



# District Plan Engagement reporting

October to November 2017

porirua city

# District Plan Engagement reporting

The Environment & City Planning team did extensive informal engagement with the community from 16 October to 24 November 2017. Our aim was to check in with the community that we have a good understanding of citywide issues so we can prepare relevant and practical policy responses in our new Plan.

We developed the 'make your mark' campaign to give a unique and engaging front to the District Plan. The idea was to use visual aids of doodled drawings over images of the city to show that we're looking at ways the city could grow, and asking the big picture question about how people would like to see that growth happen. To keep things simple we divided topics into six main themes.

They were:

- how we live and grow
- how we move
- how we do business
- how we look after our environment
- how we play, and
- how we reduce natural hazard impacts.

We used four main communication channels - an online survey, stalls at various public events (with photos of the city for children to doodle on to share their ideas), presentations and open discussions at community meetings, and discussions with target interest groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and developers.

During six weeks of consultation we had direct face to face contact with around 700 people, and received 197 pieces of written feedback from the website, 4,820 website page views, 347 hand drawn submissions from children and adults and a multitude of verbal comments made at presentations which are recorded in note form. The focus was not on submissions but conversations and comments. Our purpose was to ensure we understood the land use planning issues that matter to our communities and use that feedback to make sure our plan represents our communities' views alongside the requirements we have under the RMA.

Overall the key messages from the community on the District Plan were:

- strong support for diverse housing options, affordable housing and acceptance of the need to grow

## How we connected

**4,820**  
website page views

**347**  
hand drawn submissions  
from children and adults

**Direct face to face  
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**Multitude of verbal comments  
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- a reluctance to see low density sprawl as the future growth model, instead supporting a move into medium density intensification and increasing height limits in the CBD
- strong support for the protection of the Harbour through planning tools (these could be based on the principles of water sensitive urban design and storm water neutrality)
- an interest in the changes brought about by Transmission Gully including what happens to the current State Highway 1, there was an acknowledgement that there are challenges and opportunities for Porirua
- overall strong support for non-vehicular modes of transport and better public transport
- support for the risk-based approach to natural hazards and the hazards of most concern were earthquakes, flooding and slips
- mixed responses to the concept of industrial zoning in the Pāuatahanui-Judgeford area – there is tension between economic and employment opportunities with rural character and harbour health protection
- support for protecting landscape backdrops
- a desire for a review of parking provisions
- support for native vegetation protection backed by penalties if required.



# Feedback by theme

## How we live and grow

People want Porirua to grow. There was support for more diverse housing options and affordable housing. Council was encouraged to aim at mixing housing types together and break down the socio-economic divides.

There was support for less urban sprawl into rural areas and more medium density intensification within existing residential areas. This was strongly linked to the effects of sprawling urban growth on the health of the harbour.



There was support for smaller residential lot sizes in the rural areas, with potential for smaller than the proposed 2ha average.

There was support for increasing building height limits in the CBD and strong support for apartments and introducing more residential use in the city centre. This idea was popular in that it would help stimulate the economy in the city centre and bring more life to it.

Much of the feedback from children was environmentally focused with suggestions around electric vehicle charging stations, wind farms, solar panels and higher building heights in lieu of sprawl.

## How we move

This was the most important topic for the community on the whole. With the impending Transmission Gully opening there are a lot of changes in the way people move within the city and within the region expected to occur as a result – (the magnitude of these will depend on whether or not the road is tolled).

There was a lot of support for more cycle and walkways and better connections with parks and the city centre. There was support for consideration of different modes of transport including technological changes such as electric vehicle charging stations.

There was support for better public transport connections and services that meet the needs of the residents (including those with disabilities) while being an affordable option.

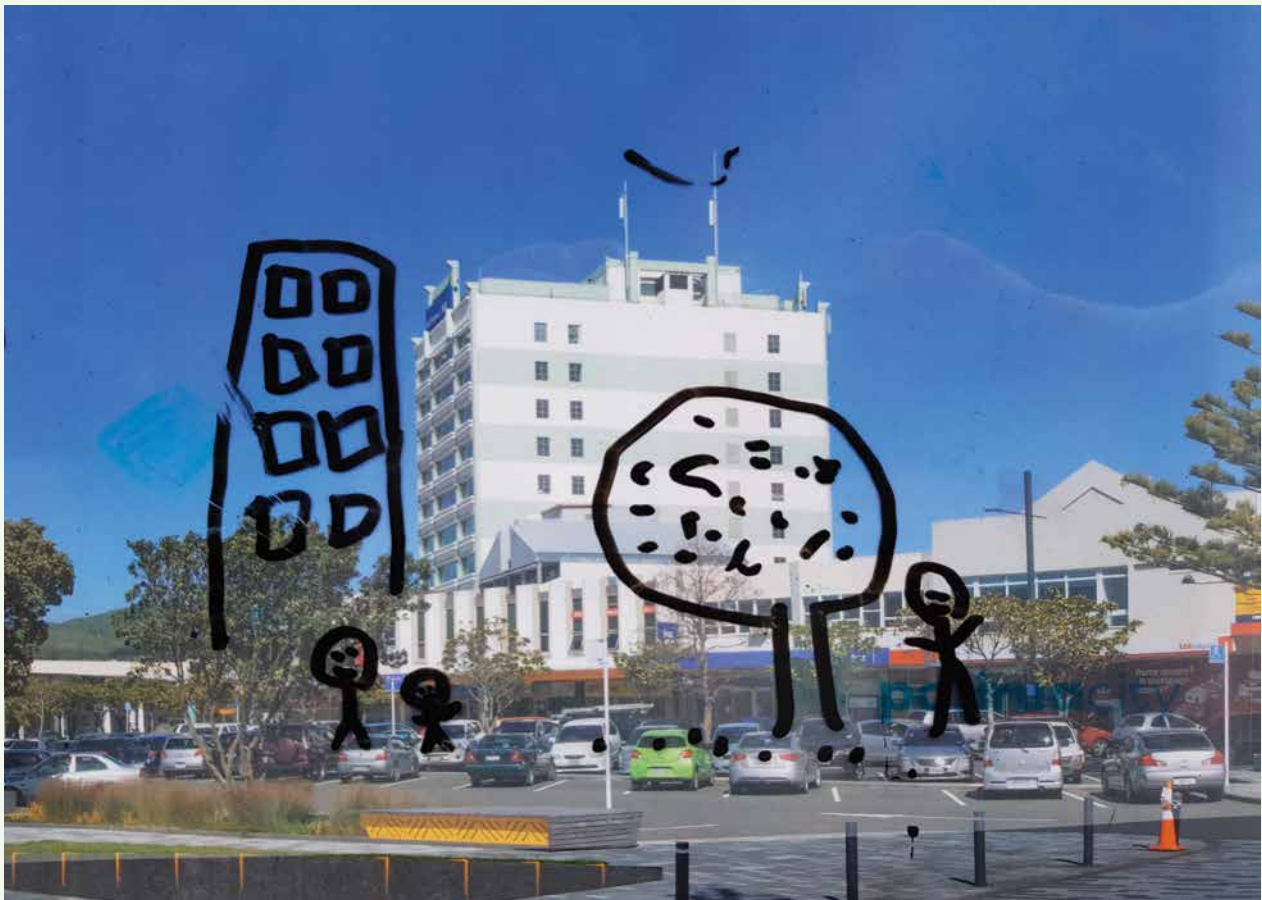


## How we do business

There was support for increasing building height limits in the CBD and strong support for apartments and introducing more residential use in the city centre, and encouraging more mixed uses throughout the city such as commercial and residential mixed developments.

Access to current commercial and industrial areas was highlighted as a current issue and something to consider in the new district plan.

There were mixed responses to an industrial zone in Pāuatahanui-Judgeford area. Some see it as a logical step and an important economic and employment opportunity for the city, taking advantage of Transmission Gully. Some see it as potentially irrevocably changing the rural character of the area and harming the harbour.



## How we look after our environment

There was strong support for protection of the harbour from the effects of development, and discussions around measures such as water sensitive urban design and stormwater neutrality were accepted as good principles for managing this.

There was support for protecting the landscape backdrops of the City that haven't been developed.

There was support for a simplified approach to bush and tree protection.

Much of the feedback from children was around improving the environment – more fish and swim-ability of the harbour, more trees in the reserves and more street planting.

## How we play

There was a lot of support for better connections to and from the City's parks and reserves, as well as strong support for maintaining current parks and reserves and not developing these areas.

Much of the feedback from children was around parks and reserves and enjoying those spaces we have. They also wanted more facilities at parks, with things like jetties into the harbour for boating and jumping off, pontoons in the harbour, cafés by parks and near waterways.



## How we reduce natural hazard impacts

It was agreed that we need to take a risk-based approach to natural hazards. The hazards the community were most concerned about were earthquakes, flooding and slips.

## Our youth

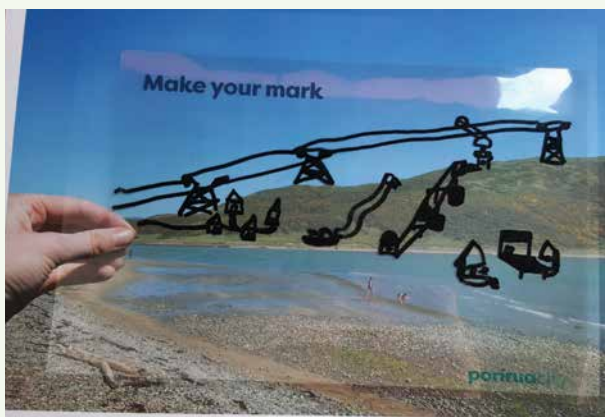
We took a different approach in order to understand what our younger generation care about. We used photos of the city, on which we asked youths to draw what they wanted to see in the future. Overall our young residents value sustainability eg electric vehicle charging stations, wind farms etc, denser development in the city centre, and more shared outdoor and green spaces in the city.

## Key points from the engagement overall

1. General agreement with the key issues and outcomes we outlined – we are on the right track.
2. Mixed responses to industrial area at Pāuatahanui/Judgeford – biggest concerns here are the ability to provide infrastructure and retaining rural character.
3. Children are interested in green technology and better/more green and open spaces.
4. Medium density housing is desired.

## Actions from here to work to achieve these key points

1. Working to create draft plan chapters for further engagement/discussion with community in October 2018.
2. Working further with interested groups on specific topics throughout the year 2018 to help inform draft chapters.



For more information on the  
District Plan Review go to  
**[porirua.govt.nz/makeyourmark](http://porirua.govt.nz/makeyourmark)**

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