (markets, clubs, etc.)

— The community is incredible.
— How friendly everyone is.
— People who care and connect like people used to.
— Great active friendly community.

2. Natural Environment & Green Spaces. ~30+ mentions

- River, bush, birds, green space, views, night sky
- Connection to land and waterways
- Appreciation for nature and wildlife

— Walking in the bush and paddling in the river.
— Green space, night sky.
— Natural environment, native birds

3. Village Feel/Historic Charm. ~25+ mentions

- "Old NZ" vibe
- Historic buildings and a quaint, small-town charm
- English village comparisons

— Village atmosphere... English-style tearooms.
— History is so interesting and it is a very special place.
— The whole village is my home.

4. Local Amenities & Hubs. ~20+ mentions

- Store, pub, library, museum, hall, church, Village Market are valued meeting places and for services
- Sports club is a key social hub

— The store, museum, pub and tea rooms.
— General Store is a favourite place to sit.

5. Peace & Escape from Urban Life. ~18+ mentions

- Solitude, privacy, tranquility
- Escape from suburban or modern pressures
- Old-school, "slow life"

— Solitude, privacy, proximity to motorway.
— It's nice and quiet with an old school atmosphere.

6. Access & Location. ~15+ mentions

- Proximity to Auckland, Albany, Warkworth, etc.
- Motorway access
- Balance of rural and urban

— 25 minutes from the city.
— Location location location.

7. Safety & Trust. ~10+ mentions

- Feeling safe even when alone
- Knowing neighbours
- Trust and support

— I know I can count on my neighbours
— Children get to bike from house to house like the old days.

8. History & Cultural Identity. ~8+ mentions

- Pride in the Bohemian history, historic buildings, and character of Pūhoi

— Essential to keep the church, hall, store, pub, and museum thriving.

— It has a magical feel and a real sense of community... I'm relatively new here, so not completely involved in everything but definitely feel included...

— I love the village atmosphere. It feels like a friendly picturesque English village where there's always something interesting happening. The river plays a huge part for us... and it just feels so cosy.

— The active, engaged community spirit is strongly present, and the sports club with its associated groups, the river, Pūhoi kayaks, the pub, te Araroa trail etc. Close enough to the city but culturally rural. It's a fun, social place to live.

— Loving the sense of community, the surrounding nature, the special historic feeling of the place.

— I certainly love being rural but not isolated. I have great neighbours who watch out for each other. Here in Pūhoi there is a lovely community spirit and most seem to know each other. Being in the senior bracket, I'm not so involved, but aware of what goes on, that doesn't always happen in other rural areas.

— The way our community works together when in need. I love the natural feel of Pūhoi and its beauty. Walking in the bush and paddling in the river. Our local store is a great meet spot and our local market is amazing.

— The river, although it is a lot like living with a terminally ill loved one. Its natural beauty has been degraded ever since the bohemians first started clearing the kahikatea. The grazing of sheep and other livestock right down to the water's edge... is nothing short of disgraceful...

The things that would make living in Pūhoi even better are:



1. Environment, River, and Nature Preservation (~20+ mentions)

- Clean up and restore the river (riparian planting, sediment control)
- Reforestation and weed/pest control
- Marine protection, catchment planning
- Spray-free foraging areas, less use of chemicals
- River Park development and better flood management
- Reintroduction and protection of native species

— "A clean river would be an absolute dream..."
— "More riparian plantings and trapping, less farm runoff..."
— "Too much sediment is running into the catchment..."
— "Friendly information about wildlife and protecting them on walkways."

2. Transport, Traffic & Roading (~15+ mentions)

- Speed reduction, less engine braking, safer roadways
- Footpaths, walk/cycle paths, sealed roads
- Public transport access
- On-ramp and off-ramp additions

— "An on-ramp heading north"
— "Pavement to Rosa Villa Lane"
— "Better speed management entering, through and leaving the village"

3. Community Connection & Events (~15+ mentions)

- More inclusive and frequent local events
- Volunteer appreciation and social celebrations
- Desire for stronger community consultation

— "It can be a bit clicky, nice to have more opportunities for all to come together"
— "Volunteer celebrations to include everyone..."
— "More family fun day type events"

4. Children, Youth, and Play Facilities (~15+ mentions)

- Pump track, skate park, playground upgrades
- School/kid-friendly spaces and events
- Adventure/recreational facilities

— "Play area for children would be fabulous"
— "Something else to do for the kids..."
— "The pump track would be brilliant"

5. Heritage & Identity (~10+ mentions)

- Preserve village feel and historic buildings
- Museum upgrades and storytelling
- Avoid overdevelopment or urbanisation
- Digital storytelling/audio tours

— "As one of only two historic villages in NZ, we need to ensure that we retain the village vibe"
— "Keep village feel, value friendships, safety..."

6. Shops, Amenities & Services (~10+ mentions)

- More food outlets, boutique shops, stalls at the market
- Reopening the Cheese Café
- Postal services and local business support
- Gym and fitness trails

— "More shops and places to eat out"
— "Cheese cafe opening again would be amazing"
— "Improved postal service..."

7. Governance, Inclusion & Transparency (5+ mentions)

- More inclusive and transparentCommunity Forums
- Concerns over lack of consultation
- More equitable funding and decision making

— "Puhoi forum should not be speaking for community without reaching out..."
— "Community consultation on community fund spending..."

8. Dogs, Livestock & Wildlife Management (5+ mentions)

- Off-leash dog areas, access to bush tracks
- Control cows on public tracks
- Protecting wildlife and providing friendly info

— "Being able to take my dog on the local bush tracks, esp off lead"
— "Remove illegal signage... Removal of ginger/privet..."

— Like to see a mural on Pūhoi public loos...

— A footpath from village to fire station so can easily walk to tea rooms and into the village from Rosa Villa Lane. Less Local Board presenting their ideas to the Forum and then adding input. Ask first like this project is doing.

— More flat walks, lower speed limits, off leash dog area, cycle path to the main highway. Clean up the river. Make more use of the river park (planting, walk/cycle tracks etc)

— The farm park made for everyone to enjoy. Removing the cattle of the park, more community buy-in.

— Support for Christmas lights... decorating the trees on the main road would be a cool vibe.

— Restoration of the water catchment into the awa and moana...Marine protection encompassing Te Muri and Wenderholm Regional Parks. It seems strange that the parks have protection but the marine environment does not. Mountains to Sea approach is needed.

— Keeping and improving the Pūhoi Museum is important for several compelling reasons that connect to cultural heritage, community identity, education and tourism.... [much more detail available].

— The pump track would be awesome, skate park, and a mountain bike track along the river if possible.

— I think there is scope to expand on [current businesses] to draw visitors in by making Pūhoi a destination for adventurous activities... improved public access to the river to allow for safer launching of kayaks and small boats...convenient storage area for scouts boats... multi-use building adjacent to sports club... a fitness trail with outdoor exercise machines...mountain bike trail, zipline, an annual trail running event...

— Extended walking tracks from the existing riverside track. Mountain bike track. Dog agility area with water station. Further trapping along Te Araroa Trail.

— I would like to see (and hear!) less motorbikes coming down the road. Not encouraging motorbikes or muscle cars into our area would be good. It's not the right place. This is a peaceful community not a muscle car or motorbike convention.

— More riparian plantings and trapping. More bike trails and walking tracks. More play areas for the kids. Less weeds especially along the river. Less run off from farms. The forestry blocks required to take care of their weeds and pests. Engine braking restrictions through the town (less road noise).

— More community events and facilities, better maintenance of the river.

— Speeding traffic along Krippner Road slow down. A lot of these people speeding are locals.

— Bring back things to do in winter.

When it comes to making things happen, the key groups identified are:

1. Council / Auckland Council Role Mentions: ~30 times

Words/phrases: Auckland Council, Council, AC, zoning, permissions, funding, support, amenities, debris/rubbish cleanup

Respondents expect Council to play an enabling, resourcing, and coordinating role — especially in environmental management (river, park, stormwater) and in providing clarity on processes. Many feel Council is not doing enough and call for more proactive engagement and visibility.

—"Council needs to work with the community to clean up the river..."
—"Some ideas just require council permissions... keen people are ready."
—"The council need to spend more..."

2. Community Involvement & Collective Action Mentions: ~28 times

Words/phrases: community, locals, working together, volunteers, local businesses, PVA, Forum, support each other

The Pūhoi community is seen as a capable and motivated force that wants to participate in decision-making and take action — particularly when supported, respected, and informed. There is strong belief in bottom-up action — e.g., working bees, planting days, village events.

—"Community and the council. We get nothing for the rates we pay."
—"Everyone who lives in Pūhoi."
—"Locals would turn out in the masses to get this done."

3. Partnership Between Council and Community Mentions: ~22 times (overlapping with above two themes)

Words/phrases: community and council, work together, support from council, systematically working through, joint effort.

Many people want to see genuine co-governance or partnership models, not token consultation. There's a need for clearer roles, process pathways, and communication channels between communities and officials.

—"Council & our community need to come together..."
—"Each group needs to support each other."

4. Fragmentation & Need for Better Coordination Among Local Groups. Mentions: ~10 times

Words: PVA, Forum, museum committee, local leaders, landcare groups, sports club, village market

People are aware of multiple community actors, but there's a desire for better collaboration, coordination, and communication among them. Some also express concern about power imbalances or a lack of transparency in representation.

—"I don't like the way a few people have put themselves in a place of power..."
—"All the groups should work together more."

5. Environmental Restoration & River Management. Mentions: ~8 times

Words: river, clean-up, debris, flooding, stormwater drains, planting days, river task force

The state of the river and local environment is a major concern. There's strong support for action-oriented solutions like taskforces, clean-up days, and community-led planting, provided they're backed by the Council.

—"Council needs to dredge the river and clear drains post-floods."
—"Visitors are disappointed by the state of the river."

6. Infrastructure and Transport (AT, NZTA). Mentions: ~5 times

Words: AT, NZTA, Transit, motorway, viaduct, traffic policing

Calls for better collaboration with agencies like AT and NZTA, especially around safety, cleanliness, and land management post-motorway construction.

—"Debris still wrapped around trees since cyclone '23..."
—"Traffic policing needs to visit the village more often."

The vast majority (~39 of 46) express clear willingness or current involvement, some for specific tasks. Only one person was clearly not interested in being involved. The rest are uncertain, largely because they don't know if they have the time and/or skills required.

> *—"Happy to help in any way"*
>
> *—"Already involved in market, pest control, fundraising..."*
>
> *—"Happy to support but don't want a major role"*
>
> *—"I would like to help plant the trees"*
>
> *—"Attend meetings in the hall"*
>
> *—"Not sure I have skills required."*
>
> *—"Not sure what I can do but willing to help."*
>
> *—"I can't do much more than I am now."*

Other thoughts offered were mostly positive and constructive - even when people are critical, a love for Pūhoi shines through. A few frustrations are voiced clearly (e.g., landcare group dysfunction, overdevelopment, river neglect). There are also several thank-yous and affirmations for the process and volunteers. The key themes are in the table on the next page.

1. Environmental Concerns – Esp. the river (11+ mentions)

Strong concerns about the state of the Pūhoi River, especially around flooding, pollution, debris, and the need for dredging and planting. Forestry and stormwater management are also mentioned frequently.

— *"Dredge the river, clean up the river banks..."*
— *"...filthy sheep on the navigable part of the river..."*
— *"See that the river is dredged before the next possible flood..."*
— *"River Park seems like a wasted space..."*
— *"Bamboo on the esplanade... out of control..."*

2. Infrastructure & Safety (9+ mentions)

Requests and suggestions focus on safety and connectivity:

- Speeding and unsafe roads ("race track", "lower the speed zone")
- Need for footpaths, particularly linking key village spots
- Flood resilience for roads (raising levels or rerouting)
- Better facilities like dog parks and stormwater tanks for new builds

3. Community Connection, Belonging & Events (9+ mentions)

A deep appreciation of Pūhoi's community spirit and calls to expand it:

- Praise for volunteers and events (e.g. local market, produce swap)
- Desire for more community events for children and young people
- Suggestions for more facilities like an arts centre, afterschool care, pottery, gym

— *"Puhoi has been about connection with each other..."*

4. Concerns about Overdevelopment (5+ mentions)

A strong desire to retain the village feel and resist urban sprawl:

— *"Puhoi doesn't need to be another Millwater"*
— *"No more development"*
— *"It's a lovely place as it is..."*

5. **Need for Better Coordination and Governance (4+ mentions)**

Some frustration with local groups, leadership, or systems:

- Puhoi Landcare seen as obstructive
- Overworked volunteers and “same people wearing different hats”
- Requests for stronger leadership and clearer roles
- Mention of needing to own the Puhoi name for identity and economic resilience

6. **Desire for Youth Facilities (4+ mentions)**

Strong support for:

- Skatepark
- Bike pump track

- More options for young people and families

Postcards (n=21)

What do you love about Pūhoi?

- People, “Lovely people” x7
- Community feel x10 “people being involved”
- History/heritage/culture x6
- Nature x6
- Pub x6
- Sports club x4
- General Store x3
- Museum x2
- Church x2
- Devonshire tea cafe x2
- The market x2
- RIVER!! X2
- Hall dance group
- Red roofs
- Friends
- Scouts
- Community garden
- Proximity to other places
- Playground

— “Quaint, historical, welcoming”
— “Relaxed, unique town, interesting history”

How do we make it even better?

- Clean up/look after the river x4
- Bus service to Warkworth and Orewa/PT access x3
- More rodent control x3
- More nature- plantings around the park, wetlands looked after x3
- Lift for sports club and upgrade sports club x2
- Pump track/bike track x2
- North-bound motorway onramp x2
- South-bound motorway offramp x2
- The cheese factory cafe reopening x2
- Expand playground x2
- Footpath from village to fire station/Rosa Villa to the village x2
- Put a sensor on the bridge to sound an alarm as water rises
- More car parking for busy times
- Solar panels
- Add more colourful flowers and flower beds
- More rubbish bins
- Repaint some buildings
- Sort out the post. Get couriers to deliver to the house
- More volunteers
- Movie in the park
- More events funding

— "The beautiful nature" (Aston, age 7)
— "The staff at the shop" (Eden, age 11)
— "The markets" (Koby, age 7)
— "The fresh air and lots of grass", (Kaice, age 9)
— "The people are so lovely and caring" (child)
— "The people. The place. The drama <3. The nature."
— 'Enjoy what others gave up to make a village to enjoy."
— "That it is peaceful and quiet... many opportunities to do things."
— "I love the community and how I know that everyone is kind and welcoming."

How do we make these ideas happen?

Allocate funds x4
Get Auckland Council/RLB on board x3
Working bees
Community events/fundraisers

— "Rodney LB to consult the community before spending funds on unwanted projects eg currently proposing to plant lots of trees in the village."
— "Join a group, the Forum, museum. Landcare. Community garden..."
— "Just do it <3. We could help or set up donations or fundraise xo"

- Party at the hall - bands
- More space for general use eg studio for multipurpose activities (yoga, pilates, art, workshops and retreat days)
- More space for the market
- Make more tracks in the bush
- More shops
- More games, crafts
- The Coastal Trail <3

— "Look out for each other. Help our neighbors. Pick up any rubbish. Prevent any more flooding." (The Renall kids)
— "Dredge the river to prevent future flooding."
— "Cheaper beers at the pub :)"

How would you like to be involved?

Already x2
Volunteer labour x2
Planting
Rodent control

— "Contribute my opinions on matters that affect the Pūhoi community"
— "I could help planting some flowers or cleaning up the river."
— "Already involved. Sorry can't fit anything else in for Pūhoi."
— "Happy to help plan, manage a studio and pay to use it to teach in."

Appendix 2. Analysis by recovery capitals

Recovery capitals are ordered by the number of comments in each category.

1. Natural Capital:

The natural environment and its resources, as well as the overall health of ecosystems that support human life and community well-being. This is the most consistently valued and discussed of all the capitals in the data from Pūhoi.

For a sense of recovery in Pūhoi to develop further, actions to protect, preserve, improve and restore the natural environment (the river, wetlands, native flora and fauna, the night sky for example) need to be supported. Enhancing natural capitals helps preserve the unique rural charm of the area, [re]creates a more functional local ecosystem and helps mitigate further natural disasters.

Natural capital is valued because some people literally live off their land, and because locals value that other native flora and fauna do too. Natural capital is also valued because it helps protect and enhance social, cultural, human, built, and financial capital. These interconnections can, however, be at odds with one another and a focus on natural capital may be linked to political capital, perhaps especially when there are competing interests. For example, a desire for growth and increased economic gains may be in competition with desires to protect and enhance intrinsic wellbeing benefits for both people (tīnana, hinengaro, wairua) and for the place itself.

Suggested actions include various ways to clean up the river, more pest control and native planting across the catchment, wetland and aquatic protection is also important as is keeping drains clear of debris, creating more tracks for walkers and mountain bikers, and managing growth in ways that minimises light pollution. People also want better access to the natural environment for recreational and wellbeing purposes, and would like to share the natural environment with visitors for these same reasons, and to contribute to the local economy.

2. Social Capital:

Relationships, trust, networks, connections, reciprocity and flows of information among people and groups that enable things to happen that individuals alone could not achieve[3]. Social capital is highly valued and already a core strength of Pūhoi. Strong bonds and trusted networks are well established among those who have lived locally for some time. Sustaining and building on these, fostering similar networks between longer term residents and those who have arrived more recently, and developing stronger relationships with decision makers are all likely to be key parts of recovery.

Social capital can be intangible - a feeling, vibe or "community spirit" that contributes to people's sense of safety (not only in times of emergency), confidence in offering and asking for help, and caring enough to act collectively. This is what is talked about the most in the data from Pūhoi. These intangible aspects manifest in very real terms, such as the results of various voluntary efforts and children moving around the area autonomously. Social capital can also be almost invisible, such as with regard to decision making. This too manifests in very real terms, such as

Social capital supports stability, security and cohesiveness among those living, working and visiting a place and, in Pūhoi, is strongly related to cultural capital and human capital. It is also recognised as a key source of protection for the built and natural environments. Groups with less social capital (trusted relationships, access to services and decision making for example) can find themselves marginalised, however, even when intentions are good. This is because dominant groups often mobilise around their own interests. Attention to social capital is, therefore, key in reducing inequities and vulnerabilities, and in ensuring a wide reaching recovery.

Enhancing social capital in Pūhoi is about sustaining a local culture of volunteering, helping each other out and engaging in friendly, caring ways. It is also about ensuring newcomers and those currently less well connected are enabled to both join and lead community initiatives that matter to them. Having more shared events (especially cultural and sporting), stronger community infrastructure (connections between groups), more transparent decision making, and improved local engagement before decisions are made are key actions to take.

[3] There are three types of social capital - bonding (strong ties between similar people, such as whānau and friends), bridging (looser ties between a wider range of people, often across race, gender and class) and linking (ties connecting people with those in power, such as land owners and decision makers)

3. Cultural Capital:

Shared values, traditions, identity, history, and ways of life that influence how people understand the world, and how they act within it[4]. Some aspects of cultural capital in Pūhoi are clearly expressed and are a source of pride and cohesion.

These local expressions of cultural capital are closely connected to historical buildings, village character, links to Bohemian forefathers and to various rural/bush values and traditions. There is a clear desire to protect and express these values, identities and ways of life, as well as to change some of the visitor culture such as that associated with fast cars and motorbikes.

Cultural capital is a part of social capital and is often linked to human capital, as well as built and financial capital. It can also be strongly connected to political capital. Cultural capital can be threatened by some recovery processes - such as the need to remove buildings and/or remediate buildings, infrastructure, land and water.

Identified actions to protect and enhance cultural capital in Pūhoi include controlled development, protection of historic buildings and places, retention of rural lifestyles, more public art, beautification (flowers, decorative lighting) and events, and less noise, speeding and "muscle cars". There is little to no mention of Mana Whenua connections and recovery processes might offer an opportunity to explore and develop these.

[4] Cultural capital is about the social norms and expected etiquette of 'how we do things around here', often encompassing ethnicity, habits, language, stories, traditions, spirituality, heritage, symbols, mannerisms, preferences, attitudes, orientations and so forth.

4. Human Capital:

Skills, knowledge, health[5], passions and capacity of individuals. The contributions of various individuals to collective wellbeing, including disaster response, are highly valued.

Also a part of social capital, human capital is seen as a key part of personal and collective wellbeing. At the collective level in Pūhoi, it is indirectly reflected in "community spirit", people's capacity and competency to help one another, "can do" rural attitudes and ways of life, culture of volunteering, access to recreation, and spiritual practices.

In terms of recovery planning, human capital is enhanced by safe and appropriate infrastructure as well as meaningful engagement opportunities and action. It is, therefore, important to focus on inclusion, accessibility, and intergenerational activity to support the development of this capital, and play a significant role in reducing inequalities and increasing resilience. More amenities and activities, intergenerational fitness facilities and groups of various kinds, playgrounds, community events, opportunities for learning and sharing (e.g. workshops, art nights) as well as improved social and physical infrastructure (more joined up groups, and more footpaths, cycle paths, bush tracks, for example) are all mentioned as potential actions to take.

5. Built Capital:

The design, building and maintenance of physical infrastructure, including its functional and aesthetic value[6]. Built capital improvements are a major priority, especially those that represent the history of Pūhoi, and those which support community gathering, access and mobility, and active recreation.

Pūhoi locals talk about the historical buildings, community facilities, privately run business premises, hard infrastructure including roads, bridges, boat ramps, footpaths and bike tracks, as well as various kinds of equipment, such as that used by the

[5] In the holistic sense- tīnana, hinengaro, wairua
[6] Includes critical facilities and services, housing, vehicles, equipment, information technology, communications, water and energy infrastructure.

Fire Brigade. In different ways, all of these can play a role in recovery and, as identified earlier, the value of built capital is intertwined with various other capitals.

Mostly, people want to improve the quality of things that already exist, such as the Sports Club, Pūhoi Pub, General Store, and playground. Lights on the sports field, more parking, improved road safety, increased bus services, a better playground, and a permanent home for the market are examples. Locals also want to develop some new things, such as pump track, a gym, cycle tracks, paths for horses, bush walks and footpaths. Improving walkability and accessibility, by maintaining, upgrading or creating infrastructure, is key for some, as is a more frequent bus service to more destinations and better motorway access. An overarching emphasis is on maintaining rural charm while improving functionality and safety, especially for children.

6. Political Capital:

Access to decision-making, leadership, voice, and influence over rules and policies as well as access and distribution of resources[7] is talked about directly by some and implicit in comments from others in Pūhoi.

Pūhoi locals do not often directly address political capital. They do, however, allude to it in terms of the valued sense of trust and self-determination within the community, calls for more transparency and inclusion in decision-making, ensuring key community assets (e.g. playgroup, museum) are in public hands, and in appreciation for the opportunity to engage in this recovery planning approach.

There is some frustration with current governance structures and a clear desire for local and regional decision-making that is more inclusive of local people. There is also an implied awareness of the critical role political capital can play in accessing financial, built and natural capitals and in effectively mobilising social capital. There are no direct comments about equitable access to political capital, however this is implied in comments expressing frustration with current decision making approaches. Nonetheless, albeit with limited information, it seems that political capital needs to be strengthened and broadened for recovery at the collective level to be equitable and effective.

[7] Including agency, voice, justice, equity, inclusion, legislation, regulation, governance, leadership and policy. Political capital applies within and between groups and exists both formally and informally.

7. Financial Capital:

Financial resources available to support other capitals such as funding and insurances for community projects, access to local assets (natural and built) support and upskilling, local economy (paid work, distribution of goods and services, local businesses). In Pūhoi, this was most talked about in terms of local businesses, services and public assets.

Limited access to financial resourcing and the decision making processes associated with allocation of funds and resources can mean financial assistance and investment is not always equitable, timely, adequate or appropriate for what communities see as priorities. This can not only generate disputes, but also impede community-led efforts, further exacerbate social divisions, and entrench vulnerabilities. Key avenues identified for financial capital for recovery are Auckland Council, the Rodney Local Board, and various grant funders.

Financial capital is not mentioned explicitly very much but, for recovery in Pūhoi, is embedded within other priorities, many of which will rely on some sort of financial resourcing to happen. There is also a clear desire to revitalize and diversify the local economy through business support, promotion of local enterprise and essential services, and tourism. This includes ensuring the Fire Brigade is well resourced; the Village Market is promoted, expanded and finds a permanent home; existing local businesses are supported; new businesses are developed and others, such as the cheese café, are reopened.

Appendix 3. Ideas to action

Ideas are listed as they were written in each group. Some ideas were brought up in several different groups, these are:

Short-medium term:

- Centering the river: learning about it, looking after it, improving it.
- Community events - to achieve goals such as weeding, and for fun and getting to know one another with things like movies in the hall. Both one-off and regular such as an annual sports competition.
- A dog park, with poo bags and bin
- Artwork, especially a mural on the toilets and hall
- Encouraging campervan visitors

Medium-longer term:

- Bike tracks - mountain bike, roadside, pump track, dirt bikes.
- Bus services to/from Wairewa and Orewa
- Welcome pack for new locals
- Rebuilding the suspension bridge

Natural Environment (~166 to love and look after, ~273 to change and improve)

Short term (next 12 months): Monitoring - river quality, height, silt, rain gauges. Buy/maintain equipment, gather data and communicate/inform longer term plan. Education of weeds and pests (esp land owners). Extend current trapping programme for pest control. Community events for planting and weeding, with BBQ. Identify botanical names signage.

Medium Term (12-36 months): Pest free plan.

Longer term (36+months): Suspension bridge rebuilt

Paths, walkability, accessibility, road safety & public transport (~370 to change and improve)

Short term (next 12 months): Fundamental to other improvements is: to improve all walks (trails etc), the river should be stabilised as much as possible - get expertise to consider dredging/planting etc. Maintain and monitor it. Extend Wairewa bus to Pūhoi eg a loop from Orewa to Pūhoi to Wairewa. Safe crossing areas on each side of the village.

Medium Term (12-36 months): Rebuild the suspension bridge. Dirt bike jumps (children). Tourist walking paths eg footpaths out both sides of the village to visit museum and library, and out to cemetery (boardwalk-style over drainage gullies). Ridge trail repairs. An i-site.

Longer term (36+ months): Get rid of the arundo grass along the river, keep it weed-free.

Amenities, public space, events & activities (~220 to love and look after, ~140 to change and improve)

Short term (next 12 months): Compost for orchard area. Xmas lights ($). Screen at septic tanks at Domain: UGLY! ($). Puhoi Hall - historical image on back of toilet block. Dog poo bins and bag dispenser. Toilet signage. Community BBQ events ($). Kids disco. Yearly event on sportsfield. Movie night. Xmas/NYE concert. Public sports competition.

Medium Term (12-36 months): Mural on public loos - TA trail combo. Live music hall party. Sort out the swing bridge on trail, boat/kayak launching ramp - too slippy! Hall - Māori and bohemian artwork, artefacts, murals on internal walls? This connects with the museum info too. Puhoi river is a great amenity: visually - water events, culturally, physically, historically etc.

Longer term (36+ months): Memorial park for community use. Dog park at the back of the sports field. Cycle tracks along roadside built over drainage. Mountain biking trails. Pump track for bikes on farm park. Pony club area

Village feel, beautification, peacefulness (~132 to love and look after, ~95 to change and improve)

Short term (next 12 months): Outside lighting on toilets - could it be less bright or directed down more? Mural on outside of toilets (see artist of mural on Leigh jetty toilets). Tidy up flood debris, River Park, sportsfield etc - Council? Locals? More public parking - Russell's yard? Talk about: Night sky and night lighting. Make sure any sportsfield lights are not on all night because of Night Sky. Update our historical signage and make all signs consistent. Don't change too much! Love it as it is 🙂. Preserve the historic feel of the village.

Medium Term (12-36 months): Hall more used for community events. River planting and clean up. Pūhoi welcome pack to go in new local's letter boxes.

Longer term (36+ months): What happens development-wise after the current 10 year plan? Preservation.

Culture of kindness (~148 to love and look after)

Short term (next 12 months): Support local businesses, events, volunteer groups. Get to know neighbours. Be enthusiastic about what we are involved in. Don't be shy: ask for help. Knowing who and when to call for help e.g. 111 for Fire Brigade's help or they don't get paid. Encourage 'grey nomads' campervans.

Medium Term (12-36 months): Evening class-type workshops in the community

Local businesses and services (~46 to love and look after, ~91 to change and improve)

Short term (next 12 months): Community security cameras. Campground and for caravans. Make the area friendly for camper vans - aster disposal. Welcome to the community flyer for new locals! Dog park - people go out of their way for a good dog park.

Medium Term (12-36 months): An 'amazing race' (see example here: https://www.facebook.com/ouramazingplace/) run by businesses and others connecting communities.Annual events to bring the punters. Pump track to bring customers to support businesses. Mountain bike trail. Te Araroa ferry service to Wenderholm. Community adventure/event activity. Boat ramp to encourage more river traffic.

Longer term (36+ months)
Orewa bus service to Pūhoi. North-bound on ramp and south-bound off-ramp

Potential Actions for the next 12 months

These actions were developed at the event in a short period of time and have contributed to the development of priority actions for the next 12 months.

Understanding the river (23 dots)

To better manage the river we need to investigate and understand it, the tributaries and catchment :

- Local monitoring:
  - $$ for technician to get waka and maintain
  - Team of people to maintain equipment
  - Sediment/waka monitoring equipment +Lab: e-coli etc
  - Silt monitoring and rain gauges: data gathering
  - River height, alarm and communication
- Education
  - Land owners

First steps:

- Engage Wai Care, Mountains to Sea, Council and Healthy Waters
- $$ to write an application to Council/funders that identifies immediate areas of risk
- Develop a catchment plan with Council - 1-2 years in parallel with local monitoring and tactics, including tactics of:
    - Arundo grass removal from river
    - Planting, weeding and pest management on wetlands
    - Fence off wetland are on farm park

Lead person: Tim

Walkway/Boardwalk (11 dots)

Need to explore viability, cost, permission/permits and safety. Talk with Auckland Transport, noting that footpaths are in the plans for Council's future planning.

No lead person. No budget.

Community Security Cameras (9 dots)

Purpose: visibly dissuade criminal activity, provide evidence for police action, enhance feelings of security

Key steps:

- Identify key locations and attain permissions/consent: off ramp, hall, Krippner Rd, Pūhoi Junction, Ahuroa Rd near Fire Station, Stables, bridge
- Costs needed for:
    - 3 cameras 4K HD, infrared, long range estimate $5000 inc install for all
    - Power feed - Cat6e PoE
    - Internet access: Stables? FENZ? Hall Pool Straka
- Risks: vandalism: mount out of easy reach; central cloud recording. Inappropriate recording: set policies of access

Project lead Daniel Watson: 021 279 8019

Signage and murals (8 dots)

Develop a cohesive approach to sharing village history (historical story points around the village for people to read about. Stories from first settlers. QR code) as well as practical wayfinding signs to the toilets, riverwalk, orchard and historical buildings (not necessarily pioneer). A mural on the toilets and village hall as well as art work and artefacts in the hall (links to the museum).

Travis volunteered graphic design skills. Sarah Churchhouse will lead murals.

$6000 to develop signs.

Community Noticeboard (7 dots)

- Where to put it? Before the bridge? Outside the library? Need Council permission
- Style and materials: waterproof for notices, secure (eg locked with glass: who would have the keys?) Accessible: easy for people to to add notices
- Who would make it? Who would maintain it and update the contents?
- Cost? Maybe $2000

No lead person.

Speed Limit End Points (7 dots)

Work with Auckland Transport to establish end points for the 50km zone: Main Road, Cemetery, Oakdale-Krippner. Consider painted traffic calming and/or humps..

No lead person. No budget.

Waiwera busses to Pūhoi (7 dots)

Work with Auckland transport, Rodney Local Board and Chris Penk MP to extend the Waiwera bus service to Pūhoi. School bus stops route.

Step 1: Seek feedback via the store noticeboard, library and hall email list.

No lead person. No budget.

Dog park at the back of the sportsfield (5 dots)

With poo bag dispenser and bins

Sarah Churchhouse will lead this. No budget.

Also

- Cycle tracks built over drainage along roadside (1 dot)
- Pump track for bikes on farm park (1 dot)
- Memorial park for community use (1 dot)
- Boat ramp to encourage more river traffic (1 dot)

Catalyse Team:



Denise Bijoux

Denise led this project. She developed the approaches with PVA, supported PVA to gather information at the Photo Exhibition and the $10 Pizza Night. She also authored this report.



Tauma Lobacheva

Tauma led the design work for this project. She adapted existing tools and created new ones specifically for this project. She also designed this report.


catalyse