

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA SPATIAL PLAN – Our Future Focus 2050

## DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

How do  
you want  
**South  
Wairarapa**  
to look  
in the future?



## Message from the Mayor

| He Kōrero Nā  
Te Manukura

We are experiencing change, progress and population growth in the South Wairarapa District. People and businesses are choosing in greater numbers to come and live here. We need to provide for ongoing growth for the future prosperity and wellbeing of our towns and growing district.

The challenge is to ensure the way development happens will protect what makes our place special, while at the same time propelling the District forward.

There are a number of components which need to collectively fit together. Our vision for the District has set an enduring pathway forward for our future and our Long-Term Plan provides a platform for South Wairarapa's progress towards our long-term goals over the medium term.

Our "spatial plan" will help us to prepare for ongoing growth and development. This will provide a blueprint for how we want our district to look in the future, where development should occur, what kind of development and how much.

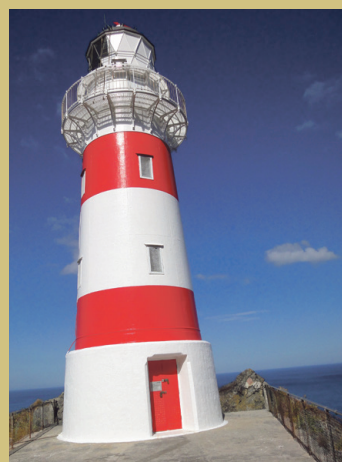
This Discussion Document is designed to get us all thinking and talking about this important piece of work. We've set out some initial ideas and what we see as priorities – but what do you think?

This is an opportunity for you to help us continue to shape our district across the next 30 years. We look forward to your input and ideas.

Viv Napier  
South Wairarapa Mayor

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## How do you want South Wairarapa to look in the future?

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

# Our special South Wairarapa

The South Wairarapa coastline features some of New Zealand's oldest inhabited sites, and local tradition states that the explorer Kupe lived there for a period. The southernmost point of the North Island, Cape Palliser, is known to Māori as Matitaki a Kupe, and other points along the coast also commemorate Polynesia's most famed explorer. Even today, the careful observer can note ancient stone walls along the coast and boundary markers for garden sites.



The name Wairarapa means – 'glistening waters' from local Māori's first view and impression of our lake. Wairarapa Moana, is known in Māori history as being the eye of the fish, caught by Maui. Papawai Marae is strongly linked to our early history, being an early Māori parliament.

The country's first sheep station was established in 1844 at Wharekaka, near the site of present day Martinborough. By 1851 extensive farming was well established with 20,000 sheep within the District. The Government started buying Māori land in 1853 and much of the land was purchased and on-sold to pakeha farmers. The

first planned inland towns in New Zealand were Greytown and Masterton which were established in 1854.

Featherston followed in 1857, with Martinborough being established in the early 1880s. An extensive military camp was built in Featherston in 1915 which housed NZ troops before their embarkation overseas. Greytown later became established as a prominent fruit growing area, and later still Martinborough became home to a vibrant grape growing and winemaking industry. Long periods of little growth in the townships, coupled with settled

farming communities, has left the district with a wonderful built and coastal heritage.

Our district is recognised for having three distinct towns, each with their own character arising from our early built heritage and local history. This combined with a distinct natural landscape featuring open rural space, rugged coastal areas, Wairarapa Moana, rivers and mountain ranges makes South Wairarapa a fantastic setting in which to live, work and play.

We are also characterised by having a valuable internationally recognised wine growing industry based in,

and around, Martinborough. There is also good rural land for busy and prosperous farming activities.

Location-wise, our district is within easy reach of Wellington, plus Manawatu and Hawke's Bay regions to the north. Proximity to Wellington has facilitated township growth with many people now living in the townships and commuting to Wellington for work. Many visitors are drawn to the district each weekend to sample the produce of the region, and to enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of South Wairarapa.

## What is the purpose of the Spatial Plan? | Te Aronga

This Discussion Document is intended to start a conversation about how, as a community, we want our district to look. Your input will then be used to start development of our district's blueprint, our spatial plan.

The Plan will set out, at a district level, what types of development will happen where and at what intensity.

A spatial plan does not necessarily set out detailed land use patterns and densities

or the locations of open space or layout and nature of infrastructure; but provides the high-level broad overview that will guide the detailed plans that will follow.

The Spatial Plan will provide a

crucial building block for future planning and decision-making. It will align with our district vision and feed into future annual plans, long-term plans and district plans, and provide guidance for development of infrastructure.

### SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT VISION



### South Wairarapa Spatial Plan – Our Future Focus 2050



Council's Infrastructure Strategy



Plans of other agencies  
e.g. NZTA, GWRC, IWI



Other Council policies and plans  
e.g. DISTRICT PLAN

#### DIAGRAM ABOVE: HOW THE SPATIAL PLAN FITS WITH OTHER PLANS AND STRATEGIES

The Spatial Plan will help us respond to population changes and global and national trends that will influence our growth and development.

It will help us balance the environmental, social, economic, and quality of life

factors affecting our community and guide allocation of resources such as land use and construction of capital works (core infrastructure like roads, water supplies, parks and playgrounds).

The plan will not replace the

District Plan but will provide the strategic guidance for more detailed planning. It will set the framework for any future spatial-based decision-making and outline actions needed to achieve our strategic direction.

An initial Draft South Wairarapa

Spatial Plan Diagram and Map is included on pages 7 and 8 of this document, just to start the discussion.

He aha ō whakaaro? We'd like you to take a look and tell us what you think.



# How can I have a say?

## | Me Pēhea Te Kōrero?

We are keen to receive your feedback on the questions raised in this Discussion Document, by 5pm Friday 16 August.

During the engagement period, Council will be running some community sessions. These will be advertised on our website at [www.swdc.govt.nz/spatial-plan](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/spatial-plan), or call Council or email [spatial-planning@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:spatial-planning@swdc.govt.nz) for information.

### YOU CAN GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK BY:

- Completing a feedback form online at [www.swdc.govt.nz/spatial-plan](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/spatial-plan); or
- Completing a paper feedback form, which can be downloaded from the website, collected from Council offices and libraries, or requested by email.

### COMPLETED FORMS CAN BE RETURNED BY:

- Email: [spatial-planning@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:spatial-planning@swdc.govt.nz)
- Post to SWDC, PO Box 6, Martinborough
- Delivered to Council offices at 19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough or one of the Greytown, Featherston, or Martinborough libraries.

Once we have heard from our communities and have a better understanding of what we want our district to be like in the future we will develop a 'Draft Spatial Plan' for further consultation later in the year.

You'll have another opportunity to provide feedback then.

DIAGRAM BELOW: SPATIAL PLAN PROCESS



DIAGRAM BELOW: INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR SPATIAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT



## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...

**Q1** How do you want South Wairarapa to look in the future?

**Q2** What is special about South Wairarapa? What do you think we need to protect?

**Q3** Where should housing development go? How much and where?

**Q4** What about commercial and industrial development? How much and where?

**Q5** Should areas be set aside for rural residential development?

**Q6** Is wetland restoration and biodiversity important?



How do you want South Wairarapa to look in the future?

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

# Drivers of change | Te Putake

This section identifies some of the major trends and drivers that will influence how our district develops, changes and grows.

We need to keep these drivers of change in mind as we think about how that should happen.

## AGEING POPULATION

2019 - 2050 >65

Demand for development

Water quality  
Safe  
Sustainable

**URBAN DESIGN**  
Better quality and design affordability

**MĀORI**  
Aspirations  
Heritage

ADDRESS  
LEVELS OF  
DEPRIVATION

Where should development happen?

CHANGING  
NATURE  
OF WORK  
TECHNOLOGY

**RIDE  
THE  
WAVE**

## STRATEGIC LOCATION

IMPORTANCE  
OF KEY STATE  
HIGHWAYS  
THROUGH THE  
DISTRICT

INCREASING  
IMMIGRATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONNECTIONS

## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...

**Q7** What are other drivers of change impacting South Wairarapa?

**YOUTH**  
NEEDS/  
DEVELOPMENT

**CLIMATE  
CHANGE**  
ANTICIPATE + ADAPT

Changing  
Industry  
**TECHNOLOGY  
TYPES**  
Responsive  
to different  
needs

**GROWTH  
PRESSURES**  
WELLINGTON +  
AUCKLAND

**FOOD SUPPLY**  
GREATER CHOICE  
GROW LOCAL  
EAT LOCAL

**SUSTAINABLE - LAND USE**  
**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

INCREASING  
TOURISM  
OPPORTUNITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE

## Strategic setting

Our vision is part of our strategic planning and feeds into our spatial plan for South Wairarapa, it recognises our special character aspects and sets out the combined strategic view going forward. Our vision reminds us of what drives the District forward and what we place high-value upon.

## Our vision

**Council's existing vision and proposed vision for the Spatial Plan is:**

WAIRARAPA – the best of rural & urban living

SOUTH WAIRARAPA – an open, energetic & unified community

## Our community outcomes

Our district's vision is supported by the five community outcomes identified in previous long-term plans. Together, the five community outcomes will enable Council to achieve its vision. Council has a role in achieving the community outcomes via significant activities. Within our proposed spatial plan you will see components of the five community outcomes.

Healthy and  
economically  
secure people

Educated and  
knowledgeable people

Vibrant and strong  
communities

Sustainable South  
Wairarapa

A place that's accessible  
& easy to get around





# Focusing on the future – our district, region & beyond

In recognising what our district identity is, and could be, we now need to encapsulate what our district make-up should be for the future. South Wairarapa has its own special character and unique potential anchored around our three towns, our rural environs, plus the mountain ranges, coastal areas and waterbodies.

## Three key roles of South Wairarapa

The following are proposed as the three key roles of the District:

### LEADERS IN SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE CHOICE

For quality, clean & protected environment; places for the young/elderly and families; user-friendly towns; opportunities for active outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, cycling, walking); good connections within South Wairarapa & beyond.

### TOURISM HUB

For wine, best food, dark sky reserve, gliding, bush, heritage, cultural initiatives, lake, wild coastline, trails.

### INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

For primary production, processing, IT hub, learning centres/institutes, light industry, commerce.

## District-wide shaping moves – our objectives

Three key district-wide shaping moves have been identified in order to advance the role of South Wairarapa and achieve our vision and community outcomes.

- Nurturing the District's special character and qualities
- Creating better connections
- Supporting sustainable growth

## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...

**Q8** Do you agree these are the three roles of the District?

**Q9** What are other important roles of the District?

**Q10** Can you think of more important District-wide shaping moves?

### DISTRICT-WIDE SHAPING MOVE 1:

### Nurturing and creating the District's special character and qualities

#### OBJECTIVES

**1.1** To respect Māori tikanga (customs) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

**1.2** To keep our town and country look and feel.

**1.3** To take active measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

**1.4** To guide growth to places that align with achieving a sustainable lifestyle choice, being a tourism hub and enabling integrated education and employment.

## SHAPING MOVE 1

## Nurturing & creating the District's special character and qualities

Our character is made from our rich history including both our Maori and European heritage. Recognising, sharing and linking with our heritage will need to be part of addressing character and our future challenge.

The prospect of developing a three-township strategy and building upon earlier strategy plans is seen as having value in shaping our futures. As we carefully nurture our towns and district tourism potential delivery of associated infrastructure will be needed for ongoing response to tourism and population demands. Developing new sports fields and smart reserves planning is also an important focus.

Our area's dark skies are internationally recognised and we have the potential to become the home base of the largest Dark Sky reserve in the world.

#### EXPLANATION: This Shaping Move 1 and Objectives 1.1-1.4 will mean:

- Options to better reflect Māori heritage in the area
- Avoiding sporadic subdivision in the rural areas (including coastal) and identifying through appropriate character and design guides how to capture the character desired within the townships whilst still allowing for growth
- Potentially limited growth



in coastal settlements and other areas, such as flood plains, exposed to the impact of climate change

- Protecting the dark sky reserve initiative from being compromised through

inappropriate urban development

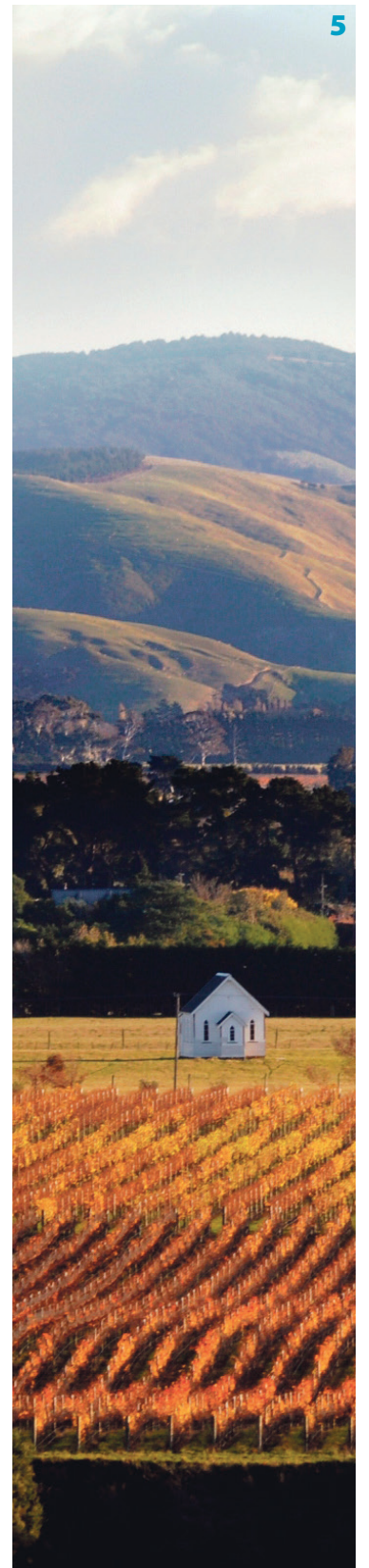
- Undertaking the seven catalyst projects identified in the initial Draft Spatial Plan Diagram (page 8).

## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...

**Q11** What do you think of District-wide Shaping Move 1 and the objectives? Have we missed anything?

**Q12** Do you think the catalyst projects in the initial Draft Spatial Plan Diagram and Map (pages 7-8) will protect the District's special character and qualities?

**Q13** What are other catalyst projects that will protect the District's special character and qualities?





# How do you want South Wairarapa to look in the future?

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

## SHAPING MOVE 2 Better connections

Better connections includes improved outcomes for people, transport, and community engagement within the South Wairarapa.

Recognising the need for youth initiatives and actively providing for the needs of youth, especially in the transition from school to work, and employment training is seen as forward project work. Having a robust community engagement strategy on projects is seen as a key step forward. As we deal with projects and shape a more resilient future, we need good engagement and community alignment along the way.

Early improved train and bus services into the district and with adjoining regions is recognised as being critical. Also of future importance, is the potential of a tree corridor between the three towns, as part of further greening our area, presenting our area



and improving amenity and biodiversity.

**EXPLANATION: This shaping move 2 and objectives 2.1 - 2.2 will mean:**

- Supporting youth initiatives
- Developing strategies for community engagement
- Exploring options to provide ecological corridors linking the forest parks and towns
- Advocating early delivery of improved train and bus services
- Providing a network of tracks and trails
- Promotion of joint educational initiatives, such as an astronomy education centre and sustainable farming initiatives
- Promotion of international connections and opportunities
- Undertaking the nine catalyst projects identified in the Draft Spatial Plan Diagram and Map (pages 7-8).

### DISTRICT-WIDE SHAPING MOVE 2:

## Creating better connections

### OBJECTIVES

**2.1** To enable better connections with each other, between our towns, across the district and region, nationally and internationally.

**2.2** To be a strong advocate for early delivery of transport infrastructure and services, including rail for passengers and freight.

### DISTRICT-WIDE SHAPING MOVE 3:

## Supporting sustainable growth

### OBJECTIVES

**3.1** To limit residential development within rural productive areas.

**3.2** To work with others to improve lake quality.

**3.3** To limit growth in coastal settlements subject to climate change impacts.

**3.4** To allow rural residential development at the edge of our three towns.

**3.5** To enable different forms of residential development in towns to meet intergenerational needs.

**3.6** To allow for light industrial activity in our towns.

**3.7** To support self-sufficient living options in appropriate locations.

## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...

**Q14** What do you think of District-wide Shaping Move 2 and the objectives? Have we missed anything?

**Q15** Do you think the catalyst projects in the initial Draft Spatial Plan Diagram and Map (pages 7-8) will create better connections?

**Q16** What are other catalyst projects that will achieve better connections?

## SHAPING MOVE 3 Supporting sustainable growth

For our district this potentially means development of an urban growth strategy and evaluation of the rural-residential growth for our district. The prospect of developing some areas or options for self-sufficient living is also a topic needing investigation. The potential for linking our district plan to our strategic future is another key focus going forward for our district.

In fully exploring wastewater to land projects, working with the community and mana whenua



will be necessary. This means responding to and gearing toward a more environmentally sustainable future. Responding to climate change and having proactive initiatives is another challenge. This could include increasing use of solar power, biodiverse land use and projects on restoration of wetlands.

**EXPLANATION: This Shaping Move 3 and Objectives 3.1-3.7 will mean:**

- Limiting residential subdivision within the rural and coastal areas
- Assisting initiatives to improve water quality
- Setting aside suitable areas close to towns to provide for rural residential living
- Allowing flexibility to provide for different housing needs
- Providing areas for increased commercial / light industrial activity
- Undertaking the eight catalyst projects identified in the Draft Spatial Plan Diagram on page 7.

## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK...

**Q17** What do you think of District-wide Shaping Move 3 and the objectives? Have we missed anything?

**Q18** Do you think the catalyst projects in the Draft Spatial Plan Diagram and Map (pages 7-8) will achieve sustainable growth?

**Q19** What are other catalyst projects that will support sustainable growth?

**Q20** Do you have any other ideas you can share on the initial Draft Spatial Plan Diagram and Map?

# Initial Draft Spatial Plan Diagram

7

## South Wairarapa – Our Future Focus 2050

### Our vision

WAIRARAPA - the best of rural and urban living

SOUTH WAIRARAPA - an open, energetic and unified community

#### FOUR Pillars

- Best and healthiest community partnerships
- Best care and use of natural resources
- Best care and use of assets & infrastructure
- Best council staff and officers

#### FIVE Community outcomes

- Healthy and economically secure people
- Educated and knowledgeable people
- Vibrant and strong communities
- Sustainable South Wairarapa
- A place that's accessible and easy to get around

Developing plans and delivering with mana whenua, our communities and through district partnerships

#### THREE

#### Future key roles of the District

- Leaders in sustainable lifestyle choice – quality, clean & protected environment, places for young/old/families, user-friendly towns, opportunities for active outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, cycling, walking), good connections within South Wairarapa & beyond
- Tourism hub – wine, best food, dark sky reserve, gliding, bush, heritage, cultural initiatives, lake, wild coastline, trails
- Integrated education & employment – primary production, processing, IT hub, learning centres/institutes, light industry, commerce

#### THREE

#### District-wide shaping moves – our objectives

#### Nurturing and creating the District's special character and qualities

- Respect Māori tikanga (customs) & kaitiakitanga (guardianship)
- Keep our town & country look & feel
- Take active measures to adapt to & mitigate climate change
- Guide growth to places that align with achieving a sustainable lifestyle choice, being a tourism hub & enabling integrated education & employment

#### Creating better connections

- Enable better connections with each other between our towns, across the District and region, nationally & internationally
  - Be a strong advocate for early delivery of transport infrastructure & services, including rail for passengers & freight
- #### Supporting sustainable growth
- Limit residential development within rural productive areas

- Work with others to improve lake quality
- Limit growth in coastal settlements subject to climate change impacts
- Allow rural residential development at the edge of our three towns
- Enable different forms of residential development in towns to meet intergenerational needs
- Allow for light industry activity in our towns
- Support self-sufficient living options in appropriate locations

SEVEN

#### Special Character catalyst projects

- Māori heritage (P)
- 3 townships strategy and town centre enhancement
- Implement Featherston 2033 Strategy & Action Plan (06/15)
- Delivering tourism infrastructure (e.g. dump stations, toilets, plantings, picnic areas) (P)
- New sports fields
- Enhancing water races through parks
- Largest dark sky reserve in the world initiative (P)

P = PARTNERSHIPS

NINE

#### Better Connections catalyst projects

- Youth initiatives (P)
- Supporting Shift Foundation for 12-20-year-old young women (P)
- Community engagement strategy
- Building & linking tracks & trails
- Advocate early delivery of improved train & bus services
- Tree corridor development between 3 towns & from Tararua/Remutakas to Aorangi (P)
- Gateway to Wairarapa project at Featherston
- Promoting international connections & opportunities (P)
- Promoting joint educational initiatives, e.g. cultural astronomy centre/dark sky education facility

EIGHT

#### Sustainable Growth catalyst projects

- Urban Development Growth Strategy
- Rural Residential Strategy District Plan Review (P)
- Pilot self-sufficient living options
- Wastewater to land projects with mana whenua (P)
- Climate change initiatives, e.g. solar power, plastic-free council, biodiverse land use, wetland restoration
- Roading improvements to mitigate coastal erosion (P)
- Limited reticulated wastewater systems for coastal settlements

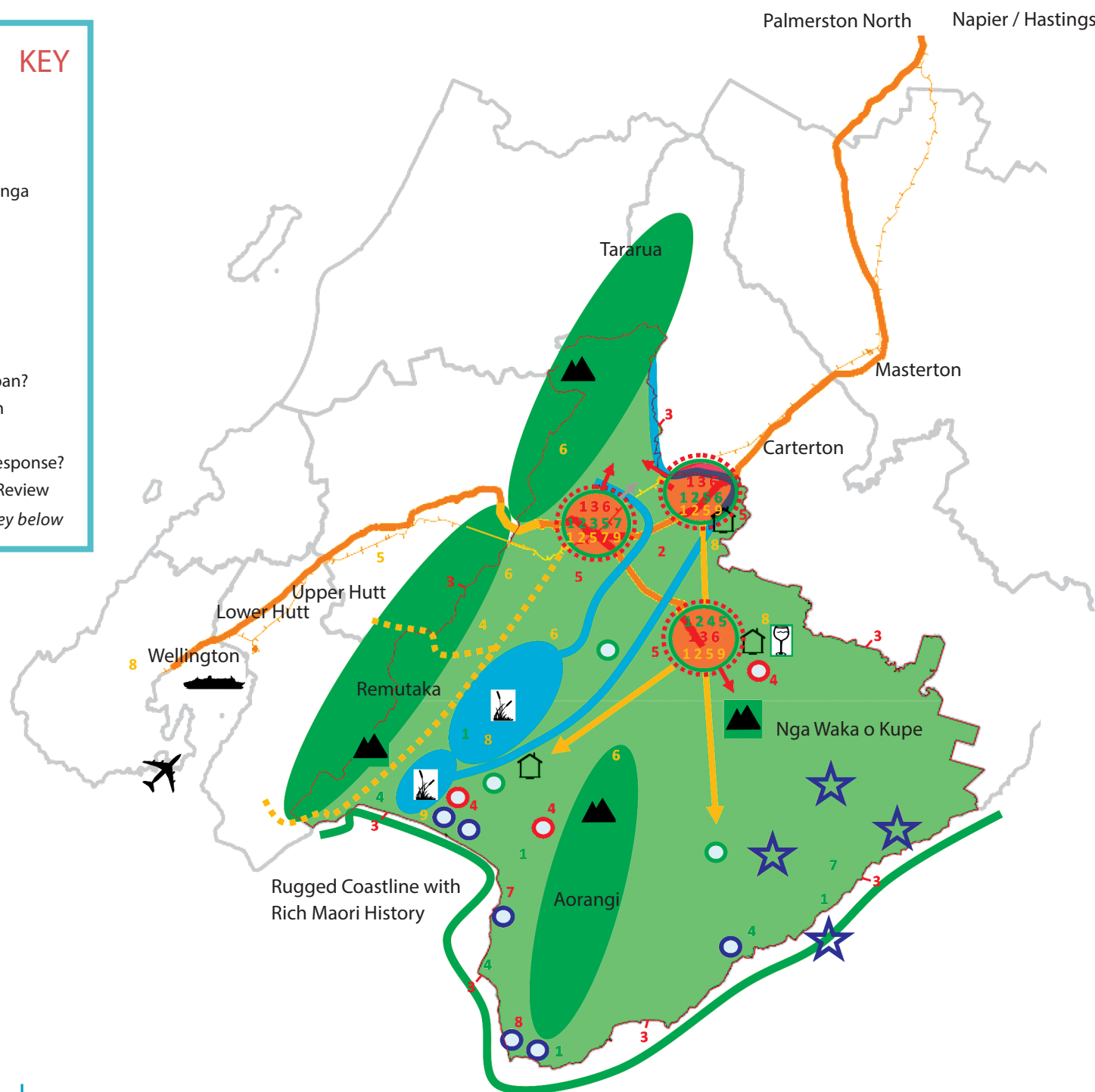
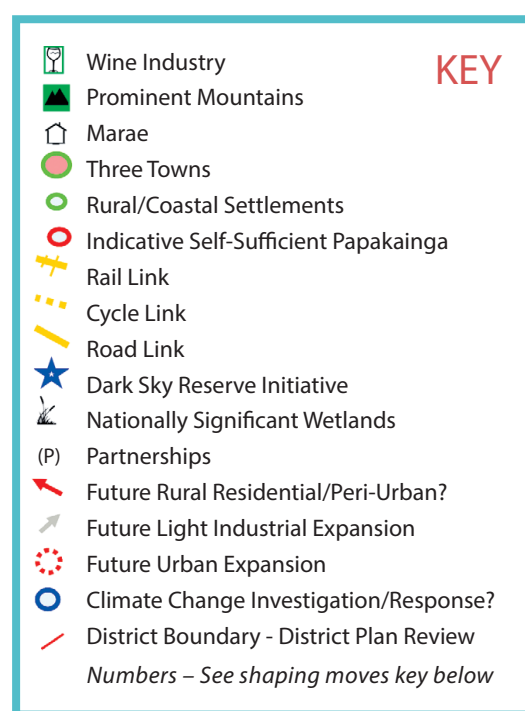
### OUR ENHANCED BUSINESS AS USUAL

- Enabling ultra-fast broadband connections
- Working with others to promote tourism in Wairarapa
- Three waters, conservation, roads, bridges & footpath maintenance
- Management of Council's halls, venues, toilets, parks & reserves
- Working with central government and GWRC to improve public transport
- Administering grants to community groups & youth
- Planning, policy, consenting, licensing & animal management
- Civil defence emergency management



# Initial Draft Spatial Plan Map

## South Wairarapa – Our Future Focus 2050



## Shaping moves key

### Special Character

- 1** Māori heritage (P)
- 2** Three townships strategy and town centre enhancement
- 3** Implement Featherston 2033 Strategy and Action Plan (June 2015)
- 4** Delivering tourism infrastructure (e.g. dump stations, toilets, plantings, picnic areas) (P)
- 5** New sports fields
- 6** Enhancing water races through parks
- 7** Largest dark sky reserve in the world initiative (P)

(P) = PARTNERSHIPS

### Better Connections

- 1** Youth initiatives (P)
- 2** Supporting Shift Foundation for 12-20-year-old young women (P)
- 3** Community engagement strategy
- 4** Building and linking tracks and trails
- 5** Advocate early delivery of improved train and bus services
- 6** Tree corridor development between 3 towns & from Tararuas / Remutakas to Aorangi (P)
- 7** Gateway to Wairarapa project at Featherston
- 8** Promoting international connections and opportunities (P)
- 9** Promoting joint educational initiatives, e.g. cultural astronomy centre /dark sky education facility

### Sustainable Growth

- 1** Urban Development Growth Strategy
- 2** Rural Residential Strategy
- 3** District Plan Review (P)
- 4** Pilot self-sufficient living options
- 5** Wastewater to land projects with mana whenua (P)
- 6** Climate change initiatives, e.g. solar power, plastic free council, biodiverse land use, wet-land restoration
- 7** Roading improvements to mitigate coastal erosion (P)
- 8** Limited reticulated wastewater systems for coastal settlements



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
*Kia Reretahi Tātau*

July 2019