



Community and Demographics

Ageing population creating higher demand for health, housing, and accessibility services.

Youth disengagement rising, with local NEET rates approaching national average.

20,000 patients

at Feilding Health Care.

Governance and Legislative Change

Local Water Done Well:
in-house model; ring-fenced water finances from 2027 LTP.

Rates Banding Policy:
future rates increases will be limited, forcing tougher trade-offs.

RMA replacement:
shift to regional “single plan” and spatial planning.

Local Government (Systems Improvements) Bill:
stronger focus on core services.

Council strengths:
prudent financial management;
lowest 2024/25 rates rise regionally



District Snapshot

Population:

33,700

(2024) up 1.5% from 2023

Median age:

40.8 years

(above national 37.9)

Māori population: **18.3%**

(above national 17.8%)

Infrastructure and Environment



High hazard exposure:
flooding, drought, and coastal risks

Resilience initiatives:
Stormwater upgrades,
Feilding Water Resilience Project.



Community Projects

Sustainability:

Resource Recovery Centre expanding recycling and food-waste bioenergy.

Community Hub:

Te Āhuru Mōwai connecting people through creative, social and learning spaces.



Economy

Self-employment:

25.7% (vs 15.5% nationally).

Core sectors:

agriculture, manufacturing, professional and technical services.

Unemployment:

consistently below regional and national rates.



Connectivity and Transport

Rural bus service:

expanding to link villages with Feilding.



Housing and Affordability

Housing affordability ratio:

below national average

Rental affordability:

22% of income spent on rent

Per capita income:

\$51,000 (close to national \$52,000).