

Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy Quarterly Reporting Dashboard - Overview

Q1: 1 July to 30 September 2024

Overview	Key risks and issues
<p>Q1 focused on pivoting to a new WEDS operating model, following Councils approval in June/July. This resulted in the adoption of a new MoU and the appointment of a new WEDS Steering Group. Terms of Reference have been put in place and the Work Programme approved by Councils was presented to the Steering Group members alongside relevant documentation at their inaugural meeting in September.</p> <p>The new operating model is designed to guide the delivery of the Work Programme three priority areas of Water Resilience, Primary Sector, and Workforce Development. It is a right-sized fit for the programme and funding contributions, and the new Steering Group members have indicated their desire to drive implementation and create impact.</p> <p>Progress on the Work Programme has seen the scoping of a water capture project under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy with the programme director, the design of the next Water Education programme, progress of the refresh of the Workforce Action Plan, and initial steps taken to identify initiatives to support the Primary Sector. These are further detailed below.</p>	<p>The WEDS MoU expired on 30 June 2024, and the WEDS Forum has formally been disestablished. Councils have adopted a new operating model for the next 3 years. This has introduced a new WEDS Steering Group consisting of Council officers, Iwi representatives, strategic area and industry expertise, and central government connections. Implementing the new model has led to a transition period whilst new processes are put in place and the PMO, steering group, and stakeholders shift to the new operating rhythm.</p> <p>The Wairarapa economy has slowed in recent months. The challenging economic climate includes reduced productivity, higher export prices, shrinking visitor numbers and consumer spend below inflation. These factors generate challenges for the region. Major employers have announced redundancies or closures, creating uncertainty in the workforce and low business confidence. Whilst this makes it all the more important to progress the delivery of priorities in the work programme, it is likely to constrain the capacity of people and organisations to participate and help with delivery.</p>

WATER RESILIENCE	PRIMARY SECTOR – FOOD & FIBRE	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & SKILLS
Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS)	Support the sector to implement tangible initiatives	Implement the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan - Plan Refresh
<p>The Wairarapa Water Resilience 2024/25 work programme was endorsed in July. A Programme Director 0.5 FTE was appointed in August. The Governance Group was formally established in October. Work has been initiated across all 5 workstreams, with leads confirmed for some of the projects.</p> <p>Targeted community engagement about the progress of Sky-TEM and the potential implications for water allocation in the future is being planned for November/December.</p> <p>A water capture project has been scoped to identify demand for water across Ruamāhanga catchment for all users, and to build a case for action including opportunities for meeting demand. The project is expected to be delivered during Nov 24 - Jun 25.</p>	<p>A food and fibre workshop, held with WEDS Steering Group members and the PMO, identified three priorities to focus on: sector productivity, diversification and innovation, and resilience and skill-building.</p> <p>A paper outlining potential initiatives to address these priorities will go to the WEDS Steering Group in November, with initial scoping of 1–4 initiatives to follow in Dec-Jan and project delivery starting in 2025. Long-term commitment will likely be required to achieve impact.</p>	<p>The Wairarapa Skills Leadership Group's (WSLG) first collective effort for this financial year was to have all sector groups review and refresh their priorities in the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan.</p> <p>The Action Plan has been drafted, presented to the WSLG in October and will be finalised with the Sector Leads during Q2, including detailing initiative templates for any new proposed actions that are to be implemented this financial year.</p>
Waingawa Water Security		Implement the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan - Ongoing Initiatives
<p>The Waingawa Water Security Project is progressing well, with construction started and progress within estimates. Risks remain which are managed by CDC, with MBIE and businesses on the estate.</p> <p>The Waingawa Estate as the Region's sole heavy industrial park, is a strategic enabler for the Wairarapa. This was highlighted as part of a recent industrial land analysis undertaken by the WRLC - which concluded the Greater Wellington Region would be short of 700Ha of industrial zoned land by 2040. This presents an opportunity for the Wairarapa to leverage, through a coordinated development and attraction strategy for Waingawa, with the potential to increase demand for process water and increase the viability of the project. The final industrial land report will be made available once approved by the WRLC in October, along with recommendations and next steps.</p>		<p>Attract, Connect, Stay: In August, Tū Hauoranga Trust hosted Dr Anna Moranvand various Wairarapa communities in six workshop style events to understand how to successfully co-design the programme for Wairarapa. The workshops were attended by more than 70 people over three days. Learnings and next steps are expected to be ready in the next quarter.</p> <p>Digital Fluency Assessments: 7 secondary schools are participating in the Digital Fluency Programme led by Waitech Trust. The Trust are also working to expand the programme to the wider community/business and are in discussions with NZIQ on the mechanisms for making this happen.</p> <p>Professional Development for workforce Leaders: Tū Hauoranga Trust are scoping the sessions with stakeholders to deliver to workforce and community leaders.</p> <p>Umanga Tumatarau: REAP and Y2WW are planning to run the Wairarapa-focused career pathways event in early-2025. This was deferred from earlier this year due to business availability to participate.</p> <p>Workforce BA5 Hui: Māori in Business Wairarapa are planning to run their first BA5 hui in October, focused on employment law.</p>
Water Education		
<p>Planning is underway for a second round of the successful Water Resilience Summer Series in partnership with the Wairarapa Water Users Society (WWUS). The WWUS is a collective representing 80% of all irrigated land production in the Wairarapa. Water education is aligned with the Land Use Adaption workstream of the WWRS.</p> <p>The Summer Series looks at efficient and innovative land and water use in the rural sector, as well as connecting stakeholders and providing a platform for presentations, updates and feedback. Key participants will include GWRC, IrrigationNZ, Fed Farmers, Iwi, Catchment groups, Growers Collectives, Central and Local Government Representatives and water contractors.</p>		

Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy Quarterly Reporting Dashboard - Initiatives

Q1: 1 July to 30 September 2024

Tracking as planned	Some areas requiring action, some potential risks	Significant issues or stop/go decision required
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Priority Focus Area	Initiative	Lead	Action	Stage	Status	Funds	Highlights	Risks & Issues	Expected Outcomes	Next Steps	
Water Resilience	Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy	WWRS Gov Group	Develop an implementation plan among key stakeholders and define the initial governance structure and work programme that encompasses all four rooms of the resilience strategy framework (capture, attenuation, allocation, adaptation).	Delivery 2024-2025			The Interim Wairarapa Water Resilience Governance Group endorsed the 2024/25 work programme to commence implementation of the WWRS in July. The Programme Director was appointed as a 0.5 FTE in August. The Governance Group was formally established in October with MDC Cr David Holmes confirmed as chair. Work has been initiated across all 5 workstreams, with leads confirmed for some of the projects.	Some of the projects still need further planning. Limited staff availability might suggest that it will be important to define and focus on specific, achievable projects, that will demonstrate progress by the end of the 24/25 year.	Natural attenuation: Nature-based solutions help us look after water resources and increase resilience. Water capture: Seasonal reliability is increased, and more water is available for our use. Water Allocation: Water is shared to support priority uses and enable sustainable growth. Land use adaptation: What we grow is changing to reduce water reliance and increase resilience of our economy. Water use efficiency: Everyone values water and uses it wisely to meet our needs.	Continued focus on developing the projects to implement the work programme. Delivery of a communications initiative and incentives for rainwater tanks across Wairarapa Councils.	
		GWRC, GNS	Deliver the public viewer of the SkyTEM lithology model; and prioritise further work on flow modelling to identify potential groundwater connectivity and groundwater extents.	Delivery 2024-2025			Targeted community engagement about the progress of Sky-TEM and the potential implications for water allocation in the future is being planned and can be carried out within existing budget.	National freshwater regulation / RMA changes may cause strategic uncertainty and delays in implementation or development of regional plan changes.	Align technical and policy information relating to the SkyTEM project in order to tell a clearer public story about progress towards understanding freshwater/groundwater actions and their impact on allocations policy.	Delivery of interactive engagement as part of the SkyTEM project in November / December.	
		TBD	Establish a water capture (including water storage options) workstream under the WWRS, building on previous work done and in connection with central government, to report to the WWRS interim governance group on preferred options, the necessary governance and ownership models for different scale of water capture, and funding requirements.	Delivery 2024-2025			Project scoped to identify demand for water across Ruamāhanga catchment for all users to build a compelling, lasting case for action. Continued conversations with MBIE on access to files. On-farm water storage: Work has started on a project brief.	The project requires funding, access to data and information from councils, and engagement and information from key users and stakeholders.	In the short term, the project will identify and report on demand on water resources and outline the opportunities for meeting demand (including modelling/data, and communicable collateral for public engagement). In the long term, this action seeks to increase seasonal reliability of water for all user, for societal and economic benefits.	Seeking funding and implementing projects on demand for water storage.	
	Waingawa Water Security Project	CDC	Implement the Waingawa Process Water Project.	Delivery 2024-2025			As at 5 Aug, the project is progressing well. Construction started, reticulation design completed. Progress is within proposed estimates. Next update expected on 18 Nov.	As at 5 Aug, MBIE is yet to sign the contract variation (extension). Project is using the water race only. JNL have confirm they will not connect to the new water supply.	Guarantee continuous supply of process water and ensure continuity of operation for current and future industrial users in the Waingawa Industrial Estate. Leverage the economic growth potential of the Estate for the Wairarapa region and the wider Wellington region. Return potable water to MDC.	Meeting scheduled with CDC on 18 Nov.	
		Water Education	WWRS Gov Group	Water education & networking events, similar to the successful Summer Series events.	Delivery 2024-2025			3 events planned for delivery across Dec-Mar. Focus on electrification of dairy operations at Kaiwairai Dairies; specialist seeds (Moiki Farm); and recent deep bore development (Stuart Farm).	n/a	Irrigation education and consideration for land use adaptation.	First event planned for 5 December 2024.
		Primary Sector - Food & Fibre	Support the sector to implement tangible initiatives that contribute to the priorities identified.	TBD, WEDS PMO	TBD. This will likely require developing key partner relationships (including with the Food & Fibre Reference Group, the Wairarapa Primary Skills Advisory Group, and others) to identify, validate, develop, and support the delivery of specific initiatives in line with the priority issues and opportunities for the sector (access to funding, upskilling and skills attraction, leadership; productivity, innovation and diversification).	Planning 2024-2025			A Food and fibre planning workshop was held with a subgroup of members from the WEDS Steering Group and members of the PMO, using the priorities report as a starting point to plan priority initiatives for delivery in 2024/25 and beyond. Potential was identified to increase sector productivity, encourage diversification and innovation, and build resilience and sector skills.	Initiatives will need to continue throughout 2025 and beyond to create impact.	It is anticipated that initiatives will be developed and delivered from 2024-2025 to increase sector productivity, encourage diversification and innovation, and build resilience and sector skills.

STATUS KEY:

	Tracking as planned.
	Some areas requiring action, some potential risks.
	Significant issues or stop/go decision required.

Priority Focus Area	Initiative	Lead	Action	Stage	Status	Funds	Highlights	Risks & Issues	Expected Outcomes	Next Steps
Workforce Developmt & Skills	Implement the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan.	WSLG, and Sector Groups	Health sector – Deliver the Attract, Connect, Stay programme to recruiting and retaining healthcare workforce	Delivery 2024-2025	Tracking as planned.		<p>Tū Hauoranga Trust has now legally established and have begun operationalising its work.</p> <p>In August, the Trust held a series of six workshops attended by more than 70 participants from different groups across Wairarapa. These were facilitated by Dr Anna Moran and designed to find out where the 'hot spots' are, where services are not being delivered and how we can improve the way we attract and retain workforces to meet the need.</p>	<p>Ongoing progress (the next phase) will require additional funding to resource. The next steps and funding requirements will be determined in Q2.</p>	<p>Implement a more inclusive and cohesive community approach to attracting and retaining health and related workforces to Wairarapa.</p> <p>Ensuring that our communities have reasonable and timely access to health services and are in the right queue for the service they require to reduce the burden on services under pressure.</p>	<p>Tū Hauoranga Trust will receive a report from the Attract, Connect, Stay project team in October to map how possible pathways to implementation. The Trustees will need to agree their approach, onboard key delivery partners and communicate their intent to the Wairarapa community. This will include additional resourcing for implementation.</p>
			Tech sector – Deliver the digital fluency programme in Wairarapa	Delivery 2024-2025	Some areas requiring action, some potential risks.		<p>Seven secondary schools have committed to participate in the pilot programme for Year 9 and 10 students.</p> <p>NZIQ have expressed a keen interest to partner with Waitech Trust to deliver a programme for wider participants (business/community).</p>	<p>NZIQ resourcing to support a region-wide application of the programmes has resulted in implementation issues within schools to obtain support.</p>	<p>Understand, as a region, our digital fluency baseline to better understand the training and support required by different community groups. This will enable our people to upskill and be better equipped with skills needed for now and into the future.</p>	<p>Complete pilot programme with Year 9 and 10 students this year, understand results and scope future programmes.</p> <p>Negotiate wider programme deal with NZIQ for delivery in 2025.</p>
			Education – Deliver Umanga Tumatarau careers event for all sectors and schools in the Wairarapa	Planning 2024-2025	Tracking as planned.		<p>Schools have indicated great interest to attend this event.</p> <p>Planning now underway to deliver event in early-2025 at the Solway Showgrounds.</p>	<p>Business uptake to support the event, already had to defer to onboard businesses.</p>	<p>Secondary school students have a more realistic understanding of possible local pathways following school.</p> <p>Businesses attend a one-stop-shop event to engage and better connect with potential young workforce in a cohesive approach.</p>	<p>Delivery in February/March 2025 - if successful to be run every second year?</p>
			Other workforce initiatives TBD. Sector groups (primary, manufacturing, construction, healthcare, technology and professional services, tourism and hospitality, Māori business) are currently working to refresh the plan. This is likely to involve updated context, issues, and opportunities for each sector, and identified actions to deliver the objectives of the plan.	Planning 2024-2025	Some areas requiring action, some potential risks.		<p>The refresh of the plan is ongoing and proposed new actions have been identified. Those that are seeking WEDS resourcing this financial year will be drafted in detail in Q2 and prioritised collectively to ensure maximum benefit.</p> <p>There is a willingness from the sector groups/leads to work together to collaboratively address the issues and opportunities identified in their sector profiles to maximise their approach.</p>	<p>The members of the WSLG are all volunteers, there is a risk that new initiatives might be slow to implement with competing priorities.</p>	<p>A refreshed Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan reflecting the current environment and identifying long-term and systemic issues and opportunities for our key employment sectors. Prioritised actions for implementation to address the issues and opportunities.</p>	<p>During Q2, the new proposed initiatives seeking WEDS support for this financial year will be detailed and prioritised by the WSLG.</p>

STATUS KEY:	
Tracking as planned.	
Some areas requiring action, some potential risks.	
Significant issues or stop/go decision required.	

Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy

Quarterly Reporting Dashboard - Budget

Q1: 1 July to 30 September 2024

Priority Focus Area	Initiative	Budget	Action	Actual	Forecast	TOTAL WEDS	EXTERNAL	Comments
Water Resilience	Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy	\$ 75,000	Develop an implementation plan and work programme that encompasses all four rooms	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
			Deliver the public viewer of the SkyTEM lithology model; and prioritise further work	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
			Establish a water capture (including water storage options) workstream	\$ -	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -	Project brief will be presented in Nov.
	Waingawa Water Security		Implement the Waingawa Process Water Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Water Education		Water education & networking events, similar to the successful Summer Series events.	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Delivery starting in Dec.
Primary Sector - Food & Fibre	Support the sector to implement tangible initiatives that contribute to the priorities identified.	\$ 75,000	TBD. This will likely require developing key partner relationships (including with the Food & Fibre Reference Group, the Wairarapa Primary Skills Advisory Group, and others) to identify, validate, develop, and support the delivery of specific initiatives in line with the priority issues and opportunities for the sector (access to funding, upskilling and skills attraction, leadership; productivity, innovation and diversification).	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	Planning in Q2 for delivery starting Q3.
Workforce Development & Skills	Implement the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan.	\$ 75,000	Health sector – Attract, Connect, Stay Tech sector – Digital fluency for schools Education – Deliver Umanga Tumatarau event	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
			Other workforce initiatives TBD. Sector groups (primary, manufacturing, construction, healthcare, technology and professional services, tourism and hospitality, Māori business) are currently working to refresh the plan and identified actions.	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	Planning in Q2.
Operations	WEDS and WSLG	\$ 25,000	Work Programme operations (governance, events sponsorship, communications & marketing)	\$ 500	\$ 24,500	\$ 25,000	\$ -	
		\$ 10,000	WNZ PMO overheads	\$ 2,200	\$ 7,800	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
		\$ 215,000	WNZ People Resources (salaries)	\$ 53,750	\$ 161,250	\$ 215,000	\$ -	
		\$ 475,000	TOTAL WEDS EXPENDITURE FY24-25	\$ 56,450	\$ 418,550	\$ 475,000	\$ -	
		\$ 71,379	FY23-24 WEDS funding (carried forward)	\$ 71,379	\$ -	\$ 71,379		Carried forward funding from FY24 surplus (\$71k)
		\$ 215,000	FY24-25 WEDS funding from Councils	\$ 53,750	\$ 161,250	\$ 215,000		
		\$ 215,000	FY24-25 WNZ funding (people resources)	\$ 53,750	\$ 161,250	\$ 215,000		
		\$ 501,379	TOTAL WEDS INCOME FY24-25	\$ 178,879	\$ 322,500	\$ 501,379	\$ -	
		\$ 26,379	Surplus/remaining project allocation			\$ 26,379		

Looking Ahead to Q2/Q3

WATER RESILIENCE	PRIMARY SECTOR – FOOD & FIBRE	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & SKILLS
Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS)	Support the sector to implement tangible initiatives	Implement the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan - Plan Refresh
<p>Continue to develop projects to implement the WWRS work programme.</p> <p>Delivery of interactive engagement as part of the SkyTEM project in November / December.</p> <p>Wature Capture project commences with the consolidation of existing information, identification of gaps, and engagement with iwi, councils, and water users.</p>	<p>A paper will be presented to the WEDS Steering Group on 14 Nov to agree priorities for implementation, with scoping of 1-4 initiatives continuing in Dec-Jan and delivery commencing in 2025.</p>	<p>Finalise the refreshed Action Plan and determine the prioritisation of new proposed initiatives for the remainder of this financial year and a heads up to the new financial year.</p> <p>Onboard new Sector Leads and re-establish Sector Groups with low engagement.</p>
Waingawa Water Security		Implement the Wairarapa Workforce Action Plan - Ongoing Initiatives
<p>Update meeting with CDC scheduled for 18 Nov.</p>		<p>Attract, Connect, Stay: Tū Hauoranga Trust to determine next steps to implementation with stakeholders on receipt of Dr Anna Moran's report.</p> <p>Digital Fluency Assessments: Establish a local support resource for better implementation within schools for the future. Finalise negotiations with NZIQ to implement the wider community/business project for 2025.</p>
Water Education		<p>Professional Development for Workforce Leaders: Tū Hauoranga Trust to start delivering their "Courageous Leaders Series" in Q2 with inspirational leaders - dates to be posted on the Trust's Facebook page, in the WTA, and via email.</p> <p>Umanga Tumatarau: REAP will continue to plan for delivery in February/March 2025.</p> <p>Workforce BA5 Hui: MiBW will run another session in Q2, tentatively set for early-December.</p>
<p>First event planned for 5 Dec 2024.</p>		