



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Ranges
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2023/2024

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Annual Report 2023/2024



Volume
2.19

Waitākere Ranges
Local Board
Auckland Council



Mihi

E nga pītau whakarei o te waka,
 e nga rau tītapu o te iwi, e aku hei māpuna,
 e taku iti e taku rahi, koutou kua mahue mai nei
 hei toka piringa mōku i te ora,
 hei ruruhau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.
 E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,
 kia oho te mauri, kia māiriri o koutou wairua,
 kia hora te marino, tēnā koutou katoa.
 Tēnei au te noho atu nei i te tihī o Te Pae o te Rangī,
 i tīhorea ai te whenua kia kī ake au,
 e koe e te hau o te uru te wawā rā, me te kī mai,
 e kore au e ora i ngā hau kōtiū, i āia ai te pūpūtara ki uta.
 Nāu nei te tonu kia piki ake au i ngā tai whakatū a Kupe
 ki te Waonui a Tiriwhā me te Pae o te Rangī,
 Kia titiro whakaroto ahau ki te maunga o Puketōtara,
 kei raro e rere ana ko te awa o Waitākere
 kei tētahi taha ko Puke Whakataratara, kei tua ko Te Whau.
 Koinei rā te rohe kāinga o Te Au o Te Whenua me te
 Kawerau ā Maki,
 ko rātou nei te whāriki i āhei ai te nohoa o
 tēnei moka o te rohe
 e tini whāioio kua whakakāinga ma.
 Kua kōhatu nei nga paparahi ki te whenua,
 i tangata whenuatia ai tātou katoa.
 I whaikiko ai te kōrero,
 “Ko te hapori te tauawhi i te taiao, he mea motuhake,
 rerenga kē.” Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā.

To all those who adorn the prow of this canoe,
 to the revered leaders of the people,
 to my treasured heirlooms,
 the lesser and the greater parts of me,
 you who are my refuge in life,
 my shelter from the storms of time.
 My objects of affection,
 let your very being flourish, let your spirit be at peace,
 let the calm be widespread, I send greetings to you all.
 Here I sit on the ridgeline of Te Pae o te Rangī,
 where the land had been laid bare,
 and the roaring wind of the west whispers
 that I would not survive the blast of the northerly wind
 that would drive the paper nautilus to shore.
 It was you who commanded me to ascend from the
 raised seas of Kupe,
 to the forest of Tiriwhā, and Te Pae o te Rangī.
 So I look inland to Puketotara,
 at the foot of which runs the Waitākere river
 on one side stands Massey and on
 the other – Te Whau.
 Home of Te Au o te Whenua and Te Kawerau ā Maki,
 the original settlers, they laid the way for later
 travellers to make a home here.
 They cast their footprints in stone upon these
 precincts of the region,
 and so made settlers of us all.
 Which gives substance to the adage,
 “Communities connected to their
 natural environment are unique and diverse.”
 Let us grow with vigour.

On the cover: EcoMatters Environment Trust volunteers working to restore streamside areas in Glen Eden.
 Credit: EcoMatters

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2023/2024. It's part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council's Long-term Plan 2021-2031 (10-year Budget 2021-2031) and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Agreement 2023/2024.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how together we're delivering for Auckland.

▼ Ahi Kā



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He kōrero mai i te heamana From the chairperson

This time last year we were recovering from the effects of two storms of a kind we had not seen for hundreds of years.

Community groups are a big part of how community and environmental services are delivered in the Waitākere Ranges. Our community halls, community houses, and art galleries are community run. We make modest contributions to environmental groups and this helps them achieve a huge amount of environmental volunteer work. They have continued to do great work at a time when our people and our rohe are still recovering from the effect of two storms the severity of which we had not seen before. We are needing to adapt to keep critical services. The United North Piha Lifeguard Service campground was moved to a new spot on Les Waygood Park away from the flood plain. Planning is underway in Bethells Te Henga to find space for a new surf club house away from the Waitākere River. On the Manukau Harbour, the Titirangi Coastguard is seeking a new base for its invaluable rescue services.

Climate change is clearly a reality. The draft Waitākere Ranges Climate Plan was released for public consultation in May and will hopefully be finalised soon, and we continue to progress local resilience planning and planning for adaption.

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area as the lungs of the city plays an important role. To help protect the extensive native forest, Te Wao Nui o Tiriwa, pest plant control was carried out on just under 300 properties in Laingholm, Waitatarua, Huia, Cornwallis, Piha and Anawhata.

We have made good progress with our intent to achieve Dark Sky status for the area. Data collected by a keen set of local enthusiasts suggests that the night sky in large parts of the ranges can meet the high standard required to achieve dark sky status.

We are making progress with the deed of acknowledgment under the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act between Council and local iwi. To highlight the importance of the area and to get greater local engagement in heritage issues, the board has recently proposed that a Heritage Area Community Forum be considered. We hope to make progress on this issue soon.

Ngā mihi nui,



Greg Presland
Chairperson,
Waitākere Ranges
Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Waitākere Waitākere Ranges Local Board



▲
(L to R) Mark Allen, Sandra Coney ,
Michelle Clayton (Deputy Chairperson),
Greg Presland (Chairperson),
Linda Potauaine, Liz Manley.

Contact us



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake Waitākere Ranges projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

Delivered projects

- 1 Swanson Station Park - renew play items and safety surface
- 2 Parrs Park - renew artificial sports field surface

Current projects

- 1 Waitākere renewal of parks, walkways and paths
- 2 Titirangi War Memorial Hall & Library - refurbish exterior of building
- 3 Les Waygood Campground - develop new campground
- 4 Piha Domain - refurbish eel bridge balustrade
- 5 Waitākere Ranges storm remediation - French Bay Esplanade Reserve track
- 6 Kaupeka / Virgo Common - new playground

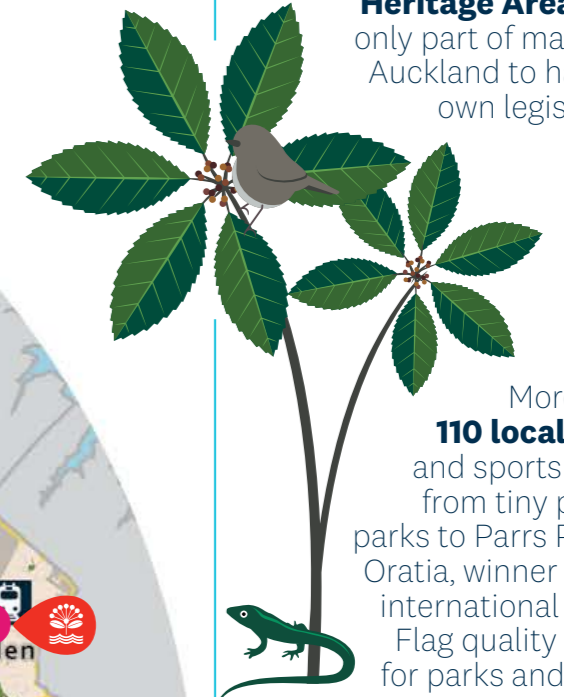


Map legend

- Local board office
- Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- Railway
- Arterial road
- Medium road
- Minor road
- Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) boundary

We are home to:

The **Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area** – the only part of mainland Auckland to have its own legislation.



More than **110 local** parks and sports fields, from tiny pocket parks to Parrs Park in Oratia, winner of two international Green Flag quality marks for parks and green spaces

Waitākere Ranges has nearly **20% of all native vegetation** in the Auckland Region and is home to **8 types** of threatened native plants



Waitākere Ranges is home to Waikumete Cemetery – the largest cemetery in New Zealand with more than **90,000** graves

Data sources: Stats NZ Population Estimates, as at 30 June 2023

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

Local Community Services

Highlights from this past year include the completed renewal of Parrs Park’s artificial sports field surface while ongoing work on storm damaged assets in our board area have made good progress. Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery and Lopdell House experienced high visitor attendance throughout the year and exhibitions at the art gallery were well received. The theatre was in high demand with regular film screenings as well as programmes and events held in the space. Lopdell House’s extensive rooftop repairs were completed, and the rooftop was reopened to visitors. Thirty-two Neighbours Day celebrations were held during the year. These events fostered positive relationships between neighbours through strengthened neighbourhood connections. The board also provided discretionary funding to lift levels of service for establishment and set-up costs of a writers’ centre at Shadbolt House.

KEY ● Achieved ● Substantially achieved ● Not achieved *Measures favourably/unfavourably impacted by COVID-19
For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 166-167 of Volume 1 of the annual report.

Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities

Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - day time

An improvement over last year but well below target. The result reflects the growing concern about crime and violence. There is a perception by some respondents feel that they feel less safe -in Glen Eden town centre and there is a growing need for more surveillance cameras and greater police visibility.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		68%
Result	2024	52%
	2023	47%
	2022	65%

Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time

An improvement over last year but well below target. Respondents still feel less safe after dark due to anti-social behaviour.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		32%
Result	2024	18%
	2023	16%
	2022	21%

Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities

The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led¹

Waitākere Ranges Local Board was under target. This result continues a downward trend noticed in the last financial year. The result has been impacted due to changes in data collection.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		85%
Result	2024	71%
	2023	77%
	2022	91%

The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals¹

The percentage of Waitākere Ranges activities that build capacity and capability was under target. The result has been impacted due to changes in data collection.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		65%
Result	2024	42%
	2023	90%
	2022	82%*

We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilities to get Aucklanders more active, more often

The percentage of park visitors who are satisfied with the overall quality of sportsfields

A good improvement over last year but did not meet target. Last year heavily impacted by severe weather events in 2023. This year there were issues at Parrs Park and Singer Park with lighting which was resolved with more efficient equipment.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		80%
Result	2024	76%
	2023	56%
	2022	73%*

The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks

Although satisfaction increased from previous years (The severe storm weather events in prior year resulted in closure of parks) the wet winter of 2023 has meant we did not meet our target.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	66%
	2023	54%
	2022	61%*

The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months

A small decrease from last years result but in spite of the wet winter season target has been exceeded. Despite all the weather events residents visiting their local parks has been maintained comparative to previous years.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		75%
Result	2024	80%
	2023	81%
	2022	79%

We showcase Auckland’s Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture

The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations

Arts partners within the Lopdell Precinct were a significant contributor to this final result, greatly increasing their percentage from last year. Local and quick response grants had almost half of all grants reporting Māori outcomes and this helped to offset a lower result for community empowerment activities.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		26%
Result	2024	25%
	2023	28.0%
	2022	34.2%

We fund, enable and deliver services, programmes, and facilities (art facilities, community centres, hire venues, and libraries) that enhance identity, connect people, and support Aucklanders to participate in community and civic life

The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)

Library internet sessions surpassed expectations, improving on the strong performance reported at the end of last financial year. Internet sessions have increased by 43 per cent higher over last financial year comfortably exceeding target. Titirangi Library showing the largest increase of 53 per cent.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		75,000
Result	2024	102,020
	2023	71,442
	2022	41,321*

Local Community Services measures cont'd over

The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led

We met our target but were slightly down on prior year results. 76 per cent of the overall result being delivered from community led facilities. The Community arts programme to support Māori arts and culture did not proceed.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		90%
Result	2024	93%
	2023	96%
	2022	98%

The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led

Result against target		●
Target 2024		86%
Result	2024	91%
	2023	86%
	2022	86%

The number of attendees at council-led community events³

One Movies in Parks event was planned and delivered for the year with a good level of attendance.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		0 ²
Result	2024	2,500
	2023	0
	2022	0*

The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues

The number of participants in activities across the 19 facilities exceeded target and above last years result by 9 per cent. Titirangi Waitākere War Memorial Hall led the way with a 24 per cent increase compared with financial year 2022/2023.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		252,500
Result	2024	297,897
	2023	272,931
	2022	168,725*

The number of visits to library facilities

Library visits were below target and above previous year result. Glen Eden showing an increase in visitation over last year of 9 per cent.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		218,800
Result	2024	203,841
	2023	200,273
	2022	136,247*

The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event

The Waitangi@Waititi event was surveyed. Overall net satisfaction of 92 per cent is an excellent result and represents a very high level of alignment with expectations of attendees. There was strong feedback on the positive atmosphere and family friendly environment. There was also good support for the music performances and range of food options.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	92%
	2023	Not measured
	2022	Not measured*

Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Libraries continue to exceed the customer satisfaction target but a fraction down from previous years. One factor that drives consistent results is due to the variety and number of events and programmes provided.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		85%
Result	2024	96%
	2023	98%
	2022	94%

1. This financial year, a reporting responsibility change and more diverse community delivery strategy have had an impact on reported results for a number of local boards. Although framework and direction were consistent with previous years, different interpretations have been applied by the new information providers. This has had a varying impact across different local boards, and has led to some variances in the current year results compared to the prior year.
2. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board do not intend to fund any council-led community events for 2023/2024.
3. Attendance numbers are an estimate. They are informed by previous event numbers, considered scale of the event, area measurement of the core site and attendee turnover.

Local Planning and Development

We supported and worked with the Glen Eden business association to continue to improve local economic development, enhance employment initiatives, and foster supportive and connected neighbourhoods within the board area.

We help attract investment, businesses and a skilled workforce to Auckland

The percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) Partnership Programme obligations

All BIDs in the Waitākere Ranges Local Board complied with the BID Policy 2022.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		100%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

Local Environmental Management

We supported and funded activities across the board area that delivered on the objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, such as community weed bins, the Buffer Zone project and the long-tailed bat (pekapeka) community education project. We supported work towards healthier ecosystems and sustainability through board-funded initiatives, such as providing the animal management team additional capacity to patrol west coast beaches to improve dog walkers compliance with dog bylaws and help protect wildlife. The Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance Coordinator has been working with community restoration groups. Alongside community volunteer efforts the Waitākere Weed Action Project where all physical pest plant control work has been completed in conjunction with the Regional Pest Management Plan buffer programme funded with the Natural Environment Targeted Rate.

We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change

The percentage of local low carbon or sustainability projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes

We successfully delivered five sustainability initiative projects for Waitākere Ranges in the 2023/2024 financial year. This included continued support for the Love your Neighbourhood and EcoFest West Festival. These projects have contributed towards the board’s environmental objectives as described in its local board plan.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		80%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	88%

The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes

We successfully delivered six water quality and natural environment improvement projects for Waitākere Ranges in the 2023/2024 financial year, such as the New Residents Welcome pack and funding towards an Animal Management officer to patrol west coast beaches for by-law compliance issues. These projects have contributed towards the board’s environmental objectives as described in its local board plan.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		85%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	83%
	2022	100%

The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes

We successfully delivered the Kerbside recycling collection for commercial premises in Piha for Waitākere Ranges in the 2023/2024 financial year. This project has contributed to local board’s environmental outcomes as described in its local board plan.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		N/A ¹
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

1. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board is not intending to directly fund a local waste minimisation project for 2023/2024.



▲ Winners of the Karekare Landcare Trapping Competition



▲ The first citizenship ceremony at Hoani Waititi Marae

He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

Our performance explained

Gardens and patrols enrich our community

Matt Chamberlain and his friends had been talking about starting a community garden together, and when he heard of the Love Your Neighbourhood funding, he jumped at the chance to get support with filling the garden beds in their no-dig garden in Laingholm.

“It’s about having a bit of food sovereignty. Everyone likes to know where their food has come from and what’s been done to it. We like knowing that there are no sprays or artificial fertilisers going on any of the food here.

Community is our other reason. We wanted to create something together, and it’s very much whoever feels like coming along. We have a larger group of around 30 people, and there are probably 10 people who are more active. Some people come and do a bit of harvesting and hang out for a while. It’s a pleasant place to be. Thanks to the local board for supporting the community-led environmental programme.”

The Glen Eden Community patrol is once again operational, thanks to our support. As a member of Community Patrols of New Zealand, the group has been patrolling in areas spanning Glen Eden, Titirangi, and Kelston since late 2023. We allocated \$5,000 to the group, as part of their placemaking efforts to regenerate the Glen Eden area.

Chair Greg Presland says, “the safety of Glen Eden is always paramount for our board. We’re pleased to help revive such a great initiative after its hiatus in 2021, to make Glen Eden a greater place to live, work and play.”

The patrols act as a deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour by being highly visible.

From reassurance patrols following incidents such as burglaries or suspicious activity to collaborating with local law enforcement on initiatives such as Safer Plates and Waitākere Ranges Safety Campaign, they seek to contribute to the safety of the Glen Eden, and wider West Auckland community.

The patrol’s impact on community safety is significant. Equipped with a marked vehicle, dashcams, and surveillance lights as well as road safety gear, their assistance extends beyond crime prevention, providing support during missing person searches as well as special events.

The Glen Eden team has been recruiting and training members and more are needed. Resident and patrol member Geoff says, “There is a real sense among people that crime is going up. The patrol is a really great way to support a safer community.”



▲ EcoMatters Environment Trust working to restore streamside areas in Glen Eden. Credit: EcoMatters

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe Local flavour

Opening up studios in the Waitākere Ranges

What do we talk about when we talk about the Waitākere Ranges? Beautiful subtropical rainforest, rugged ranges, and how this special part of Auckland is bursting with artistic talent and creativity.

In November 2023, more than 40 artists' studios in the Waitākere Ranges opened their doors to the public during the annual Open Studios Waitākere weekend, supported by Waitākere Ranges Local Board.

The weekend provided the opportunity to meet local artists, see art in action, purchase local artwork and learn about the creative process. Artists who took part included former board member Steve Tollestrup, Julia Marin, Tristan Marler, Janel Reid, Dean Buchanan, Monique Endt, Hayden Scott, and Melissa Hastings.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board chair Greg Presland is delighted to see the event went well.

“The board has proudly supported the event since it was relaunched in 2015. Over the years we have seen it grow, as well as adapt to the challenges that we have faced in recent times. The event continues to support artists involved and provides a now well-known event on the arts calendar. As a board, we’re dedicated to supporting our local arts and artists to flourish and getting more people to know about the fantastic talent living in our area”.

Waitākere Ranges Local Board chair Greg Presland was also impressed with the number of new participating artists.

“We were thrilled to have a record number of new artists involved this year, including 12 new artists who opened up their studios over the weekend”.

“Some of the artists, for instance Dean Buchanan and Monique Endt, are well-known and have been prolific in the local arts scene for decades. Others are less well-known or just starting up but their art is, in many cases, just as vibrant and engaging as their more well-known counterparts”.

“There are artists who have achieved international recognition that call the Waitākere Ranges home, including Colin McCahon, Dean Buchanan, Ann Robinson, John Edgar, Judy Miller and Len Castle. These artists of different disciplines have found inspiration in the local beauty and there’s always the chance that participants in Open Studios may include the next McCahon, Robinson, Castle or Edgar or Miller”.



▲ Artist and visitors at the Open Studios event



▲ Artist at the Open Studios event

Te tahua pūtea Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2024

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2023/2024	Annual Plan 2023/2024	Annual Plan 2022/2023
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		12,989	12,989	11,457
Targeted rates		92	95	95
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		30	11	11
Fees and charges		162	110	118
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		439	476	491
Total operating funding		13,712	13,682	12,172
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	10,150	11,225	10,564
Finance costs		481	481	413
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,769	1,769	1,099
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		12,400	13,475	12,076
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		1,312	207	96
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	1,494	1,978	3,572
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		1,494	1,978	3,572
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		227	105	517
- to improve the level of service		537	37	275
- to replace existing assets		2,042	2,043	2,875
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		2,806	2,184	3,668
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		(1,312)	(207)	(96)
Funding balance		0	0	0

Variance explanation Actual 2023/2024 to Annual Plan 2023/2024

1. Payments to staff and suppliers were below plan mainly in the full facilities contract costs for facility maintenance in the first half of the financial year. Extreme wet weather made access and maintenance difficult at all facilities and contractors have been working hard to catch up, as many parks and reserves were too wet to mow in the first part of the year. Open space management and mowing showed an upward trend in the last quarter of the financial year.
2. While partly offset by higher than planned capital expenditure, payments to staff and suppliers was lower than planned. This resulted in a funding surplus which meant that less debt funding was required than planned.
3. Capital expenditure is above plan mainly due to upgrades to sports lighting, sports field and car park work in Singer Park, scheduled in the prior financial year. There was unplanned asset renewals following storm damage, renewal estimates for Piha Domain Footbridge balustrade renewal were greater than originally planned, and the playground at Kaupeka / Virgo Common was brought forward.

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