



Lower Hutt City Summit: what you told us

At our inaugural Lower Hutt City Summit, held on 18 September 2024, we asked members of our communities to share their thoughts on what matters most to them; what they're grateful for in Lower Hutt, what we could do better and what we want to leave for future generations.

In this summary we've pulled out the key themes and values to help guide us as we plan for what the next 30 years will look like for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

Feedback shows that our people care deeply about the future of Lower Hutt and a clear call to move beyond discussions and start taking concrete steps.

The valuable views of our residents received at the summit is our first step in the development of a city strategy: **Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 Our City 2055**, a document that will set goals and identify plans to guide our city into the future.



Values

Based on everyone's comments, a few clear values stood out:

- **Sustainability and resilience**
A focus on looking after our environment and making decisions that will keep Lower Hutt clean, green and responsive to future challenges.
- **Community**
The importance of coming together, supporting each other, and building strong, connected neighbourhoods.
- **Cultural integrity and respect**
Celebrating our indigenous Te Ao Māori perspectives and honouring Te Tiriti is essential for effective decision-making and building strong resilient communities.
- **Intergenerational responsibility**
A shared belief that we have a duty to safeguard the city for future generations. Both as individuals and as communities we can to make positive changes happen.
- **Equity**
Ensuring everyone has a fair chance and is treated equally, regardless of who they are or where they come from.
- **Courageous leadership**
The need for decisive leaders who will make bold choices that think ahead and prepare Lower Hutt for what's to come.



Key Themes

- **Looking after our environment**

A lot of people talked about protecting our environment. You want to make sure our parks, rivers, and beaches are clean and safe for everyone. Many people mentioned maintaining our green spaces, better recycling, and taking action on climate change. The need to care for our natural surroundings now was emphasized, so that future generations can enjoy them too.

- **Connected Communities**

A strong sense of community is important. We heard that our residents want a city where people feel connected and can work together. Honouring cultural heritage, particularly Māori values and practices was valued by participants. Many highlighted the importance of creating spaces where everyone feels welcome, whether it's through community events, cultural celebrations, or support groups. By working together, we can build a better Lower Hutt.

- **Education and empowerment**

Education emerged as a critical area for investment; improving access to quality education and skills development that will give our rangatahi opportunities to stay and thrive in Lower Hutt. There was a particular focus on community education in sustainability, cultural respect, and the value of community engagement.

- **Community and whānau wellbeing**

It was highlighted that we have a need for robust social services, and better access to quality healthcare and support networks. It is clear we want a city that is committed to a positive, nurturing environment who care about their community.

- **Planning for the Future**

Many people talked about thinking ahead and making decisions that will help future generations. This includes planning our city's growth carefully, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and ensuring our actions today set up a positive future. You want long-term plans that focus on what's best for our children and grandchildren.

- **Taking Action, Not Just Talking**

A big theme across all responses was the need to act now. People feel that it's important for both Council and the community to move beyond talking about problems and start doing something about them.

- **Inclusivity and Fairness**

Everyone in Lower Hutt should feel included, no matter their background. Inclusivity was highlighted as a core value, with many people calling for fair treatment, equal opportunities, and better representation in decision-making. We want to see a city that values diversity and makes sure no one is left behind.

Next Steps

The feedback from the City Summit tells us that the people of Lower Hutt are passionate, forward-thinking, and deeply committed to making our city a better place.

By working together and staying focused on our shared values, we can create a city that future generations will be proud of.

Now it's time to use these insights and turn them into action! We're taking next steps to create a City Leadership Group who will champion a case for change for Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt and drive the creation and delivery of city strategy outcomes.

Early in the new year we will develop and test key priorities with the community before finalising the City Strategy for endorsement in July 2025.

If you, your business, or organisation are interested in being involved in supporting the development of our City Strategy, please let us know by emailing haveyoursay@huttcity.govt.nz.

