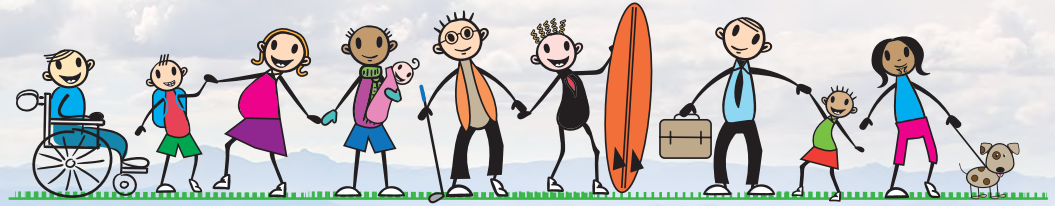


Whangamatā Community Plan 2020 - 2030

This plan will help Council to understand what is important to the community; allowing Council to make informed decisions on prioritising and funding services and activities through the review of the Long Term Plan.





A map of the Whangamata Ward area, showing the coastline of the Bay of Islands. The ward is highlighted in green. Labels with arrows point to specific locations: SLIPPER ISLAND, OPOUTERE, ONEMANA, and WHANGAMATA. The background features a light blue sky with white clouds and a grey silhouette of the North Island of New Zealand.

WHANGAMATĀ WARD

The Whangamata ward which runs from McBeths Road (which is at the top of Tramway gully) in the north to the Parakiwai River in the south.

The ward includes the two main urban settlements of Whangamata and Onemana and the beach settlement of Opoutere.

The Maori name Whangamata comes from the words 'whanga' which means bay and 'mata' which means a hard stone, in reference to the obsidian which washes up on the beach.

The name Opoutere means 'place of floating posts' The name Onemana means 'One' – beach/sand and 'mana' which means authority over.

The Whangamata area is a stunning kaleidoscope of beaches, New Zealand indigenous bush, flowering pohutukawa and the rich variation and strata of volcanic soils and rock. The ancient stories of the area are associated with those landmarks of this place which meets the shores of the great Te moana nui a Kiwa (the great ocean of Kiwa - Pacific Ocean).

The township of Whangamatā is the main settlement in the Whangamatā ward. Whangamatā is situated on the southeast coast of the Coromandel Peninsula.

Whangamatā is a growing township, near the wider Hauraki/ Waikato area and the Bay of Plenty. Whangamatā is situated alongside the Moana Anu Anu Harbour and the Whangamatā ocean beach.

Whangamatā ward has a rich cultural heritage with several Maori pa sites, urupa and archeological sites throughout the township. European settlement of the area dates from the mid-1800s, with the land used mainly for gum digging, gold mining and logging before becoming the quintessential beach holiday destination for bach owners.

A number of offshore islands can be seen from the beach, with Hauturu (Clark Island) accessible by wading at low tide, makes this a popular visitor location. The other three islands - Whenuakura (Donut Island), Maukaha Rocks (Seagull Rocks) and Rawengaiti (Third Island), are wildlife sanctuaries and are only accessible by small boat, SUP or kayak – no landings are permitted.

Opoutere and Onemana are small beach communities located to the north of Whangamatā township. Opoutere is characterised by the placid waters of the Wharekawa Estuary, the coastal sandy Opoutere Beach Spit, westward bluffs, forested reserves and farmlands. Onemana is a sandy beach of much prestige fringed by an impressive sweep of pohutukawa trees.

Forestry, tourism, agriculture and horticulture are the main sources of industry with tourism as the most significant employer in the community.

Majority of the properties are non-resident ratepayers and bring economic benefits to the community.



LANDSCAPES AND SITES OF INTEREST



WHAT WE KNOW

POPULATION

In 2019 estimated the population of the Thames-Coromandel District

was **31,500**

And the 2018 population of the Whangamata ward **4,506**

WHANGAMATĀ WARD POPULATION



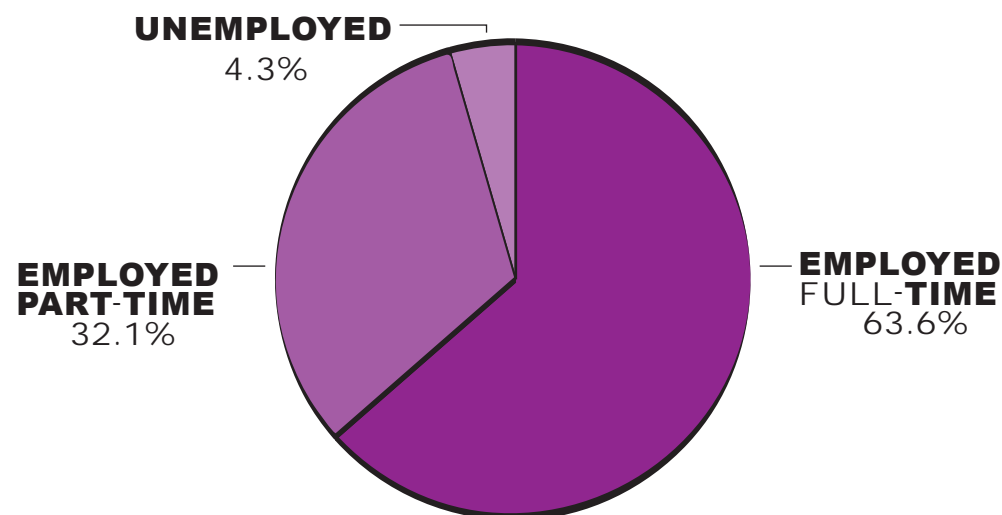
LIVING

2,094
Occupied
private dwellings

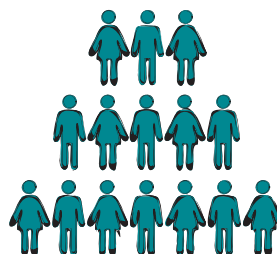
3,141
Unoccupied
private dwellings

EMPLOYMENT

2018 Employment numbers for Whangamatā ward



48.3% OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE ARE NOT IN THE WORKFORCE



ETHNICITY

- NEW ZEALAND BORN - 84.3%
- **MĀORI DESCENT** - 19.3%
- **SPEAKS TE REO MĀORI** - 3.6%

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



3 WATERS – WATER SUPPLY, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER

- Council operates water supply systems from a series of bores in Whangamatā and Onemana.
- Opoutere relies on private water supplies and on-site stormwater and wastewater disposal systems.
- Council operates two wastewater scheme within the area, at Whangamatā and Onemana
- Stormwater systems operate in most of Whangamatā and Onemana.



RUBBISH/RECYCLING

- Whangamatā ward are serviced with a rubbish and recycling collection.
- A refuse transfer station is situated in Whangamatā with a 24/7 drop off facility for prepaid council rubbish bags and recycling.
- There is a mobile compactor at Opoutere.



ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND STREETLIGHTS

- The Whangamatā ward has a network of local roading. The roads are maintained to various levels depended on the volume and usage of the road; these vary from sealed roads to gravel/dirt roads.
- Kerbing channelling and streetlights are provided for in varying degrees through the area. Some communities prefer less footpaths and light pollution, retaining the natural rural or beach environments.



HALLS/LIBRARIES

- There is a Council owned and managed hall in Whangamatā and a hall at Opoutere which is managed by a local community group.
- There is a library in Whangamatā which is managed by a local community group
- There is an area school for years 1-13 at Whangamatā and a primary school for years 1-8 at Opoutere
- Whangamatā has a community pool which is managed by a local community group. Opoutere School has a pool which is available for community use.
- Wharekawa Adventure Education Trust in Opoutere is managed and administered by the local schools.



RESERVES, PLAYGROUNDS & PUBLIC TOILETS

- There are volunteer Reserve Groups that contribute to the maintenance of some of Council reserves.
- Whangamatā ward has many reserves, these reserves encompass scenic, recreation, esplanade, local purpose, neighbourhood open space and foreshore reserves.
- The Whangamatā ward has 10 Council managed toilets.



CEMETERIES

- Council operates and maintains a cemetery at Whangamatā.
- Council continues to manage the historic cemetery at Whangamatā.



HARBOUR FACILITIES

- Council manages boat ramps across the Whangamatā ward, these are located at Kotuku and Beach Roads (Whangamatā) and Opoutere Road (Opoutere).
- Council manages the Whangamatā wharf for recreation and commercial use.



AIRFIELDS

- There are no airfields in the Whangamatā ward.



MEDICAL & EMERGENCY

- The Whangamatā ward is serviced by a medical centre at Whangamatā, with the nearest hospital at Thames. Other hospitals used by residents include Waikato, Tauranga and Auckland.
- Whangamatā and Onemana Fire & Emergency Services provide cover for the Whangamatā ward.
- Police, St John, Land Search & Rescue, Coastguard and the Westpac Rescue helicopter all provide emergency cover to this area.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Along with day to day interaction with the community, a series of focus group meetings and an online survey were undertaken to give the Whangamata communities the opportunity to tell us what is important to them.

The community was asked to consider *Our people, Our Environment, Our Infrastructure and Our Future*.



ALL THE COMMUNITIES SAID THEY LIKED

- THE BEACHES
- THE SAFE AND CLEAN COMMUNITIES
- THE SCENERY
- THE FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
- THE PEOPLE
- THE SIMPLE, QUIET LIFESTYLE



Whakataukī

Ma te kōrero ka mōhio
Ma te mōhio ka mārama
Ma te mārama ka mātau
Ma te mātau ka ora ai tātou

Through discussion comes awareness
Through awareness comes understanding
Through understanding comes wisdom
Through wisdom comes wellbeing for all



COMMON CONCERNS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITIES

OUR PEOPLE

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID	WHERE TO FROM HERE	WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?
<i>The community needs more affordable housing</i>	Advocate to Government agencies on behalf of the community for equitable access to affordable housing.	The provision of more long and short term rental accommodation. Spatial plan to be developed.
<i>Access to specialist medical support and social services are limited especially for the aging population</i>	Advocate to District Health Board and health support agencies for access to improved health care and support.	Emphasis on provision of greater social and medical services throughout all sectors of the community. This could include the provision of a dementia unit.
<i>We want to retain our youth in the area</i>	Advocating for improved health care, economic development, education and affordable housing will assist in retaining youth in the area. Review Council's 2013 Youth Strategy.	Youth have a sense of belonging and can choose to stay or return.
<i>Employment opportunities in the area are limited</i>	Implement the economic development strategy to recognise business opportunities that will assist the local economy and provide employment opportunities.	Increased economic development growth to allow for employment opportunities.
<i>Local history and a sense of place are important</i>	Continue to work with local families and explore with local iwi how best to promote our diverse history. Signage relating to history will be installed where appropriate.	The community will have an increased knowledge of the diverse heritage of the area.
<i>Our communities have concerns about living safely</i>	Advocate to NZ police and Government agencies to increase the level of policing in the Whangamatā ward.	People feel safer within their communities with an increased police presence in place, especially over peak periods. Community Patrol and CCTV cameras will assist in helping people feel safe.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID	WHERE TO FROM HERE	WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?
<i>Increasing tourism puts pressure on our infrastructure and key attractions</i>	<p>Work with Destination Coromandel through the Whangamata information centre and commercial tourism providers to educate visitors to the region.</p> <p>Develop policy and access available funding sources to improve tourism services within the district.</p> <p>Review the Freedom Camping Bylaw and address issues caused at known hot spots, whilst still welcoming freedom camping.</p>	<p>Visitors to the area will be respectful of our natural environment and way of life, encompassing the principals of the Tiaki promise - tiakinewzealand.com.</p> <p>Provision of an enjoyable visitor experience in a sustainable environment.</p> <p>Limited impact to the communities and the environment from Freedom camping.</p>
<i>Water quality of our rivers, streams and ocean need to be improved.</i>	<p>Participate in national freshwater policy initiatives and in the review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.</p>	<p>Improvement of water quality across the coastal marine area so kaimoana/seafood can be safely harvested, and people can swim safely.</p>
<i>Our natural environment is important and ongoing Pest, Plant and Animal management is needed</i>	<p>Monitor and remove plant and pests on Council land and work with Department of Conservation, Waikato Regional Council, community groups and individuals on pest management.</p>	<p>Proactive, ongoing management of plant and animal pests that threaten the natural environment.</p> <p>Harbour management improved including mangrove, evasive weeds and pest control.</p> <p>Greater awareness of Kauri protection.</p>
<i>How do we protect our iconic landscapes?</i>	<p>Enforce the environmental protection provisions of the District Plan to protect its special landscapes and will participate in national and regional policy initiatives.</p> <p>Consult with communities as to the best adaptive coastal management pathways via the Shoreline Management project and the Waikato Regional Coastal Policy.</p>	<p>On-going enforcement of the District Plan provisions to protect the iconic and historic landscapes.</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of our coastal areas including making them resilient to natural events.</p> <p>Safe beach use through appropriate education and bylaw processes.</p>
<i>Management of Plantation Forestry needs to be improved</i>	<p>Lobby Central Government, Regional Council and commercial forestry owners to improve existing management practices.</p>	<p>Production forest will be managed in accordance with best practice to ensure ongoing protection of the natural environment.</p>
<i>Existing reserve space needs to be improved</i>	<p>Manage and maintain reserve space through its operational process.</p> <p>Consider redevelopment of existing reserve space through Long Term Plan consultation and ongoing community engagement.</p>	<p>Council owned reserves will be maintained and enhanced where possible to provide quality recreational space for communities.</p> <p>Liaise with the Department of Conservation, iwi and Waikato Regional Council in the management of reserves</p>

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID	WHERE TO FROM HERE	WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?
<i>The roading networks, both local and state highway need to be improved</i>	<p>Advocate to New Zealand Transport Agency to adopt best traffic management strategies for the Peninsula including upgrading the State Highway one-way bridges.</p> <p>Advocate for better public transport to public and private service providers.</p> <p>Implement the long-term infrastructure management strategy in relation to roading.</p>	Regular maintenance and improvement of state highways and local roads to improve access, prevent wear and tear on vehicles and to be less prone to slippage resulting in temporary isolation during weather events.
<i>Our communities need safe footpaths and cycleways</i>	<p>Consider a pedestrian/cycle/walkway network policy in the long-term infrastructure management strategy.</p> <p>Include a mobility policy in the long-term infrastructure management strategy.</p> <p>Speed limits will be amended where appropriate.</p>	People can safely move and access cycle and walkways around their communities and beyond.
<i>Water supplies needs to be meet the needs of the community</i>	<p>Ensure that reticulated water supply system meet the New Zealand drinking water standards.</p> <p>Continue to manage and maintain existing systems to ensure a consistent water supply.</p>	<p>Safe drinking water available to reticulated communities.</p> <p>Retention tanks and water meters could be considered.</p>
<i>We want improved directional and bilingual signage</i>	<p>Review current directional signage.</p> <p>Replacement or new signage will be bilingual where appropriate.</p>	<p>Directions to destination and local attractions will be clearly signposted.</p> <p>Inclusion of Te Reo Māori on public signage throughout the Whangamatā ward.</p>
<i>Stormwater drainage to protect the community from unnecessary flooding is a priority</i>	<p>Implement the long-term infrastructure management strategy in relation to the three waters (water, wastewater, stormwater).</p> <p>Investigate alternate methods of stormwater management.</p>	Flooding from inefficient stormwater drainage reticulation will be will be given priority.
<i>Our community need to be resilient in the face of natural disasters?</i>	Work with local communities to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters in association with national and regional Emergency Management Civil Defence agencies.	Community response planning to assist with preparedness for emergency events.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID	WHERE TO FROM HERE	WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?
<i>Marine and river flooding controls need to be put in place to protect our communities</i>	Consult with the communities as to the best adaptive coastal management pathways via the Shoreline Management Project.	River and forestry management controls are in place to protect our communities from marine and river flooding.
<i>Improved waste management and green waste facilities</i>	Address improved recycling opportunities and waste collection when the waste management strategy is reviewed.	Reduction in waste going to landfill. Provision of a recycling and resource centre (Seagull Centre).
<i>Faster, secure internet options</i>	Support the community in advocating for secure fast internet and investigating private provider options.	Most of the Whangamatā ward will have access to a fast and reliable internet service.
<i>Reliable power supply</i>	Advocate to energy supply providers for improvements to the power network.	Whangamatā ward residents within the power network will be able to connect to a reliable power source with limited power outages.



THE PROJECTS THE COMMUNITIES WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN

Individuals, community groups and organisations throughout our communities have told us these are the projects they believe should be given priority when Council is considering its Long Term Plan.

Whangamatā

Boardwalk extension

Boardwalk along the dunes from Surf Club to Hunt Road

Community Hub

Provide facility for community marae and local community groups

Beach Road Toilet

Provide toilet facility near the playground

Cycle/walkways

Provide a safe network of cycle/walkways around the community and beyond

Swimming Pool Cover

To allow year round use of the community pool

Recycling and Resource Centre (Seagull Centre)

To improve waste management of materials destined for landfill

Kerbing and stormwater improvements

Onemana

Culverting deep stream channel

Piping and replacing footbridge at the bottom carpark

Safe cycle/walk track from SH 25 to the village

Formalising the information walking track along Whitipirorua Road

BBQ area near the tennis courts

Installing electric BBQ's for public use close to the playground and tennis courts

Community facility

A community hub for local community groups use

Opoutere

Fire Hazard management plan

Liaising with DOC and FENZ to manage the fire hazard created by the poisoned pine trees

COUNCIL PLANS

Where does this Community Plan “fit” with other Council plans?

The Council has several other plans in place.

The Community feedback in this plan will help form the development of Council Plans.



THE LONG TERM PLAN (LTP)

Outlines the overall direction and expected costs of Council activities over a ten-year period. The LTP is prepared every three years. In the intervening years, Council produces an Annual Plan, which serves as an update on the LTP for that year.

THE DISTRICT PLAN

Promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Thames-Coromandel District, primarily by managing the effects of land use on the environment. The plan responds to local government issues in terms of community needs and aspirations. If those needs and aspirations change, then plan changes may be needed.

COMMUNITY PLANS

Capture the shared vision of specific communities and outline the key issues and projects facing that community over the next ten years. The plans provide a clear focus for Community Boards and Committees to progress key issues within their areas.

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Reserve Management Plans contain policies that apply to all reserves that are owned and/or administered by Thames-Coromandel District Council. This allows for a consistent approach to the management of reserves.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Upon completion of the final consultation and the plan is being finalised the Whangamatā Community Board will adopt the Community Plan.

While some key issues and projects in this document will require more resources than are available and may take longer than a few years to realise, we can be assured there is a plan in place.

The Whangamatā Community Board and communities will continue to work with Council to prioritise issues and projects through planning such as the Long Term Plan (LTP), Annual Plan and work programmes.

Please contact the Whangamatā Community Board or Thames-Coromandel District Council if you would like any further information.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!