

Tupuranga Waikato Waikato Progress Indicators

Scorecard 2025

The Waikato progress indicators (WPI) measures social, economic and environmental progress in the Waikato region.

This scorecard compares latest data with baseline results for each indicator (2006 - 2007). For each of the 32 indicators, results are shown as improving trends, worsening trends or no significant change over the last 16 years. The indicators are grouped by wellbeing theme - economic, social and environmental wellbeing.. For further information refer to waikatoregion.govt.nz/waikato-progress-indicators-tupuranga-waikato/



ECONOMY

Income
Real median weekly household income.

Building activity
Real value of new building consents issued.

Regional GDP
Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.

Employment
Percentage of total working-age population who are employed.

Water use
Water allocation as a percentage of primary allocatable water (Waikato River).

SOCIETY

Crime
Rates of victimisation per 10,000 population.

Community engagement
Percentage of people who agree the public can influence Council decisions.

Community pride
People's sense of pride in the way their city/town looks and feels.

Cultural respect
Level of agreement that having people with different lifestyles and cultures makes area a better place to live.

Educational attainment
Percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above.

Housing affordability
Ratio of housing costs to household disposable income.

Income inequality
Gini coefficient - a measure of the concentration of income within the region.

Life expectancy
Life expectancy at birth.

Life satisfaction
Percentage of people who rate their overall quality of life positively.

Perceived health
Percentage of people who rate their overall health good, very good or excellent.

Perceptions of safety
Percentage of adults who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.

Physical activity
Percentage of people who say they were physically active on five or more of the past seven days.

Public transport
Passenger transport boardings per resident per annum.

Road safety
Social costs of road injury crashes per capita.

Social connectedness
Percentage of people who feel a sense of community in their neighbourhood.

Te Reo Māori speakers
Percentage of Te Reo Māori speakers in the total population.

Voter turnout
Average voter turnout in local and regional council elections.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental attitudes
New Ecological Paradigm - percentage pro- or mid-ecological.

Air quality
Exceedances of the regional guideline for particulate matter.

Coastal ecosystem health
Traits Based Index calculated for estuarine monitoring sites.

Recycling
Self-reported prevalence of household recycling.

Greenhouse gases
Annual total greenhouse gas emissions.

Indigenous vegetation
Extent of indigenous vegetation on land.

Soil quality
Percentage of soil monitoring sites meeting at least five soil quality targets.

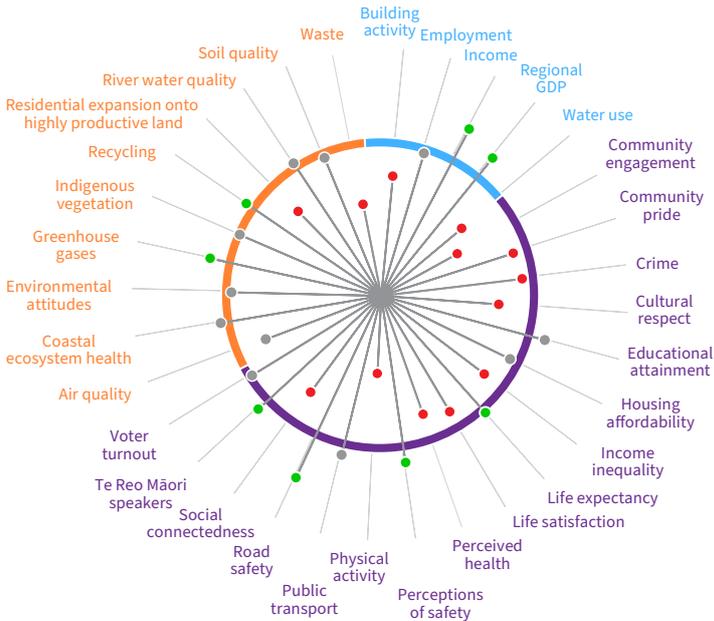
Residential expansion onto highly productive land
Area of highly productive land in urban and rural residential use.

River water quality
Percentage of water samples taken from rivers and streams deemed unsatisfactory for ecological health.

Waste
Tonnage of waste to landfill per annum.

The Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) use ‘circles of wellbeing’, a new approach to illustrating progress in the Waikato region. This enables us to visually display information about many indicators in a single diagram.

- ECONOMY
- SOCIETY
- ENVIRONMENT

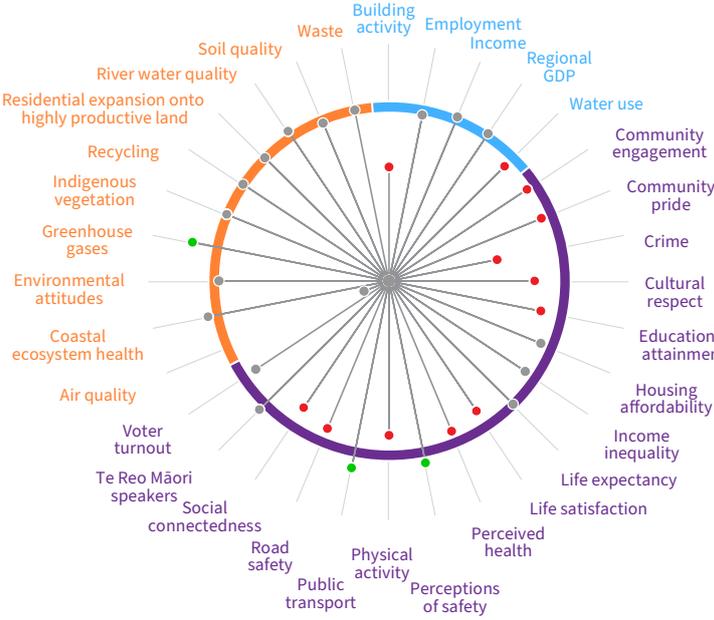


Long-term trends (2006-07 to latest available data)

The circle to the left plots the overall change for the Waikato region for the period **2006-07 to latest available data** for all WPI indicators. Where a spoke extends outside the circle it means an improvement (green). Where the spoke falls within, it represents a worsening trend (red). No significant change is indicated by when a spoke is approximately on the circle (grey).

The most notable **positive trends** over this period are (in declining order) road safety, incomes, regional GDP growth, greenhouse gases, perceptions of safety, Te Reo Māori speakers, recycling, and life expectancy.

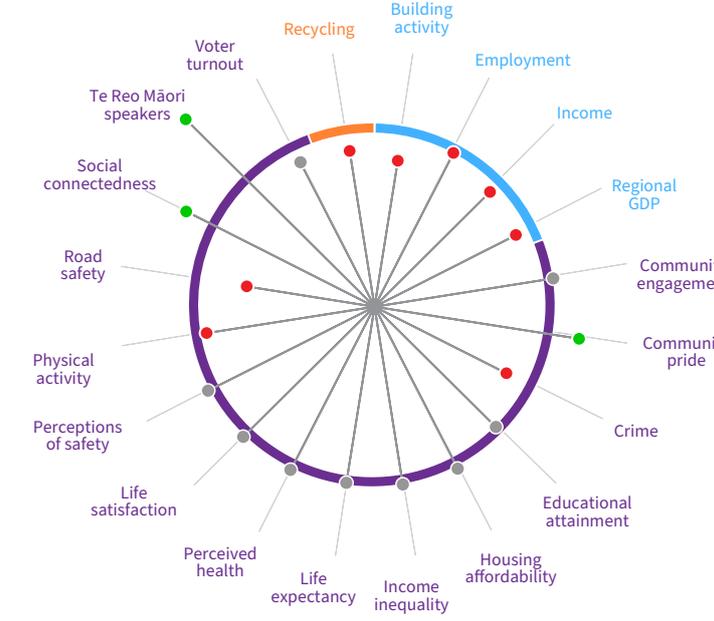
The largest **negative trends** over this period are (in declining order) lower frequency of physical activity, poorer perceptions of community engagement, more waste to landfill, higher water use, lower perceptions of cultural respect, more residential expansion onto highly productive land, and lower levels of building activity.



Short-term trends (2020 to latest available data)

The circle to the left plots the recent trend for the Waikato region from **2020 to the latest available data** using the same approach. Observations from these graphs and supporting WPI information include:

- Annual greenhouse gas emissions fell substantially in recent years.
- Public transport use increased substantially in recent years following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Perceptions of safety improved further between the 2022 and 2024 surveys.
- Annual building activity has declined rapidly following a 2021-22 peak.
- Criminal offence data was previously improving over the longer-term, but since 2018 the Waikato annual regional crime rate has trended upward.
- A range of other social indicators have also declined in recent years.
- In addition, there has been a recent adverse trend in water use.
- Over the longer-term, air quality shows an improvement but for the period 2020 to 2024 there was a general increase in the number of exceedances per year. This has been colour-coded as no significant change, due to the roll-out of new monitors which measure higher than the older monitors.



Comparison of Waikato with average New Zealand

The circle to the left compares the current state of selected WPI indicators for the **Waikato region versus New Zealand** (latest results available). Where a spoke extends outside the circle it means the Waikato region performs better than New Zealand (green). Where the spoke falls within the circle, the Waikato region performs worse than New Zealand (red). Where a spoke falls approximately on the circle this indicates the Waikato region performs about the same as New Zealand (grey). For all WPI indicators not shown, directly comparable national results are not available.

The diagram shows that compared to the national average, the Waikato region:

- has a relatively high percentage of Te Reo Māori speakers and high levels of social connectedness (sense of community experienced) and community pride; but
- is behind the national average on a range of indicators including regional road safety, crime, employment, physical activity, household incomes, recycling, GDP per person and building activity per capita.