

Draft Whangarei District Growth Strategy Update

Council Briefing - Wednesday 6 May 2020

Objectives

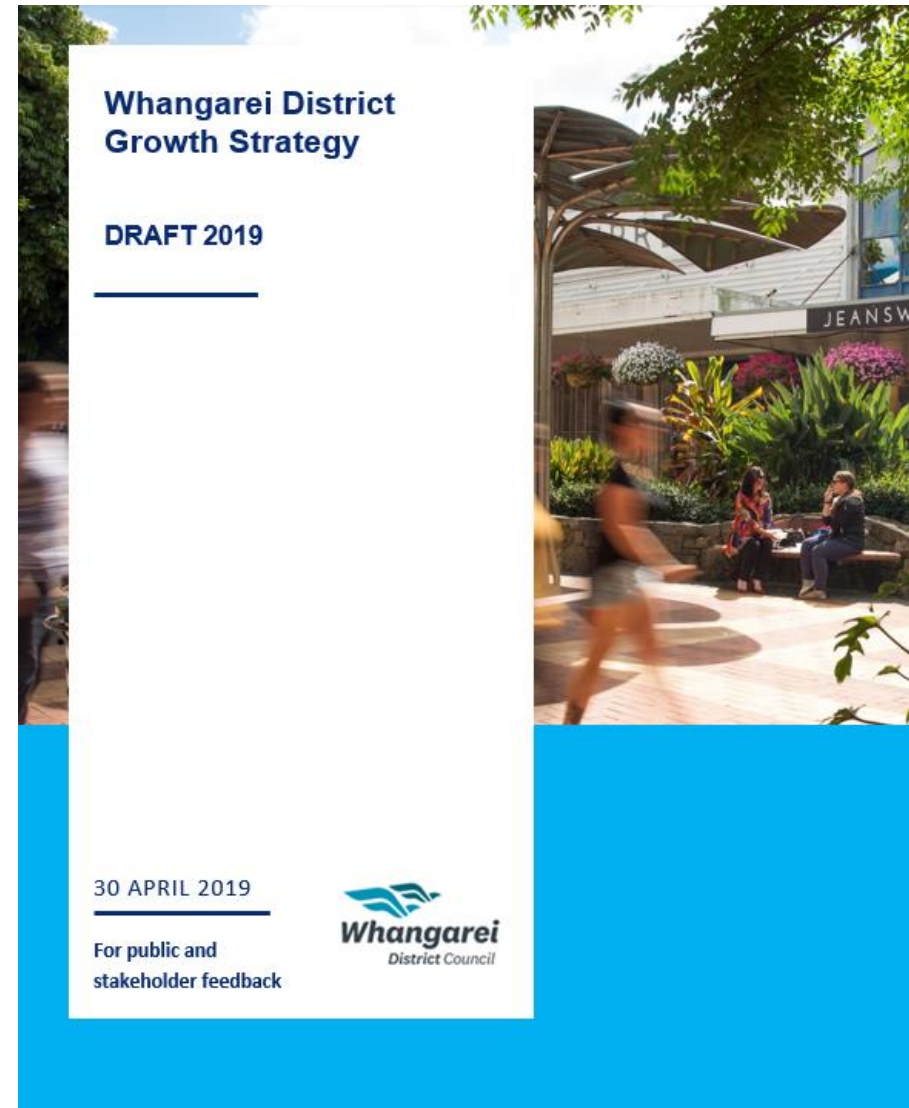
- Update elected members on the progress of the Growth Strategy.
- Impact of COVID-19 on strategic direction and the work program.
- Outline next steps and revised project timeframe.

Recap

The Growth Strategy sets out our response to manage and guide growth for the next 30 years.

It establishes a framework for how we will manage and accommodate development, whilst still maintaining our important values and what we love in our District.

It is driven by government policy including the National Policy Statement on Urban Development.



Our engagement process

- Internal discussions/workshops
- Elected members
- Te Kārearea
- Public Consultation
 - May 2019



Scope

What is not new

- Consolidated development approach
- Retains valuable content
- Builds on our rich extensive work and consultation
- Holistic and integrated approach
- Planning and infrastructure alignment
- Provides strategic direction
- Enables growth and development
- Protects environmental values

What is new

- Response to COVID-19
- Updated data/stats and growth projections
- Key responses and actions to address changing/emerging issues and challenges
- NPS-UDC statutory obligations
- Housing affordability issues
- Residential and commercial capacity and feasibility analysis
- Updated climate change scenarios
- Strongly encouraging a modal shift
- Specific, clear and targeted actions
- Clarity around roles, responsibilities and deliverables.

What the Strategy will do

- Review the Growth Strategy 30/50 in full
- Refocus our response to address our key challenges and issues
- Outline clearly our response and key actions
- Inform Council's decision making
- Promote an inter-disciplinary and collaborative approach
- Fulfil our statutory requirements under the NPS- UDC
- Inform and co-ordinates planning and infrastructure strategies/development
- Supports District Plan reviews/ plan changes
- Obtain political buy in to our approach
- Identify 'triggers' or 'tipping points'

What the Strategy will not do

- Address detailed operational matters or the management of specific assets
- Detailed design of projects or specific location of future projects in detail
- Not a RMA document and cannot change land-use or built form requirements
- Influence market forces and development feasibility
- Identify all options and assess the feasibility of each possibility

COVID-19

COVID-19

COVID-19 will have significant impact on our District in the short term. But the severity and duration of those impacts is less certain.

Whangarei District Growth Strategy will align and build on WDC's COVID-19 Response Strategy.

Key issues to think about over a 30 year strategy:

Growth: Short term stagnated/paused growth, but medium – long term recovery

Economy: Recovery to reset of the economy, changes in sectors, job creation, technology and sustainability

Infrastructure: More government funding, but potential delays/postponement of key decisions for the Port and Navy

Community: How our community will respond, this could lead to changing demands and priorities. Also need to consider our most venerable communities

However, although COVID-19 is a major event, it won't be the only economic shock over the next 30 years and known issues like climate change will have ongoing implications.

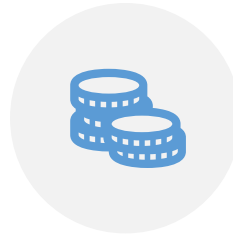
These issues and the resulting changes to the Growth Strategy, may mean that Council wishes to seek further community input through a second round of consultation.

COVID-19

- COVID-19 presents challenges for the delivery and implementation of our Growth Strategy, including a more limited budget in the next 2021-31 LTP.
- We acknowledge budgets will be limited and that Council's strategic outcomes have shifted in response to COVID-19. Ultimately, elected members will work through and determine priorities and budget allocations associated with the Growth Strategy.
- The Growth Strategy will assist in this decision making by identifying those actions which are practicable and help support the reset of our local economy in the longer term

Our Strategic Drivers

Key issues



A CHANGING ECONOMY



A GROWING POPULATION



A CHANGING CLIMATE



PROVIDING AFFORDABLE
AND DIVERSE HOUSING



PROVIDING
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
ACROSS A GREATER AREA TO
MORE PEOPLE

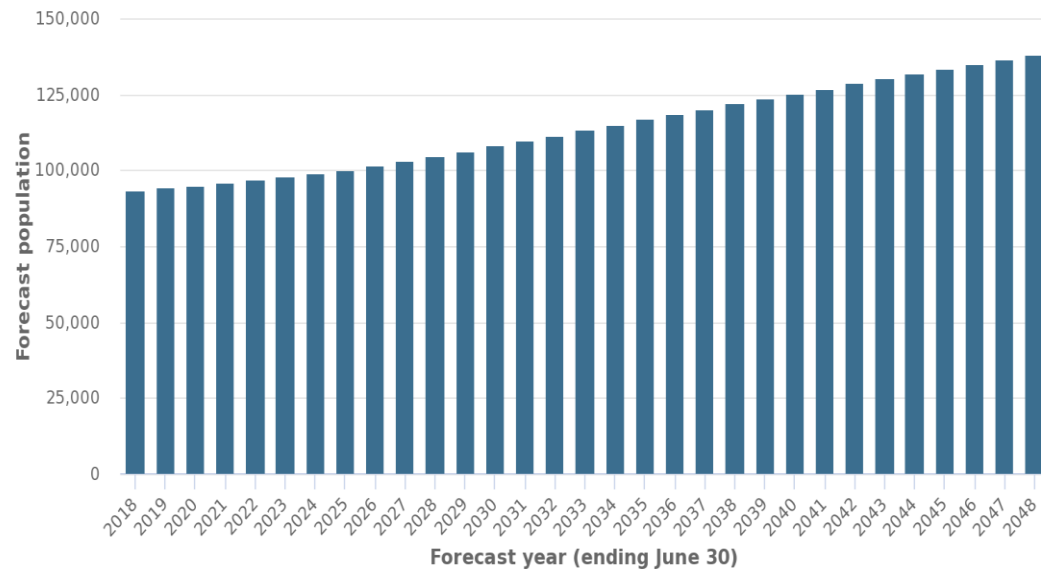


A RESILIENT COMMUNITY-
RESPONDING TO LOCAL AND
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Sustained Growth

Forecast population

Whangarei District Council

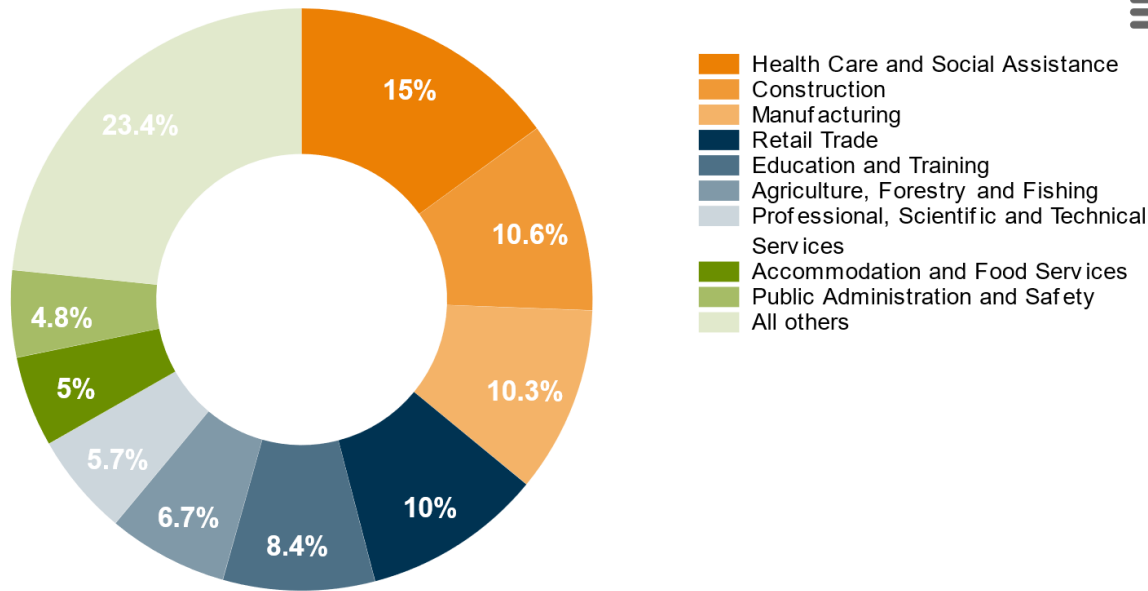


Population and household forecasts, 2018 to 2048, prepared by .id, March 2020.

.id
the
population
experts

- Since 2002, we have experienced positive growth
- 2018 population reached 90,960
 - 17.3% increase from the 2013 census
 - 2.6% growth rate v 1.8% nationally
- NPS-UDC “High Growth Area”
- Draft Population forecast 138,000 by 2048
 - Interregional migration
 - Retaining young
- COVID-19 will impact this in the short term, but medium – long term looks strong.

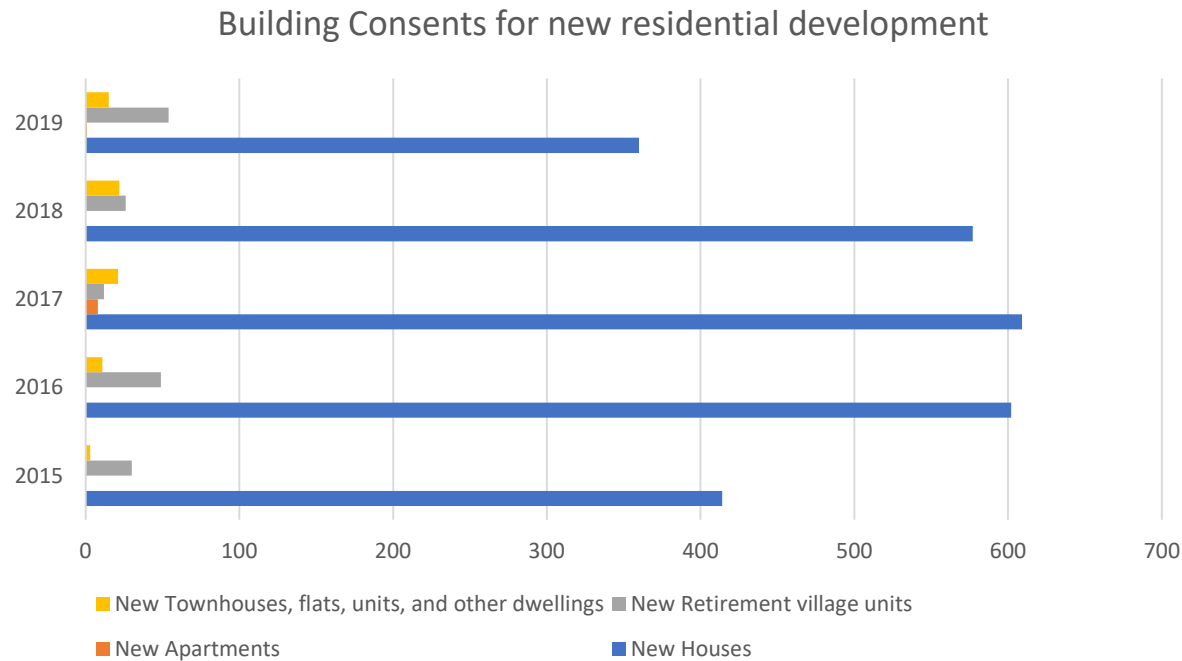
Successful Economy



Economic breakdown by industry

- Economic hub for Northland
- Changing and growing economy
- Household income 2010-2019: \$66,200-\$92,100
- Unemployment reduction Whangarei (last five years)- 2.6%
- Our challenges
 - Increasing disparities
 - High unemployment 5.9% v 4.6% NZ
 - Long term industry vulnerability
 - Education/training
- COVID-19 changing our sectors and emerging business as our economy resets. Other sectors will be take longer to recover, e.g. Tourism

Housing



- Housing reflects population trend
 - 14,000+ new homes over the next 30 years
- 2018 Housing demand and capacity assessment
 - Found we have sufficient feasible capacity and capacity in our District Plan for over 30,000 homes
- Our challenges
 - Unaffordable housing market
 - Limited choice (e.g. Inner city living)
 - Emerging challenges e.g. Overcrowding
- COVID-19 will impact short-term housing delivery. Central government driven housing will continue.



Climate Change and natural hazards

- Climate change is a key long term issue which will impact on how our District grows and develops.
- Informed by ongoing programmes of work at a National, Regional and local level.
- Key decisions around future growth and infrastructure in areas of risk.
- Direct growth away from flood risk areas
- Think about vulnerable communities
- Infrastructure will change to respond to sea level rise, frequent storm events and prolonged droughts.
- **Resetting of our economy post COVID-19 offers opportunities to decarbonise and build resilience.**

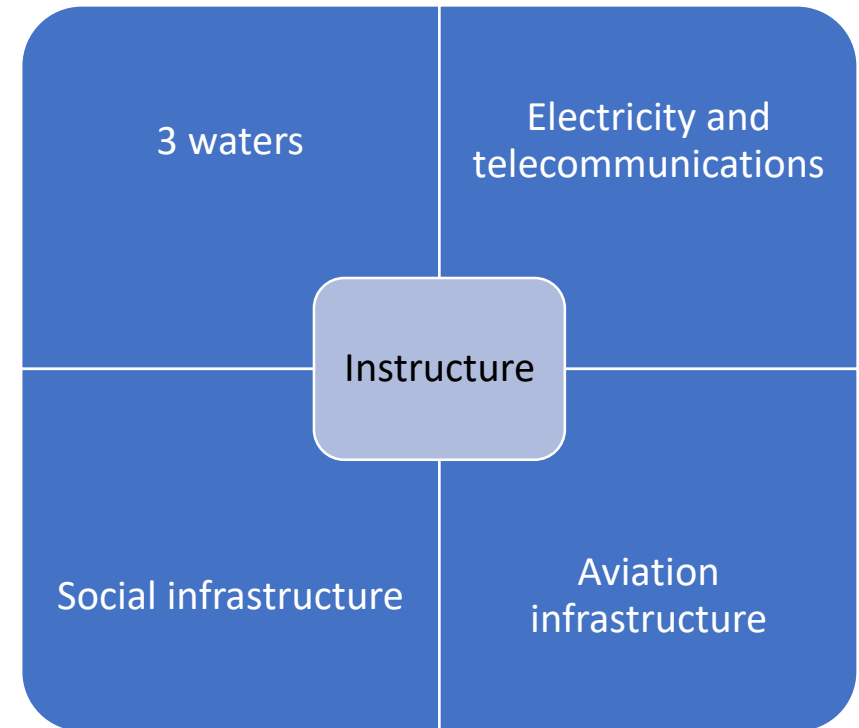
Transport choice


- Aligning future growth with transport choice
- Connectivity within communities but also between residential areas and locations of employment and services.
- Key issues
 - Reliance on private vehicles
 - Encourage public transport
 - Improve connectivity and shared path networks
 - Investment in Rail
 - Investment in our roading network
 - How technology will impact on our need to travel and how we travel.
- COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of walkability for many communities



Resilient infrastructure

- The Growth Strategy plays a key role in alignment of our planned growth and the infrastructure needs of our community.
- Identify key long term infrastructure needs
- Our challenges
 - Disconnected networks resulting in poor levels of service and environmental effects
 - Providing infrastructure in a coordinated, timely and effective manner
- We need to respond to natural hazards and climate change
- Looking towards technology and smart city approaches to improve levels of service.





Our precious natural environment

- Diverse, distinctive and unique
- Our natural environment benefits from protection within the RMA and with existing and future planned national policy:
 - Freshwater
 - Biodiversity
 - Productive land
- Key issue for the Growth Strategy to address is to elevate pressure from future development will place on our natural environment.

An aerial photograph of a port facility. In the foreground, a large green and red cargo ship is docked at a pier. Behind it, a vast area is filled with numerous stacks of lumber or logs, organized in neat rows. In the background, there are several large yellow storage tanks, industrial buildings, and a tall red and white striped tower. The port is situated along a body of water, with mountains visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

Expanding Northport and Navy Base

- Strategic importance of these projects to our District.
- Not just about jobs and GDP, but also significant training/educational opportunities and infrastructure investment.
- Background report being prepared to outline our readiness to accommodate growth.
- Well placed with existing planning work (structure plan)
- **COVID-19 may delay decisions on Northport and the Navy, but funding has already been committed to infrastructure to support these (such as rail improvements).**

Our Response and key actions

Whangarei District Growth Strategy Response

Response to key issues and challenges is achieved by five tools:

1. **Future Development Plan** – this sets out how and where will provide for development and is a require of National Policy Statement on Urban Development
2. **Placemaking Programme** – these are place specific plans that will give shared long-term vision for key locations across the District
3. **Action Plan** – specific actions informed by review of Sustainable Future 30 /50. Actions will develop future plans and infrastructure programmes.
4. **Whangarei to Auckland Corridor Plan** – Key large scale spatial plan developed by Central Government with Councils, Iwi, Hapu and Communities for the growth area and transport corridor between Whangarei to North Auckland
5. **Monitoring and Reporting** – A key requirement of the Natural Policy Statement is that we monitor and report on how our District is developing and ensure this informs our ongoing decision making

Whangarei to Auckland Corridor Plan

Proposed plan from Whangarei to North Auckland. Part of central governments Urban Growth Partnerships programme, which includes the Hamilton to Auckland Plan.



Initial staff level meeting held between WDC, KDC, NRC and representatives from central government agencies:

Ministry for Housing and
Urban Development

NZTA

DIA

MBIE



A cabinet paper is being prepared to confirm the Urban Growth Partnership programme. Whangarei to North Auckland is proposed to start in 2021. Decision likely in July.



Government officials will brief our Council (date TBC) and continue to work with staff in preparation for the start of the programme.

Where to from here

Project timeline



Next steps

Key stakeholder engagement

NZTA

MoE

NDHB

Te Huinga

Ministry for Housing
and Urban
Development

Key businesses and
infrastructure
providers

Responding to emerging issues/challenges and
alignment with COVID-19 Response Strategy

Internal workshops with subject matter experts



Questions