



Council Agenda

Wednesday 05 August 2026, 8:30 am

The meeting will be held at the Manawatu District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, and a video recording made available on

www.mdc.govt.nz



MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson

His Worship the Mayor, Michael Ford

Deputy Chairperson

Councillor Grant Hadfield

Members

Councillor Bridget Bell
Councillor Shelley Dew-Hopkins
Councillor Rob Duindam
Councillor Colin Dyer
Councillor Sam Hill
Councillor Raewyn Loader
Councillor James McKelvie
Councillor Jerry Pickford
Councillor Andrew Quarrie
Councillor Alison Short

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shayne Harris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shayne Harris
Chief Executive

ORDER OF BUSINESS

	PAGE
1. MEETING OPENING	
Jan McGaffin, The Hub Church will open the meeting.	
2. APOLOGIES	
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
<i>Recommendation</i>	
<i>That the minutes of the Council meeting held 22 July 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.</i>	
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Notification from elected members of:	
4.1 Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and	
4.2 Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968	
5. PUBLIC FORUM	
There are no public forum speakers scheduled for this meeting.	
6. PRESENTATIONS	
6.1 RESIDENT SATISFACTION QUARTERLY/YEARLY SUMMARY	18
Jeena Baines (Data, Insights and Research Analyst) will be in attendance speaking to Council.	
6.2 MANAWATŪ DATA SNAPSHOT	38
Jeena Baines (Data, Insights and Research Analyst) will be in attendance speaking to Council.	
7. NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS	
Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting, that item may be dealt with at that meeting if:	
7.1 The Council by resolution so decides; and	
7.2 The Chairperson explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public the reason why the item is not on the agenda, and the reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.	

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There are no recommendations from committees.

9. NON-COUNCIL MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

Minutes of the following Council Committee and Community Committee meetings are uploaded to the Council's website, as they become available.

Liaison councillors will have the opportunity to provide a verbal update.

The below meetings took place from 23 July – 4 August 2026:

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Manawatu Water Services	• 23 July 2026
https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/agendas-and-minutes	

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 3 August 2026
Himatangi Beach – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 23 July 2026
Rongotea – Cr Colin Dyer	• 3 August 2026
https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans	

MARAE
Aorangi Marae – Cr Rob Duindam
Kauwhata Marae – Cr Raewyn Loader
Parewahawaha Marae – Cr Alison Short
Poupatatē Marae – Cr James McKelvie
Taumata-o-te-rā Marae – Cr Colin Dyer
Te Hiiri Marae – Cr Sam Hill
Te Rangimārie Marae – Cr Jerry Pickford
Te Tikanga Marae – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins
Ngāti Te Au – Cr Grant Hadfield
Ngāwhakarua marae – Cr Andrew Quarrie

10. OFFICER REPORTS

There are no reports scheduled for this meeting.

11. CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

12. PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS**COUNCIL TO RESOLVE:**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. Confirmation of Minutes; 22 July 2026
2. Sale of part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding

That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
13. Confirmation of Minutes; 22 July 2026	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 22 July 2026.</i> <i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.1 Sale of part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>This report will be considered in public excluded to protect Council's commercial position while it is negotiating the sale of Council-owned land.</i>	s48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

16. MEETING CLOSURE

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 22 July 2026, which commenced at 8.30 am at the Manawātū District Council Chambers, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:	Mayor Michael Ford	Chairperson
	Councillor Bridget Bell	
	Councillor Shelley Dew-Hopkins	
	Councillor Rob Duindam	
	Councillor Colin Dyer	
	Councillor Grant Hadfield	
	Councillor Sam Hill	
	Councillor Raewyn Loader	
	Councillor James McKelvie	
	Councillor Jerry Pickford	
	Councillor Andrew Quarrie	
	Councillor Alison Short	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Shayne Harris	Chief Executive
	Hamish Waugh	General Manager – Infrastructure
	Frances Smorti	General Manager – Corporate
	Kate Jarvis	General Manager – People
	Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community
	Joel Richards	Chief Financial Officer
	Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
	Wayne Keightley	Roading Manager

MDC 25-28/311

MEETING OPENING

Janette Waugh from the Salvation Army opened the meeting.

MDC 25-28/312

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology for early departure from Councillor Andrew Quarrie to attend a funeral is accepted.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Bridget Bell

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/313

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

That the minutes of the tabled Council meeting held 17 June 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record, as amended:

- Amend the reference to a Himatangi Beach Community Committee meeting on 16 June 2026 to Hiwinui Community Committee

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer

CARRIED (11-0)

Mayor Michael Ford abstained as he was an apology

MDC 25-28/314

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MDC 25-28/315

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 25-28/316

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

MDC 25-28/317

NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/318

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 25-28/319

COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Council Committees and Community Committee meetings were notified for information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Finance and Performance Committee	• 24 June 2026

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Āpiti – Cr Sam Hill	• 17 June 2026
Bainesse-Rangiotu – Cr Raewyn Loader	• 17 June 2026
Colyton – Cr Colin Dyer	• 16 July 2026
Glen Oroua-Taikorea – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins	• 23 June 2026
Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 6 July 2026
Himatangi Beach – Cr Jerry Pickford	• 25 June 2026
Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader	• 21 July 2026
Kiwitea – Cr Andrew Quarrie	• 20 July 2026
Rongotea – Cr Colin Dyer	• 6 July 2026
Sanson – Cr Alison Short	• 9 July 2026
Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie	• 20 July 2026

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Āpiti – Cr Sam Hill. The Committee was delighted with the arborists' work managing the trees around the memorial. Some issues around the hall needing maintenance work. The Committee are discussing what projects to use their funds on.
- Bainesse-Rangiotu – Cr Raewyn Loader. They discussed their contestable funding application and are looking forward to receiving funds. They are also looking forward to hearing from Hannah Tokona at their meeting in August.
- Colyton – Cr Colin Dyer. They invited the president of the Colyton Lions Club to see if they were able to hold funds for them. The walkway and cycleway have had an extension. There was some concern around the drivers not slowing down, despite the new speeding signs.
- Glen Oroua-Taikorea – Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins. The meeting was held last night as they had to postpone 16 July. They discussed some events upcoming in the year. They also discussed the emergency management plan which will be presented at the September 2026 meeting. They are pleased that the Rongotea Times is now being delivered there. They discussed library access and the Feilding Town Refresh.
- Halcombe – Cr Jerry Pickford. They discussed what to use their community funding on and made some minor adjustments to their financial policy. Neighbourhood Support are not sharing all information with them due to privacy concerns.
- Himatangi Beach – Cr Jerry Pickford. They were interested in the information from Council around the stormwater modelling – they are looking forward to meeting with staff to discuss this further.
- Hiwinui – Cr Raewyn Loader. They are pleased that a student in their community has been chosen to play football in the Under 12 squad in the U.S. They are also looking at starting a resident flyer for new residents who move to the area. They also want to revisit the end of term newsletter.
- Kiwitea – Cr Andrew Quarrie. There is a lot of enthusiasm with the group. They are holding a quiz night.

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COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

- Rongotea – Cr James McKelvie attended this meeting and noted that the Community is continuing to maintain the Lion’s walkways. They are pleased that the speed limit signs have been adjusted, and they are pleased about the library being open outside of normal hours. There was an unfortunate incident of a member not being able to contact the emergency services, as cell reception is still unreliable. The Community has concerns around the condition of footpaths and lighting. They would like a member of staff to respond to their concerns.
- Sanson – Cr Alison Short. They have now set up their bank account and passed on their thanks to Adie Johansen for being the temporary fund holder for this. Petty crime seems to have eased. The coordinator of the Sanson Cemetery upgrade provided an update to the community. The Committee will apply for funds in the future to assist with this project.
- Tangimoana – Cr James McKelvie. The Department of Conservation visited some trees that had been identified by the Community as being dangerous. There is a centenary celebration upcoming for the McKelvie Hall which is almost 100 years old. There is a lot of concern regarding the condition of Scotts Ferry Road – the Community is worried that the river is destabilising the road.
- Kimbolton – Cr Rob Duindam. They held a special meeting and have elected a new chair. They also discussed finances.

MDC 25-28/320

MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided a verbal update on their attendance at marae meetings.

- Poupatatē Marae – Cr James McKelvie. Met with Fran on 08 July. They discussed their meeting cadence and how they would meet going forwards. They discussed the planned kitchen upgrade. They also discussed damage from a recent storm, and it was noted that there had been some gravel extraction from the Waituna Stream (under the Kākāriki bridge) and are just concerned that they had not been notified of this.
- Cr Bridget Bell update – acknowledged Mātua Whatarangi Winiata who has passed away. She spoke about the workshop with Te Kōtui Reo held 27 June 2026 at Council, where they hosted Mayor Faylene Tunui (Kawerau District Council) and Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria (Gisborne District Council). Cr Bell also acknowledged Jerald Twomey who presented at the Waitangi Tribunal claim on behalf of Ngāti Raukawa and Taumata o Te Rā Marae. She acknowledged Parewahawaha Marae for their discussion around PFAS contamination and how it had affected hapū there, and Aorangi Marae. Cr Bell further acknowledged Te Roopu Hokowhitu, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata, and Te Rongo Mauri for the Matariki events that they hosted. Lastly, Cr Bell acknowledged the primary and intermediate school kapa haka competition taking place with schools in the District performing today.

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/321

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – HEAD START PATHWAY

Report of the General Manager – Corporate presenting to Council the Government's Head Start pathway for local government reform, summarising the work undertaken by Council to date, and seeking Council's decision on its preferred response to the Head Start and Back Stop pathways.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. **Receives the report titled “Local Government Reform – Head Start Pathway.”**
2. **Will not submit an outline proposal under the Government’s Head Start pathway for local government reform.**
3. **Confirms its opposition to compulsory local government amalgamation while continuing to engage constructively with the Government on alternative local government reform approaches.**
4. **Authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to continue exploring and advocating for alternative local government reform models outside the Head Start pathway that seek to achieve the Government's objectives while retaining local representation, local decision-making and local accountability, including working collaboratively with other councils where appropriate.**
5. **Authorises the Mayor to communicate Council's position to the Minister of Local Government, Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport, or any affected councils should the Manawātū District Council be identified as a proposed partner in any Head Start proposal or other local government reform proposal that has not been endorsed by the Council.**
6. **Authorises the Mayor to sign the tabled Draft Regional Memorandum of Understanding and tabled Draft Letter to the Minister of Local Government, subject to any minor amendments approved by the Chief Executive.**
7. **Authorises the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the tabled Draft Regional Memorandum of Understanding and tabled Draft Letter to the Minister of Local Government before they are finalised.**

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (12-0)

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/322

APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON COUNCILLORS TO MARAE

Report of the General Manager – Corporate seeking Council approval for the confirmation of three marae liaison appointments to marae in the District.

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the below marae liaison appointments:

- **Cr Raewyn Loader to Kauwhata marae.**
- **Cr Jerry Pickford to Rangimārie marae.**
- **Cr Andrew Quarrie to Ngāwhakaraua marae.**

Moved by: Cr Bridget Bell

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 25-28/323

ROADING EMERGENCY WORKS CLAIM FEBRUARY 2026

Report of the General Manager – Infrastructure seeking Council approval to fund the local share of the response and recovery phase following a severe weather event which occurred in February 2026. Noting that the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) subsidy is 51%.

RESOLVED

1. **That Council approves an increase in Roothing operational budget for the 2026/27 financial year by \$3,135,281 noting that \$1,598,993 will be funded by NZTA and the balance of \$1,536,288 will be funded by Council. This amount is made up of \$2,966,189 of Opex works and \$169,092 of Capex works.**
2. **That Council fund the local share of Opex works through a combination of use of the Resilience Reserve (\$1,231,035) and the draw down of new debt (\$222,398) and the local share of Capex works through draw down of new debt (\$82,855). Noting this will exhaust the balance of the Resilience Reserve.**

Moved by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

Seconded by: Cr Colin Dyer

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10.08 am and reconvened at 10.29 am.

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COUNCIL		TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026		8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/324

CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 25-28/325

PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. **Confirmation of Minutes – 17 June 2026**
2. **Tender Award Recommendation - Community Resilience Programme**
3. **Release of Public Excluded items into Open Session**
4. **Feilding Civic Centre Trust Interim Trustee Appointment**

That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
13. Confirmation of Minutes; 17 June 2026	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 17 June 2026.</i> <i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.1 Tender Award Recommendation - Community Resilience Programme	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations <i>This report discusses commercially sensitive details that includes potential contract sums</i>	s48(1)(a)

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14.2 Release of Public Excluded items into Open Session	s7(2)(a) – privacy s7(2)(h) – commercial activities <i>This report includes notes on public excluded resolutions that may not be approved for release into the public forum</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.3 Feilding Civic Centre Trust Interim Trustee Appointment	s7(2)(a) – privacy <i>This report discusses private details of departing trustees and potential future trustees</i>	s48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (12-0)

The meeting went into public excluded session at 10.30 am. For items MDC 25-28/326 to MDC 25-28/330 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 11.09 am.

MDC 25-28/331

CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED RESOLUTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

MDC 22-25/887 – Contract Award Recommendation – MDC Admin Building Renewal and Strengthening (07 November 2024)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. *Accepts a proposal from Colspec Construction Ltd to carry out the physical construction works associated with the Manawātū District Council (MDC) Administration Building Renewal and Strengthening project and authorises Council officers to award a contract for one million, two hundred and ninety four thousand, seven hundred and seventy two dollars (\$1,294,772.00) plus GST.*

and

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2. Approves a contingency figure and principles provision sum of two hundred and seventy eight, nine hundred and fifty five dollars (\$278,955) plus GST to be added to the Manawātū District Council (MDC) Administration Building Renewal and Strengthening project and Strengthening contract, to be expended only upon written approval of the Engineer to the Contract.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Kerry Quigley

CARRIED (10-0)

MDC 22-25/1234 NZMCA Campground Lease at Mt Lees Reserve (24 July 2025)

RESOLVED

That the Council grant a 10+10-year lease to the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Incorporated to establish a members' only motorhome park at part of the Mt Lees Reserve with a rental negotiated by Council officers.

Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/100 Contract Award for MDC 1581-2 Manawātū CCTV Pipework and Sewerage Network Asset Inspections 2026-2028 (17 December 2025)

RESOLVED

1. *That the Council award Contract MDC1581-2 Manawātū CCTV Pipework and Sewerage Network Asset Inspections 2026-2028 to Intergroup Limited for the value of four hundred and twenty-six thousand, eight hundred and eighty-nine dollars and eighteen cents (\$426,889.18) exclusive of GST.*
2. *That the Council approve a contingency value of forty-two thousand, six hundred and ninety-nine dollars and ninety-two cents (\$42,699.92) exclusive of GST for the capital value of the contract to be spent only on written approval according to the MDC Delegations Manual/Procurement Policy.*
3. *That the Council approve of direct negotiation be carried out with Intergroup Limited for future stages of the CCTV pipework and sewerage network asset inspection programme.*

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Cr Shelley Dew-Hopkins

CARRIED (10-0)

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
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MDC 25-28/140 Sale of Part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding (18 February 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Council decline the offer from Skills Academy Limited to purchase part of 10 Eyre Street, Feilding for the purchase price of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) plus GST (if any).

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Jerry Pickford

CARRIED (8-4)

FPC 25-28/027 Key Projects Report (25 March 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Committee receives the Key Projects Report.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Mayor Michael Ford

CARRIED (8-0)

MDC 25-28/222 Feilding Civic Centre Trust – Appointment of Chairperson (15 April 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

- 1. Notes the recommendation of the Feilding Civic Centre Trust to appoint Evan Tull as Chair.*
- 2. Approves the appointment of Evan Tull as Chair of the Feilding Civic Centre Trust, effective immediately.*

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Alison Short

CARRIED (9-1)

Cr Jerry Pickford voted against the motion

Cr Rob Duindam abstained from voting

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

MDC 25-28/224 Town Centre Refresh Engagement (15 April 2026)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. *Approve the stakeholder and community engagement approach outlined in this report for the proposed Market Square covered structure and one-way change to a section of Fergusson and Goodbehere Streets, to be undertaken during May–July 2026*
2. *Agree that engagement will be considered in the final design of the Market Square covered structure and one-way change to a section of Fergusson and Goodbehere Streets, prior to lodging a resource consent application for the proposed Market Square covered structure.*
3. *Note that engagement is intended to:*
 - a. *test community views on elements of the design*
 - b. *inform design refinement*
 - c. *reduce risks associated with the resource consenting process*

Moved by: Mayor Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/308 Vesting of 10 Montgomery Street, Feilding to Council (17 June 2026)

RESOLVED

That Council approves the vesting of the buildings located at 10 Montgomery Street, Feilding, into Council ownership.

Moved by: Cr Alison Short

Seconded by: Cr Sam Hill

CARRIED (11-0)

MDC 25-28/332

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11.09 am.

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026	8:30 AM

Meeting Video

<https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/videos-of-council-and-committee-meetings/manawatu-district-council-meeting-videos>

Resident Satisfaction Survey

Quarter/Wave 4 and Year 2025-2026



Jeena Baines

Data, Insights and Research Analyst



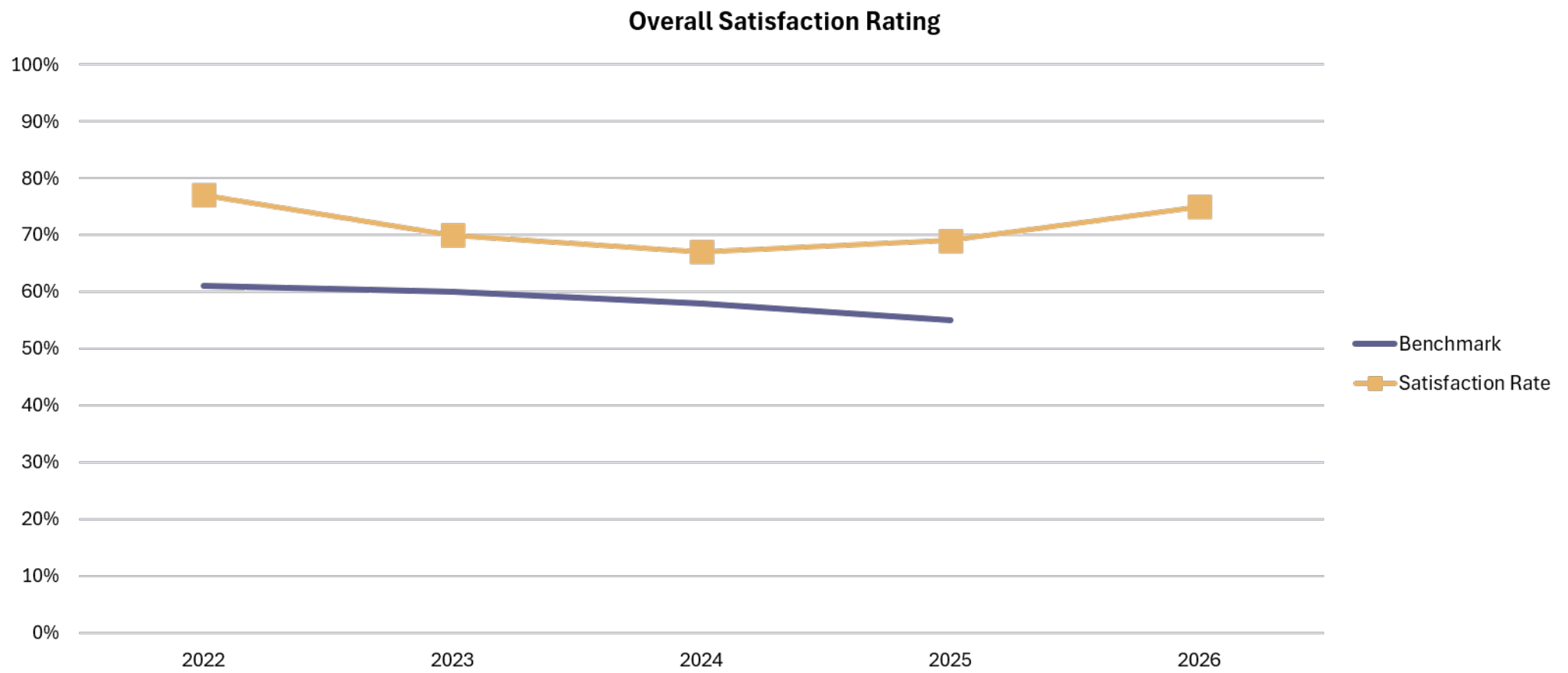
About the survey

- Conducted quarterly by Key Research
- Sample of ~113–119 respondents per wave, with quotas by age, gender, location, and ethnicity
- Provides community feedback across a range of topics
- Wave 4 survey period: 4 May – 7 June 2026
- Respondent numbers exclude “Don’t know” responses

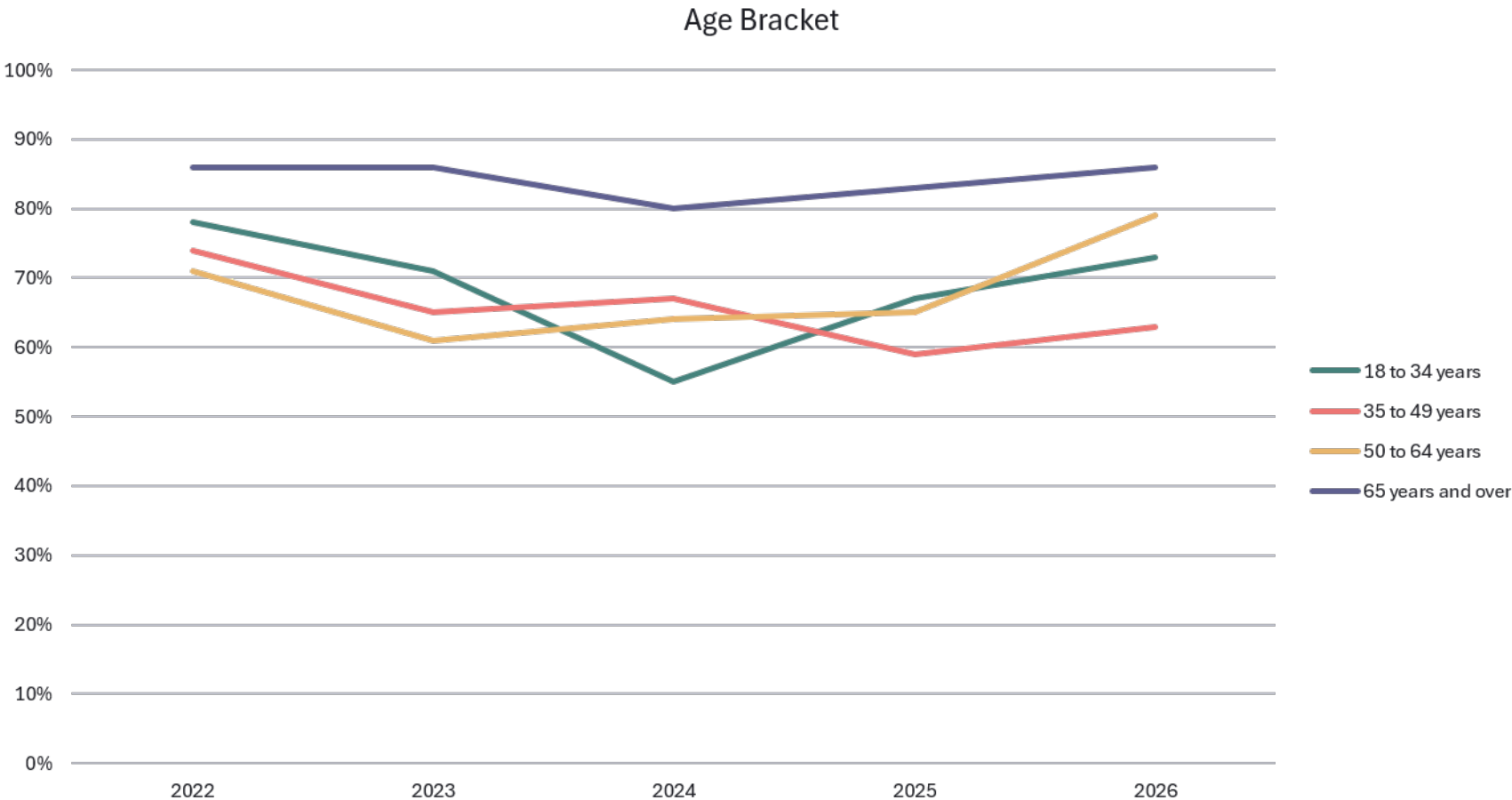
Yearly summary

- First section graphs now show annual results compared with the relevant yearly benchmark.
- Resident comments are from the Wave 4 survey.
- The 2025/26 benchmarking report is not yet available.

Overall satisfaction rate



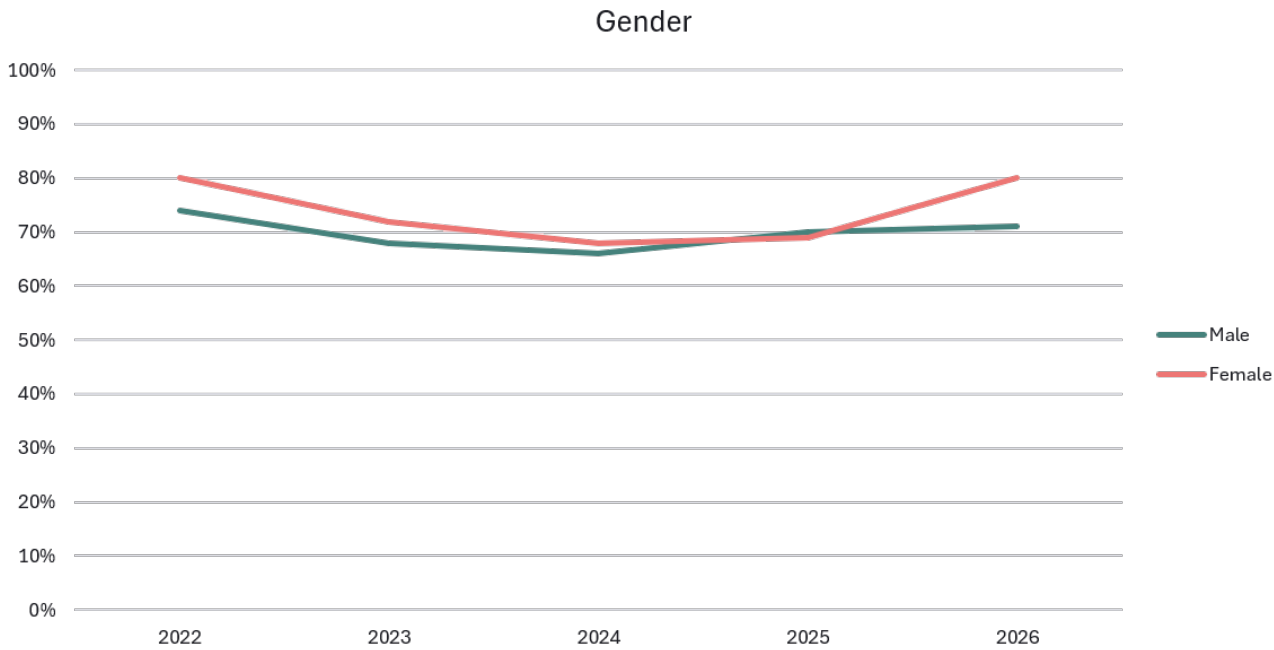
Overall satisfaction rate by demographics



Overall satisfaction rate by demographics



Rural and Villages
Feilding



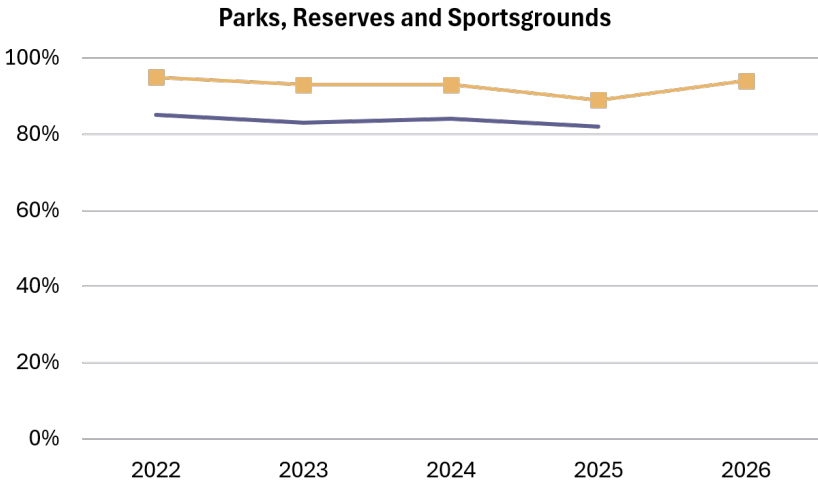
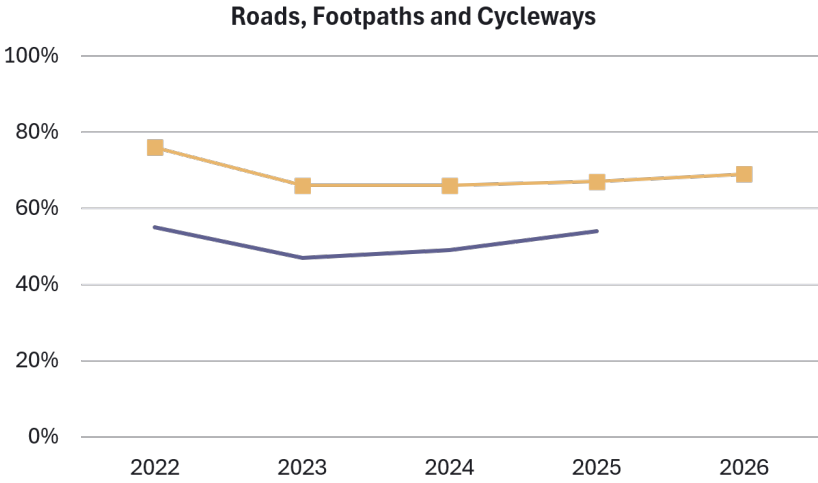
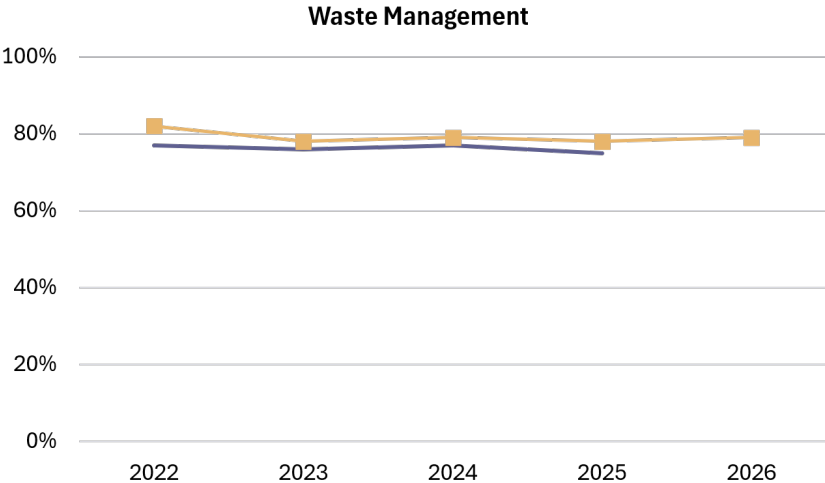
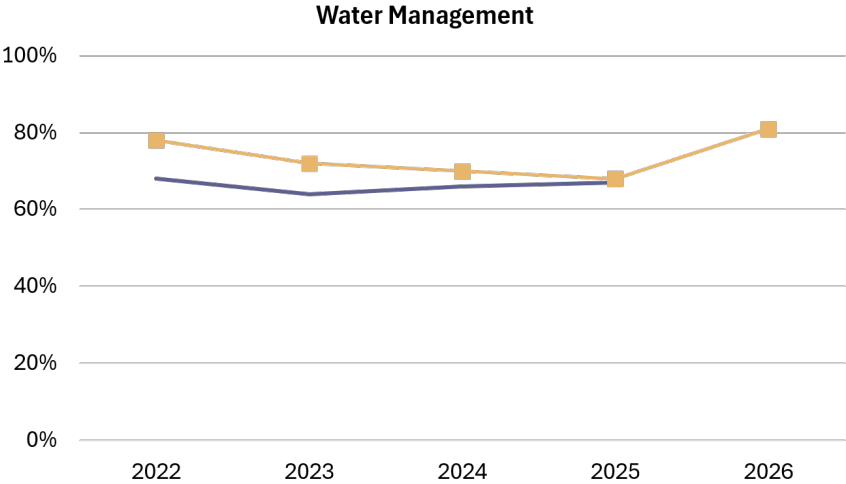
Male
Female

Satisfaction rates for 11 main questions

- The yearly changes can look different to the quarterly changes.
- All 11 measures are above the 2024/25 benchmark.
- 10 of the 11 measures have seen a yearly increase.
- Communication declined by 3%, which is within the survey's margin of error.

Satisfaction rates for 11 main questions cont.

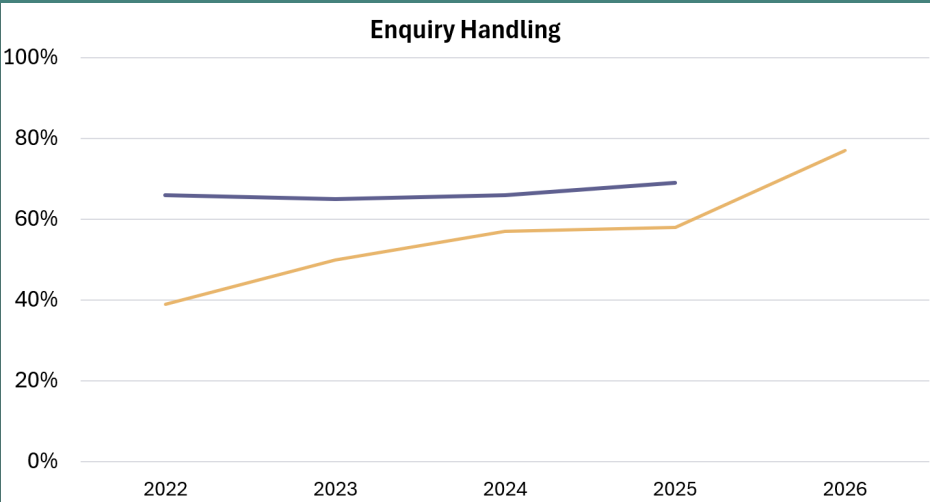
Benchmark
Satisfaction Rate



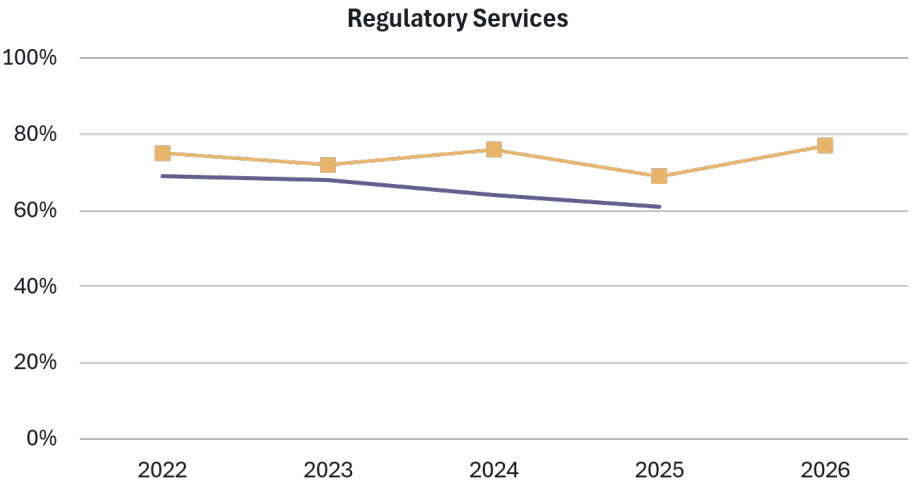
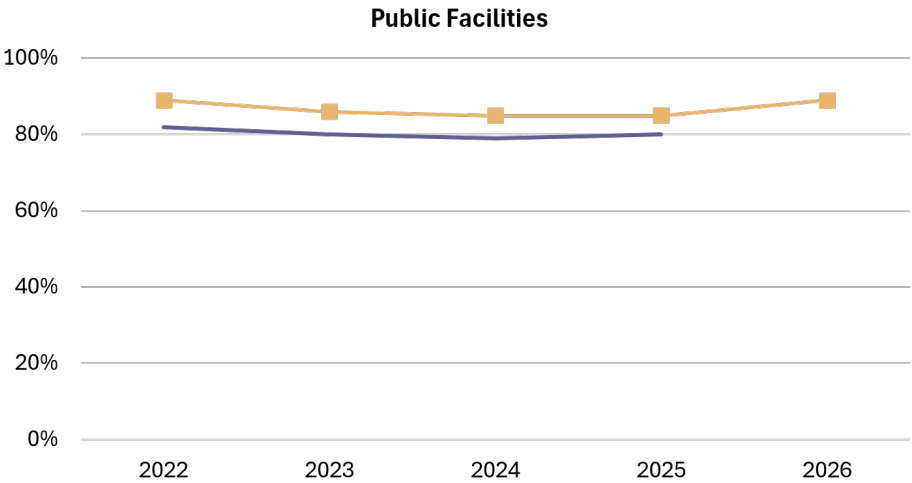
Satisfaction rates for 11 main questions cont.

Benchmark
Satisfaction Rate

Notable
Result:

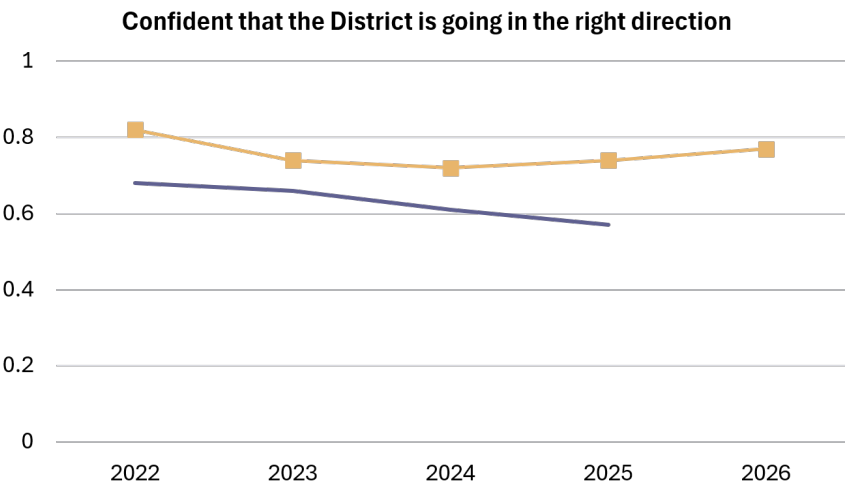
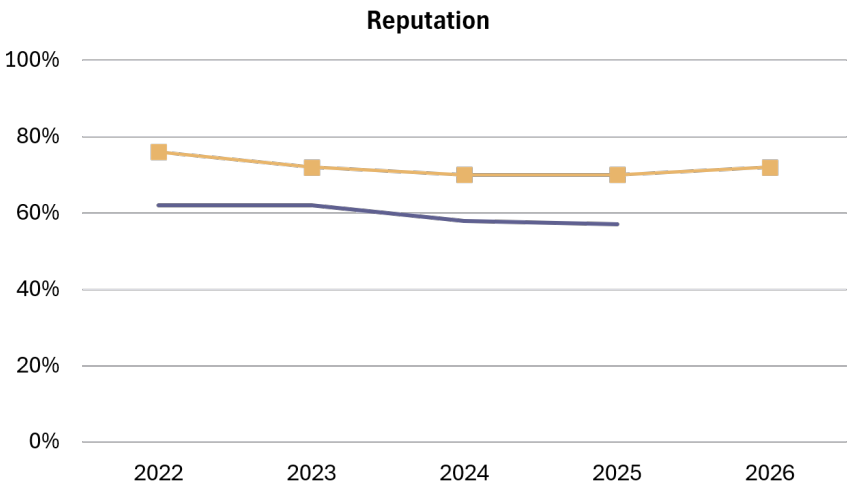
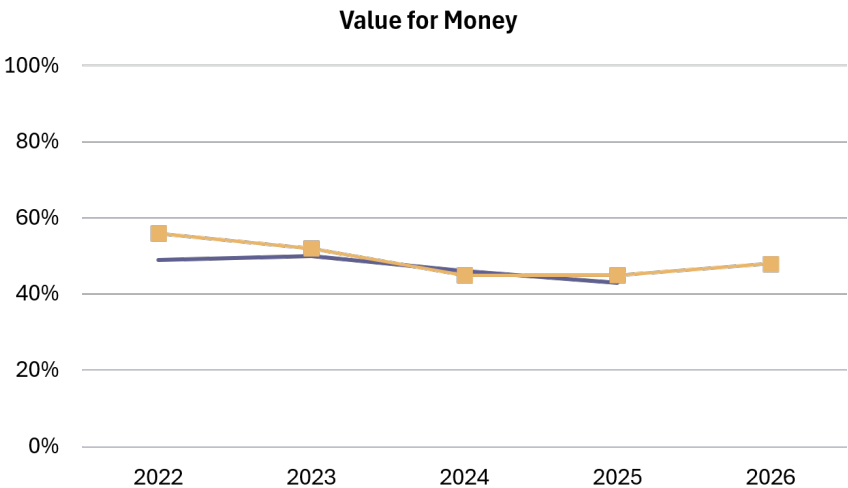
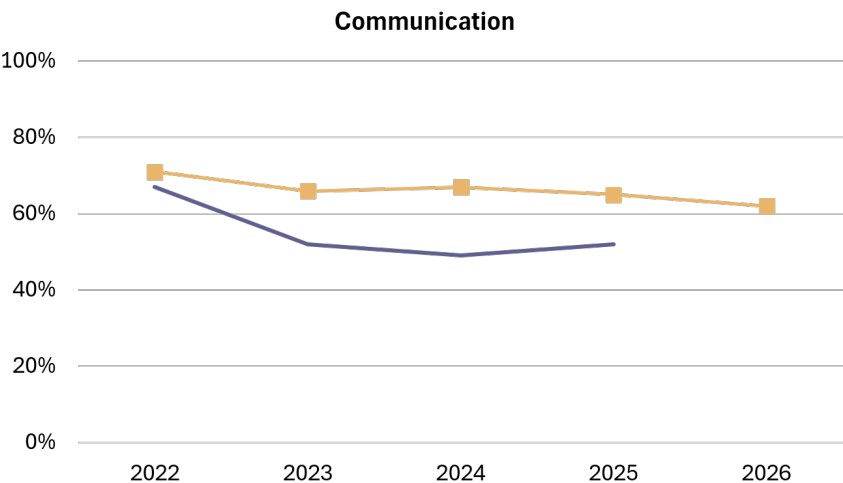


The number of respondents for Enquiry Handling increased significantly, from 89 in 2024/25 to 198 in 2025/26.



Satisfaction rates for 11 main questions cont.

Benchmark
Satisfaction Rate



Wave 4/ Quarter 4 Results

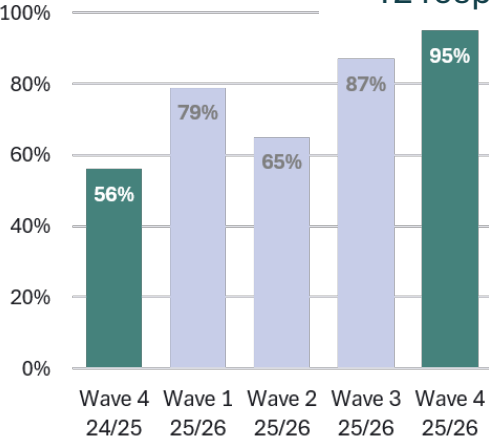
Largest Increases and Decreases

- Of the 74 questions, 51% showed an increase compared with last year.
- Three questions saw a decline of 10% or larger.
- 10 questions saw an increase of 10% or larger.

Largest Increases

Managing liquor licensing

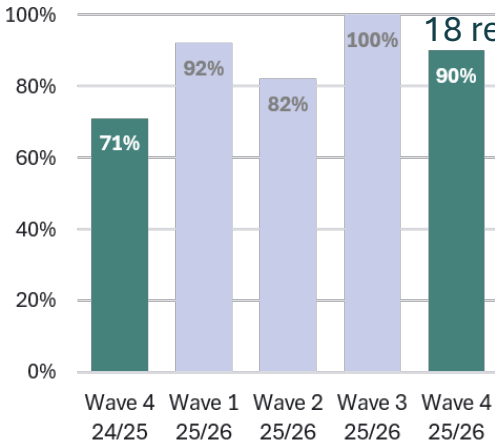
12 respondents



Satisfaction has remained consistently high across the other survey waves.

Licensing premises such as cafes, restaurants and hairdressers

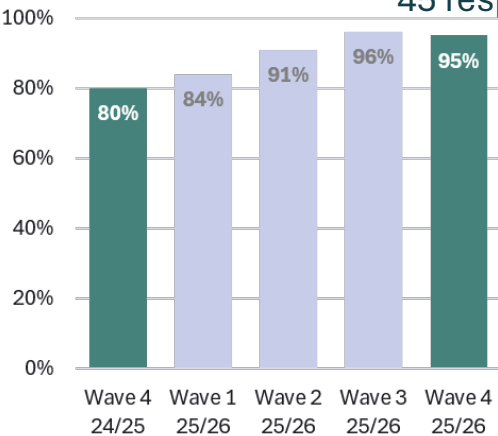
18 respondents



Apart from Wave 4 2024/25, satisfaction has remained above 80%.

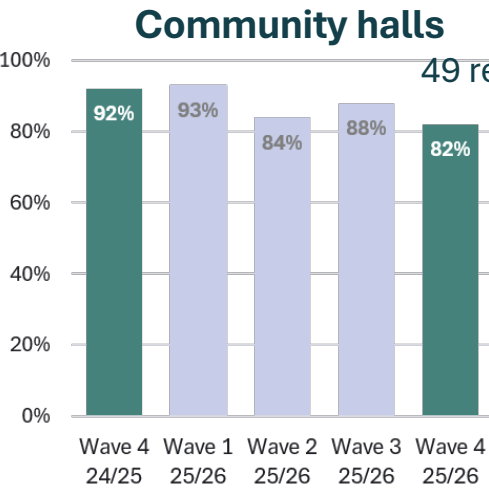
Satisfaction with cemeteries

45 respondents



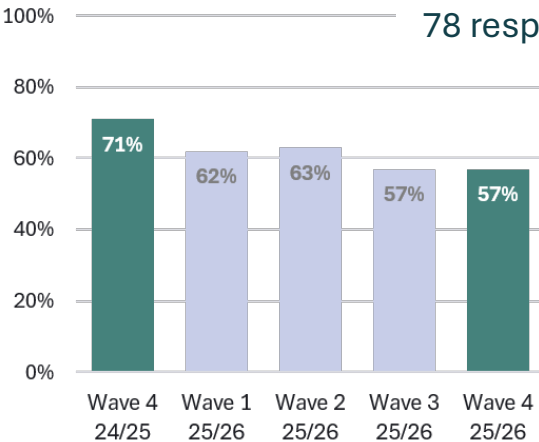
Temporary factors, such as mowing or animal damage, can influence perceptions.

Largest Decreases



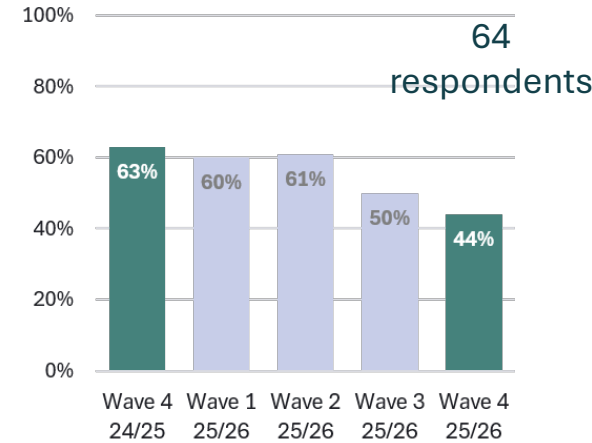
Comments focused primarily on the ongoing funding and maintenance of community halls.

The availability of footpaths and crossing points for mobility scooters and wheelchairs



Footpath and crossing point quality continues to be a common concern.

Satisfaction with the economic development services



Differing views on Council's role continue to influence satisfaction.

Key Management Actions

- Continue using communication channels to better inform residents and improve awareness of Council's work.
- Continue efforts and initiatives to improve enquiry handling.

Comments

Water Supply

“The water is generally fine although have had a semi recent boil water notice and smell on occasion.”

Regulatory Services

“There's always room for increased speed, communication and efficiency in these areas.”

Waste Management

“Most of these things don't come into play being rural, but the blue bags work well. The recycling centre in Feilding is excellent.”

Sewage System

“I believe the Manawatu District Council is doing a good job dealing with sewage.”

Stormwater

“It has gotten better over the past few water events. But there are still areas that need attention, regarding flooding.”

Kerbside Collection

“Not everything is perfect so to keep people on their toes I will not say totally satisfied. You do a good job really.”

Public Facilities

“We use the library all the time and love it. For work, we hire the Civic Centre most weeks and we love it. It's always clean, Carla is amazing.”

Roads, footpaths and cycleways

“I walk a lot and some footpaths are quite dangerous. The footpath in my own street is dangerous, and I've tripped a few times, and some intersections are not flowing.”

Parks, reserves, and playgrounds

“We live near Kōwhai Park and are very happy with the park there and the paths to Awahuri Forest are good. We love the native plantings.”

Comments

Community Funding

“It seems straight forward enough from what I've seen. I've not actually done anything with, or toward, community funding.”

A place to belong and grow

“Different activities in the square, helps connect different cultures and groups to the community.”

An environment to be proud of

“Most public places are clean and tidy, we love the boardwalk facility especially, and the fenced dog park is great too.”

A prosperous resilient economy

“Prosperity isn't really directed by Council, but rather by individuals doing well, supported by Council.”

A future planned together

“Not really sure about the detail on this. I know we rejected being merged for our water.”

An infrastructure fit for the future

“I assume the infrastructure is adequate because I see people working on water reticulation, roads etc.”

Value for money and excellence in local government

“Feilding rates are high, I realise due to the population it's harder to cover all the costs, but I still think they are high.”

Enquiry Handling

“I'm doing the survey now. I know that in the past the Council are accessible and fair. They listen, they inform and they are not officious. They live and work in our community and it shows.”

General Comments

“Focus on roads more and cycleways and footpaths less. Make it easier to build houses please. Thank you.”

General Comments

“I'm really keen on the walkways so would like to see this as a future project being developed.”

General Comments

“MDC has made our moving to the Manawatu a pleasure.”

Next Steps

- The full 2025/26 Resident Satisfaction Survey Annual Report and Benchmarking Report will be presented to Council once available.
- Both reports will then be published on the Council website.

Happy or Not

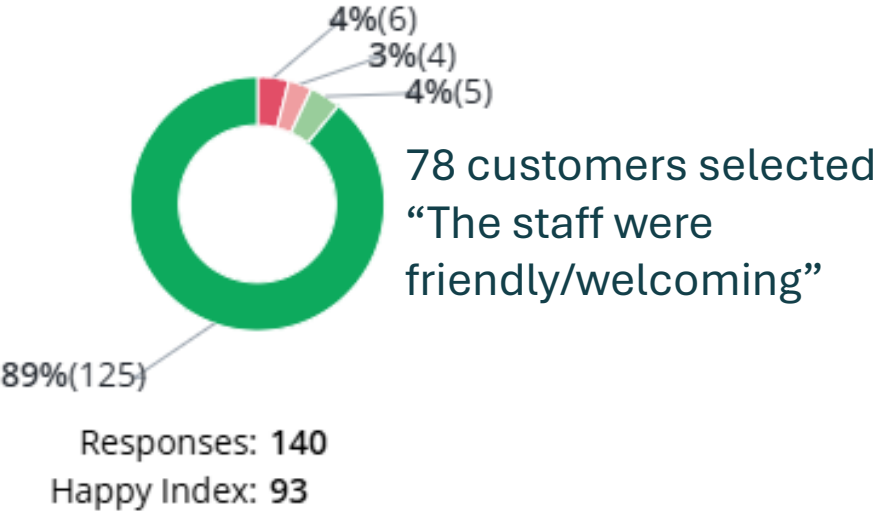


Introduction

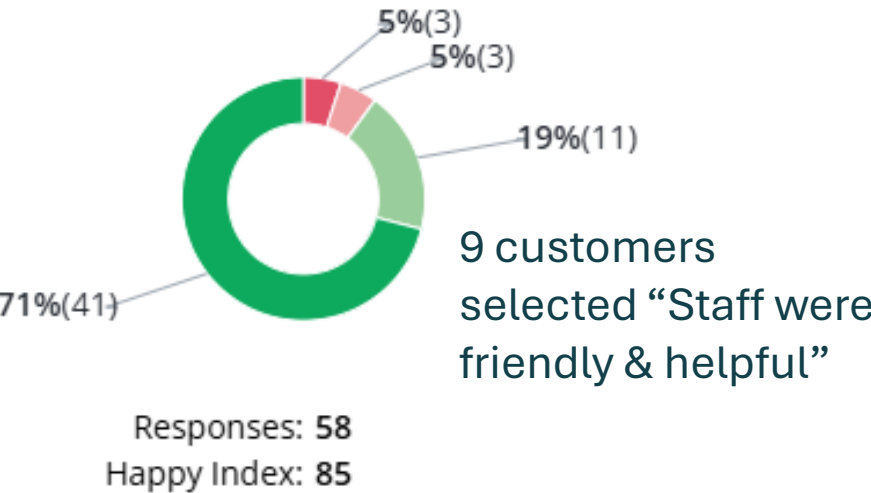
- New customer feedback system for Council services
- Provides real-time customer feedback
- Helps identify what is working well and where improvements are needed
- Rotates monthly between Makino Aquatic Centre, the Council Building, and Te Āhuru Mōwai

Results

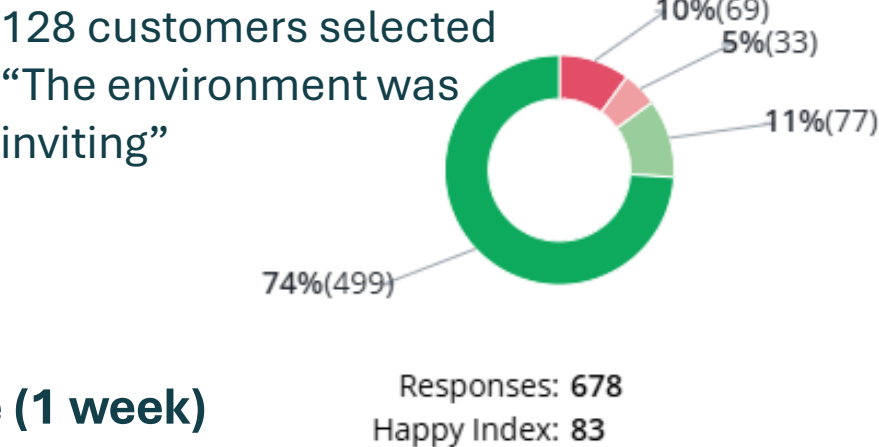
Council Building - Front of House



Makino Aquatic Centre (1 week)



Te Āhuru Mōwai



Manawatū Data Snapshot

March 2026 Report



Jeena Baines

Data, Insights and Research Analyst



Introduction

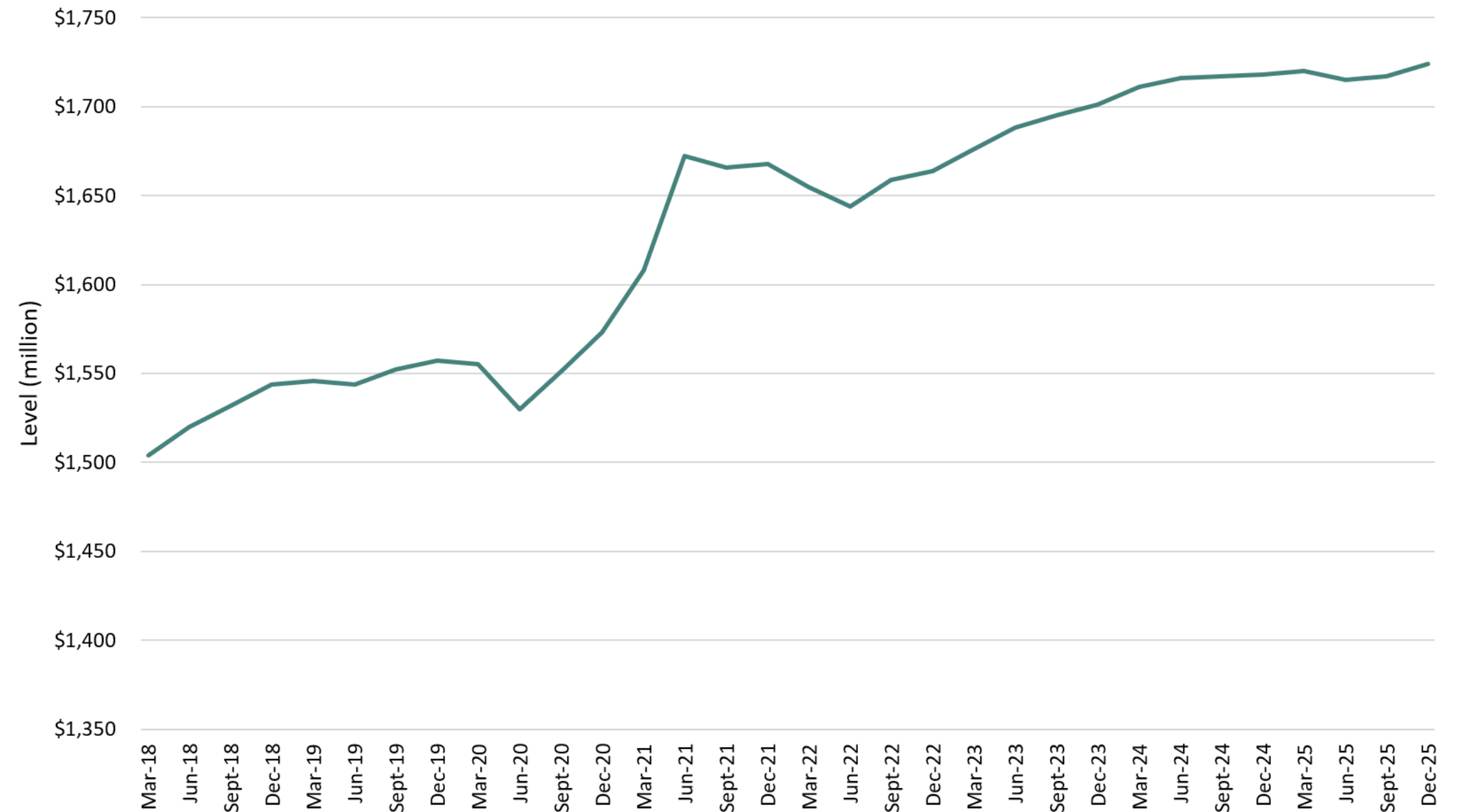
- Report refreshed with a new layout to improve readability
- Provides a snapshot of how the District is changing
- Highlights key trends and emerging issues
- Feedback on future content is welcome
- Definitions, data sources and caveats are provided in the appendix

Key Developments Since Previous Report

The District Economy Remains Resilient

Despite a challenging national economy, the Manawatū District recorded modest economic growth while New Zealand's economy contracted.

This highlights the resilience of the District's diverse economy and strong primary industries.

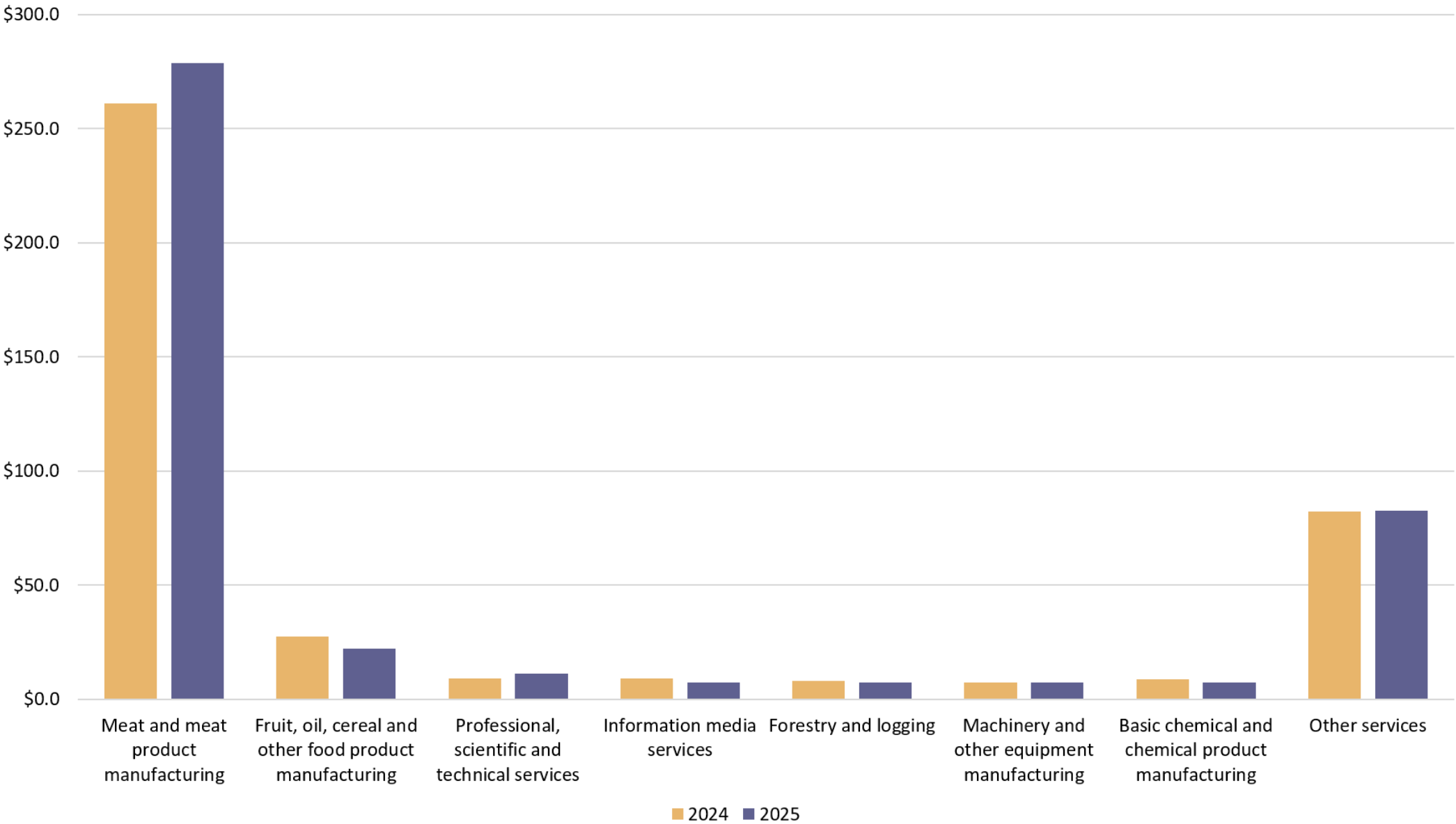


The District Economy Remains Resilient

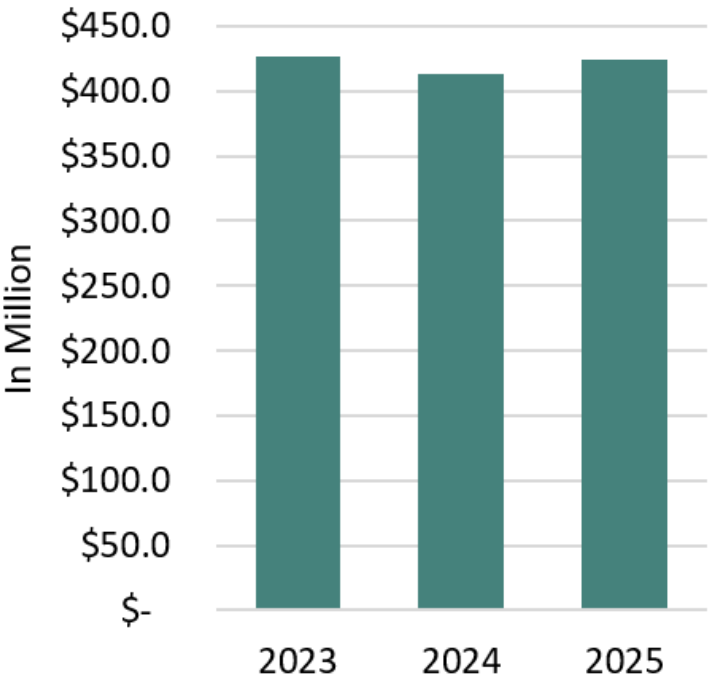


Export Activity Has Recovered

Export values recovered during 2025 following declines in the previous year.



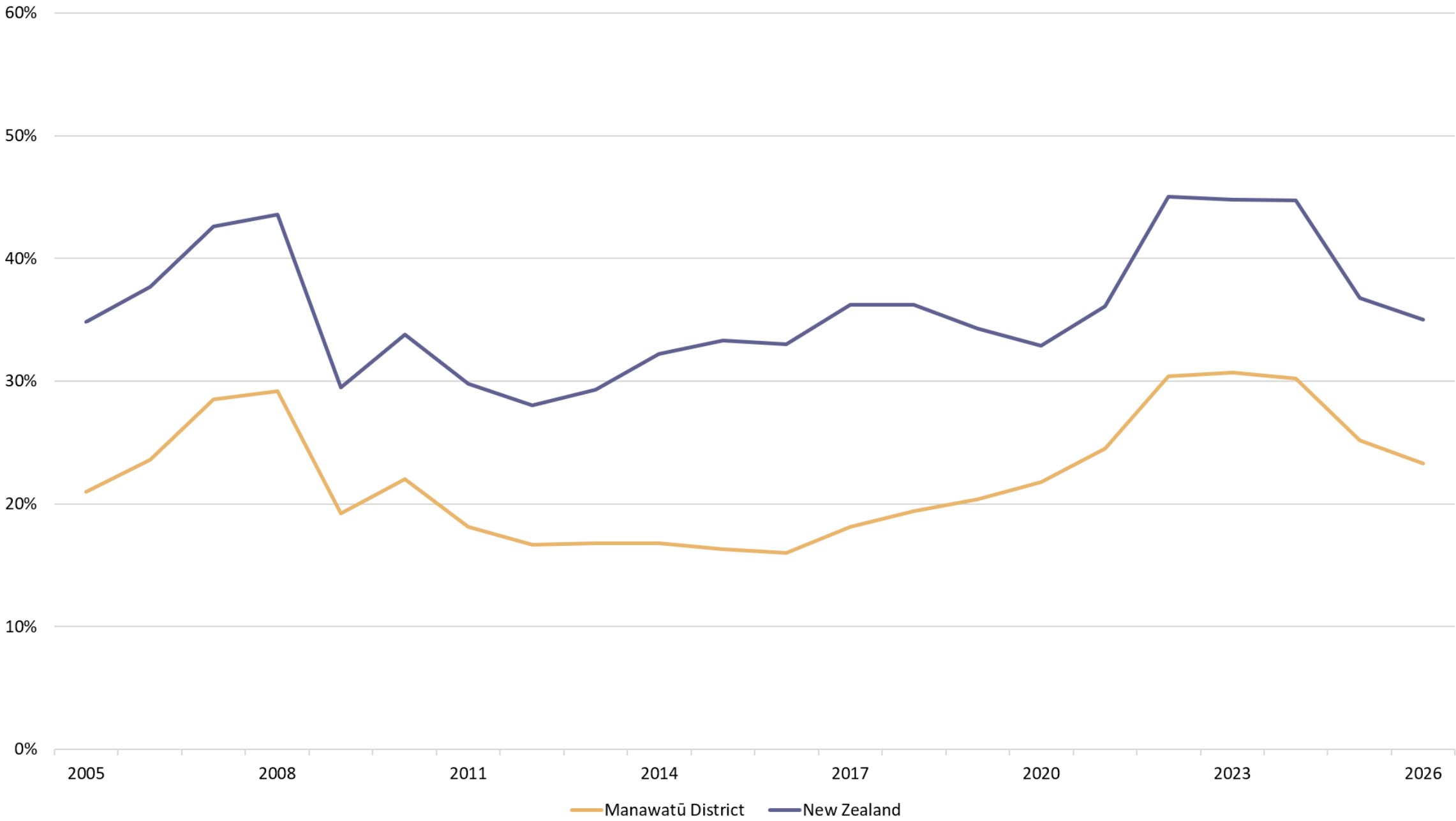
Export growth brings income into the District and supports local businesses, employment and economic resilience



Housing Remains More Affordable

House prices remain well below the national average, making home ownership more achievable in the District.

Housing affordability is a significant factor influencing population growth, workforce attraction and community wellbeing.

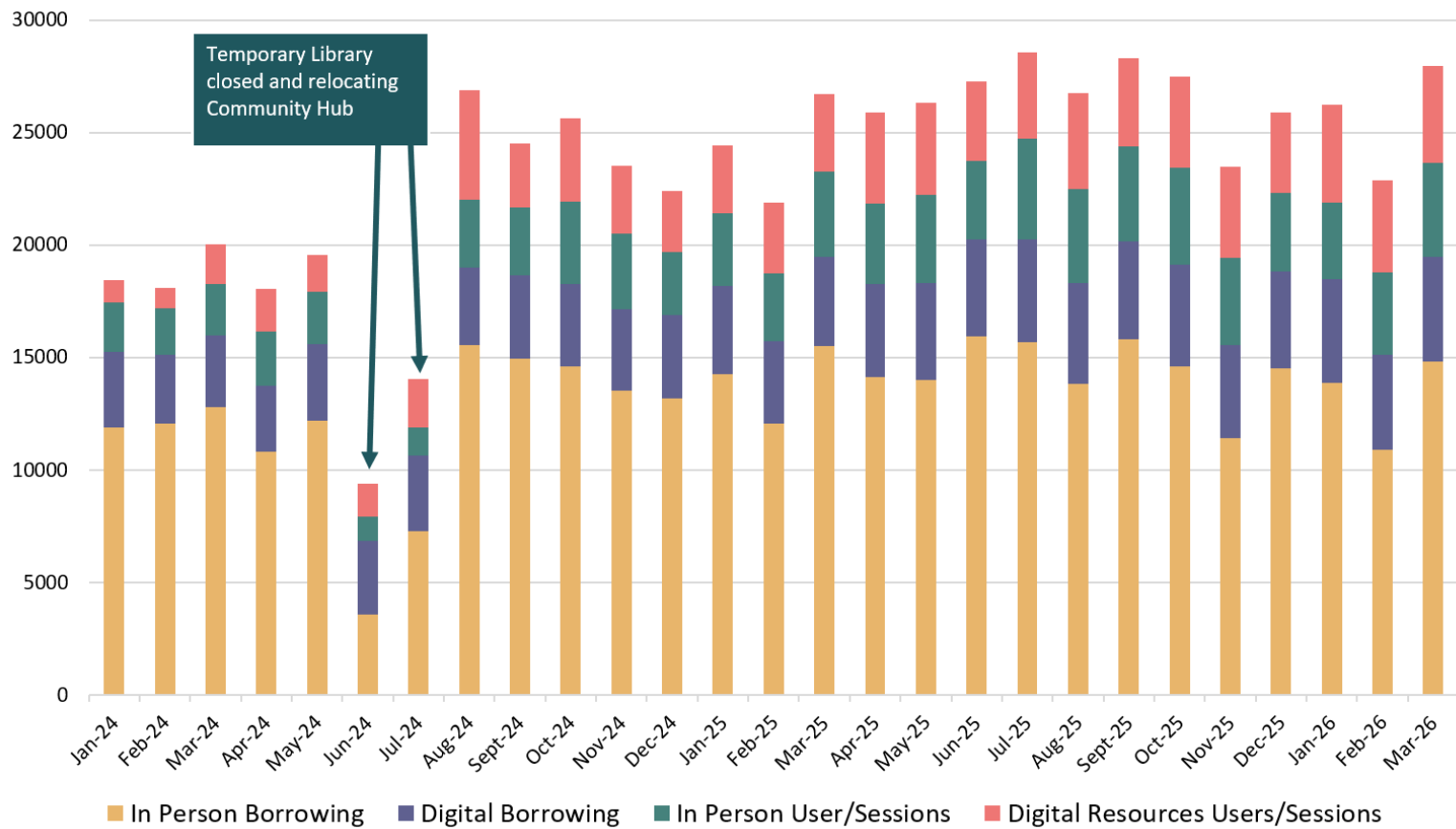


Community Facilities Continue to Be Well Used

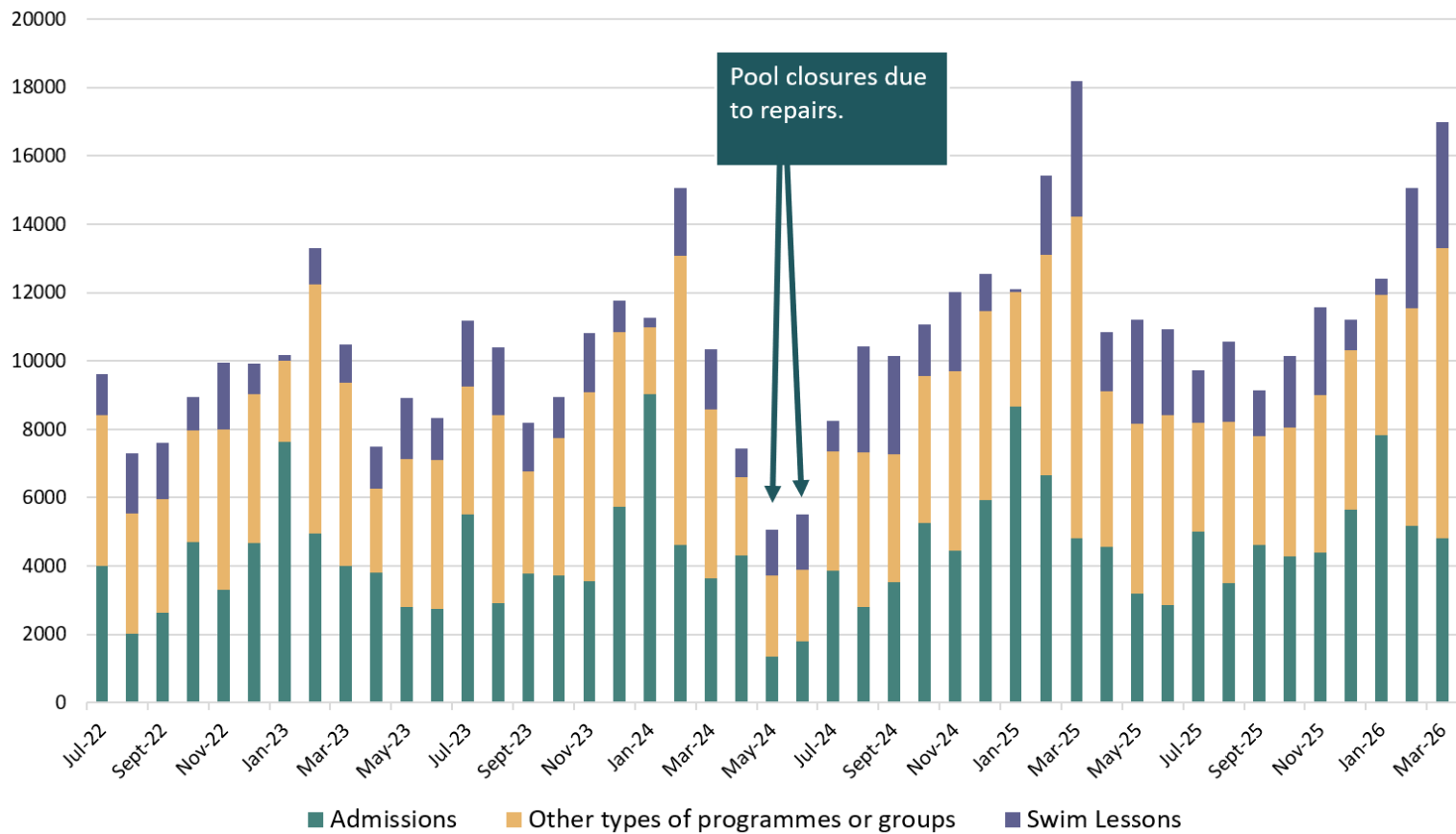
Council facilities continue to be well used by the community.

This demonstrates the ongoing value these facilities provide for recreation, learning and community connection.

Usage of Manawatū Community Hub Libraries



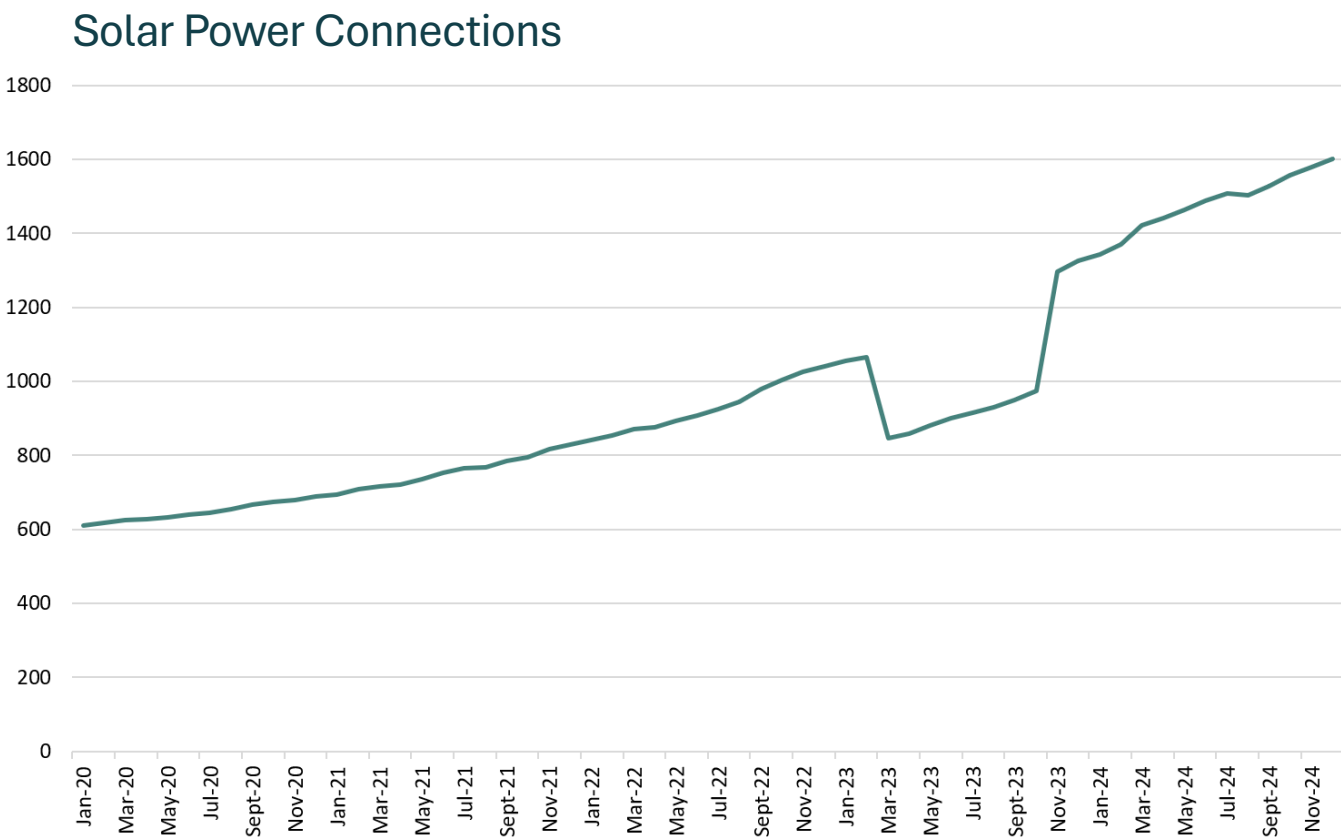
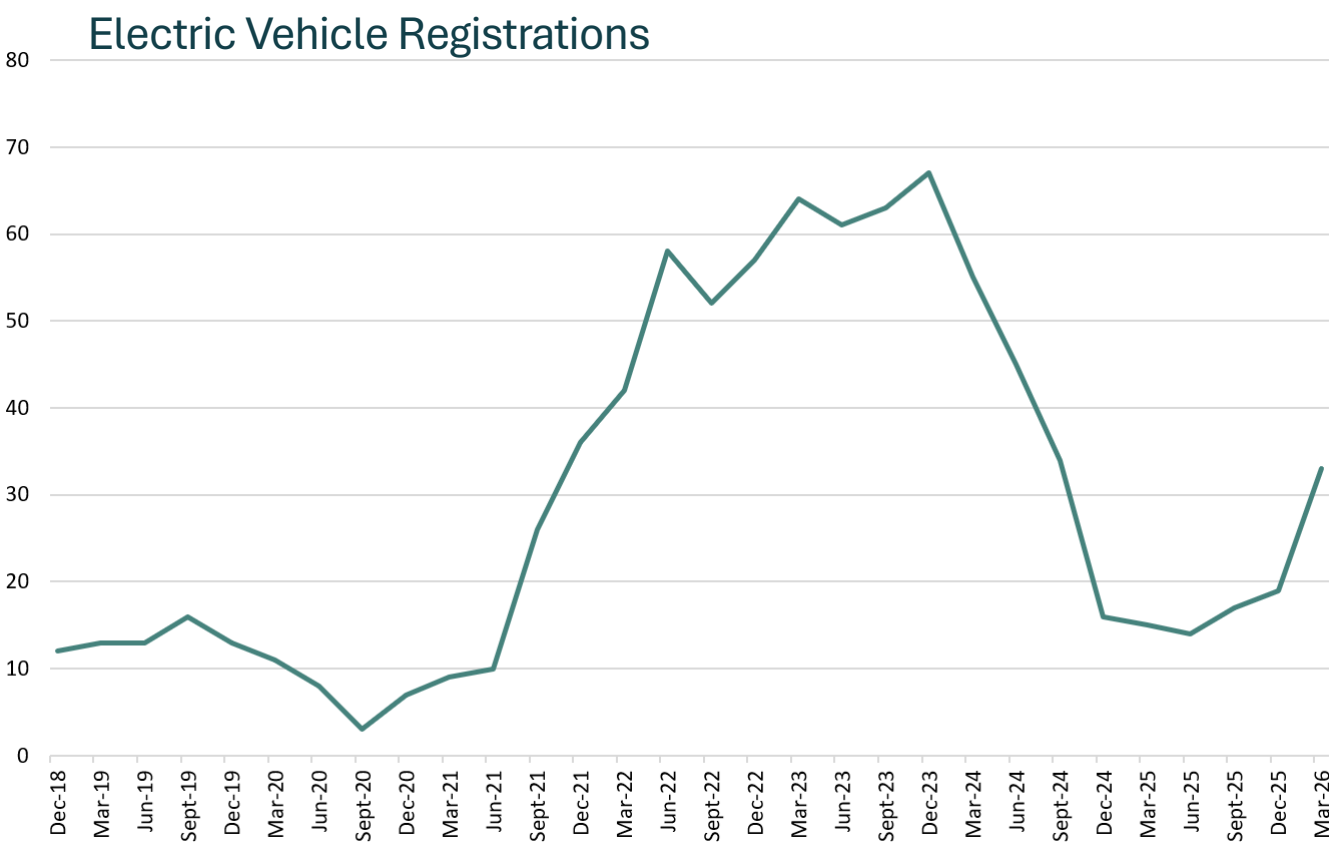
Usage of Makino Aquatic Centre



Interest in Sustainability Continues

Electric vehicle registrations are recovering after previous declines, while solar installations continue to increase across the Manawatū region.

These trends indicate ongoing community interest in renewable energy and lower-emission transport.

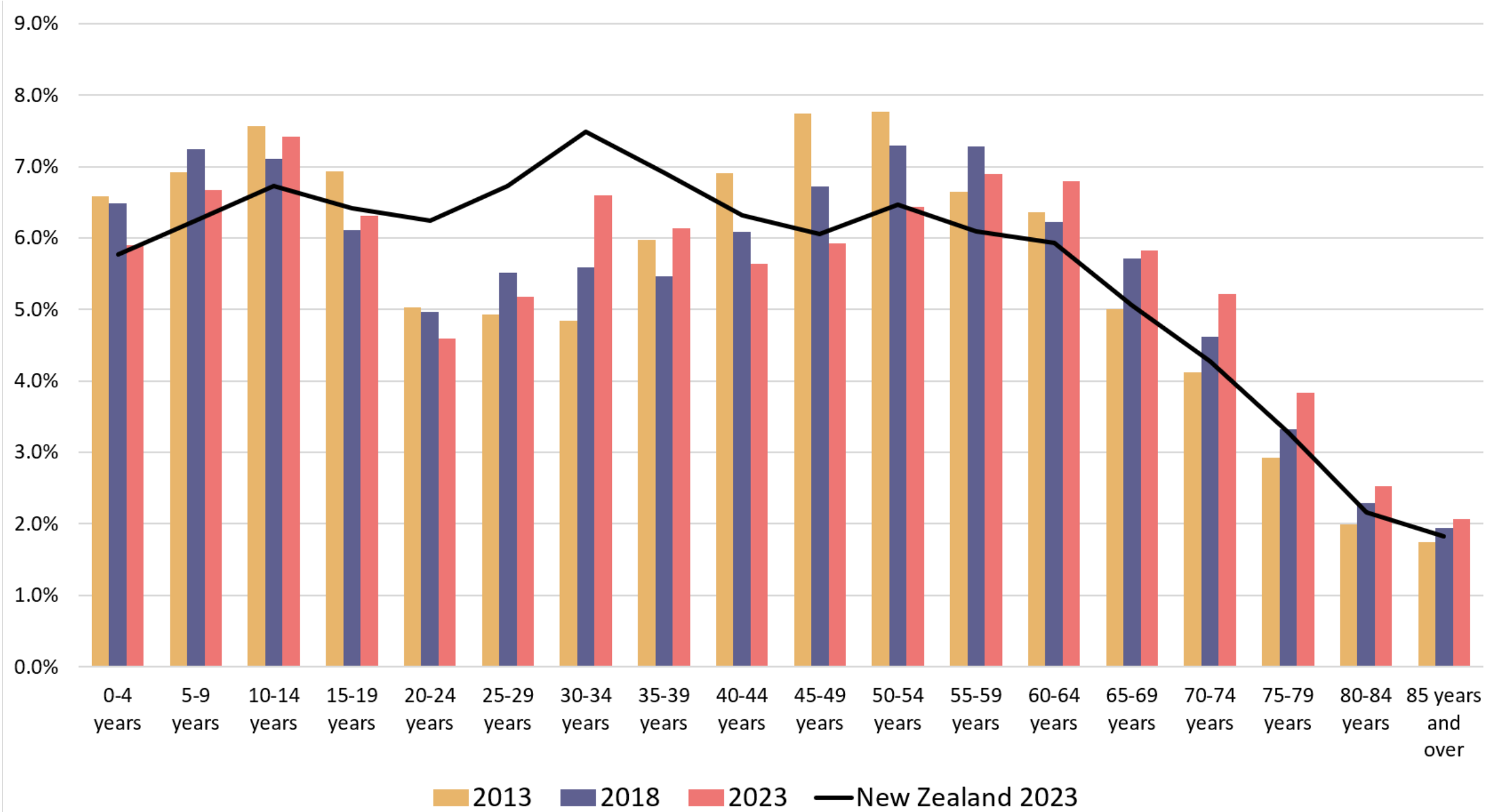


Emerging Trends to Monitor

Our Population Continues to Age

The District continues to have a higher proportion of older residents than New Zealand overall.

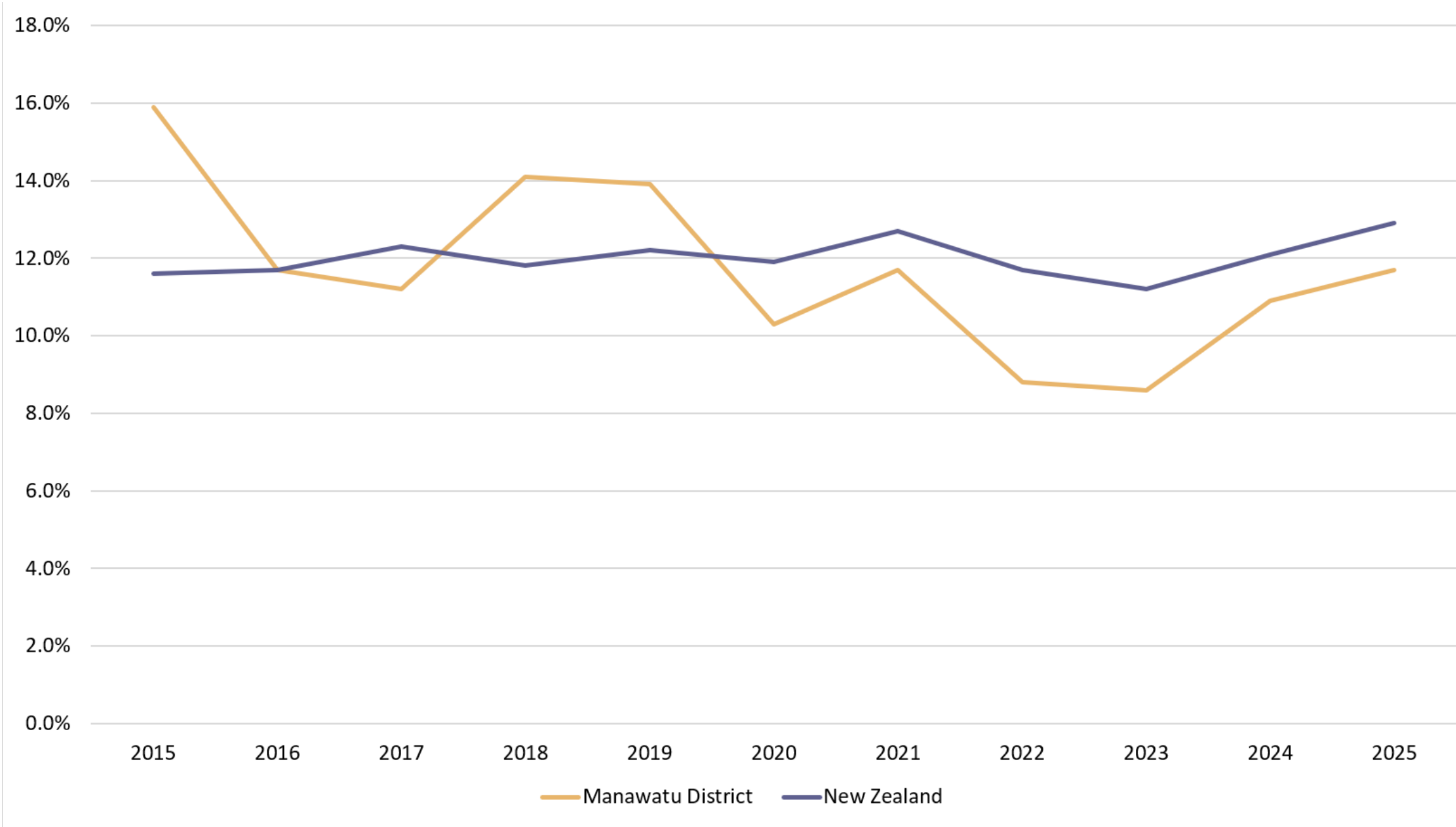
This trend will increasingly influence demand for housing, transport, healthcare and community services.



Youth Disengagement Has Increased

The proportion of young people not in employment, education or training increased during 2025, following the national trend.

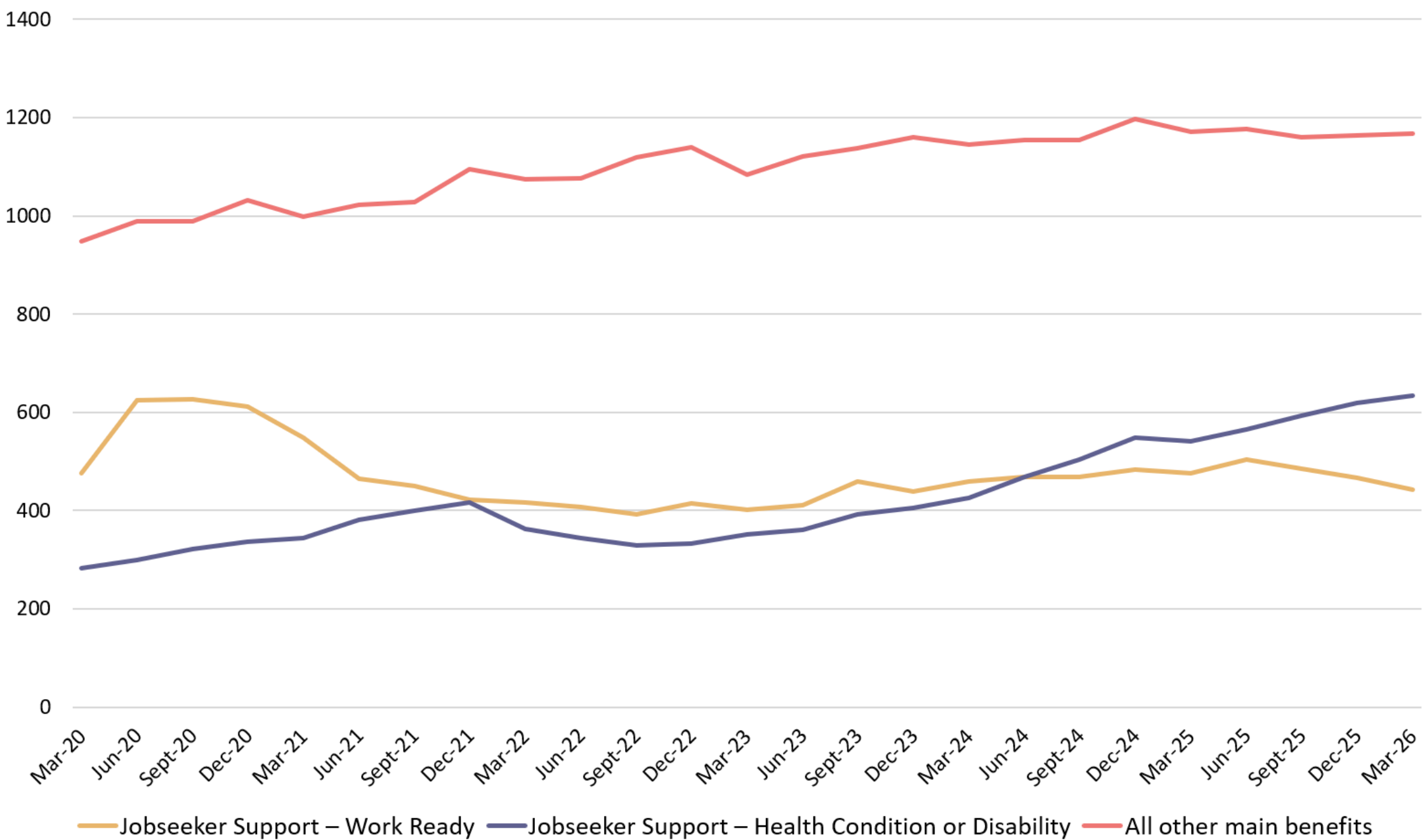
Youth disengagement can affect future workforce participation, economic productivity and long-term social outcomes if sustained over time.



Health-related Support Needs Continue to Grow

The number of people receiving Jobseeker Support due to a health condition or disability continues to increase.

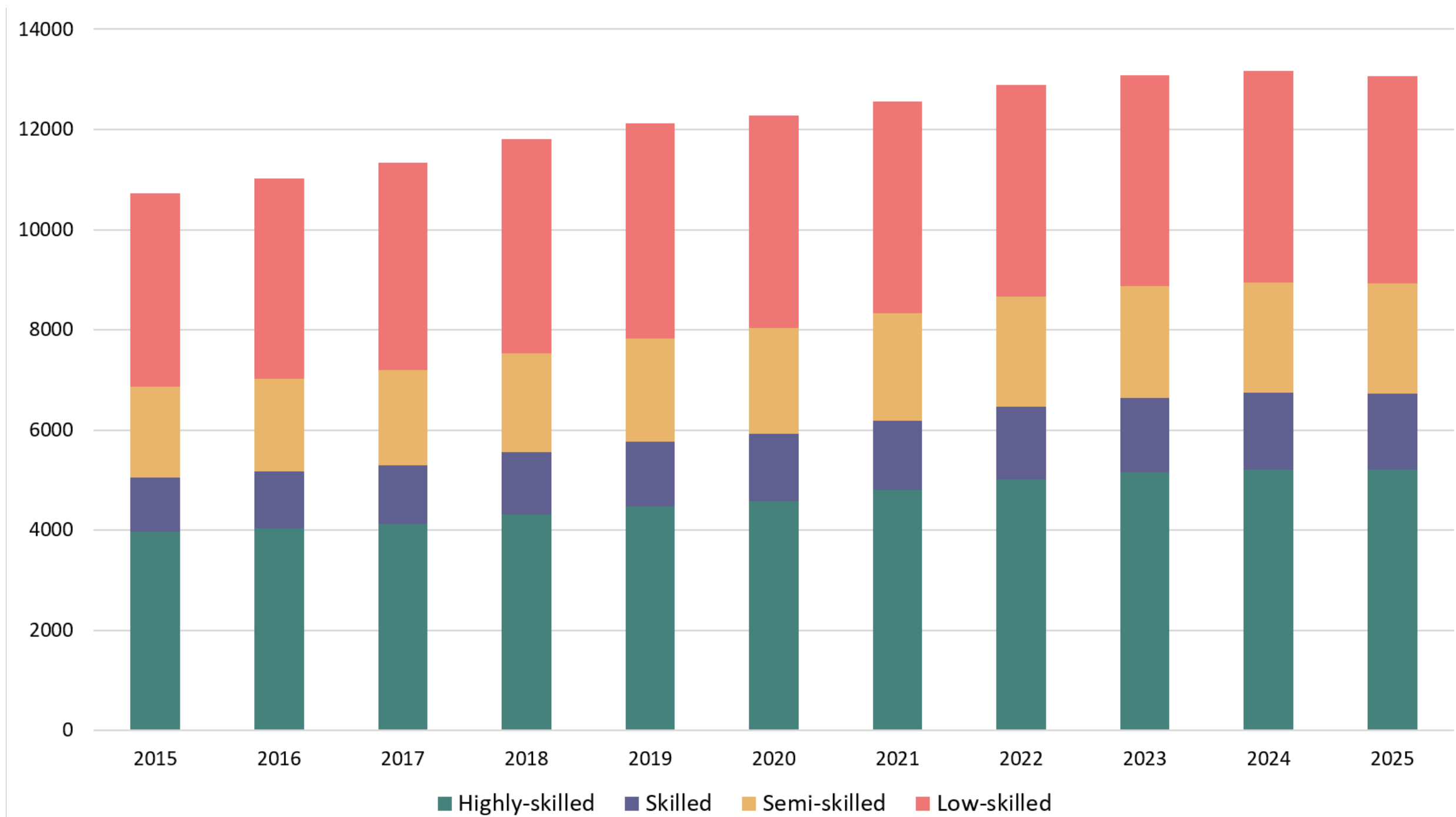
This may indicate growing demand for health and community support services.



Employment Conditions Have Softened

The District experienced a small decline in filled jobs during 2025, particularly in lower-skilled occupations.

Employment trends provide an early indicator of changes in the local economy.



Crime Increased in Early 2026

Victimisation rates increased during the January–March 2026 quarter after remaining relatively low throughout 2025.

Ongoing monitoring will help determine whether this is a short-term increase or an emerging trend.



Summary

- The District continues to demonstrate resilience despite national challenges.
- Population change and workforce trends will shape future service demand.
- Regular monitoring helps identify emerging issues and supports informed decision-making.

The Manawatū Data Snapshot will continue to be updated every six months to support evidence-based decision-making.



Manawatū Data Snapshot

Twice Annual Report
March 2026



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Executive Overview

Key Developments Since Previous Reports

The District Economy Continued to Outperform National Trends

While New Zealand's economy contracted during 2025, the Manawatū District recorded GDP growth of 0.5%. This suggests the local economy remains relatively resilient despite broader economic challenges. Agriculture, construction, public administration and property-related industries continue to provide a stable economic base for the District.

Why this matters: A resilient economy supports employment, local spending, business confidence and Council's ability to plan for future growth.

Export Activity Returned to Growth

Following declines reported in the previous snapshot, exports increased during 2025. This improvement aligns with favourable international market conditions and a lower New Zealand dollar, which has supported export competitiveness.

Why this matters: Export growth brings income into the District and supports local businesses, employment and economic resilience.

Housing Remains More Affordable Than Nationally

The District continues to benefit from lower house prices than many parts of New Zealand, while home ownership remains above the national average. Although affordability pressures remain, Manawatū households generally face lower barriers to home ownership than households in larger urban centres.

Why this matters: Housing affordability is a significant factor influencing population growth, workforce attraction and community wellbeing.

Community Facilities Continue to Be Well Used

Participation across Council facilities remains strong. The Community Hub, Makino Aquatic Centre, Civic Centre and Manfeild continue to attract significant numbers of users and visitors. Community facilities remain important spaces for recreation, learning, connection and events.

Why this matters: Strong utilisation demonstrates ongoing community value from Council investments and contributes to quality of life outcomes across the District.

Interest in Sustainability Initiatives Continues

Solar power installations continue to increase across the wider region, while electric vehicle registrations have begun recovering following previous declines associated with policy changes. This suggests continued community interest in renewable energy and lower-emission transport options.

Why this matters: These trends may influence future infrastructure needs, energy demand and sustainability planning across the District.

Emerging Trends to Monitor

Population Ageing Continues

The District's population continues to age, with the proportion of residents aged 65 years and over remaining above the national average. This trend is expected to continue over the coming decades.

Why this matters: An ageing population will influence demand for accessible infrastructure, retirement housing, transport services, healthcare and community facilities. It will also have implications for workforce availability and future growth.

Youth Disengagement Increased

The proportion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) increased during 2025. While the District remains below the national rate, the increase follows a broader national trend and may reflect a softer labour market and fewer education opportunities.

Why this matters: Youth disengagement can affect future workforce participation, economic productivity and long-term social outcomes if sustained over time.

Health-Related Benefit Uptake Continues to Rise

The number of residents receiving Jobseeker Support due to a health condition or disability has continued to increase. This growth has been evident over several years and now represents one of the more significant social trends in the District.

Why this matters: Increasing health-related support needs may place additional pressure on health, social and community services while also affecting workforce participation.

Employment Conditions Softened Slightly

The number of filled jobs in the District declined during 2025, with the largest reductions occurring in lower-skilled occupations. While unemployment remains comparatively low, this may indicate a cooling labour market.

Why this matters: Employment conditions are often an early indicator of broader economic changes and can affect household incomes, spending and business confidence.

Crime Increased in Early 2026

Victimisation rates increased during the January–March 2026 quarter following a period of relatively low crime during late 2024 and throughout 2025. Most of the increase was driven by burglary and theft offences.

Why this matters: While crime levels remain lower than some neighbouring districts, ongoing monitoring is important to understand whether this represents a temporary increase or the beginning of a broader trend.

Our People

Key Considerations:

The District continues to age faster than many parts of New Zealand, which will influence future demand for accessible infrastructure, transport and community services.

Increasing ethnic diversity presents opportunities to ensure Council services, facilities and engagement approaches remain inclusive.

Maintaining pathways between education and employment will be important to reduce youth disengagement and support future workforce needs.

Accessibility of public spaces and facilities should continue to be considered in future planning and renewal programmes.

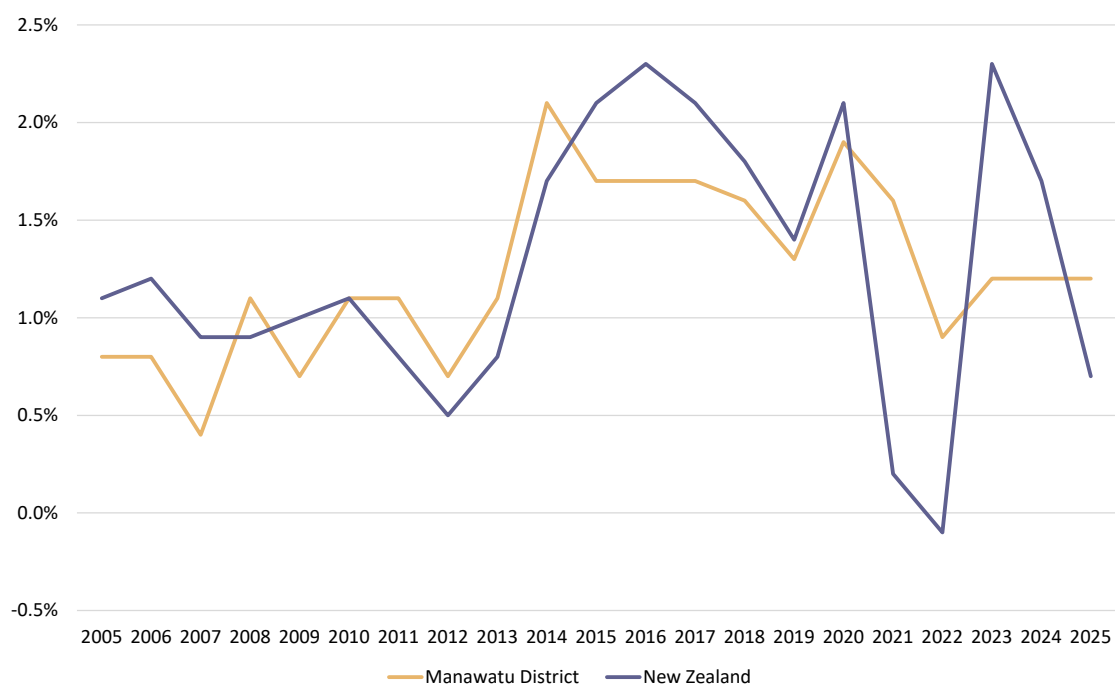
Population and Demographics

Population Growth

The Manawātū District has had stable population growth over the past few years. The majority of this growth comes from internal migration (people moving here from other parts of New Zealand).

Population growth is expected to remain relatively stable in the short term.

Figure 1: Percentage Change in Population.



Demographics

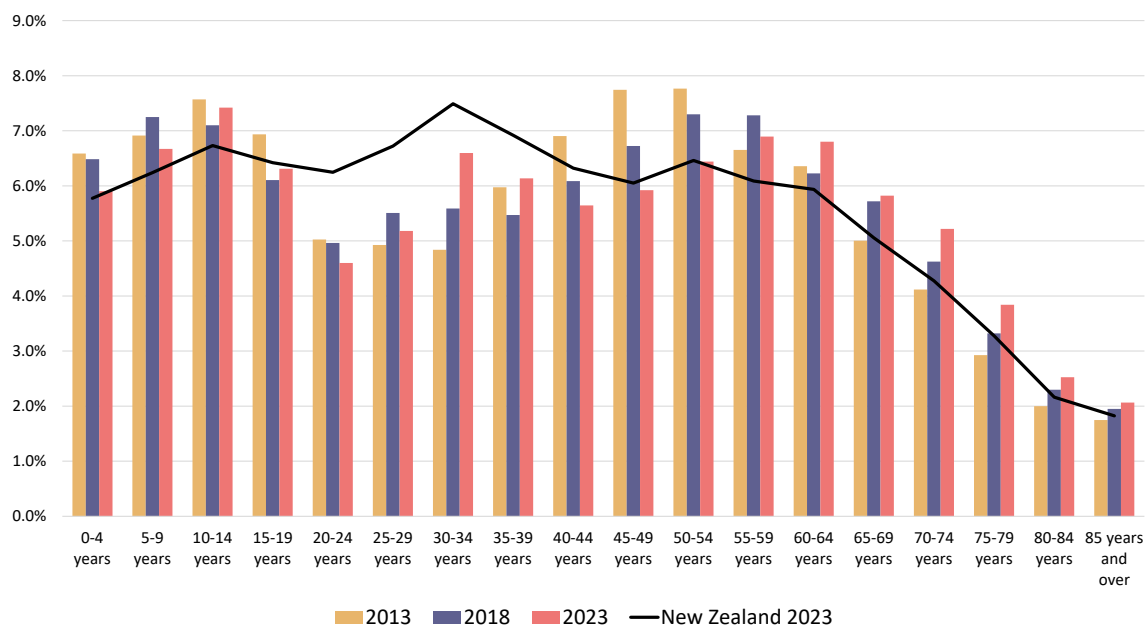
The Manawatū District is following the national trend with a year on year increase in the proportion of residents 65 years and over. The District's proportion remains slightly higher than the national proportion.

The proportion of males to females in the Manawatū District remains close with 50.2% female, 49.4% male and 0.4% other gender. This has not changed significantly over the last 10 years, with the exception of the introduction to the other gender classification in 2023 Census.

European remains the largest ethnic group in the District at 88%, compared with 67.8% nationally. This has been decreasing over the last 10 years.

The proportion of residents who identify as Māori in the Manawatū District has been increasing over the last 10 years. For the 2023 Census the proportion is sitting at 18.3%, slightly higher than the New Zealand percentage of 17.8%.

Figure 2: Age Group as a Proportion of the Total Population.



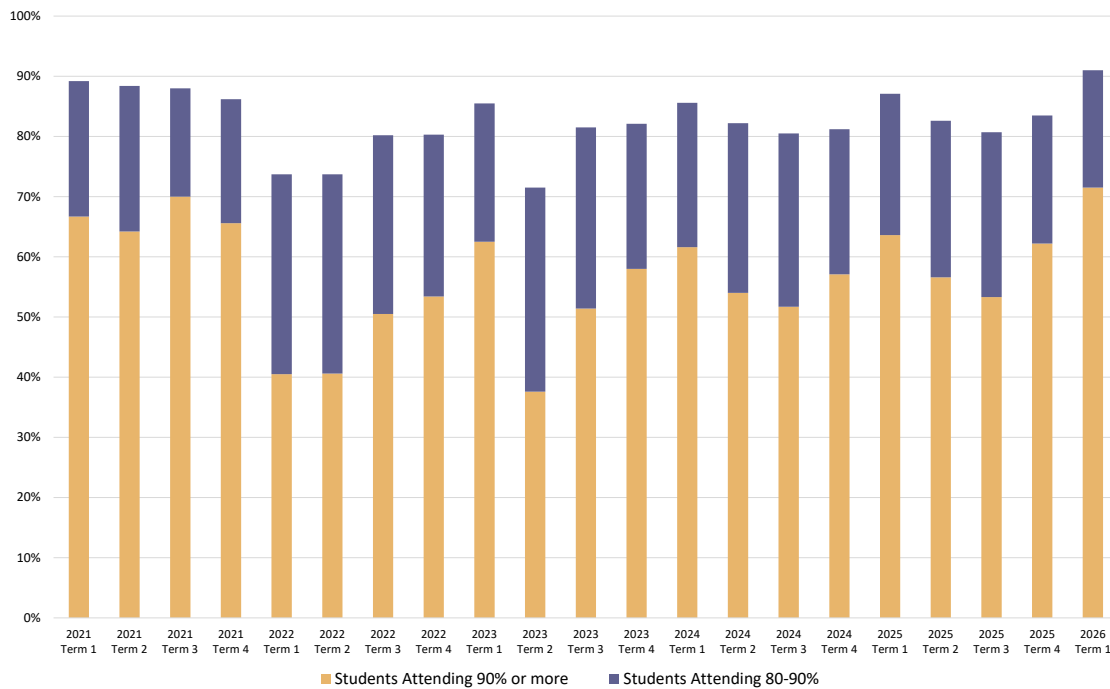
Education and Youth Outcomes

Education

Attendance fluctuates over the course of the year. The proportion of students attending school over 90% of the time is 71.5% for the Manawatū District compared to 68.8% for New Zealand.

The number of stand-downs, suspensions and exclusions has generally declined in recent years. With stand-downs sitting at 125 for 2024 and suspensions and exclusions sitting at 41.

Figure 3: Students Regularly Attending.



The proportion of students leaving school having attained NCEA Level 2 or above varies from year to year, but averages around 80% of leavers. In recent years there has been a decline in this proportion, suggesting that students may be leaving school earlier to attain qualifications in other ways, such as trades.

The New Zealand rate of students leaving with NCEA level 2 or above was 76.1% for 2024.

Figure 4: Student Leavers Highest Attainment.



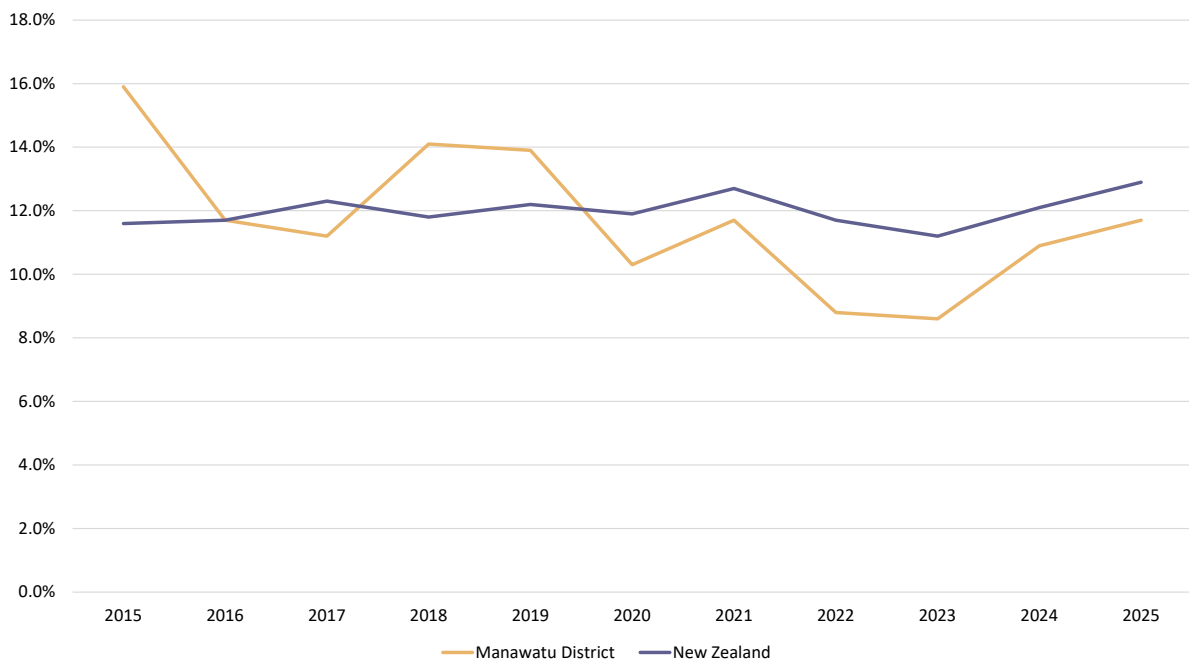
NEET Rate

Since 2020 the NEET rate for the Manawatū District has sat below the national rate. Between 2024 and 2025 there has been an increase in the NEET rate, this is following the national trend seen.

The increase may reflect a combination of softer labour market conditions and changes in tertiary education provision.

The definition for NEET can be found in the appendix.

Figure 5: NEET Rate For Manawatū and New Zealand.

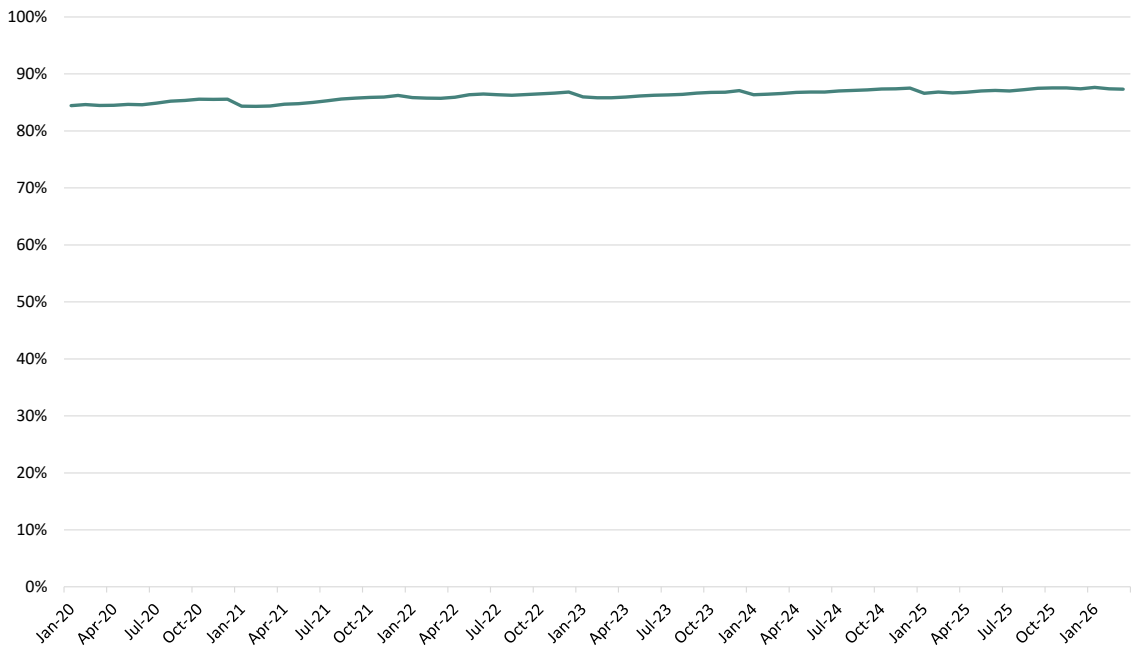


Health and Accessibility

GP Enrolments

GP enrolment rates at a health provider within the THINK Hauora area have remained relatively stable at approximately 85–90% of the population of the District. There has been a marginal increase going from 84% in January 2020 to 87% in March 2026. It is possible that more people are enrolled at a GP outside of the Think Hauora area, such as Whanganui or Rangitīkei and are unlikely to be captured in the data.

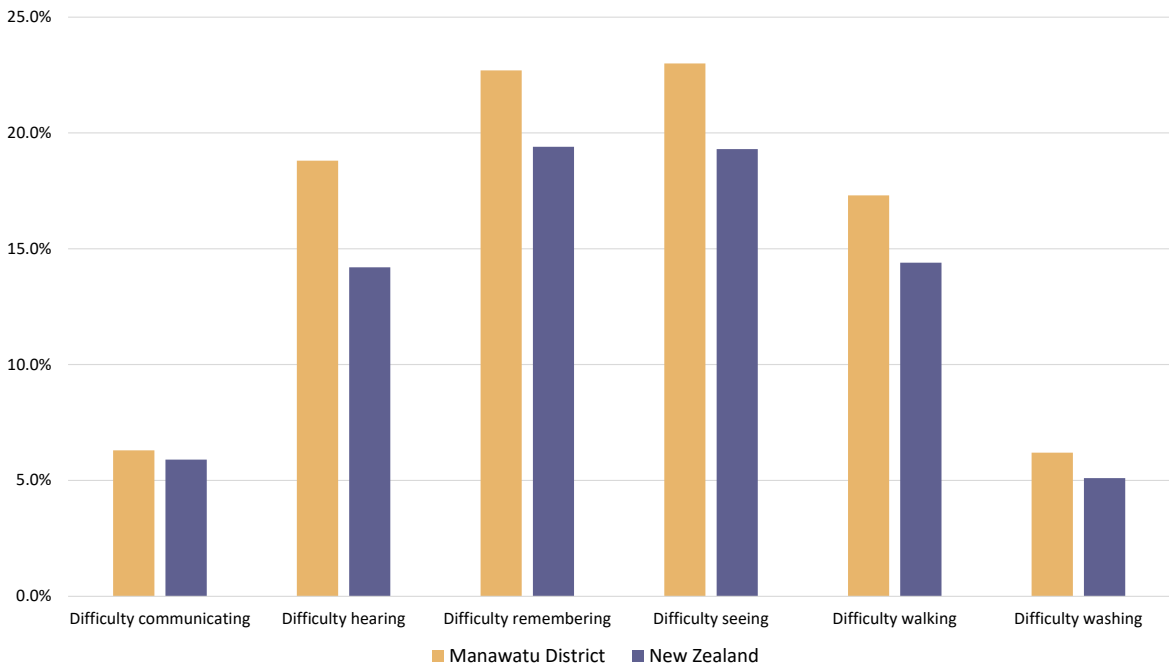
Figure 6: Proportion of Manawatū District Enrolled in a GP.



Disability Statistics

The residents of the Manawatū District have a slightly higher proportion of people with activity limitations than the national proportion. This is due to our slightly higher proportion of over 65 year olds across the district. It is worth noting that this data may not be available in the long term due to census changes.

Figure 7: People who have Activity Limitations.



Our Economy

Key Considerations:

Agriculture continues to play a significant role in economic performance, creating both strengths and exposure to commodity and climate-related risks.

Workforce capability and skills development remain important for supporting business growth and attracting investment.

Average household incomes continue to rise, however cost-of-living pressures remain a challenge for some residents.

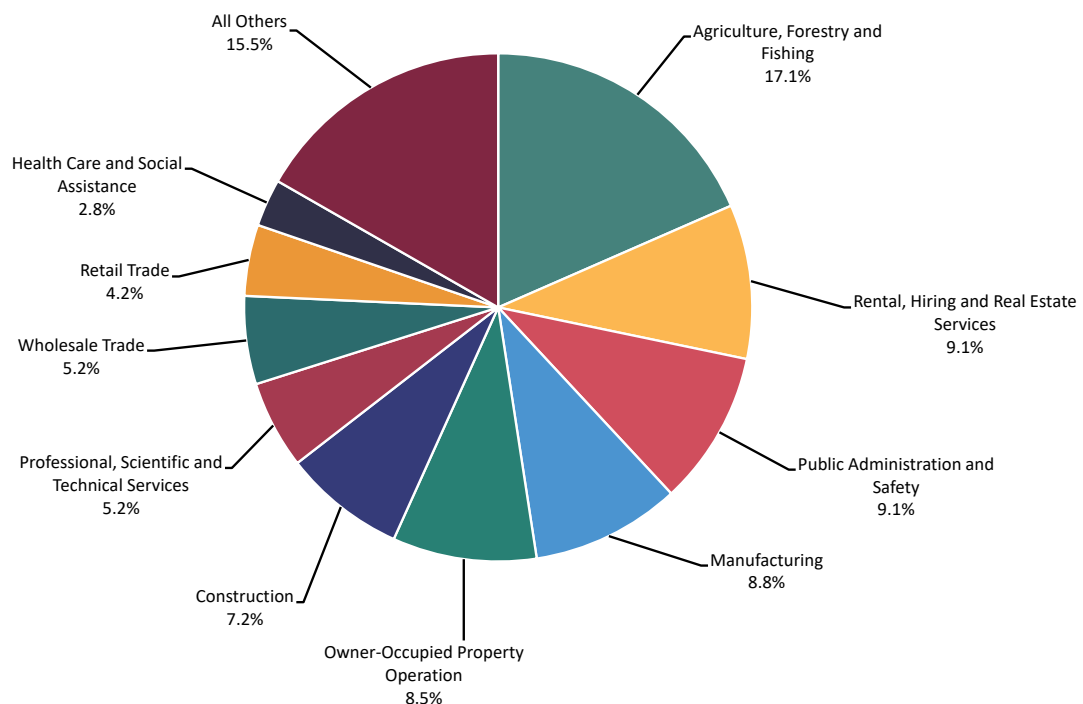
Monitoring employment trends will help identify emerging pressures before they are reflected in broader economic indicators.

Economic Overview

GDP Structure

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing has seen an increase in their share of District GDP going from 16.2% to 17.1%. Rental, Hiring and Real Estate services has seen an increase going from 8.8% of total District GDP in 2024 to 9.1% in 2025. Most other industries experienced little change in their share of District GDP.

Figure 8: Manawatū District GDP Structure by Industry.



GDP Growth

The Manawātū District GDP saw an increase of 0.5% between 2024 and 2025. New Zealand's GDP saw a decrease of 0.9% in the same time period. Since 2008 the GDP growth has usually been over 1% for the Manawātū District, with the exception of 2020, which saw an increase of 0.7%.

Figure 9: Level (\$million) of GDP for the Manawātū District.

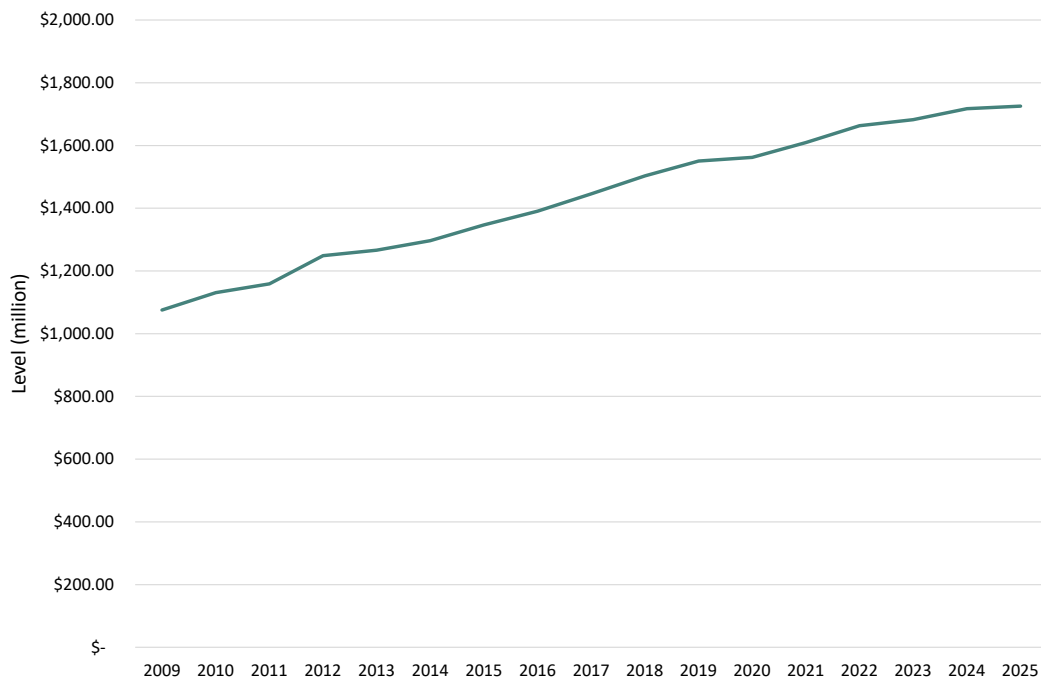


Figure 10: GDP Growth



Economic Drivers

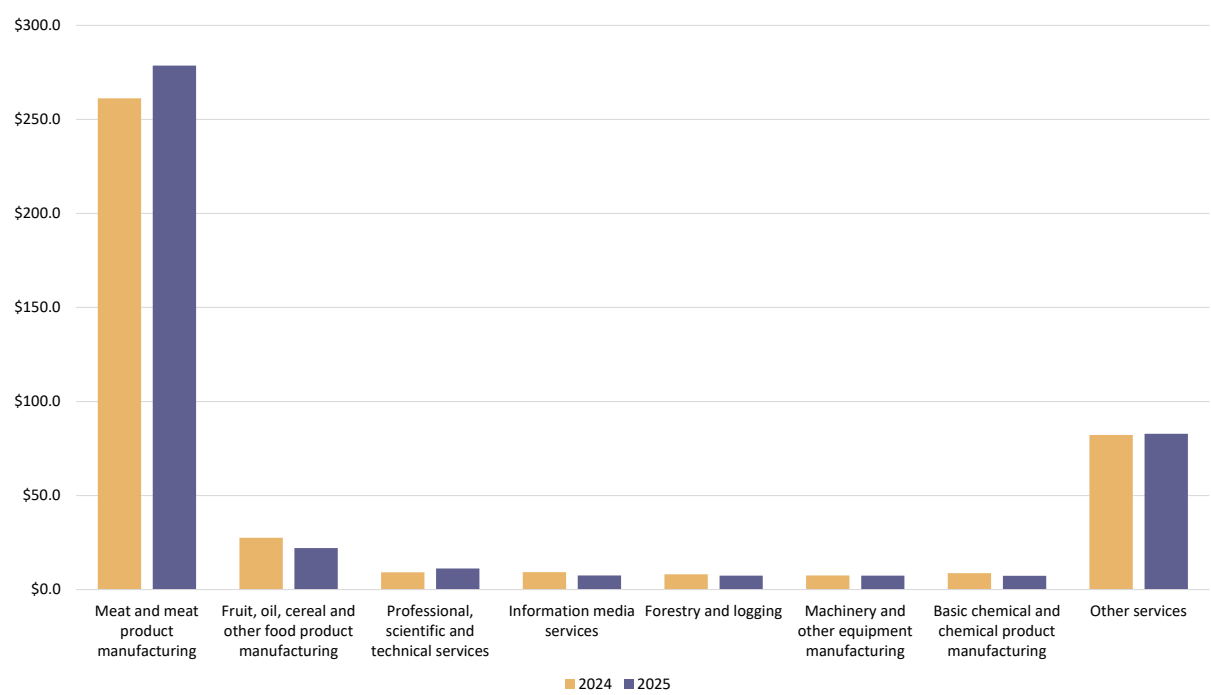
Exports

The Manawatū District has seen an increase in the total value of exports for 2025 of 2.6%, compared to New Zealand which saw an increase of 7.9%. This is an improvement from last year which saw a decline in exports.

The lower New Zealand dollar has meant that exports in New Zealand have been doing well this year.

The majority of dairy produced in the Manawatū District is sent to manufacturing plants outside of the Manawatū, and the exports of the dairy products are attributed to these areas rather than the Manawatū.

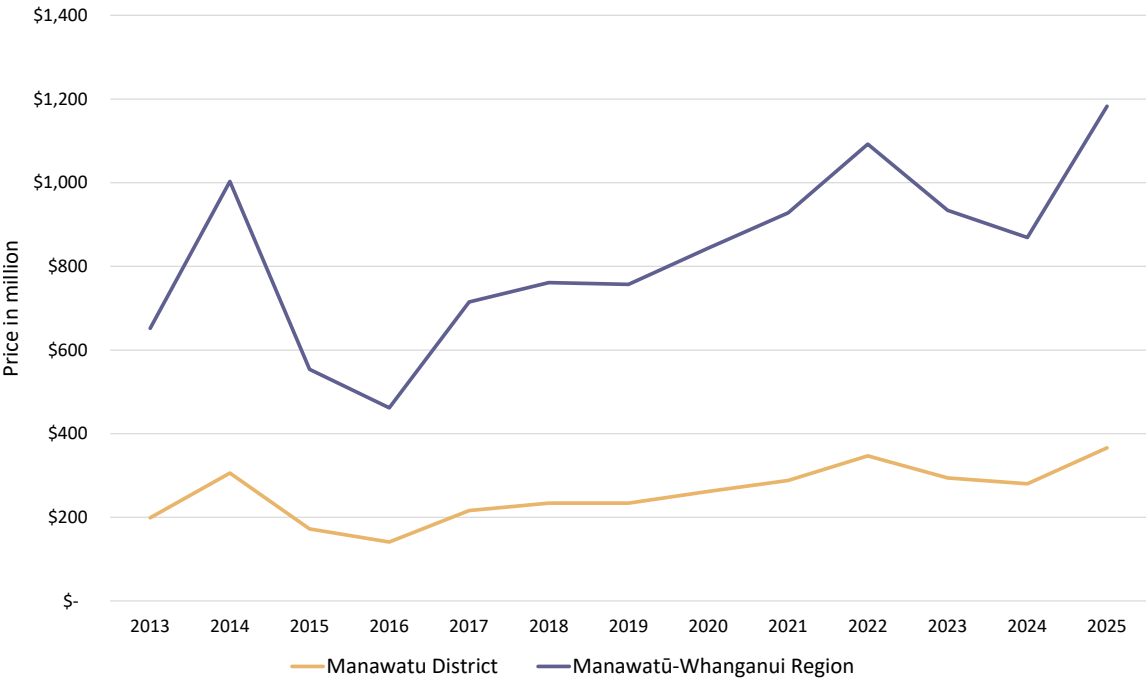
Figure 11: 2025 Manawatū District Exports in \$Million by Sector.



Dairy Sector Performance

Overall there has been a steady increase in the Dairy payout for the Manawatū District. With higher demand globally for protein currently, the dairy payout will likely remain at similar levels for 2026.

Figure 12: Total Yearly Dairy Payout.



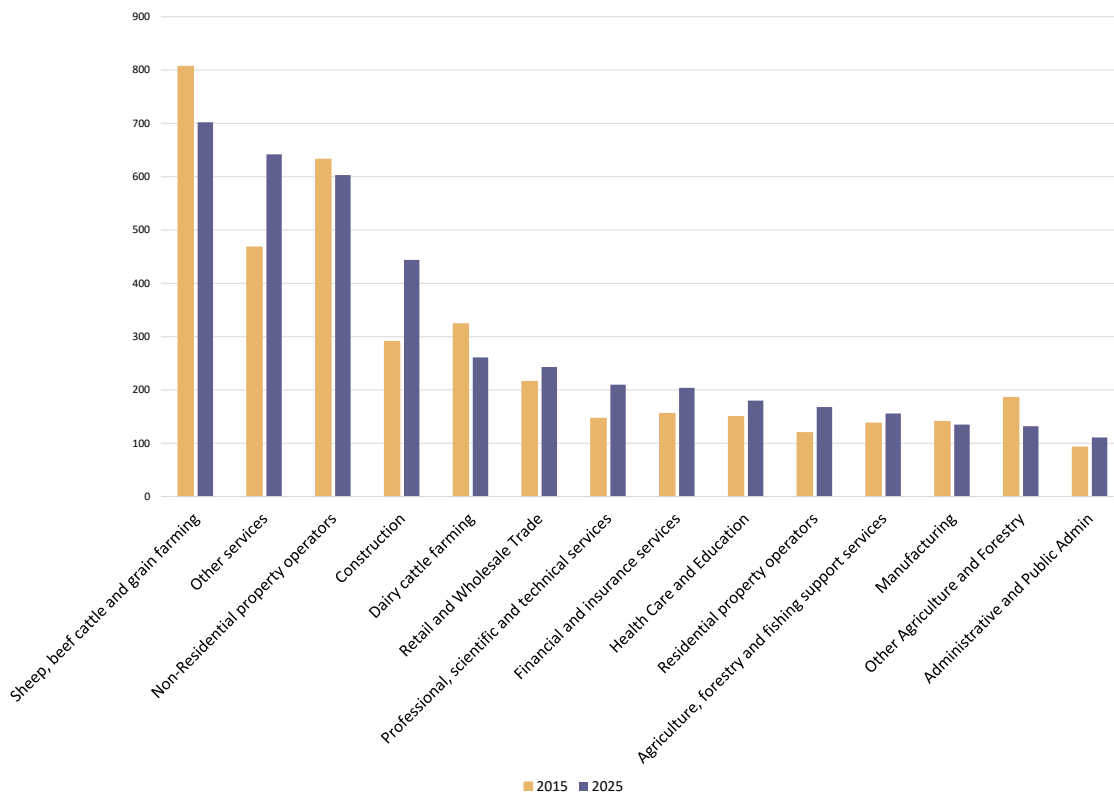
Business and Workforce

Business Numbers

The main contributor to growth in business numbers, over the last 10 years in other services is in rental and hiring services. Also construction has seen a significant increase in business numbers over the last 10 years.

The decline in sheep, beef cattle and grain farming businesses may reflect farm consolidation over time.

Figure 13: Manawatū District Total Business Numbers, 2015 and 2025.



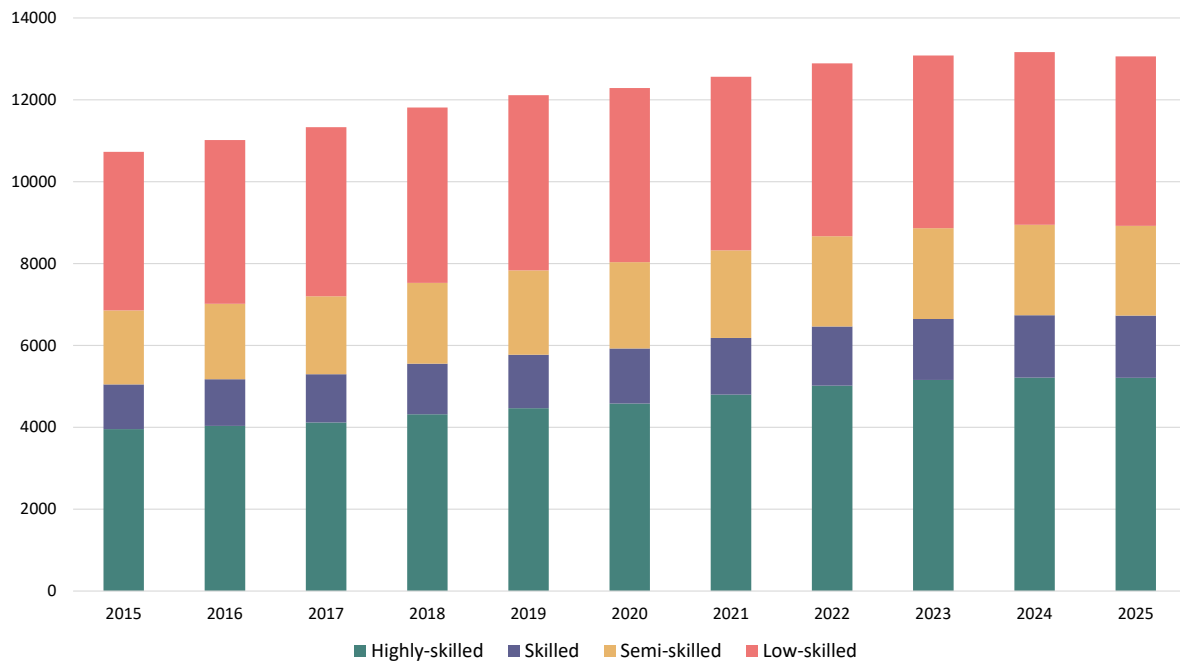
Skills

The total number of filled jobs has seen a decrease of 105 jobs across the District. This decline is seen across all skill levels, with the largest drop seen in the low skilled area.

The highly-skilled group makes up 39.9% of the Districts total filled jobs, compared with the national figure of 41.5%.

Definitions of the different skill levels is available in the appendix.

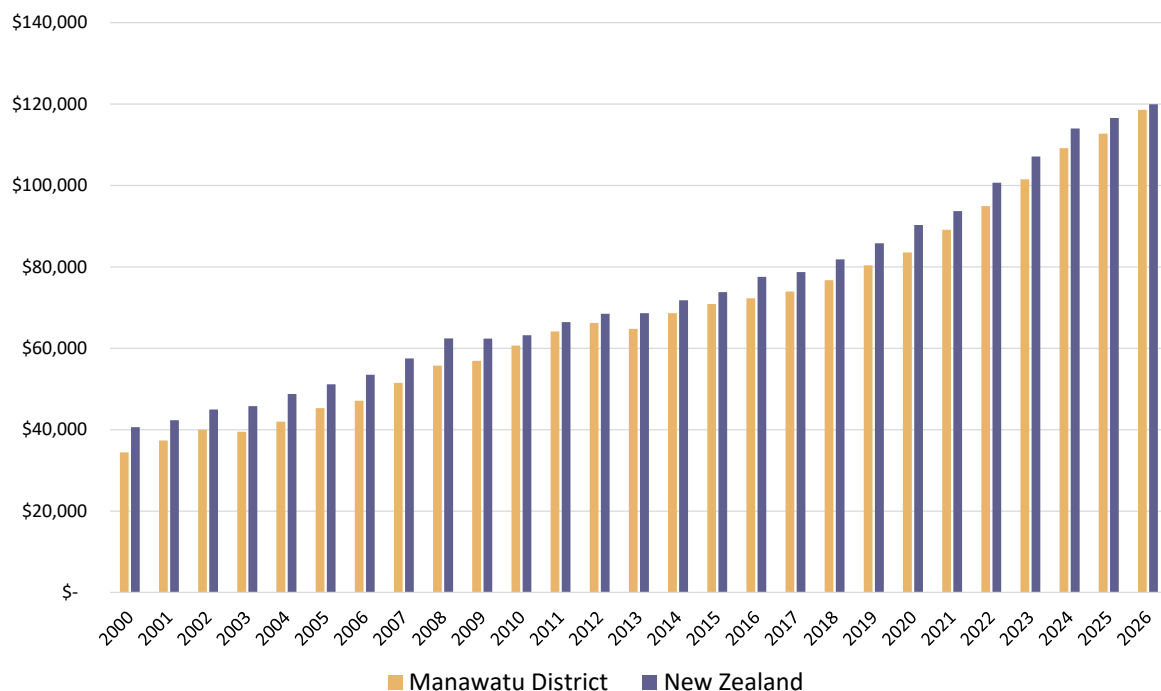
Figure 14: Skilled Levels of Filled Jobs in the Manawatū District.



Household Income

The Manawatū median household income sits marginally below the national average. The Manawatū-Whanganui region has a median household income of \$103,067 for 2026, this is below the Manawatū average of \$118,583.

Figure 15: Median Household Income

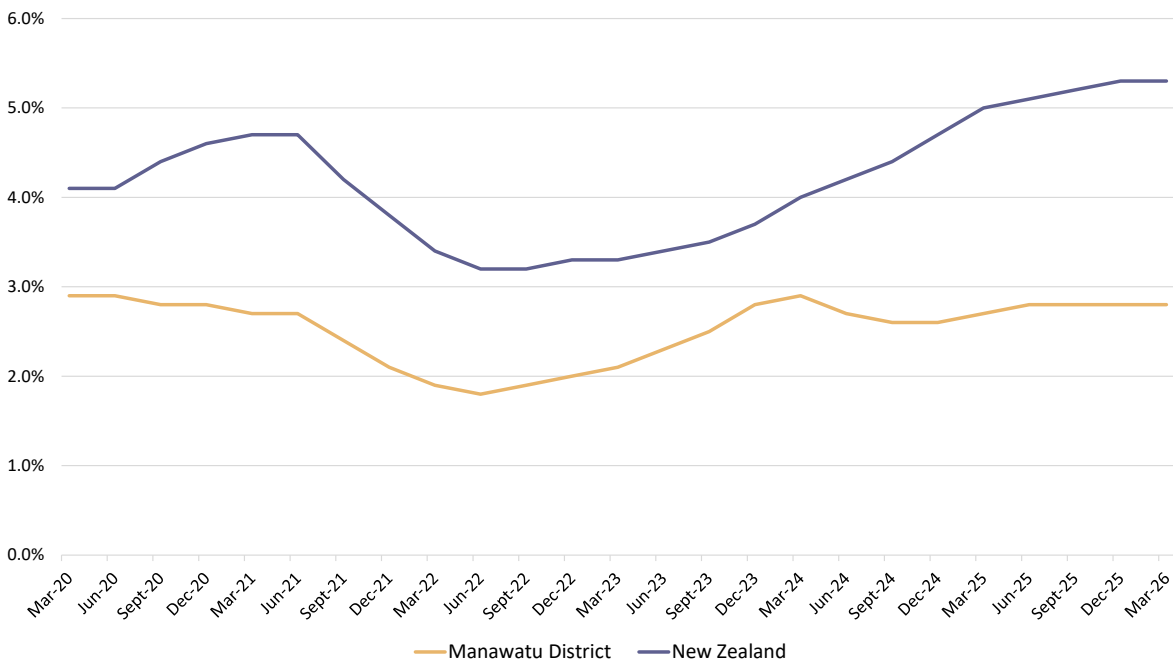


Employment and Household Conditions

Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the Manawatū District consistently sits well below the New Zealand rate. This is due to the stability of employment around organisations like the Defence Force, as well as the stability provided by primary sector employment currently.

Figure 16: Unemployment Rate



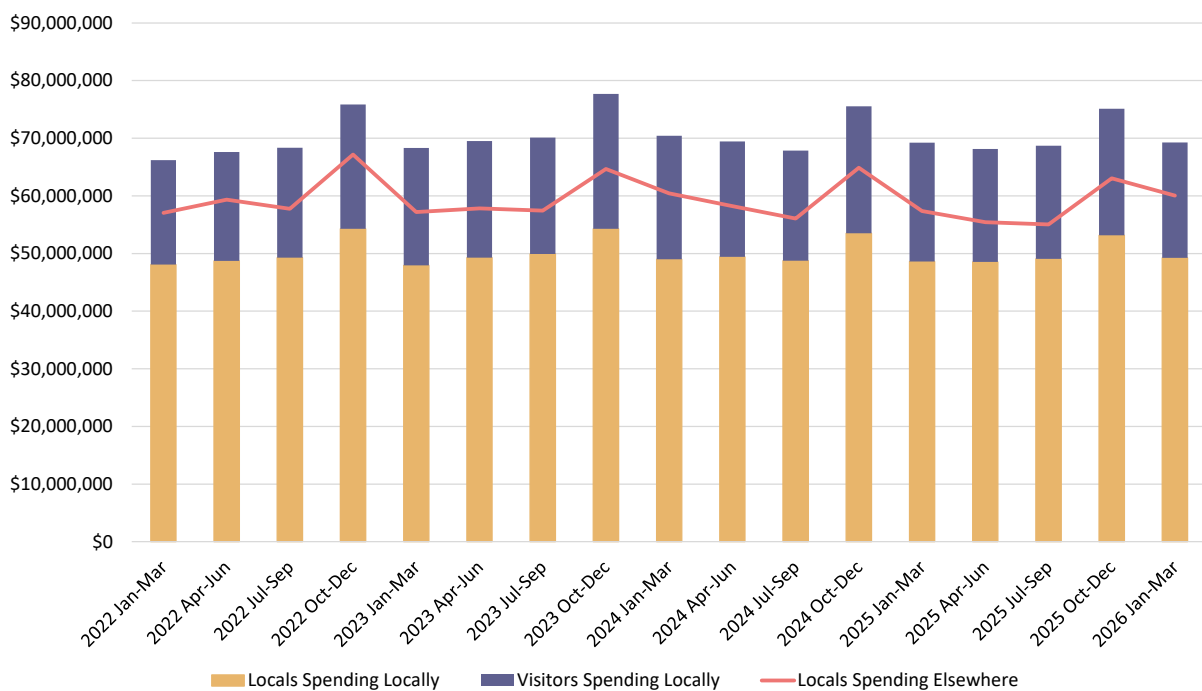
Spending Data

Residents continue to spend more outside the District than within it. The majority of this spending is in Palmerston North as it plays a role as the primary retail and service centre for the region. Locals spending elsewhere is illustrated by the red line sitting above the yellow bars in Figure 17.

The majority (64.4%) of spending occurring in the District is on essentials such as groceries and fuel. This is compared to 54.0% of total spending in Palmerston North on essentials and 73.3% in Horowhenua.

The majority (71%) of spending occurring in the Manawatū District comes from locals, with 10% being visitors from Palmerston North. These visitors are most likely to be people who live in Palmerston North or Rangitikei, but work in the Manawatū District. International visitors spent \$1.4M in the January-March 2026 quarter in the Manawatū District, equivalent to 2% of the total spend.

Figure 17: Spending in the District and Locals Spending Elsewhere.



Our Communities

Key Considerations:

Housing affordability remains comparatively favourable compared with national averages, although rental costs continue to place pressure on households.

Demand for social and retirement housing is likely to increase as the population ages.

Growth in health-related benefit receipt may indicate changing support needs within the community.

Monitoring trends in crime, family violence and gambling-related harm helps provide insight into broader community wellbeing pressures.

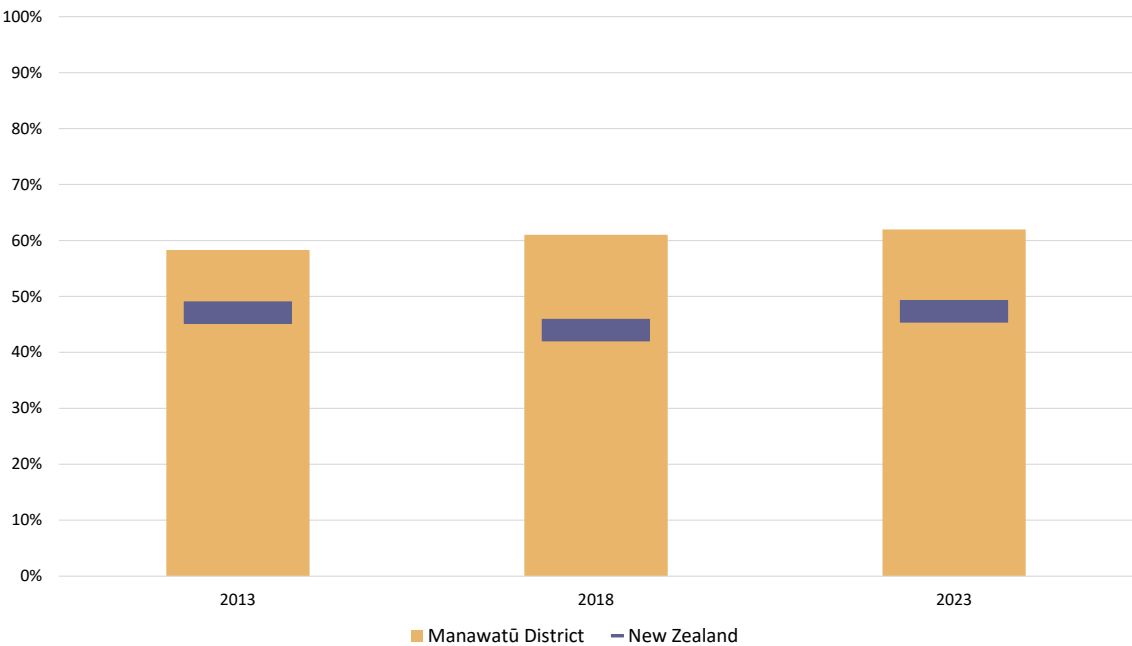
Community facilities continue to play an important role in participation, connection and quality of life across the District.

Housing and Cost of Living

Home Ownership

Home ownership in the Manawatū is higher than the national average. There has been a slight increase over the 10 years going from 58% of households owning their own home in 2013 Census, to 62% in the 2023 Census.

Figure 18: Home Ownership Status from Census.

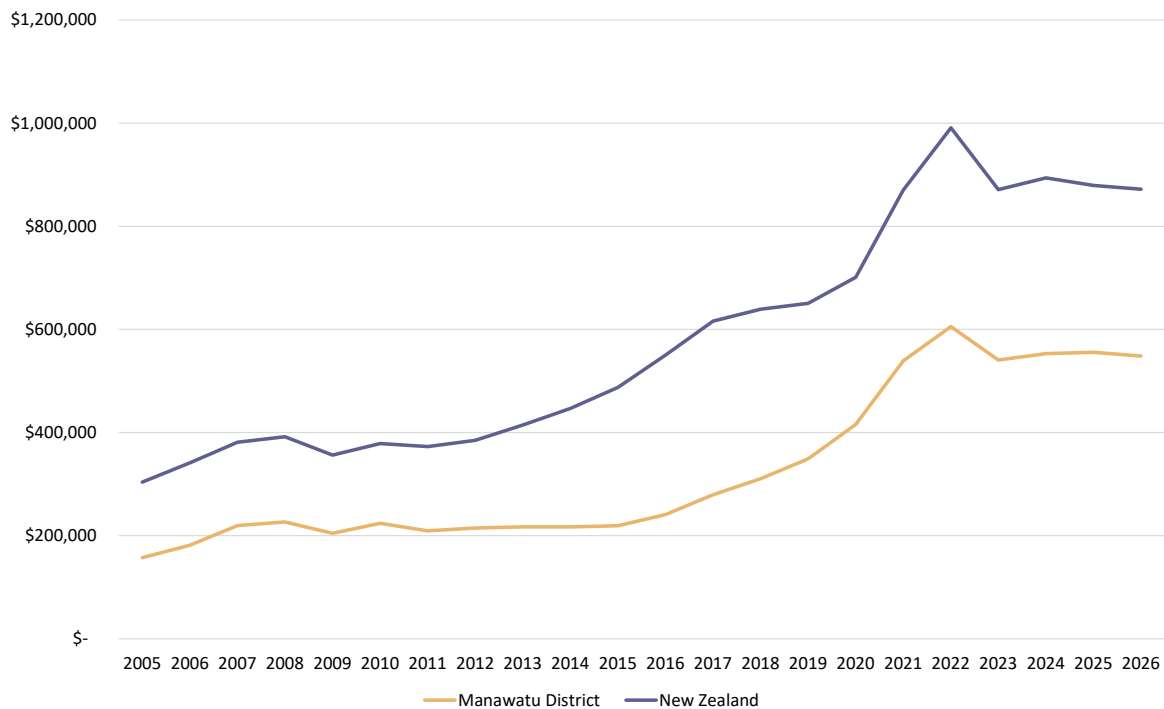


House Value

The mean average house value has remained reasonably steady for the Manawatū District since 2023. The Manawatū District did not experience the same level of increase and subsequent decline during the COVID-19 period as seen nationally. This was particularly impactful in cities.

For 2026 the mean house value for the Manawatū District is \$548,154.

Figure 19: Mean Average House Value.

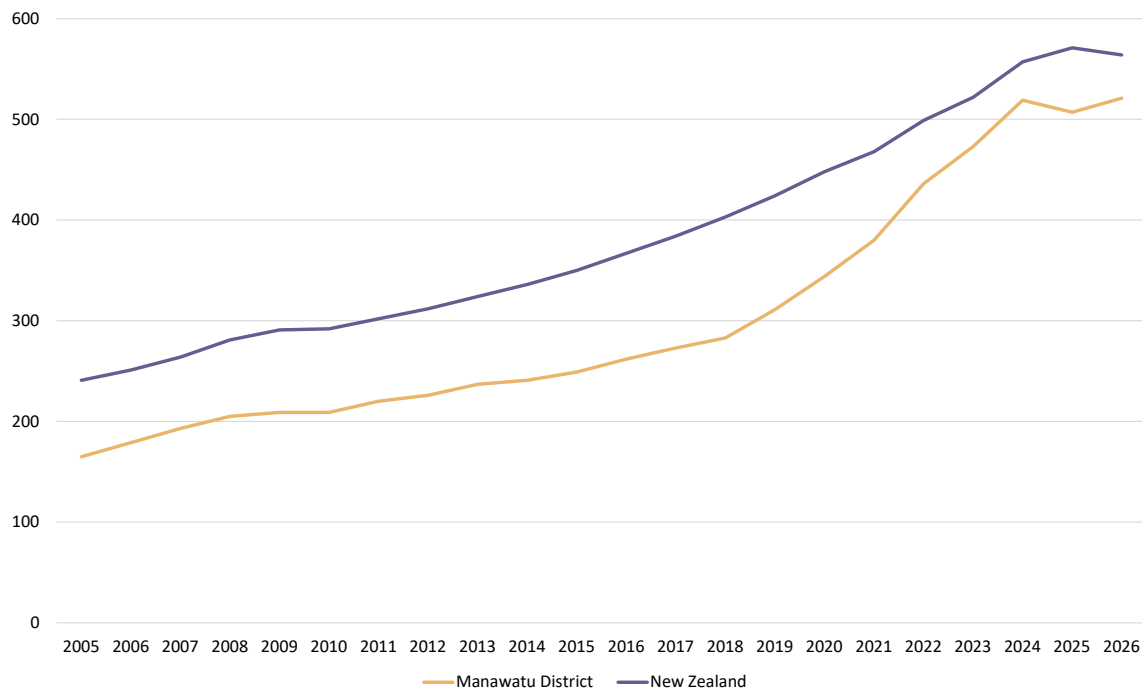


Rental Prices

Rental prices have significantly increased from 2005 to 2024. The decline between 2024 and 2025 may reflect increased rental availability and a stabilising rental market. This came a year later for the national figures.

For 2026 the average rent is sitting at \$521.

Figure 20: Average Weekly Rent.



Housing Affordability

Due to the significant difference in average house prices between the Manawatū District and the national average, housing is more affordable in the District.

The rental affordability is very similar to the national percentage as rental prices are very close and household income is marginally lower than the national average.

Figure 21: Mortgage Payment Proportion of Average Household Income.

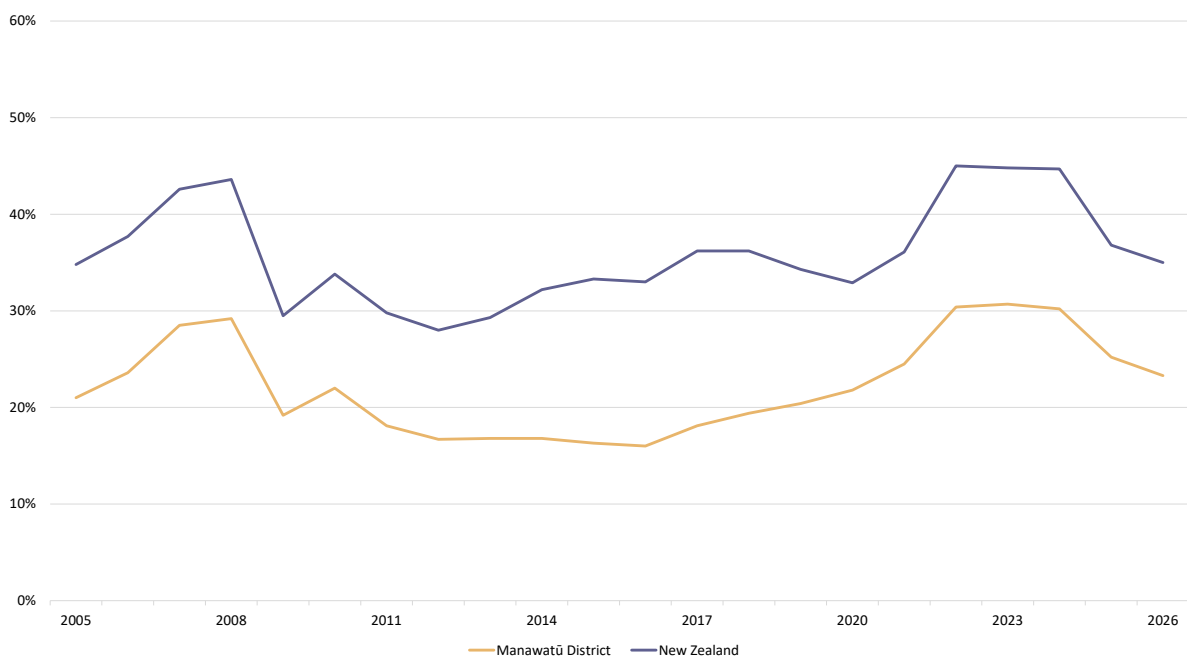
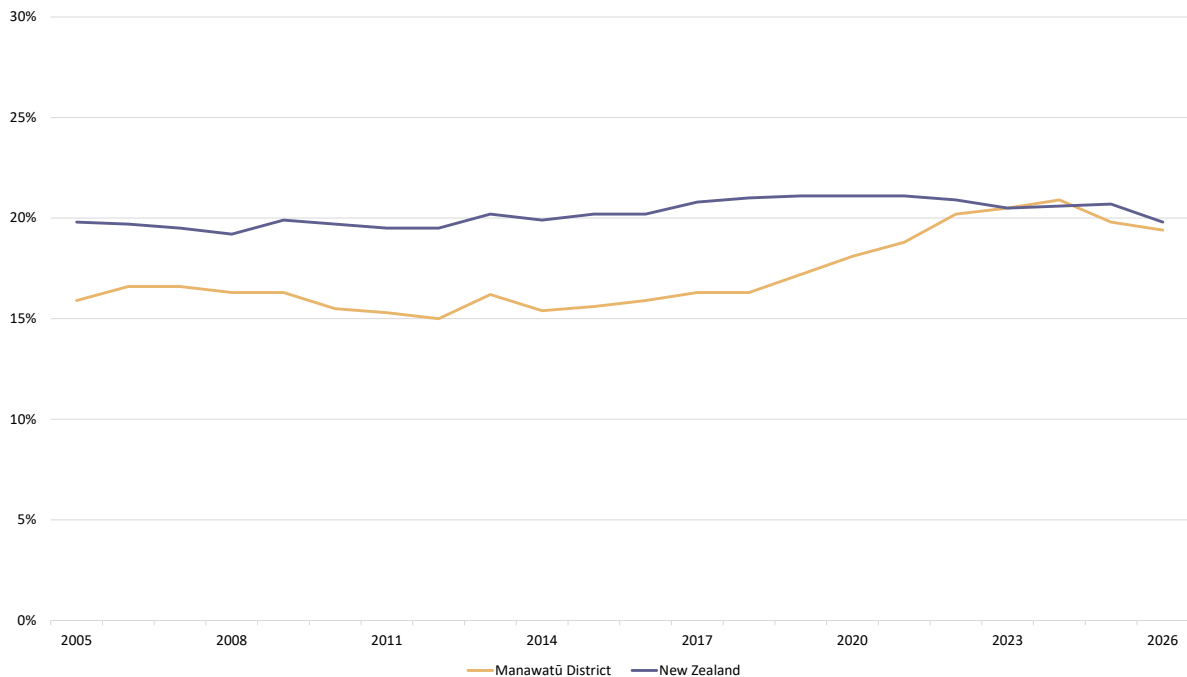


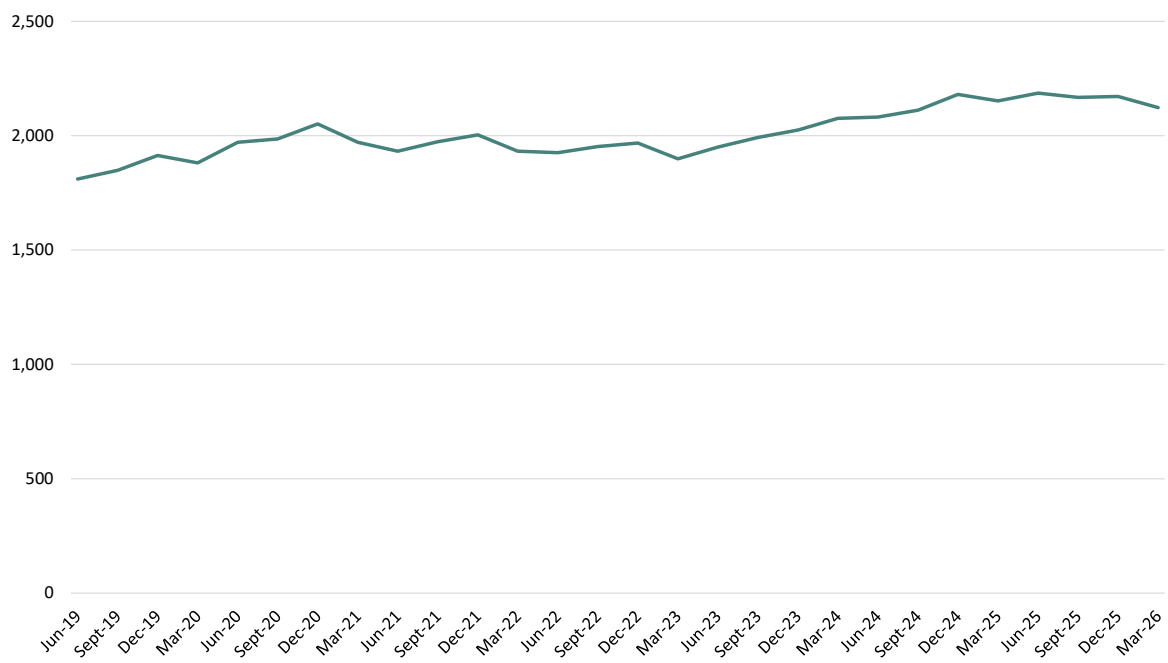
Figure 22: Weekly Rent to Proportion of Average Household Income.



Accommodation Supplement

The number of accommodation supplement recipients has remained reasonably steady, with overall yearly increases being consistent with population increase. This indicates that the increase is not due to a demand increase. Recent changes to eligibility criteria will mean that the number of residents receiving an accommodation supplement may start to decline more, but not as a result of declining need.

Figure 23: Number of People with the Accommodation Supplement in the Manawatū.



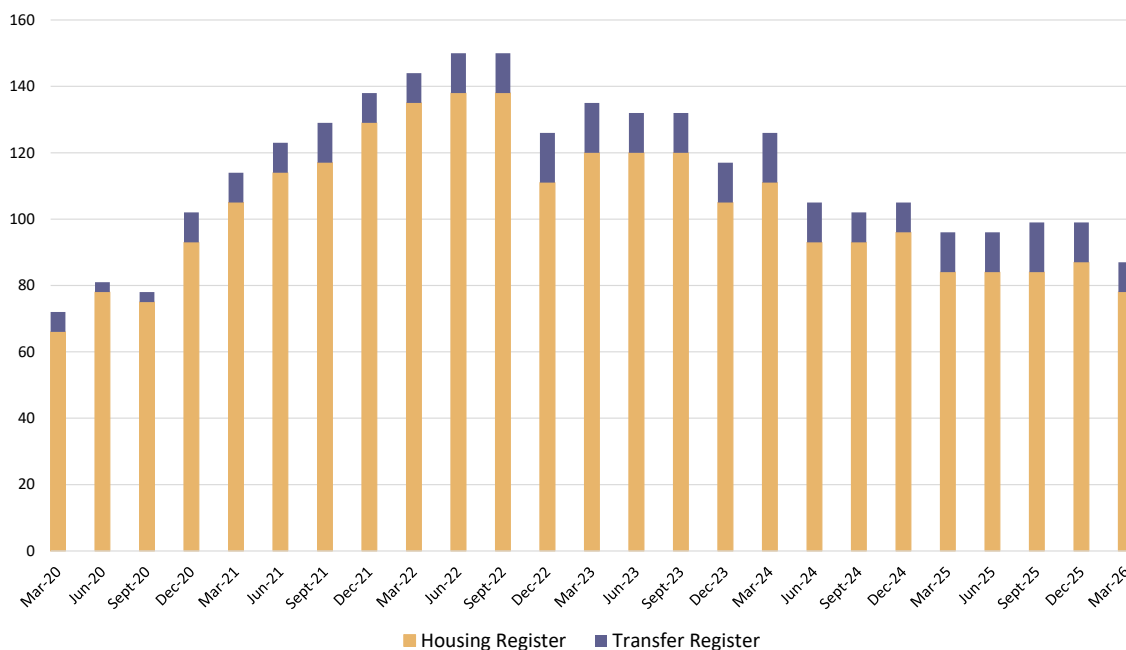
Social Housing

Across the Manawatū District there are 200 Kāinga Ora homes as at June 2026. Of these homes, 42 have been constructed in the last three years.

Changes to eligibility criteria may have contributed to the decline in the housing register, meaning reduced demand cannot be assumed.

The Manawatū Community Trust has 209 units across Feilding, Sanson and Rongotea. The Community Trust continues to plan for growth in its housing portfolio.

Figure 24: Number of Applicants on the Housing and Transfer Registers.



Retirement Capacities

Feilding has seven rest-home facilities, two of which offer village-style living. Across these facilities, there are 253 rest-home rooms, 87 dementia care rooms, and 89 hospital care rooms, with vacancies reported at all facilities in Feilding.

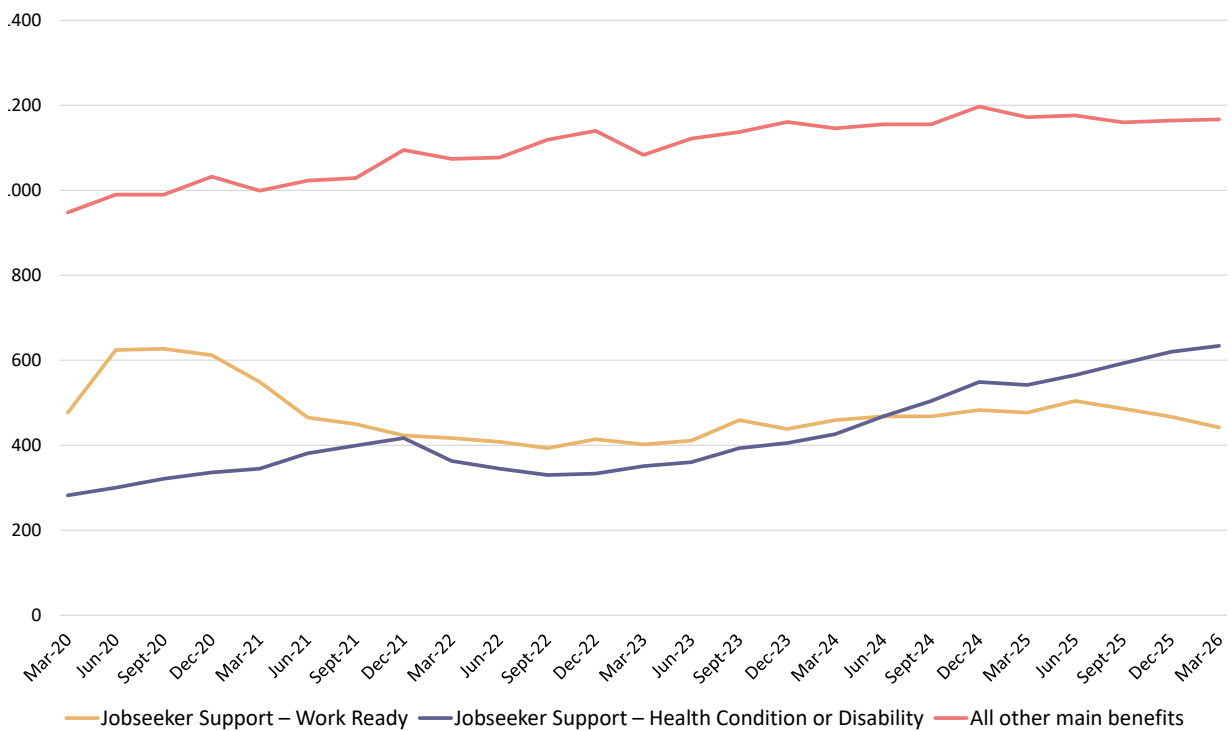
The Woodlands Resort is currently building retirement houses, and once completed there will be a total of 120 houses for retirement living alongside the rest-home and hospital care facilities they also offer. Promisia have two rest-home facilities in Feilding with their Ranfurly Manor facility being the second largest in the area. Ranfurly Manor offers rest-home, hospital and dementia care facilities, as well as retirement care apartments and standalone housing.

There is potential for a new retirement village within Awa Park, a new development in Feilding. The size of this has yet to be determined.

Benefit Data

The Manawatū District has seen a steady increase in the number of people receiving Jobseeker support - Health Condition or Disability. This trend may reflect a range of factors, including increasing health-related support needs within the community.

Figure 25: Number of People in the Manawatū District Receiving a Benefit.



Harm and Nuisance Indicators

Crime

The crime rate for the Manawatū District is 41 victimisations per 1,000 people for the January-March 2026 quarter. This compares to 63 per 1,000 people for Horowhenua, 88 per 1,000 people for Palmerston North and 30 per 1,000 people for Rangitikei.

Victimisation rates were relatively low throughout late 2024 and 2025, before increasing during the January-March 2026 quarter. Burglary and theft offences accounted for 89% of the increase recorded during the January-March 2026 quarter.

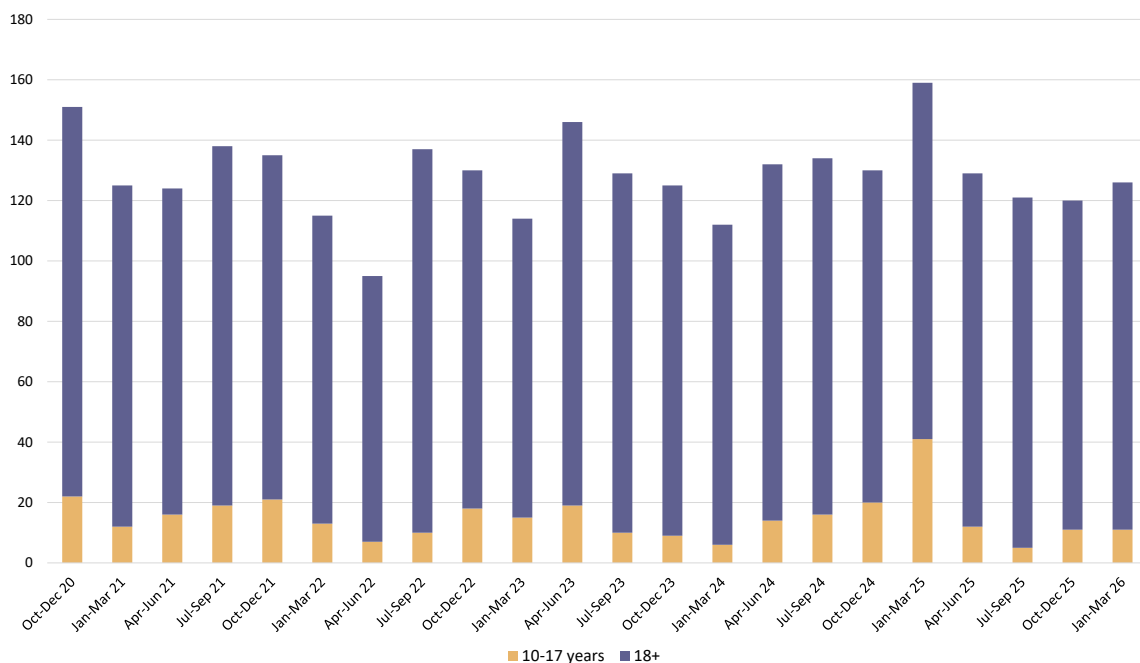
Figure 26: Total Victimisations for Manawatū District.



Offender Age Demographic Data

91% of the offenders going through the Feilding and Kimbolton Police stations are 18 years and over. The significant increase in under 18 offenders seen in January-March 2025 appears to be an anomaly rather than a continuing trend.

Figure 27: Age Groups of Offender Data from Local Police Stations.

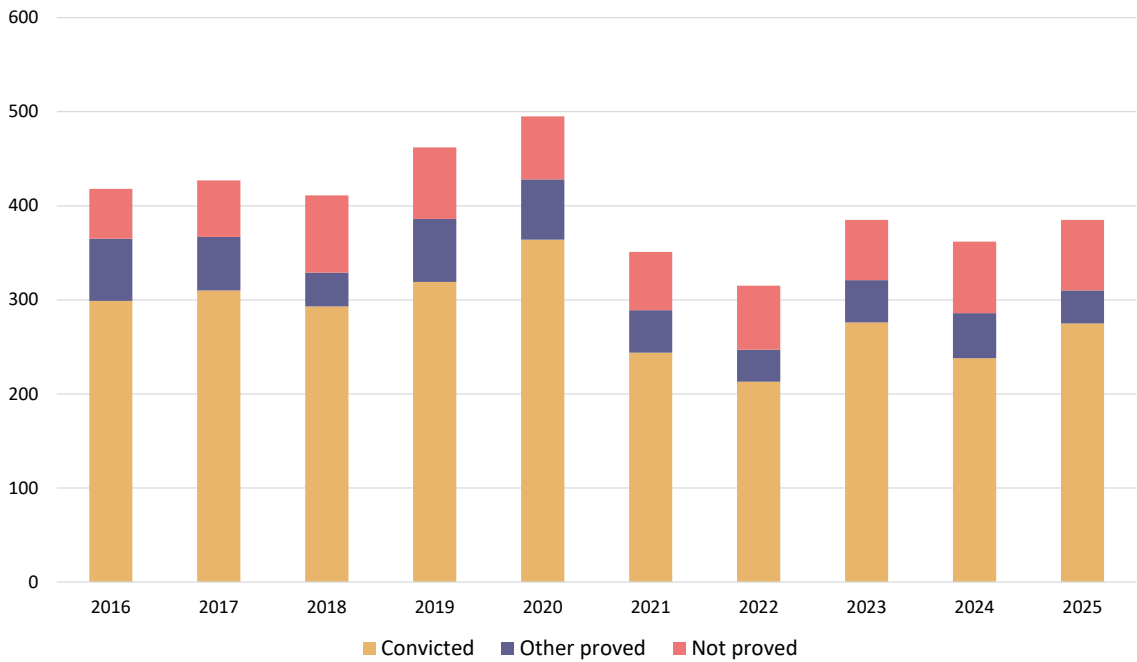


Family Violence

As there is no court located in the Manawatū District, all family violence statistics are from Palmerston North.

It is unclear why there was a significant drop of family violence offences in 2021, COVID-19 restrictions may have had an impact early on.

Figure 28: Family Violence Offences from Palmerston North Court.

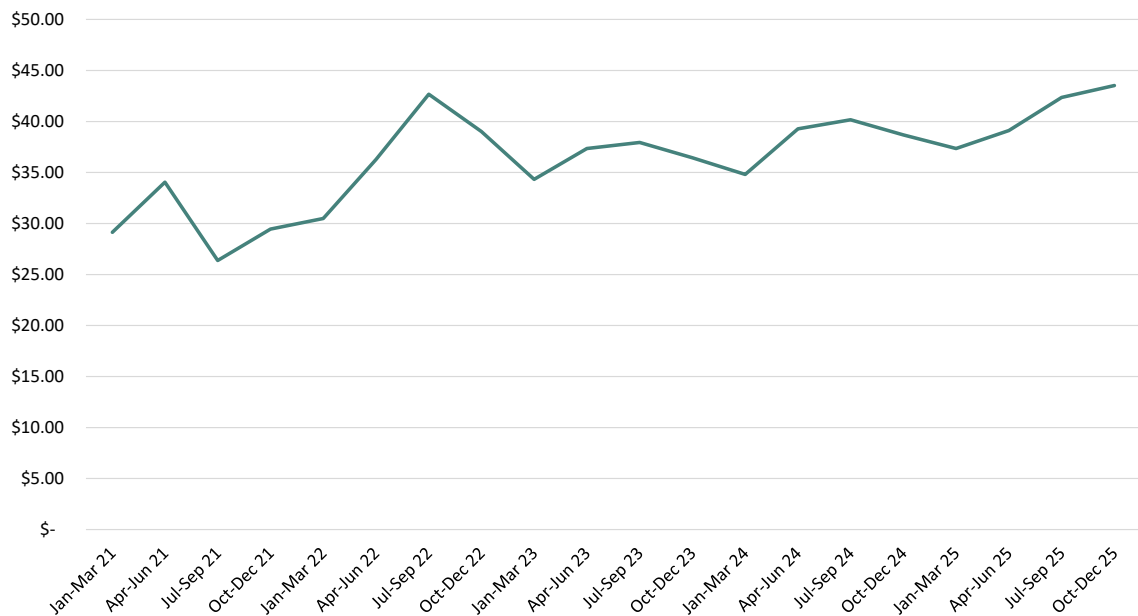


Gaming Machines

The profits per capita for the Manawatū District is \$44 for the January-March 2026 quarter. Compared to \$68 for Horowhenua, \$63 for Palmerston North and \$50 for Rangitikei.

Overall there has been a steady increase in proceeds per capita despite the number of machines not increasing. This shows that more people are spending more money on gaming machines.

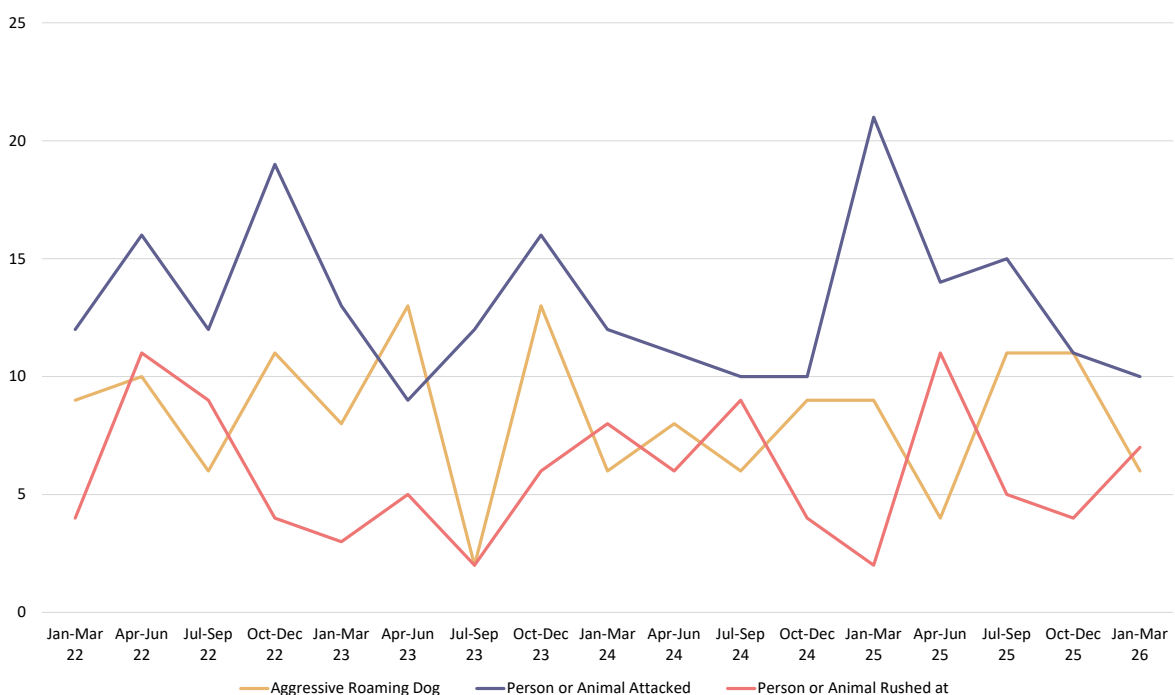
Figure 29: Gaming Machines Profits per Capita



Aggressive Dogs

Figure 30 below illustrates the number of dog reports received by Council, by report type, from January-March 2022 to January-March 2026. While there is significant variation in the number of reports over time for each report type, all show an overall slight downwards trend.

Figure 30: Number of Dog Reports where Dog is Acting Aggressive.

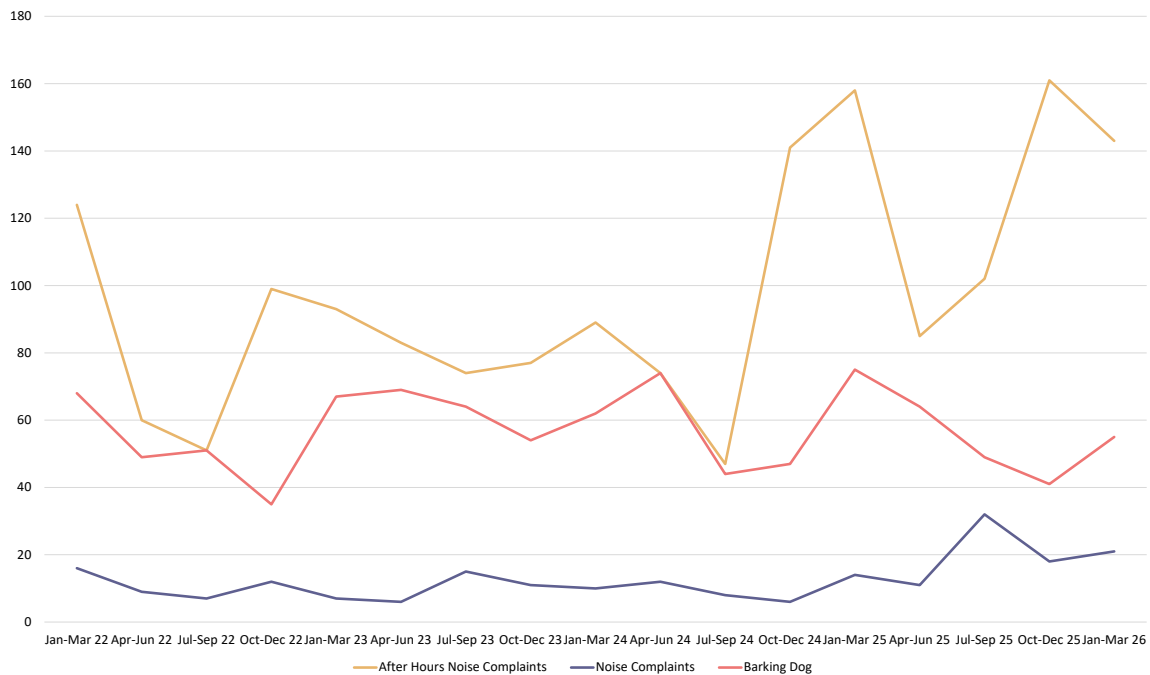


Noise

There was an increase in the number of noise complaints in late 2025 which has been attributed to repeat issues with specific properties. The number of noise complaints has declined in the most recent quarter.

Barking dog complaints have remained stable overall, with some minor peaks and troughs.

Figure 31: Number of Noise Complaints and Reports of Dogs Barking.



Visitors and Participation

Accommodation Data

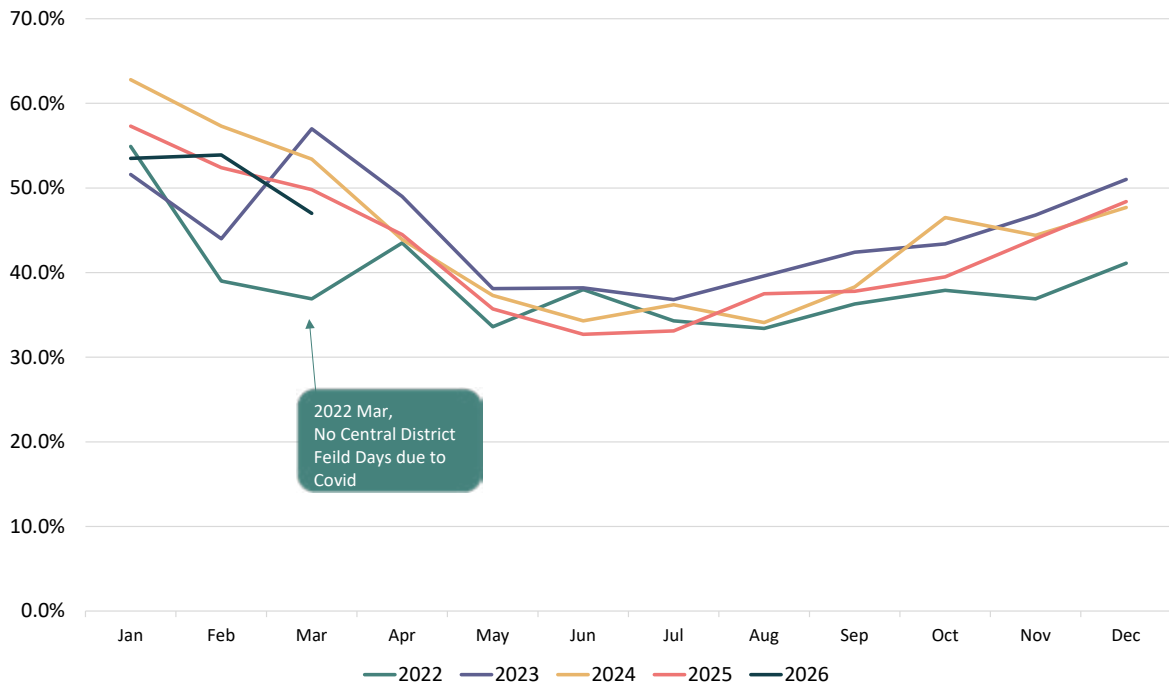
Accommodation data is from a volunteer data programme which 10 accommodation providers in the Manawatū District are currently in.

The occupancy rate shows seasonal variations with expected peaks seen in the warmer months.

The occupancy rate is likely influenced by the greater range of accommodation options available in nearby Palmerston North.

There are plans to build a new 4-star, 46 unit motel in the Feilding town centre. The time frames for this are not yet known.

Figure 32: Accommodation Occupancy Rate for the Manawatū District.

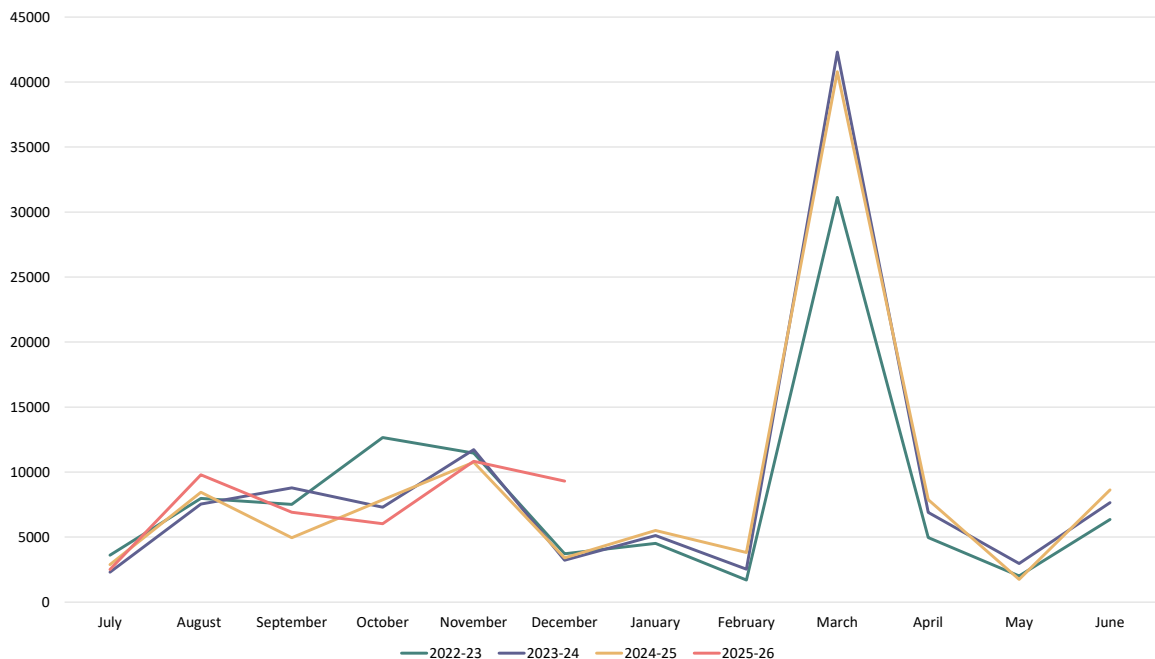


Manfeild Visitor Numbers

There is an annual peak in Manfeild visitors in March due to the Central District Field Days. This number was very consistent for both 2024 and 2025 and saw an increase from 2023.

Visitor numbers can vary significantly depending on the type of event i.e. a conference would bring in less visitors than a motor-sport or agricultural event.

Figure 33: Number of Visitors to Manfeild.



Manawatū Community Hub Libraries and Makino Aquatic Centre User Statistics

Since moving into Te Āhuru Mōwai, user statistics for both physical and digital resources have remained reasonably consistent. This suggests ongoing demand for both physical and digital library resources.

The number of users of the MAC facilities shows seasonal variation with higher use seen in the warmer months which is not surprising. There are also smaller peaks in school holiday months.

Figure 34: Usage of Manawatū Community Hub Libraries.

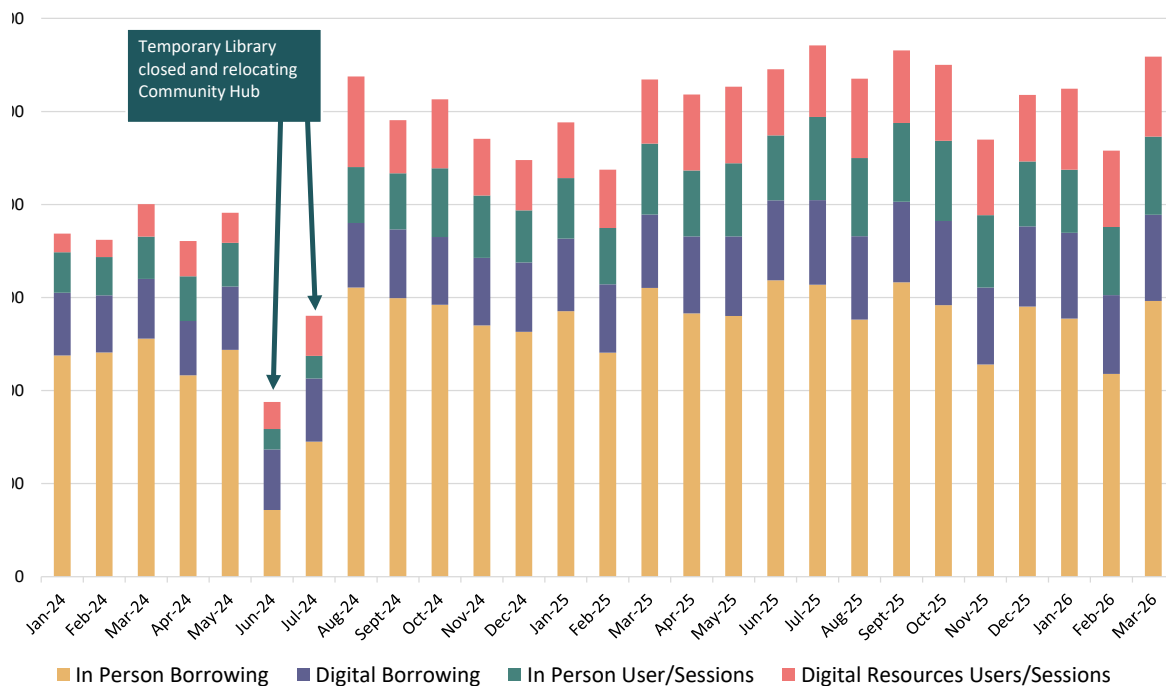
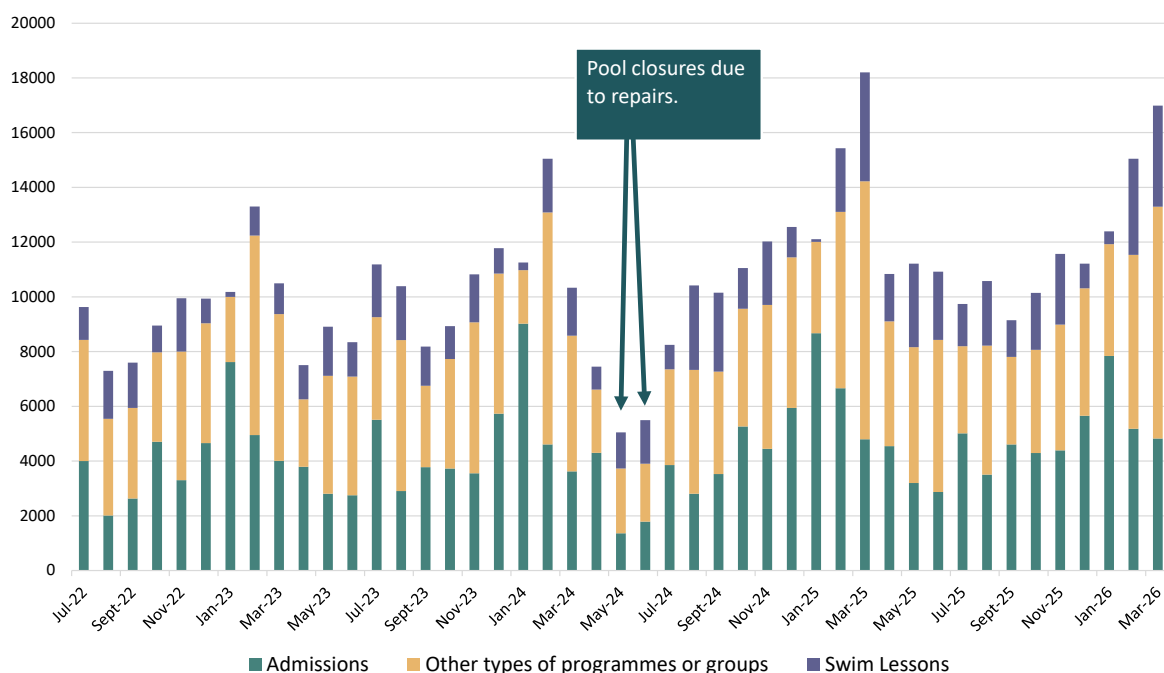


Figure 35: Usage of Makino Aquatic Centre.

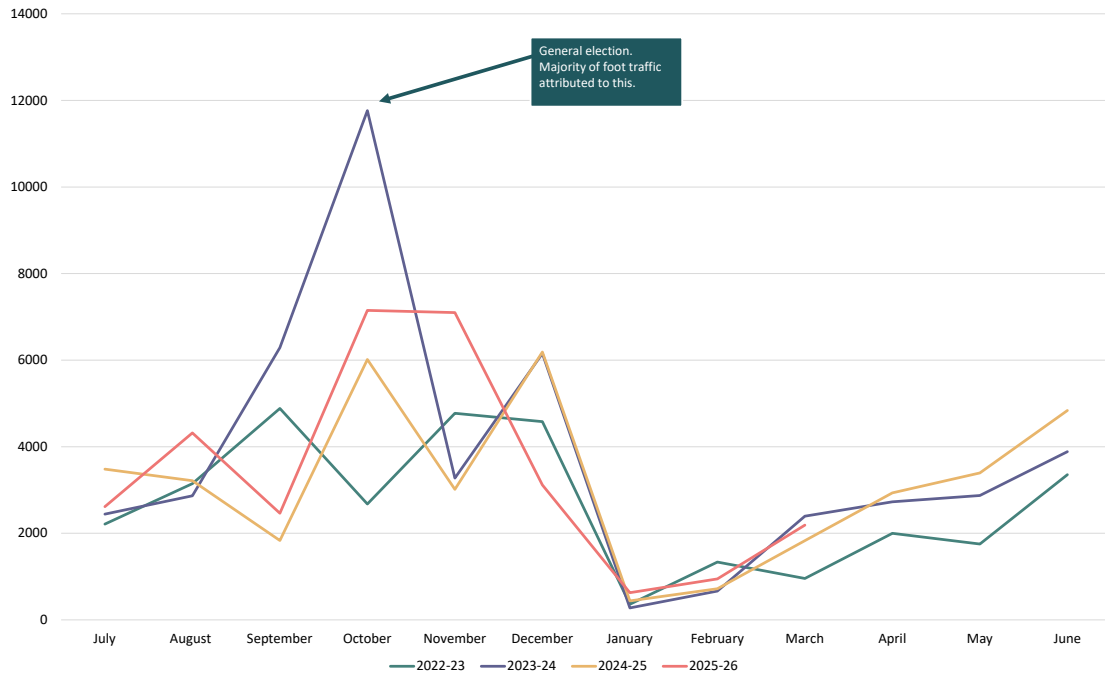


Civic Centre Visitors

The Civic Centre experiences seasonal variation in visitors with less bookings in January. Bookings in November and December tend to be for school based events like graduations. 2025 has seen an increase in the number of bookings.

Like Manfeild, different types of events will attract different numbers of visitors.

Figure 36: Visitors to the Civic Centre.



Our Environment and Infrastructure

Key Considerations:

Building consents have moderated from recent highs but remains an important indicator of future growth and investment.

Private vehicle use continues to dominate travel patterns, creating ongoing challenges and opportunities for transport planning.

Public transport services delivered by Horizons Regional Council provide important connections for students and commuters.

Digital connectivity remains critical for accessing services, education and employment opportunities.

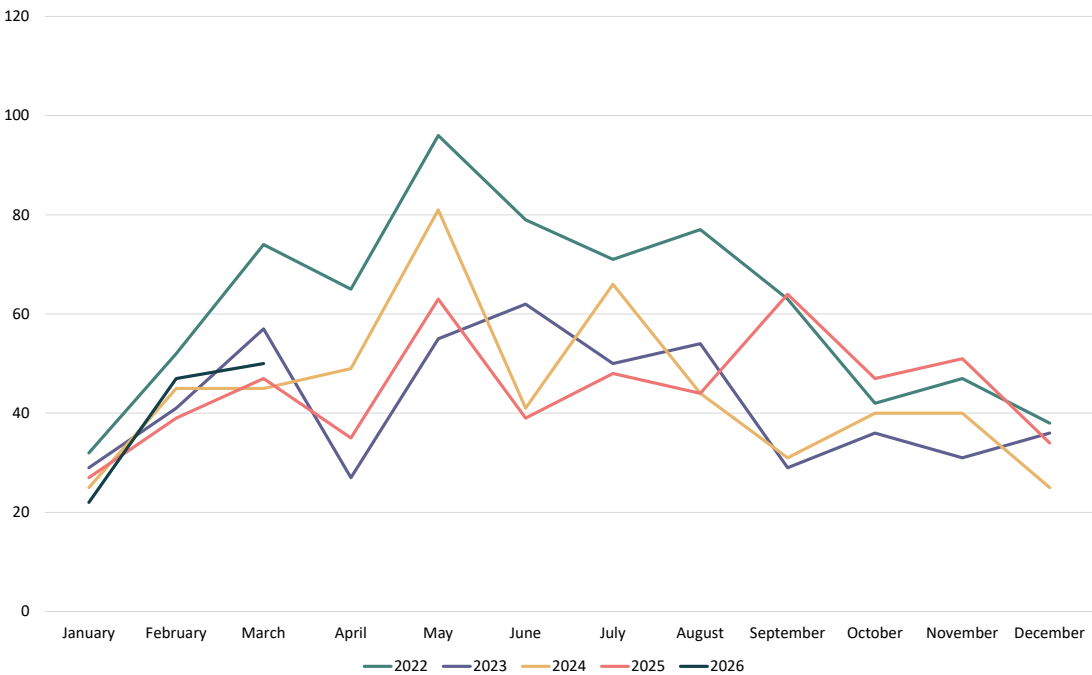
Community and business interest in sustainability initiatives such as solar power and electric vehicles continues to evolve.

Development

Building Consent Data

The number of building consents granted has seen significant variation. Overall, the last few years have seen a lower number of consents compared to 2022. This decline may reflect higher construction costs and broader economic conditions affecting development activity.

Figure 37: Number of Building Consents Approved.



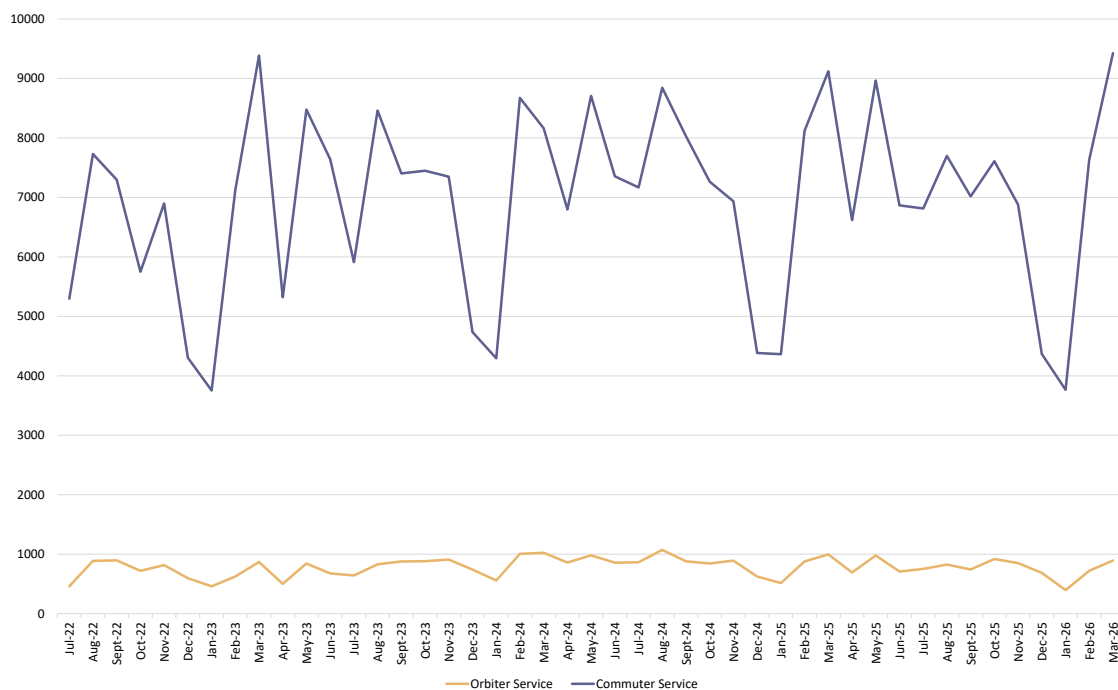
Transport, Movement and Connection

Public Transport Use

Figure 38 illustrates the total number of people using the two public bus services operating from Feilding. For the commuter service to Palmerston North, there is a clear pattern of low numbers of bus users occurring during school holidays, with a significant low in December/January. The greatest proportion of bus users are school-aged students travelling within Feilding, or between Feilding and Palmerston North (and vice versa) to attend school.

This same pattern in the number of bus users can be seen on the Orbiter bus also but at a much smaller scale, with usually less than 1,000 people a month using the bus service. There are planned changes to the route and timetable for this service from 4 July 2026.

Figure 38: Number of People Using the Two Bus Services.

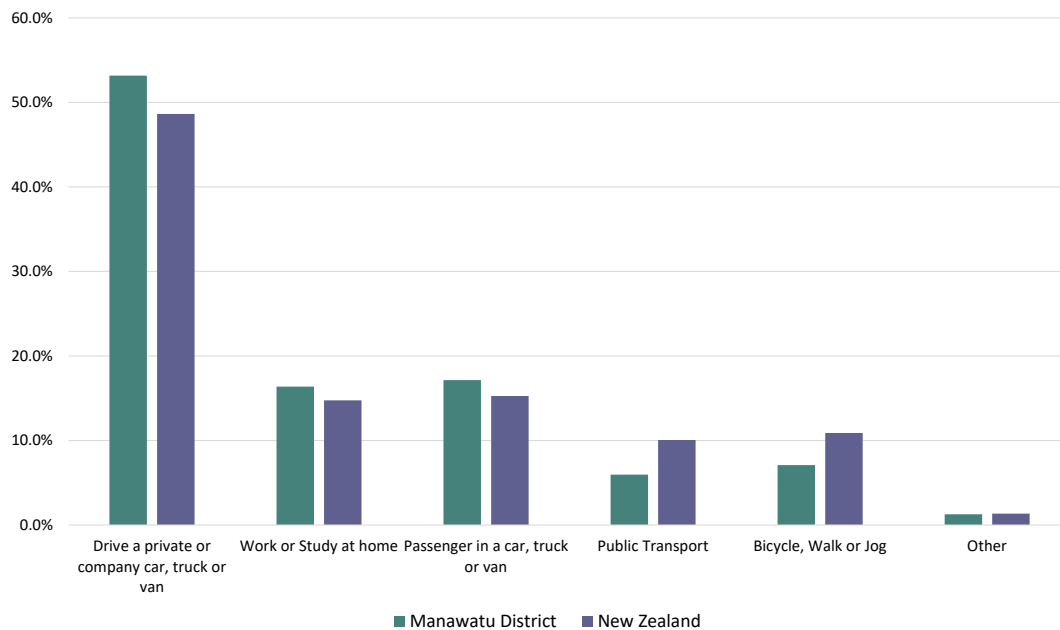


Transport

Just over half (53.2%) of the residents in the Manawatū District drive a vehicle to work or school. This is higher than the New Zealand rate of 48.6%. This is unsurprising given the District's large rural population, longer travel distances, and limited public transport options. Nationally 10.1% of people take some form of public transport this is only 6.0% in the Manawatū District.

Rising fuel prices may encourage greater use of public transport and carpooling. However, the District's geography and commuting patterns mean private vehicles remain the most practical transport option for many residents.

Figure 39: Methods for People Travelling to Work or Education.

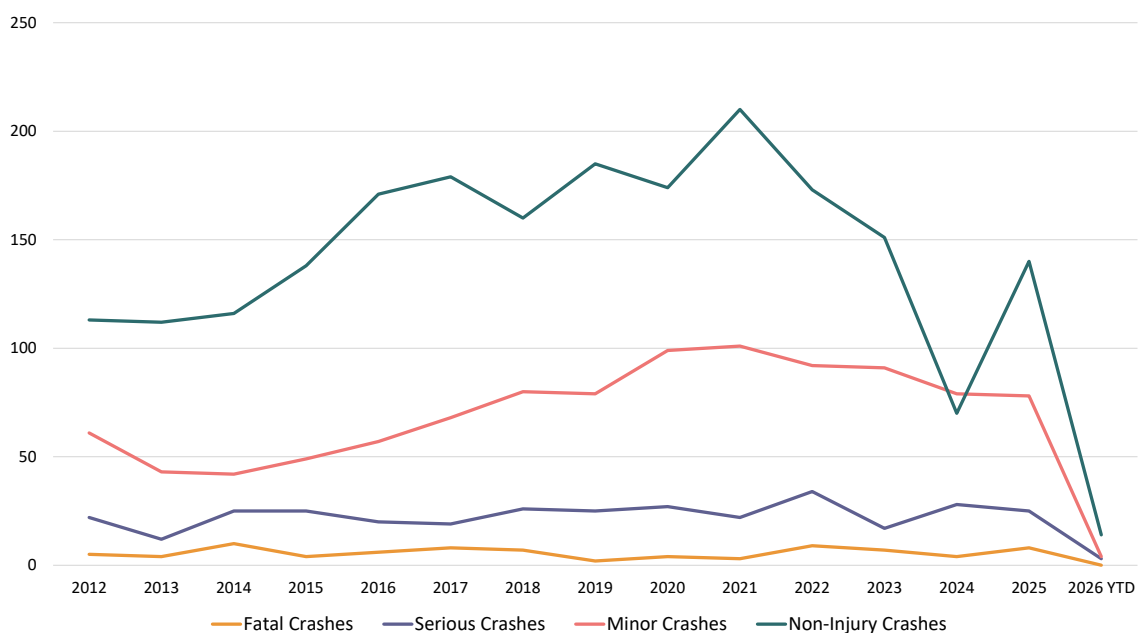


Crash Statistics

The 2026 YTD crash statistics are for January-March, with 21 crashes already occurring in that period. Of these 21, 14 have been non-injury crashes.

The number of serious and fatal crashes has remained relatively stable over time, with no clear long-term trend evident. The number of minor and non injury crashes saw an upward trend out to 2021 with a overall decline after that.

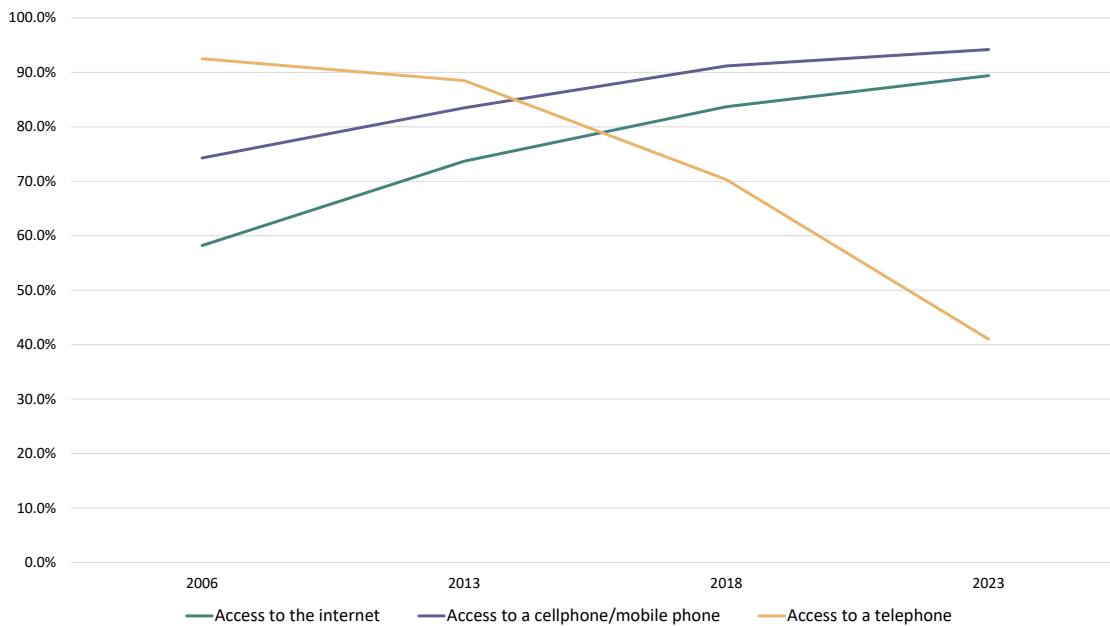
Figure 40: Number of Crashes in the Manawātū District by Type.



Access to Telecommunications

While access to telecommunications within the Manawatū District has increased significantly over time, a small proportion of households remain without access to internet or mobile services. This highlights the continued importance of community facilities that provide access to digital services and connectivity for those who otherwise lack personal access.

Figure 41: Access to Telecommunications by Type.



Environment and Sustainability

Electric Vehicles

The significant decline in the number of new electric vehicle registrations aligns with the removal of the Clean Car Discount.

There has since been a rebound in the numbers of new electric vehicles registered in the Manawatū District. The March figure is likely to have been impacted by the start of the rising fuel costs.

Figure 42: Number of Electric Vehicles Registered.

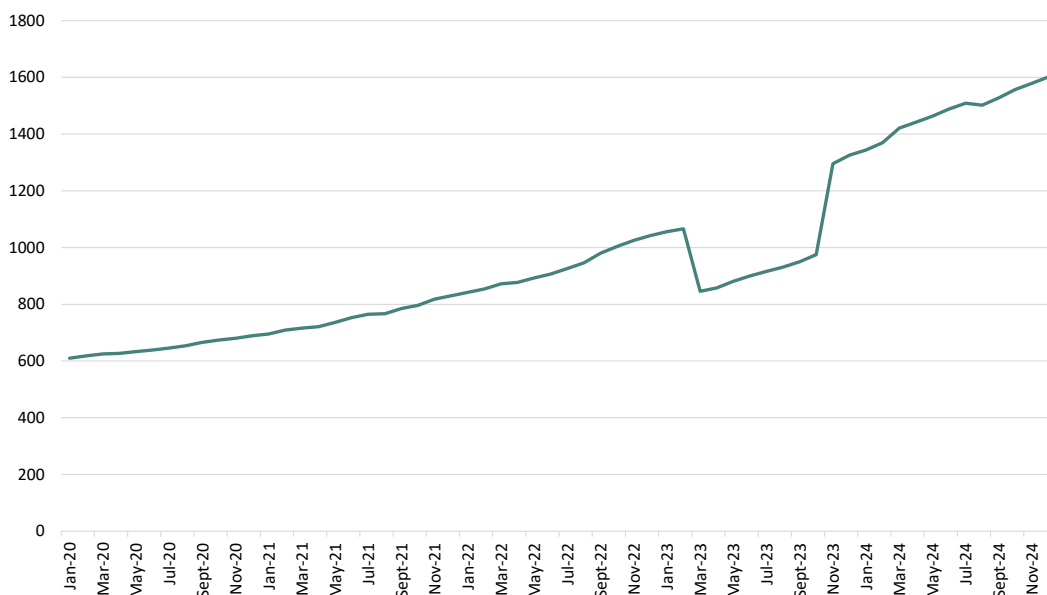


Solar Power

The following data is the Manawatū Region so includes Palmerston North electricity connections. These connections are usually one per dwelling or building but for commercial it may be more than one connection per building.

There is a clear increasing trend of total solar connections across the Manawatū Region. The dip in 2023 is due to a change in how the data was collected.

Figure 43: Number of Solar Power Connections in the Manawatū Region.



Enviroschools

The Enviroschools programme is an environmental action and learning programme that empowers young people to design and lead sustainability initiatives within their schools, neighbourhoods, and communities. These projects often involve collaboration with local businesses, organisations, and community groups, contributing to environmental outcomes while supporting community wellbeing and local economic activity.

In 2013, Manawatū District Council, alongside Whanganui District and Tararua District Councils, became the first territorial authorities to fund facilitators for Enviroschools in our region.

The tables show the schools and ECEs that are currently registered in the Enviroschools programme.

Table 1: Schools in the Enviroschools Programme.

Āpiti School
Bainesse School
Glen Oroua School
Hiwinui School
Kimbolton School
Kiwitea School
Kopane School
Manchester Street School
Mount Biggs School
Newbury School
Sanson School
St Joseph's School (Feilding)
Tangimoana School

Table 2: Early Childhood Centres in the Enviroschools Programme.

Busy Bees Feilding
Busy Bees Manchester Street
Feilding Kindergarten
Makino Kindergarten
Manchester Kindergarten
The Secret Garden Childcare Ltd
Tui Early Learners
Tui Early Learners North Street

Appendix

Data Sources, Definitions and Caveats

Data source explanations

Data used in this report has been sourced from the following organisations:

Infometrics: NEET rate, GDP Structure, GDP Growth, Exports, Dairy Sector, Business Numbers, Skills, Household Income, Unemployment, House Prices, Rental Prices, Housing and Rental Affordability, Gaming Machines Proceeds and Electric Vehicles

Census 2023: Demographics, Disability Statistics, Home-ownership, Transport and Access to Telecommunications

Manawatū District Council: Aggressive Dogs, Noise, Community hub and Makino, Building Consent Data, Earthquake prone

Ministry of Social Development: Accommodation Supplement, Social Housing and Benefit Data

Statistics New Zealand: Population Growth

Education Counts: Education

Think Hauora: GP enrolments

MarketView: Spending Data

Eldercare: Retirement Capacities (as well as Council knowledge)

Police NZ Website: Crime and Offender Age Demographics

Justice Website: Family Violence Court Statistics

Accommodation Data Programme (ADP): Accommodation Data

Manfeild: Manfeild Visitor numbers

Civic Centre: Civic Centre Foot traffic

Horizons: Public Transport Use

New Zealand Transport Agency, Waka Kotahi: Crash Statistics

Electricity Authority: Solar Power Connections

Enviroschools Website: Enviroschools School and ECE lists

Definitions

NEET Rate: measures the proportion of people aged 15-24 years who are not employed or engaged in education or training.

Skills: Highly skilled occupations typically require a bachelor degree or higher qualification and include professionals such as accountants, teachers, and engineers, as well as most managers such as chief executives.

Medium-high skilled occupations typically require an NZ Register Diploma, an Associate Degree or Advanced Diploma. The category includes some managers (such as retail managers) and technicians (such as architectural draftspersons, ICT support technicians and dental hygienists).

Medium skilled occupations typically require an NZ Register Level 4 qualification. The category includes tradespersons (such as motor mechanics), skilled service workers (such as firefighters), as well as skilled clerical and sales workers (such as legal secretaries and estate agents).

Low skilled occupations typically require an NZ Register Level 3 qualification or lower. It includes a range of lower skilled occupations from general clerks, caregivers, and sales assistants, through to cleaners and labourers.

House Prices: House values (dollar value) are based on Cotality's Hedonic Home Value Index, the previous Cotality SPAR Index, and the Cotality/CoreLogic/QV/Valuations New Zealand long-term quality adjusted House Price Index. This index assesses the market value of all housing stock (not just properties sold) based on analysis of recent house sales and the characteristics on properties in the area. The level presented is the annual average house value of all properties in the area for the 12-month period in question.

Housing Affordability: mean average household income that would be needed to service a 25-year mortgage on the mean average house value, with a 20% deposit at average 2-year fixed interest rates.

Rental Affordability: mean average weekly rents with mean average weekly household income

Jobseeker Support: is for people who are actively looking for or preparing for work. It includes people with part time work obligations and those who cannot look for work at the moment (e.g. those with a health condition, injury, or disability).

Family Violence: is six specific offences that are related to family violence, including breach of protection order, common assault (domestic), male assaults female, assault on a family member, strangulation/suffocation and coercion into marriage/civil union

Gaming Machine Profits: represents money spent by gamblers which is not returned to gamblers in the form of winnings. A minimum of 40% of GMP are required by law to go back to the community in the form of grants.

Caveats

Home ownership: included houses that are partially owned and those in trusts.

Accommodation: is based on the information provided by 10 establishments across the Manawatū District. Due to the low number the accuracy for the Manawatū District data has a lower confidence rate with the occupancy rate having a 95% confidence interval of more than +/- 10 percentage points.