



# Community Engagement Report Whakawhānaungatanga

March – December 2019



## Mihimihi

Tui, tui, tui, tui

Tuia ki te mana tapu

Tuia ki te rangamarie

Tuia ki te aroha

Te tehi ki a te tehi

Tehei mauri ora

*To bind or weave together*

*Bound are we to the heavenly realm*

*Bound are we to peace*

*Bound are we to love*

*From me to you, the sharing*

*The breath of life*

“Takoto te hua rahi ki te Kāinga ora

*Lay the pathway to healthy homes.”*

In November 2018 the Government announced a \$1.5 billion investment over the next 25 years to work with the community on revitalising eastern Porirua and partner with Ngāti Toa Rangatira to improve public housing in western Porirua. The Porirua Development is led by Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, and is a partnership between the Crown, Porirua City Council and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. The development will focus on housing quality, options and affordability, while improving social and economic outcomes to make eastern Porirua a better place to live, work and raise whānau.

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# Purpose of this report

This report presents the findings of the first phase of Porirua Development's engagement process, conducted between March and December 2019.

We wanted to find out what the people of eastern Porirua value about their community, what could be improved and what they would like to see in the future. We discussed the topics of housing, the environment, public transport, accessibility, parks and open spaces, community facilities and shopping centres, as well as health and wellbeing. These topics were explored through

a range of methods including roundtable discussions, workshops, events, and through Social Pinpoint, a digital engagement platform.

While the topics are superficially segregated for ease of discussion and examination, we understand they are interrelated. We recognise the holistic worldview of Te Ao Māori, of landscapes, ancestors, events, histories and practices, and recognise the interconnectedness of Te Ao Māori with the built environment.

## In a nutshell

In November 2018 the Government announced a \$1.5 billion investment over the next 25 years to work with the community on revitalising eastern Porirua. The Porirua Development project is being delivered in a formal partnership between Kāinga Ora, Porirua City Council and Ngāti Toa Rangitira.

Porirua Development focuses on housing quality, options and affordability, while improving social and economic outcomes to make eastern Porirua a better place to live, work and raise whānau.

The scope of the project encompasses all aspects of how neighbourhoods can be improved to make it easier for people to come together, to get around and to do business.

In March 2019, Porirua Development began the community-wide engagement process to understand community needs and aspirations. It was also to ensure that the community's voices and input are reflected in the early stages of Porirua Development's planning processes.

The feedback was extensive and provides us with weighty insights into what people of eastern Porirua value, their lived experience, and their visions for the future.

**More than 2,300 people took part in the engagements during 2019, contributing over 5,000 ideas. This included residents, community and church leaders, school and college students, representatives from community groups, social services and business owners.**

Most of the responses received during the engagement process were largely positive and constructive. It also provided an opportunity for people to express their concerns and fears about the project.

Eastern Porirua is an area where people feel a sense of place and identity, a place that is welcoming, creative and resilient. People enjoy the multi-cultural nature of their community and don't want

to lose the unique feel of eastern Porirua. Most of the people participating in the engagement process value their strong sense of community and the warm welcoming nature of the residents living there.

There is concern that people will be relocated as part of this project and won't be able to return or be priced out due to rising rents.

There is also significant support for change to the housing and amenities in eastern Porirua but it comes with some reservation. People of eastern Porirua want to be central to the project, to be involved in matters and decisions that affect them. Their desire is to work with Kāinga Ora in the planning and implementation of this project.

People are cautious about increasing density and the design of new housing. People understand the need for more housing, but want to see a different style of housing that caters for larger families and multi-generational living. Home ownership is a desire for many people and there is strong demand to see more affordable housing models.

People wanted to see major improvements to the parks and the creation of safer, accessible whānau-centred recreation spaces, and sports facilities.

There is high need and demand for more and improved community spaces in eastern Porirua. The current facilities are insufficient and are not fit for purpose.

Traffic management, parking, roads and footpaths were mentioned frequently, mostly in the context of improving safety and making the urban environment more accessible. Ensuring there is a coherent transport system and infrastructure to increase people's ability to get around – either by walking, cycling, travelling by motorised scooter or driving – is a priority to many participants.

Management of storm and waste water featured often, with many people expressing concern about the quality of the waterways and the pollution of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour.

Collection and disposal of rubbish generated much discussion, ranging from a desire for greater inorganic disposal services to better recycling capability. Dumping of rubbish and a lack of resident education on this subject was also a popular topic.



## Overview of He Ara – community engagement

The overall objectives of *He Ara: pathways to better homes, great neighbourhoods, and resilient communities* are described below.

Through our engagement approach we seek to:

- understand community views about what people value about eastern Porirua and their future aspirations
- achieve a broad engagement with people of diverse cultural and social backgrounds and encourage a vision for eastern Porirua
- encourage residents, young people and community groups to contribute to the development of a vision for eastern Porirua
- ensure that Kāinga Ora is responsive and listens to the diverse communities that make up eastern Porirua
- foster collaboration with our key partners, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Porirua City Council.

The Porirua Development project defines community engagement as activities and processes that:

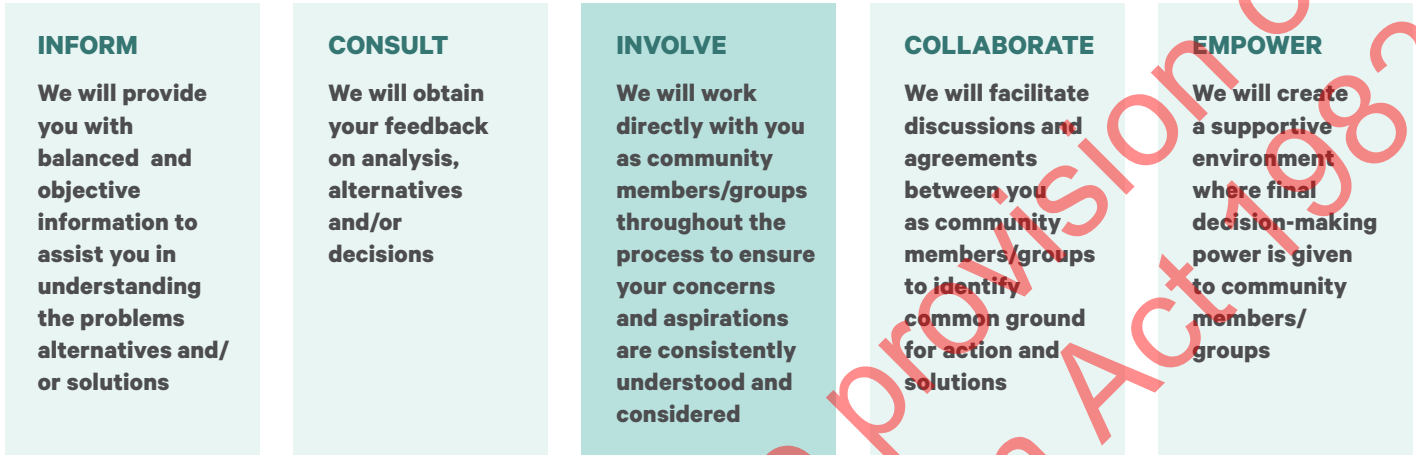
- seek to inform affected people about the project
- consult them about their views, so they can identify or prioritise their needs and what's important to them
- involve residents and community leaders in decision making, where possible
- provide opportunities for collaboration with residents and community stakeholders in projects, initiatives and/or decision-making structures
- facilitate opportunities for residents and community organisations to participate and become empowered
- develop partnerships with residents and community organisations on specific aspects of the project
- invest in capacity building, so local people can make a meaningful contribution to the project with increased knowledge and skills.

**HE ARA** PATHWAYS TO BETTER HOMES,  
GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

# Our public participation goal

Our promise to the public is to:

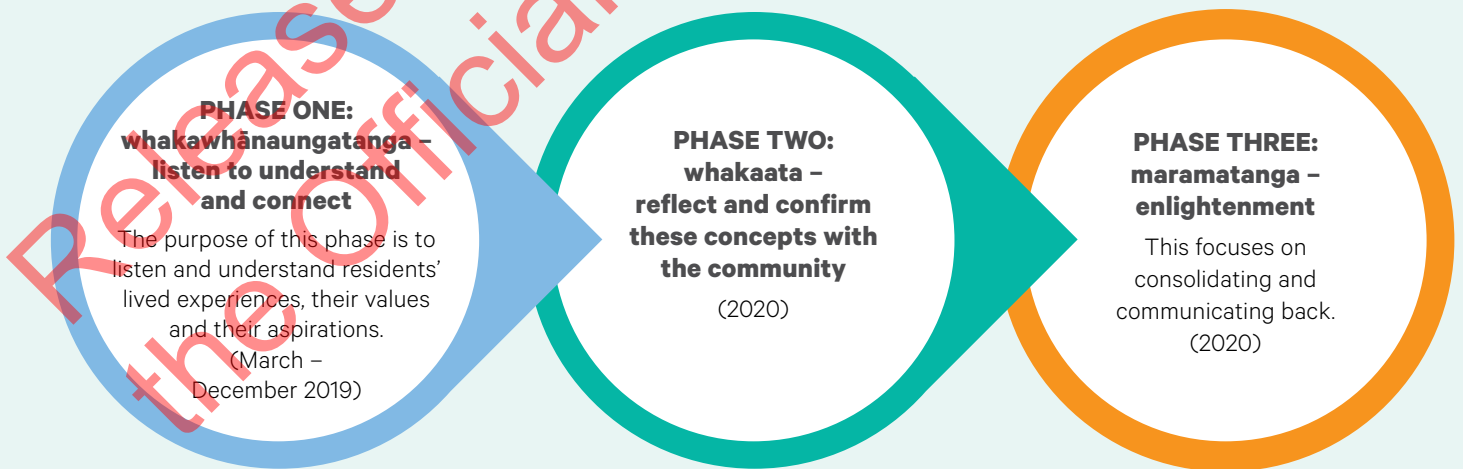
**work directly with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the principles and vision of the Porirua Development project.**



IAP2 public participation spectrum – The spectrum of public participation outlined above is based on the IAP2 framework<sup>1</sup> and is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public’s role in any community engagement programme. It helped to clarify the appropriate level of engagement to ensure there is transparency about the input being sought and how this influences Porirua Development’s planning and decision-making process. For the first phase of our engagement, involve was selected as the most applicable level of public participation.

<sup>1</sup> [www.IAP2.org.au](http://www.IAP2.org.au)

The phases of the He Ara engagement process are described below:





## Phase one: whakawhānaungatanga

From March 2019, Porirua Development started the community-wide engagement process to understand community needs and aspirations and ensure that the project's planning and design reflects the voices of residents and community stakeholders of eastern Porirua.

This phase focused on visioning and generating design principles.

The purpose of whakawhānaungatanga was to:

1. inform residents and communities about the big picture, the timeline and how everything fits together
2. seek to understand:
  - what the residents and communities of eastern Porirua value
  - what they identify with locally
  - what provides them with a sense of belonging
  - what is unique / has special character
  - what they want to change, add or keep in their local communities.

The desired outcomes were to:

- ensure there was significant community input to creating the vision and values of the Porirua Development project
- achieve wide-ranging engagement across the communities of eastern Porirua and ensure as many residents, community leaders and stakeholders had an opportunity to provide input into the design principles underpinning the Spatial Delivery Strategy.

The Spatial Delivery Strategy is a plan for the growth and development of eastern Porirua. It will lay out the long-term direction for the development that will take place – the houses, parks, shops, streets etc. The Spatial Delivery Strategy identifies where development should happen, what sort of development it should be, and defines the physical or spatial outcomes the development should achieve. The Spatial Delivery Strategy sets the vision and expectations for sustainable transport, water quality, housing density, prosperous centres, safety, community facilities, community identity, native planting and much more.

Having a Spatial Delivery Strategy that represents the views and aspirations of community, stakeholders, land owners, iwi, and central and local government will enable effective management of rapid growth (housing development) in the area.

# Specific engagement strategies

## Pacific engagement

Porirua Development invited the Kapiti-Mana Pacific Services Network and Pacific stakeholders to co-create an engagement strategy that is designed to meet the needs of the Pacific communities of Porirua. The Pacific Engagement Strategy provides ongoing guidance to the Porirua Development project in its relationships and engagement with the eastern Porirua Pacific community. The Porirua Development Pacific Engagement Strategy was presented to the project partners at the Church of Christ the King in Cannons Creek in October 2019.

Once presented, the engagement team worked alongside Pacific communities to implement the engagement process for phase one. The approach taken by Porirua Development, as set out in the Pacific Engagement Strategy, was to work alongside the Pacific communities to host a specific engagement session at a venue, date and time that was suitable to them. A key element of the strategy is that the Pacific values described below are sustained through the process and the best people to advise the Porirua Development team are representatives from the Pacific communities themselves.

Each community identified facilitators who would lead the engagement sessions with support and guidance from the engagement team. The facilitators attended briefing sessions prior to the engagements, so they were fully aware of the subject material, the format of the engagement and their role in it. This encouraged a greater sense of ownership of the engagement process by the distinct Pacific communities and also provided an opportunity for the facilitators to develop their knowledge of the project.

The facilitators were encouraged to lead the discussions in their own language, which meant a far richer discussion of the topics. Some communities chose to translate some of the materials.

The Pacific communities promoted the engagement within their own channels with the help of posters, flyers, email and Facebook. Word of mouth was particularly important to get the word out. The Pacific sessions were viewed as very successful, in not only the depth of conversation, but also in the information that many people provided. It also provided an opportunity for relationship-building between the Porirua Development team and the Pacific communities.

## The Pacific values we are guided by:

**faka'apa'apa**  
(respect)

**kaiga**  
(family)

**olaga faka  
tea gaga**  
(spirituality)

**solesolevaki**  
(reciprocity)

**talanoa**  
(discussion)

**falanaki**  
(trust)

**aro'a**  
(love)







## Youth engagement

Porirua Development started its community engagement with Ka Mua Ka Muri. This involved engaging tamariki from five schools through a series of 40 art workshops and creating new artwork on the Cannons Creek shops that reflects the ideas and aspirations of the young people of Cannons Creek, past, present and future.

We also ran a session with Porirua College students with over 100 participants. They identified their areas of interest, what they valued and how they could imagine eastern Porirua in the future.

### Youth Engagement Strategy

We worked with the Kahui Ako, the eastern Porirua community of learning, to develop a Youth Engagement Strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to establish processes for engagement with children and young people who live in eastern Porirua so they:

- are aware of and are informed about all plans and developments
- are able to share their voices, exercise their influence, and participate in decision-making processes
- experience rich learning by having the opportunity to contribute to the project through specific activities and processes throughout the life of the project.

### CAREERfest

Porirua Development helped to sponsor CAREERfest. On the day, more than 150 students from four colleges participated in our interactive career word cloud, where their top three careers were collectively displayed on screen. Students also checked out the map of where the work will be happening in eastern Porirua.

## Promotion

We wanted as many people from eastern Porirua to contribute their thoughts and ideas and share their voice and promoted the events and activities in the following ways:

- advertising in the Kapi-Mana News in the lead-up to the engagements
- promotion on Samoa Capital Radio
- information on the Porirua Development and Porirua City Council's websites
- information and events on the Porirua Development and Porirua City Council Facebook pages, and on group Facebook pages (such as Creeksiders, Rānui Residents Association and Waitangirua Village Planning)
- by email
- flyer and poster drops to homes, shops, businesses, markets, churches, schools, community services in eastern Porirua
- Porirua Development's e-newsletter
- attending resident association meetings, networking groups and Pacific community group meetings to encourage as many residents and community leaders to attend the sessions.



## What we did – activities

The community engagement period was undertaken between March and December 2019. A number of different engagement activities were conducted over this time and they are outlined below.

### Ka Mua Ka Muri

Over 120 children from Cannons Creek schools participated in Ka Mua Ka Muri (moving forward with a clear view of the past), an art project where the students offered their ideas and aspirations to local artists on what they would like their community to look and feel like in the future.

Former Mayor Mike Tana said “Ka Mua Ka Muri is a powerful expression of the hopes and dreams of the young people in Cannons Creek”.

Over 40 workshops were held by the artists and creatives in local schools to gather ideas and visions from students and develop

them into mural concepts. The process helped the students identify what is unique about Cannons Creek and how to build on its strengths.

The project featured Porirua artists and creatives Liana Leiataua, Ernest Sami and Tokelauan Arts Collective members Zac Mateo, Moses Viliamu and Jack Kirifi, along with Ruth Robertson-Taylor, Rudy Whitehead-Lopez, Tupe Papalii-Rodgers, Milan Gessner and graphic artists Antz June and Darcy Reuelu-Smith, Paula MacEwan, Viane Sei and Ruby Sei.

The project was a collaboration between Cannons Creek schools, local artists, Porirua City Council, Porirua Development, Creeksiders and Partners Porirua.

The murals are displayed on a number of buildings at the Cannons Creek shops, and a video is available on our Facebook page @PoriruaDevelopment.





## Share Your Voice engagement (June – July)

During June and July 2019, we ran the first of the community-wide engagements called Share Your Voice. The six themes explored during these engagements were the following:

- housing
- parks and open spaces
- environment
- getting around
- town centres
- community facilities.

Postcards were developed with images representing the six themes to be explored around six tables, along with large maps of the area.

This provided an opportunity for residents and community leaders and stakeholders to drop in and have a direct conversation about what they value about their neighbourhoods, what improvements they would like to see happen, and their hopes and dreams for the future. It also provided an opportunity for people to express their concerns about the project and how it might impact them.

The Share Your Voice engagements were held in the geographical areas of:

- Rānui, Mungavin Hall
- Cannons Creek, PIC Hall
- Waitangirua, Tairangi School
- Ascot Park, Horouta Marae.

Similar engagements were also held for the former refugee and migrant communities, Porirua City Councillors, the opening of Porirua Development's Community Info Hub, and with students from Porirua College.

### Findings from Share Your Voice engagements

We received more than 1,100 individual comments on the six topics. A thematic analysis was done to look at the specific themes emerging from the feedback. This was collated and presented back to the community, grouped by topics and by session, and also presented into a word cloud through printed form. It was published on our Facebook page, in our e-newsletter and on our website.



## Themes from Share Your Voice by topic

The postcards below show the Share Your Voice feedback that was collated and themed, with four or five themes under each topic.

The percentages show the proportion of people commenting on the themes within each topic.

**Here's what you said was most important to you**


**Community facilities**



Multipurpose community venues	<b>35%</b>
Better and more sports facilities	<b>6%</b>
Improve access to services, eg health centres and libraries	<b>12%</b>
Dedicated spaces for groups, eg youth, seniors, cultural groups	<b>47%</b>

**Here's what you said was most important to you**


**Getting around**



Better and more frequent public transport	<b>26%</b>
Safer walkways with better lighting and accessibility	<b>38%</b>
Wheelchair access for shopping centres and public transport	<b>16%</b>
Address safety concerns about particular roads, roundabouts and intersections	<b>20%</b>

**Here's what you said was most important to you**


**Housing**



Housing types – design, density, use of cultural and alternative models, multigenerational living and accessibility	<b>59%</b>
Concerns about the impact of the development on residents	<b>18%</b>
Affordability – rising rents, prices of new homes	<b>13%</b>
Warm, dry and healthy homes	<b>10%</b>

**Here's what you said was most important to you**


**Environment (plants and wildlife)**



Planting more native trees and fruit trees	<b>27%</b>
Improve the green spaces, eg Bothamley Park, Cannons Creek lakes	<b>14%</b>
Fixing stormwater and wastewater systems, pipes and flooding	<b>29%</b>
Clean and safer waterways and water quality	<b>18%</b>
Better recycling, waste minimisation and improved access to waste facilities, eg landfill	<b>12%</b>

**Here's what you said was most important to you**

**Parks and open spaces**



Improved recreation, BBQ areas, green spaces, seating, exercise and play equipment	<b>17%</b>
Improve access to and safety in walkways in parks and open spaces	<b>33%</b>
Whānau/child friendly parks	<b>17%</b>
Better access to parks from homes, schools and other suburbs	<b>33%</b>

**Here's what you said was most important to you**

**Town centres**



More variety of shops and businesses, including markets and supermarkets	<b>51%</b>
More gathering spaces and places to meet	<b>19%</b>
Accessibility of shopping centres and parking	<b>13%</b>
Safety issues, such as lighting, beggars and antisocial behaviour	<b>18%</b>



## Change is Coming engagement (November – December)

The Share Your Voice feedback provided the foundation for a more in-depth discussion with the community about the impact and potential of the change to their community and how they see themselves and their community in a new vision for the future. It was also a forum to discuss specific aspects of the project. This next round of engagements was called Change is Coming.

We wanted to ensure that the voices of Pacific peoples, youth and those people that are often overlooked in engagement processes were included in these engagements.

The Change is Coming engagement sessions sought to answer the question of how do we balance the need for growth (and therefore more housing and services), with the need to ensure the wellbeing of people and the environment, while keeping what is unique about eastern Porirua.

We engaged directly with the following groups:

Group	Date	Location
Former refugee and new migrants	13 November	Porirua Gospel Chapel, Cannons Creek
Waitangirua residents	14 November	Maraeroa Marae, Waitangirua
Mātāwaka	19 November	Maraeroa Marae, Waitangirua
Rānui residents	21 November	Mungavin Hall, Rānui
Cannons Creek residents	26 November	Freedom House, Cannons Creek
Accessibility	10 December	Freedom House, Cannons Creek
Cook Islands community	11 December	Nuanua Kindergarten, Cannons Creek
Fiji community	12 December	Nuanua Kindergarten, Cannons Creek
Samoa community	14 December	EFKS Porirua Church Hall, Cannons Creek
Tonga community	16 December	Whānau Manaaki centre, Porirua
Tokelau community	17 December	Pahina O Tokelau Hall, Rānui
Niue community	18 December	Nuanua Kindergarten, Cannons Creek
Tuvalu community	21 December	Tuvalu Hall, Waitangirua

The Change is Coming sessions discussed:

- how eastern Porirua could grow and change
- what future housing and facilities could look like
- infrastructure and what needs fixing
- home ownership, affordability and housing stability
- some of the challenges change could bring
- opportunities for residents and businesses.

These sessions included the following activities:

- narrative of change (storyboards) with a question and answer session
- prioritisation of the Share Your Voice themes
- table discussion of six topics with the future state in mind
- looking to 2045 visioning exercise.

## Why some people said they attended the Change is Coming sessions:

“  
**Seeking to know more of what is happening in my community**

“  
**Advocating for space, a place where people are more welcome**

“  
**Interested in the importance of the new spaces for mokos**

“  
**The main thing is the people in this community**

“  
**Representation of people with disabilities from a Pacific perspective**

“  
**To find out more about what is happening in my community**

“  
**To find out more about the housing developments**

“  
**I am here for enabling and empowering people with disabilities**

“  
**To listen, learn and voice my thoughts**

“  
**Equity, transport and social housing**

“  
**Advocating for women with disabilities**

**Have lived in Porirua for over 50 years**

### Some key concerns for people:

- worries about displacement or losing their home
- maintaining deep connections to place and their home – for some this was their family home
- affordability and impacts of gentrification in general
- lack of communications – people want clear expectations of the plan
- fear of being disappointed like they were in the last renewal
- fear of deception and misleading information
- unclear on the ‘roll out’ process and really want to know more
- unclear on the parties working together in this redevelopment
- lack of clarity about what this development means for community, and how funding will be allocated
- not everyone is ready for the change.

Despite these concerns, people are noticing a shift from this process happening *to us*, to happening *with us* eg housing people having to meet their own objectives has shifted to meeting the needs of the community.

## Validation of Share Your Voice themes at Change is Coming sessions

The Share Your Voice feedback identified key themes and issues for residents and community stakeholders. People who attended subsequent engagements were asked to prioritise the topics and themes that were important to them. They were given six dots and asked them to prioritise a theme within each topic. Some chose to do this, while others preferred to put all their dots on one particular topic and/or theme.

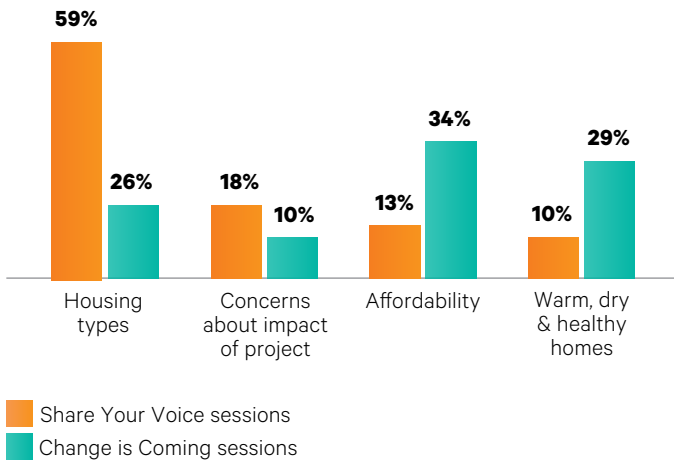
While a comparison showed a similar priority placed on “getting around” and “parks and open spaces” themes in both the Share Your Voice and Change is Coming sessions, the other themes were more diverse. This could be explained by the distinct groups

and their unique preferences. Some groups placed a higher priority on home ownership while others saw warm, dry homes as important. Some groups were very conscious of the impact of climate change and the need for preparation, while others focused on immediate concerns, such as fixing the infrastructure.

It should be noted that between the sessions, there had been substantial flooding in eastern Porirua and would have been top of mind to many people who participated.

## Comparison of the Share Your Voice and Change is Coming priorities, by topic

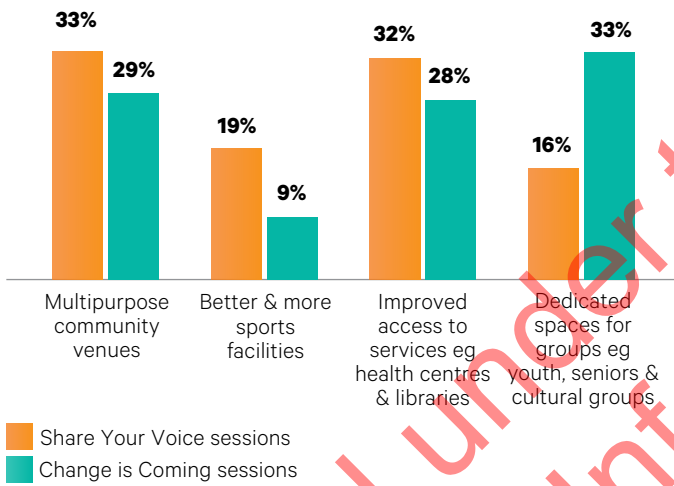
### Housing priorities



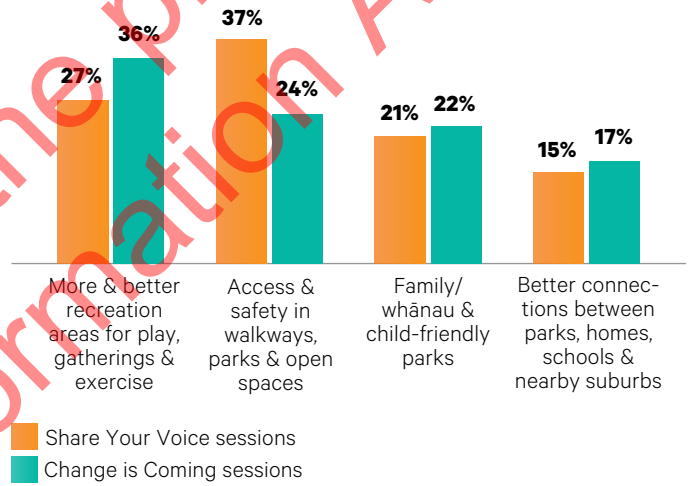
### Environment priorities



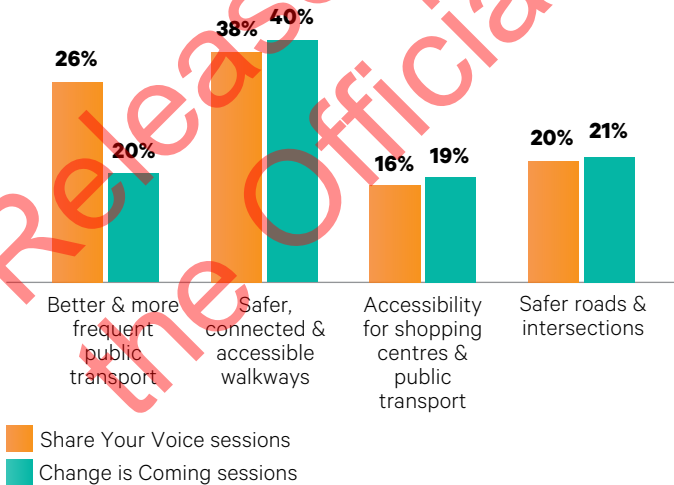
### Community facilities priorities



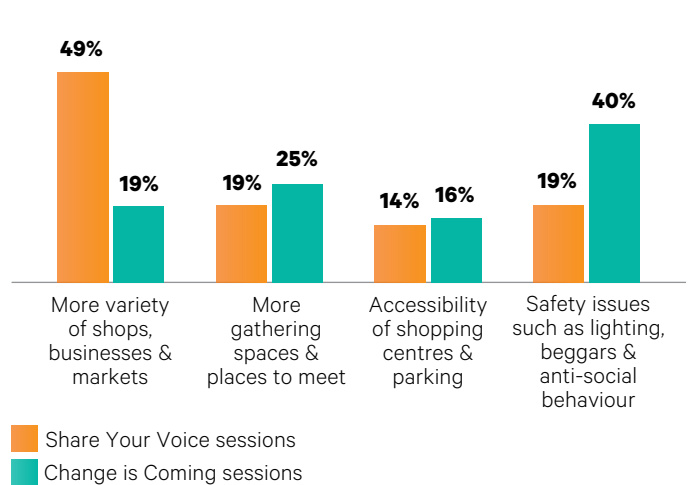
### Parks and open spaces priorities



### Getting around priorities



### Shopping centres priorities







## Change is Coming – feedback by theme

The following thematic analysis combines the ideas from the Change is Coming engagement sessions and the Social Pinpoint online engagement, which is discussed in more detail later in this report.

An analysis of each Change is Coming session was captured at the tables by trained scribes and facilitators, along with the details of the topics and the particular nuances of the groups who were engaged at those sessions.

**“We want better homes that are clean and dry, safe and secure.”**

### Housing

Through the Change is Coming sessions, residents had an opportunity to discuss future housing needs, types and models.

People raised concerns about the prospect of gentrification, particularly locals being pushed out through price rises, the sale of state land, and the unique character of eastern Porirua being lost or diluted.

Many worried about the lack of affordable homes, whether to buy or to rent, and expressed concern about the future generations being unable to access home ownership.

Eastern Porirua is characterised by significant cultural diversity and most see this as a key strength, one that they are proud of and defines them as a community.

Many people mentioned that they enjoy the multicultural make-up of the population and that they worry this will be negatively impacted by the project.

Many residents talked about the need for warm, dry, safe and accessible homes. They had many ideas on a diverse range of types, models and designs, and how they may be affected by increased density.

**“The development needs to provide opportunities for home ownership for locals and their families.”**

## Key themes about housing:

**Want better homes that are clean and dry, safe and secure**

**Want reassurance on housing affordability**

**Want affordable living**

**Want to be proud of the houses that they're living in. Having a place they could improve**

**Do not want the sale of state land**

**Want to use quality products in building**

**Expect that Kāinga Ora has the responsibility to put levers in place to ensure that gentrification doesn't happen**

**Want locals to get access to housing and home ownership**

**Understand about the need for medium density but conflicting views on multi-level houses and apartments**

**Want to use quality products in building**

**Are excited about the redevelopment and opportunities it will bring**

**Want to own a home and young people to become employed**

**Want homes and gardens that reflect themselves**

### Home ownership and affordable housing

Many people expressed an interest in home ownership possibilities and want to see more affordable options.

A majority (73%) want to see the provision of more diverse models of home ownership than what is currently on offer, such as rent to own, shared equity, more community housing provision, and clear guidelines prioritising locals in any home ownership products. One-fifth (20%) expressed concerns about eligibility for home ownership.

People also expressed concerns about the current housing affordability issue and the potential for higher house prices as a negative effect of this project. For private renters, there were concerns about continuing availability and supply of rental properties and potential for increased rents.

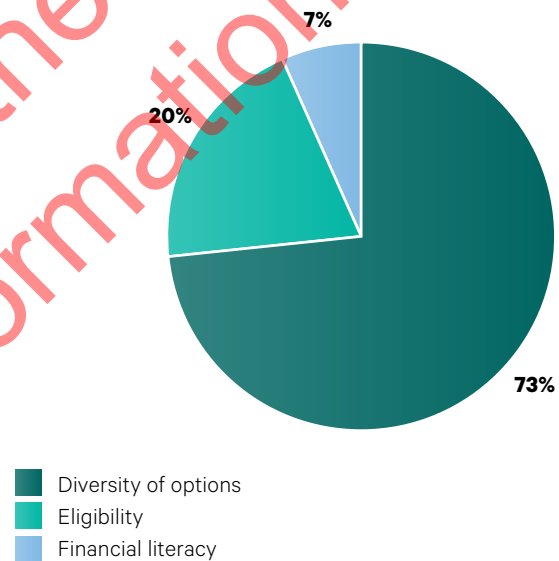
Other key concerns centred around the fear of gentrification, breaking up of community, locals being unable to sustain the rising costs of housing and having to relocate, and the loss of eastern Porirua's unique character.

Other comments related to people's concern over eligibility for home ownership, such as income levels, percentage of the required deposit, narrow ownership criteria and existing debt levels.

People recommended education programmes, such as financial literacy, to prepare people for home ownership and suggested a long lead-in time to ensure people maximise the opportunities that this project will bring.

**“Prepare the community for home ownership now, especially young people.”**

**Key themes about affordable housing and home ownership**



**“Any new development needs to be for current residents, ie options for residents to purchase.”**

## Housing types

Views on housing types varied. The largest percentage of comments on housing types (39%) are about wanting to see a variety of housing types, such as a mix of multi-level and single level homes, co-housing, communal living, retirement villages and modular housing.

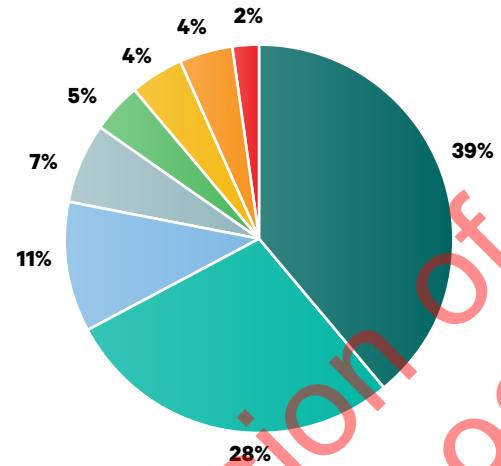
There is also a strong desire for multigenerational homes that are suitable for the extended whānau (28%), which is a theme that also came through in the Share Your Voice feedback.

People wanted to see neighbourhood connections and an integrated community, so that all ages and cultures are represented and living in eastern Porirua (11%). Some people expressed a wish to see larger homes (7%) and cultural models such as papakāinga (5%).

Of those who contributed housing type ideas, 84% wanted to see these changes in the future, while 16% were worried about the impact on community members (including a loss of connections to neighbours and the potentially negative impact for older people living in multi-storey units).

***“We don’t put our elderly into a rest home. I need a bigger home to have my mum with my family.”***

Key themes about different types of housing



- Diversity of housing options
- Multigenerational
- Neighbourliness & integration
- Larger homes
- Cultural designs
- Impact of change
- Amenities & communal spaces
- Demand

## Housing design

There were many contributions to the discussion on the design of housing. The strongest theme around design relates to amenities, with 41% of comments focusing on that. Included in amenities is a desire for open plan living space, more storage, separate bathrooms, off-street parking and better heating.

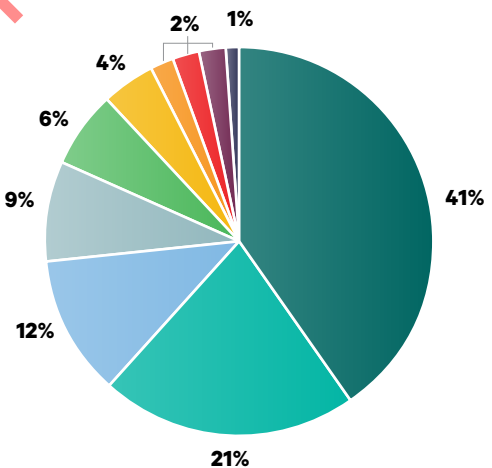
There is a strong theme on accessibility throughout the engagements, and accessibility in design (21%) including features such as flat sections, single level houses, wide entrances and providing wet floors.

Diversity of housing options (12%) included comments about making the best use of the topographical challenges. There is some acceptance of the need for increased density, but there are concerns that this will bring increased safety risks, such as noise issues, fire and anti-social behaviour, and the need to ensure the design of the new housing takes this into account.

People felt strongly about addressing noise and safety concerns (9%) and to incorporate cultural designs (6%).

***“Living in a beautiful home gives people pride and happiness, which makes you want to look after it.”***

Key themes about the design of housing



- Amenities, outdoor space & parking
- Accessibility
- Diversity of housing options
- Noise & safety
- Cultural designs
- Sustainability
- Impact of change
- Integrated community
- Co-design
- Pride

## Housing density

Housing density provoked the most discussion, as it is the topic that signals the most change to the community. People were concerned about the increase in population and what that might mean for them, their families and their community. While there is concern, there is also the realisation that Porirua is growing and more housing is needed. There was awareness that their children and grandchildren may have a different view than they do about living closer together.

The main themes arising from the robust discussions about increasing density was that it shouldn't come at the expense of privacy, safety, access to green space and loss of neighbourhood connections. There are concerns about the provision of housing suitable for families, however there was an acknowledgment that there is an opportunity for more and better options for people ageing or young families getting on the ladder to home ownership.

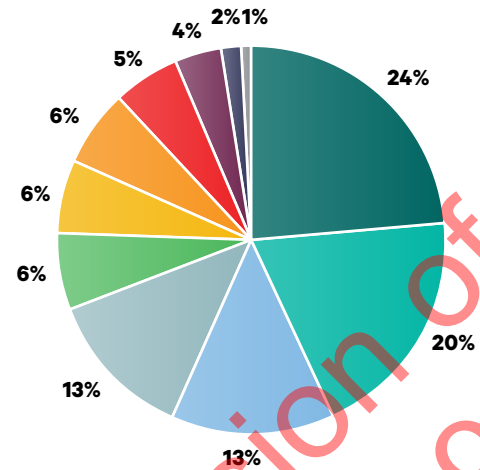
There are conflicting views on multi-storey apartments. Many people don't see this as a suitable option, particularly for families and older people, while others see this as a positive development, particularly if the apartments take into account accessibility needs.

There is an awareness of the social impacts for higher density housing forms, which don't provide for outdoor living space, gardens with veggie patches and space for children to play. There are concerns about the increase in traffic and the lower level of parking provisions that may arise from increasing density.

Many creative ideas were put forward about how to redesign a community to take into account more people and less space. The ideas included: access to green space, communal areas, neighbourhood safety, and improving the public transport system. Many of the people thought that building heights up to three storeys was acceptable but that they needed to be close to shops and services.

***“It is ok to have a smaller house as long as it benefits the community, and more people have a place to live and can afford it.”***

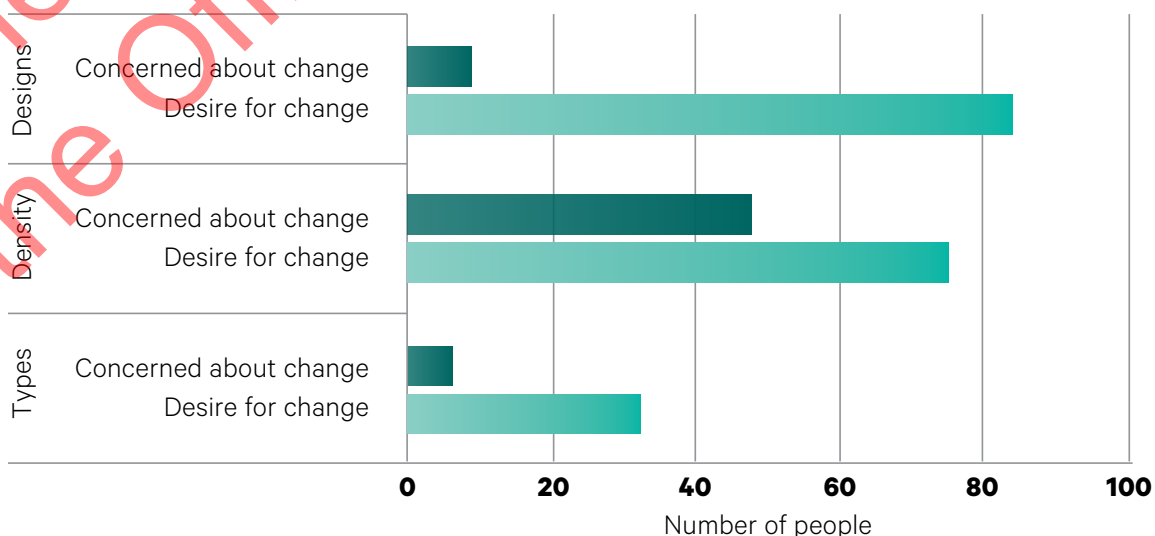
## Key themes about increasing housing density



The common desire when discussing housing types, design and density is to ensure the Porirua Development is done well, in a holistic way, so the infrastructure supports the change in density rather than compounding existing issues. Many of the people who contributed their ideas appeared to have a clear understanding of the need for growth, but have reservations about the potentially negative consequences of increasing density without due consideration to outdoor space, privacy, parking, traffic management and safety.

There is cautious support for increased density and a strong wish for the community to be at the centre of future discussions. See the graph below for a comparison of concern versus desire for change.

## Concern versus desire for change to housing



## Getting around

There is a general consensus for those who participated in our engagements that it is by far easier, quicker and more convenient to use a car, despite the cost of petrol and maintenance.

The condition of the roads and footpaths are a constant barrier for those who walk, or use wheelchairs, walkers or prams.

Safety is a concern for many people who report that they worry about speeding cars, behaviour of drivers at intersections, and heavy traffic at peak times (20%). Concerns were also raised about walking at night, unleashed dogs, anti-social behaviour and bullying while waiting for a bus.

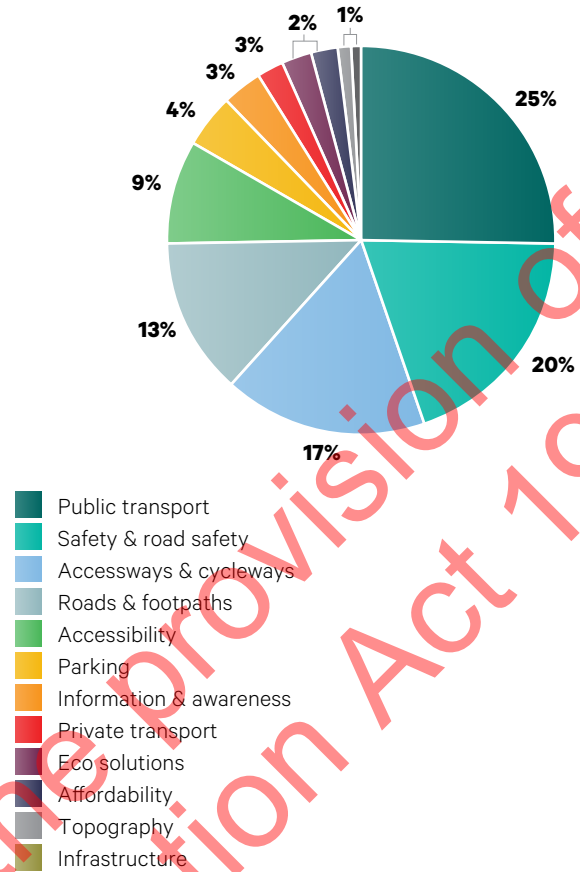
There was support for upgrading the bus stops to make them safer, more accessible and more usable in wet weather.

There is strong support to invest in walkways, to make them safer, wider, accessible and connect them to suburbs and streets (17%). This would encourage people to walk more often.

People wanted to see more cycling and there was support for separate cycle lanes, driver and cyclist education, and better cycleway connections.

**“Journeys need to be accessible and use new technology. When designing for the future everything needs to be looked at as a whole.”**

Key themes about getting around



## The key things people want us to know about getting around:

“**Transport system needs a complete redesign – from doorstep to destination**”

“**Make it safer for us to walk on the footpaths and cross the roads**”

“**Information made more available and accessible**”

“**Redesign the intersections so our children are safe**”

“**Fix the infrastructure – that is our highest priority**”

“**Make the walkways safer, wider and more accessible**”

“**Make our environment accessible for all of us**”

“**Bus routes need improving and expanded throughout eastern Porirua**”

“**Want better public transport – accessible, affordable and efficient**”

“**Better cycleways and access ways to parks and other suburbs**”

“**Consider alternative transport options such as e-bikes and scooters**”

“**Make the bus stops and shelters safer**”

Ideas for change include separating the cycle lanes and walkways from the main roads, increasing accessibility, improving the lighting, reducing the speed limits and reducing parking, particularly around schools.

There is also interest in communal responses such as carpooling, bike sharing, and community transport.

People suggested alternative transport, such as scooters and e-bikes, but that care needed to be taken around the elderly and young children.

**“I’ve seen people in wheelchairs having to go on the road because the footpath is so bad.”**

## Public transport

The widespread view from people who participated in the engagements is that the public transport system that services eastern Porirua is substandard. Residents express significant reluctance to use it and this is based on a variety of factors.

The main concern people have about public transport is the lack of frequency and reliability, with 25% unhappy about the level of service.

The routes are inadequate for those wanting to use the bus network. For many people, it means a significant distance to walk to the bus stop, and for some, the gradients of the streets are challenging.

Connectivity to the wider transport network, eg Titahi Bay or Hutt Valley, is an issue for some people who waste a lot of time waiting for connections, either for buses or the train.

Accessibility is a very real issue for a significant number of people who report that footpaths and gradients don't allow the buses to kneel (14%). Even when they do, there is inadequate seating. The physical design of the buses and shelters don't allow for wheelchairs, walking frames and prams.

Ideas include improving bus driver awareness of the issues disabled people have when accessing public transport. Suggestions include better driver education and increasing the use of technology for sight impaired and deaf people to ensure they get real time information. There was support for timetables being available more widely across multiple channels and translated into different languages.

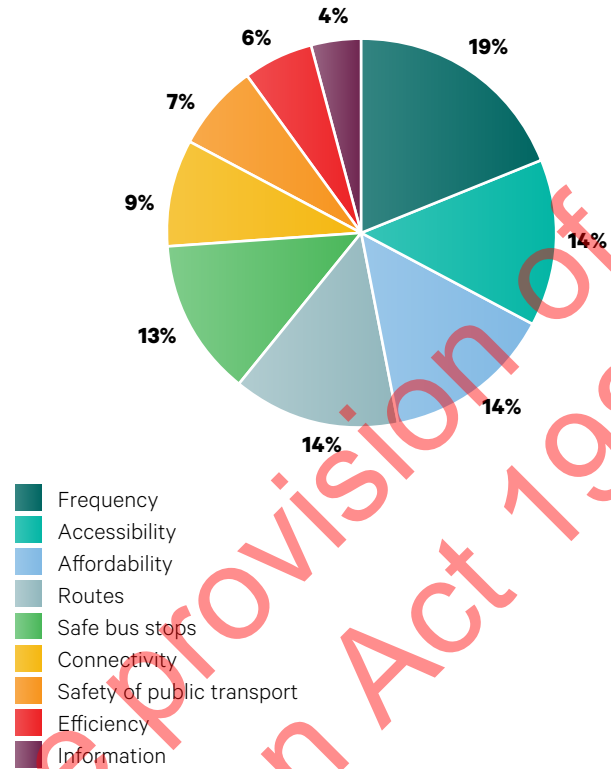
The main ideas for change include: expanding the routes; smaller and more frequent buses; creating bus lanes; investing in upgrading the bus shelters to be safer, weatherproof, and accessible; better seating on buses; public toilets near bus stops; and to get real time information. Other ideas include cheaper fares, free buses for school children and expanding the Gold Card (currently operates between 9am and 3pm and after 6.30pm on weekdays, and any time on weekends and public holidays).

## Parks and open spaces

The key themes emerging from the engagements on this topic are:

- creating parks and recreation spaces centred on whanāu and communal activities
- improving the sports facilities
- making the parks and playgrounds safer and more accessible
- enhancing the natural environment with planting of native flora
- more visibility of Ngāti Toa's history and culture
- clean and safe waterways and environment
- running inclusive, fun community and cultural events and activities
- preserving the taonga of Bothamley Park and Cannons Creek lakes.

## Key themes about public transport



***“I don't want to take the bus because I'm sick of waiting for it. By the time it gets to me, it is all filled up.”***

## Whānau-centred recreation space

Very few people could name a favourite park in eastern Porirua that they visited regularly. When asked what their ideal park is, most people said “like Aotea Lagoon”.

The main improvements people wanted to see is more amenities, such as BBQ areas, umu pits, seating, toilets, water fountains, better lighting, and trees for natural shade in family recreational areas (40%). Many saw this as an opportunity to suggest multipurpose recreational spaces, such as stages for performance, spaces with exercise equipment, educational spaces for children. There was also a call for better play equipment.

There were a number of comments about requests for fences around playgrounds, especially around the main road of Warspite Ave. Some people want to see another sports venue, such as “Jerry Collins Stadium” (Porirua Park), and sports facilities that will allow for rugby, volleyball, netball and basketball (14%). A number of people discussed the idea of extending Cannons Creek pool.

## Bothamley Park

Bothamley Park is the green heart of Porirua – a stunning green space with ecological links to Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Pāuatahanui Inlet and Belmont Regional Park.

The park is a favourite to many across the region and it has its own friends of Bothamley Park group and Facebook page. Many who contributed to the ideas about Bothamley Park are regular users of the park and take part in walking, cycling or running there (14%).

Regular Saturday parkruns are held at the park, along with special occasion runs (like Christmas, New Year and Halloween parkruns), buggy walks, community blackberry harvests and working bees.

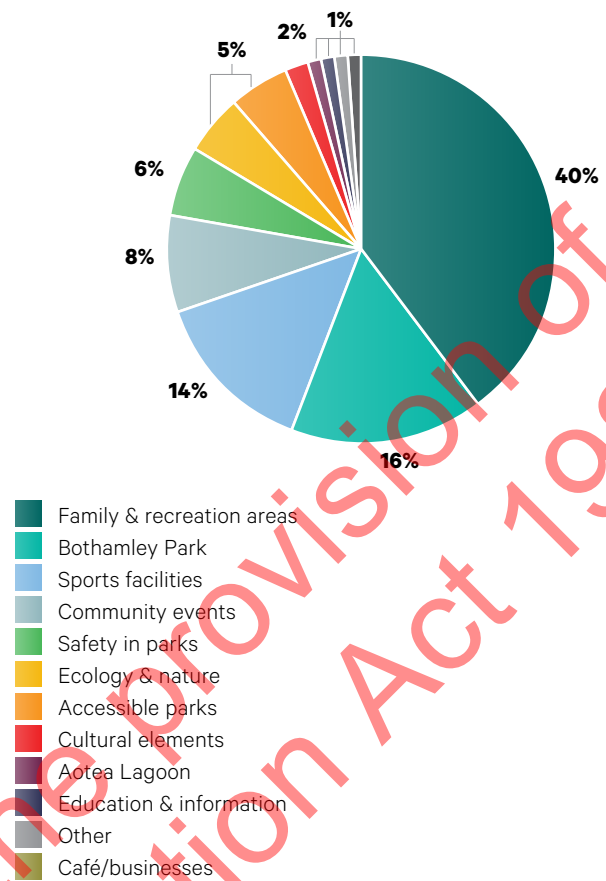
Some people expressed concerns about there being unsafe access to the park, safety within it, and the constant dumping of rubbish.

Many people want to see activities and events that bring the community together and to support healthy lifestyles. Other ideas put forward include organising more community events, such as Creekfest, Polyfest, cultural and religious celebrations, language weeks, concerts, art festivals and movie nights (8%).

### Community sport and fitness

There was a strong desire to see the growth of community sport and fitness in eastern Porirua, whether through creating new multi-purpose/sports facilities or more informal recreational and fitness activities.

Key themes about parks & open spaces



## The key things people want us to know about parks and open spaces:

“  
Want parks to be accessible for everyone, all ages and abilities

“  
Safety and access is not where it needs to be

“  
Bring it back to how it was 500 years ago

“  
Want more recreational spaces in the parks with amenities such as seating, BBQs and public toilets

“  
Want to see sports tournaments again like kilikiti (Samoan cricket)

“  
Multi-purpose sports facilities

“  
Using the parks to teach children about hunting, gathering and foraging

“  
Clean up the waterways, lagoons and lakes

“  
Significance of Ngāti Toa reflected in the environment

“  
Bothamley Park is a taonga, we need to care for it

“  
Better play and exercise equipment

“  
Communal areas that can be used for festivals and events

## Living well

### Community, safety and family life

One of the key themes running throughout the engagement process is the strong connection to community. Many people saw eastern Porirua as a welcoming and accepting place to belong.

One-third of people (32%) said a safe community was the key to living well. The main concerns are feeling unsafe on the streets, roads with inadequate lighting, dark alleyways, stray dogs, anti-social behaviour and dangerous drivers.

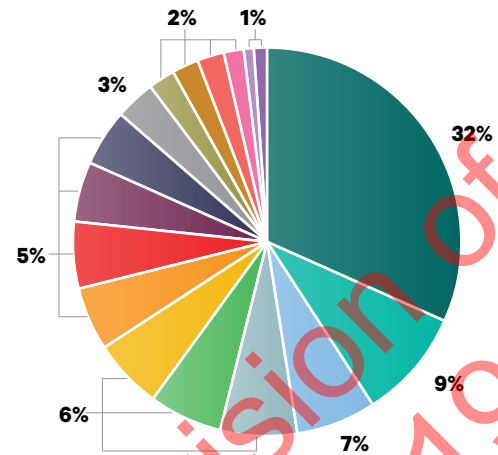
People saw more community involvement as the answer to a number of issues (6%). People also expressed interest in setting up community gardens, tree-planting, cleaning up the environment, running youth activities, and neighbourhood support. There is strong support for community-based education, with a willingness to share skills and talents (9%).

Festivals and events are a way to reflect cultural diversity. They are also a way of integrating the community of existing residents with future residents to come and there is a desire to hold more events such as these (6%).

There is a strong desire to ensure eastern Porirua stays as a whānau friendly environment. Some people are concerned that affordability, rising rents and gentrification might push families out of the area (5%). Eastern Porirua is home to multiple generations of families and the hope is that their future generations will find their home here too.

The main ideas for change include making the roads and footpaths wider and safer, increasing the level of street lighting, Porirua Community Guardians, CCTV and more Police presence. Other ideas include increased services for mental health, alcohol and drug addiction, and removal of the TABs and bottle stores.

What will help us to live well



- Safe community
- Community education & schools
- Keep it local - businesses & jobs
- Better health services & facilities
- More social events & activities
- Community ownership
- Affordable living
- Better & affordable housing
- More youth activities
- Culturally integrated community
- Improved infrastructure
- Better community & sports facilities
- Variety of shops
- Looking after the environment
- Other
- Maintain our churches
- Look after ourselves

### The key things people wanted us to know about living well:

“  
**Feeling safe**

“  
**Have accessible housing that is affordable for the community**

“  
**Importance of children living well in their home and with their family**

“  
**Keeping the family grouped together**

“  
**Embracing Te Whare Tapa Wha model of wellbeing in the community**

“  
**Good healthcare**

“  
**Feeling good about my home**

“  
**Ability to practice my culture**

“  
**Being happy and living healthy**

“  
**Access to education**

“  
**Support for disabled and elderly**

“  
**Uplifting and empowering the individual to be the best version of themselves**



## Environment

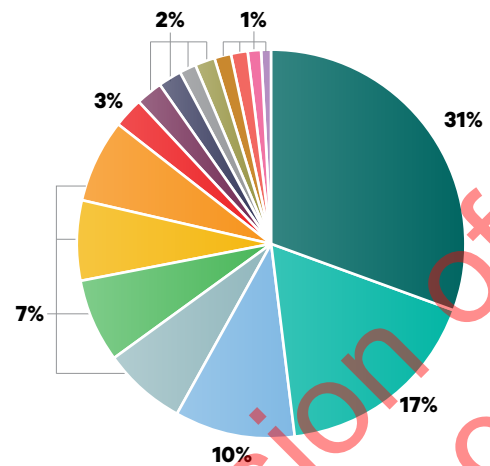
Recycling and improving the waste management systems rated the highest concern to people at 31%. People wanted to see bigger rubbish bins with recycling centres at the shopping centres, clearer information on how to recycle, and steps taken to prevent the dumping of rubbish in the environment. One participant felt so strongly about litter that they put a pin in the interactive map to propose rubbish bins at all 52 bus stops in eastern Porirua.

Green space and planting of native trees was the next topic people gave as a priority with 17% wanting to see an increase in green spaces, community gardens and access to nature. People were conscious of the impact of medium density housing, so wanted an assurance there would be green spaces incorporated into the planning and design. People wanted to see tree-lined streets and attractive streetscapes that reflect the unique cultural essence of eastern Porirua. People also wanted to see the cultural values of Te Ao Māori and the Pacific reflected in the physical environment.

A number of people felt that the community need to step up and act collectively for the good of the environment (10%). Clean-up days, tree planting and street makeovers are put forward as examples. Some felt that more was needed to be done on educating residents about environmental issues, such as improving the waterways, and climate change (7%). Ideas for change include using solar power, less reliance on cars and reducing harmful sprays (7%).

**“We are in this community, therefore we have a shared responsibility to look after the environment together.”**

What people said about the environment



## The key things people want us to know about the environment:

“**The harbour and our beach are polluted and our community swim in it and that’s not good**”

“**Prioritise the health of your family. If your family environment is clean, then everything will follow from that**”

“**Do the right thing!**”

“**Everything to do with the environment is important so we need to plan with the environment at the centre to ensure we enhance it and don’t damage it**”

“**It’s a good place to live but we can make it better together**”

“**Make sure we can still have gardens in new homes to connect to nature and grow food**”

“**Accessibility for people with disabilities, as well as able-bodied people, to special natural places**”

“**Fix the waste and water systems**”

“**Planting more native trees and increase the bird life**”

“**Treasure our waterways and clean our duck pond**”

“**All of the tracks are overgrown!**”

“**How can people still “work their land” if they are in medium density?**”

## Community facilities and shopping centres

### Community facilities

A significant number of people (almost half) want to see better sports facilities (34%) and more sports activities (13%) in eastern Porirua. Ideas include a multi-purpose sports facility for netball, volleyball and basketball, and a gym. This could provide fitness classes, multi-code sports clinics and host sports events.

Arts and culture are intertwined in eastern Porirua and there were many people who commented on wanting to see art in the environment. People also expressed a desire for spaces in which the arts, and more specifically, cultural arts, could thrive (14%).

Ideas include building a Māori and Pacific marae-style facility for creative and cultural activities, including weaving, crafts, carving, cooking, a community art gallery, singing, dancing, kapa haka, music and theatre.

A special mention goes to the Cannons Creek Library, ranked as one of the community's treasured community resources. There was support for expanding the library and using it to run more programmes and activities.

There is a strong focus on community education, where people can learn and share their culture and language (11%). People want to see a space for young people created that focuses on activities and education, such as a homework club and skill development hub leading to employment (6%).

***“We need individual and community opportunities to share our cultures, skills and talents.”***

### Meeting and event space

There is a significant shortage of space for people and groups to meet and connect in eastern Porirua.

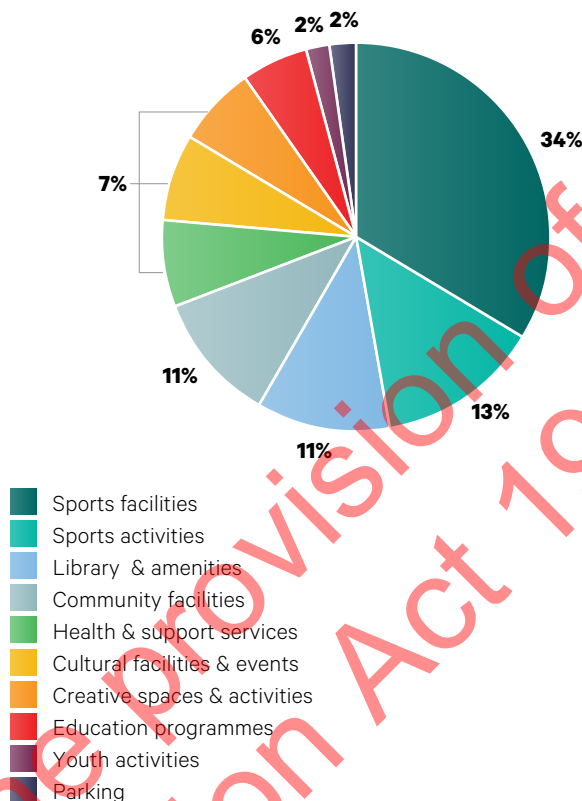
One of the most important messages from those who participated in the engagements is the need for a community facility that is free or low cost and flexible, with lots of different sized spaces for all sorts of groups and activities. People want to see a community cultural centre that has a strong sense of community ownership.

A key theme throughout the engagement is that people of eastern Porirua enjoy meeting and connecting through celebrations, social and cultural activities and performance. Having little or no access to space puts a burden on those groups to fundraise or pay for it themselves. It impedes what could be a step-change in accelerating the development of social and cultural capital.

There are so many barriers for community and cultural groups wanting to help themselves by building on their existing strengths.

Consideration needs to be given to a thorough examination of existing community spaces and potentially bringing forward plans for a community hub.

Key themes about community facilities & activities



***“We need a community hub that the young and elderly and people with disabilities can use to support socialisation and reduce isolation. The facility needs to be culturally appropriate for all to access, and be able to accommodate large numbers. Porirua is a very diverse multicultural community and we need to respect this. The community hub should employ people in the community.”***

## The key things people want us to know about shops and community facilities

“  
The community should be at the heart of everything

“  
A lot of deaf people rely on phones so charging facilities are crucial

“  
Knock down the old, design and rebuild a more open and inviting space

“  
We need individual and community opportunities to share our cultures, skills and talents

“  
Want a place where we can relax together – what about a nightclub?

“  
We want everyone to feel included – one way is through experiencing food from other cultures

“  
Need a supermarket like Pak’nSave, a butcher, a florist, clothes and material shops to cater for diverse community

“  
Don’t value much, they sell sub-standard food and are run down

“  
There are lots of cultural groups to take into consideration here

“  
We want to see more Pasifika shops

“  
Multi-use youth, family and disabled facilities eg meetings/hui, a quiet space to hang out and connect, and for sport and art

“  
Cannons Creek shops need a facelift

### Shopping centres

Almost half of people participating in the engagement want to see more variety of shops in the future (47%), such as an expansion of the markets, a supermarket and butcher, as well as clothing and material shops.

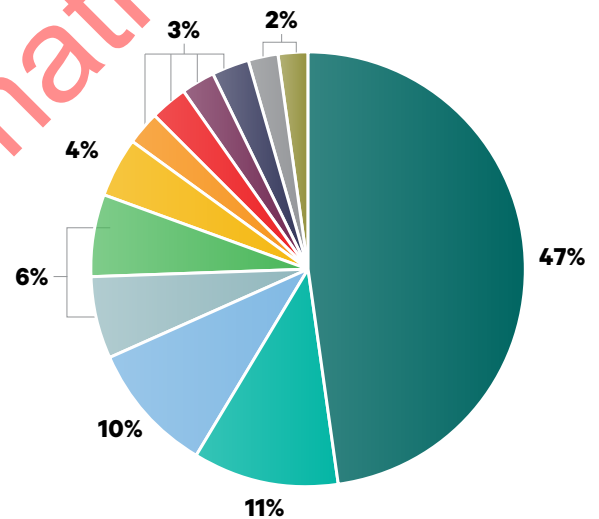
While people valued the existing shops and the low prices, there was a consensus that the shopping centres need to be redesigned, and made safer and more attractive (11%).

People wanted to see less of the takeaway shops, pubs and TABs and more access to healthy food and multi-cultural food options (10%). People prioritised local business owners and want to see more locals owning their own businesses, which would employ local people (6%).

People also made multiple requests for a restaurant/café in eastern Porirua, though often as part of another facility eg expansion of the library and swimming pool with a café attached to it.

**“We want everyone to feel included, all of the different cultures. One way to do this is through experiencing food from other cultures.”**

### Key themes about the shopping centres



## Vision to 2045

As part of the Change is Coming sessions, we asked people to think about what they wanted their community to look like, sound like and feel like in 25 years time. Students from Corinna School and Porirua College were also asked about their vision for the future.

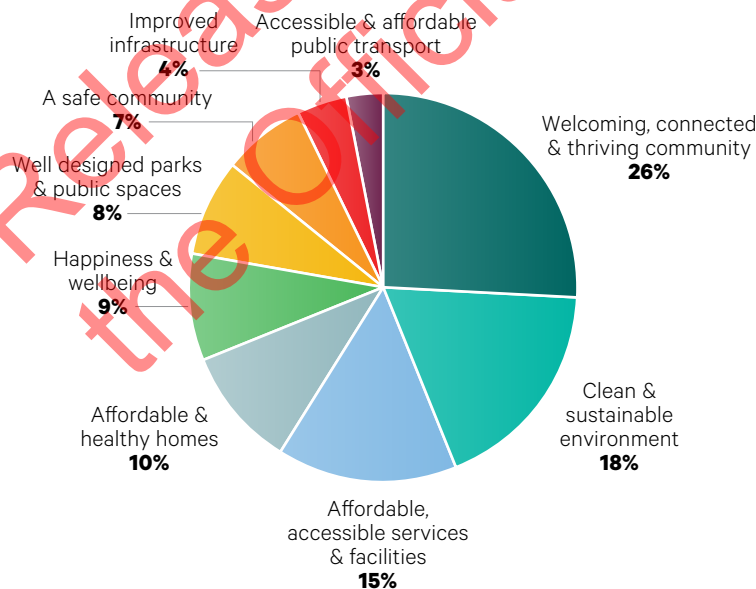
Many looked ahead and thought of their children and mokopuna and what kind of life they wished for them, while others looked at the current environment and wanted to see it improved upon. The responses ranged from aspirational and visionary to practical, and reflected their day-to-day realities.



### Vision by theme

More than 430 responses were collected and we did a thematic analysis to identify what matters most to people when they think about the future of their community. Here's what people said about their vision for eastern Porirua for 2045:

**Vision for 2045**



## Social Pinpoint

To complement the Change is Coming engagements, an online engagement platform called Social Pinpoint provided two opportunities for participating online:

1. an interactive map where people could drop a pin in any part of the designated map area and make a comment
2. answer short survey questions on the six themed topics.

The benefits of using Social Pinpoint were that it complemented the face-to-face engagement and was particularly useful for the silent voices, those who usually do not participate in traditional engagement processes. It also meant that we could cater for people who prefer visual and graphical imagery rather than words or talking in person.

As well as being available to the general public, we also ran sessions at Corinna School and Porirua College.

Social Pinpoint was also available at the Pacific engagements, which drew a lot of interest from the young people who attended.

The Social Pinpoint campaign ran from 8 November to 21 December.

## Social Pinpoint findings

Social Pinpoint reached some of those people who don't usually attend public engagements. A total of 640 people engaged with the interactive map, providing 600 online responses and 122 survey responses. Combined, they contributed more than 1,100 ideas. The ideas have been combined into the Change is Coming thematic analysis though we get a snapshot below about what people cared about and commented on.

What people commented on using Social Pinpoint



## Community participation

More than 2,300 people participated in the engagements during 2019, and contributed over 5,000 ideas. This included residents, community and church leaders, primary school and college students, representatives from community groups, social services and business owners.

Date	Engagement	Specific session	Number of people participating
Nov-Dec	Change is Coming sessions	Waitangirua, Rānui, Cannons Creek, former refugee and new migrant community, accessibility, mātā waka, Cook Island, Samoan, Niue, Tuvalu Tonga, Tokelau, Fiji	364 residents attended + 40 organisations
Sept-Dec	Community Info Hub	Visits to the Community Info Hub	Over 150 visitors, 11 groups and one school visit
Dec	Social Pinpoint sessions	Porirua College in three sessions	45 students
Nov-Dec	Social Pinpoint	Online interactive map	640 people engaged, with 600 online responses
Nov-Dec	Social Pinpoint	Online surveys	122 survey responses
Nov	Social Pinpoint	Interactive map at Corinna School in nine sessions	90 students
Nov	Waitangirua market	Dots exercise	83 responses
Nov	Change is Coming sessions	Town centre walk and talks	11 residents
Sept	Community event	Opening of the Community Info Hub	70 residents
Aug	CAREERfest	Stall at CAREERfest – word cloud exercise	154 students from four colleges
June	Porirua College	Map exercise	100 students
June-July	Share Your Voice sessions	Rānui, Cannons Creek, Waitangirua, Ascot Park, former refugee and new migrant community, Porirua City Councillor workshop	340 residents attended
March-April	Ka Mua Ka Muri	Art workshops	120 children from five Cannons Creek schools

## Next steps

The feedback is being considered by the Porirua Development team and their technical consultants as part of the development of our Spatial Delivery Strategy. We will present this feedback to the community as part of phase two – Whakaata of the He Ara engagement process in 2020.





## Acknowledgements

We recognise the assistance of the leadership of Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Tā Matiu Rei and Dr Taku Parai. We appreciate the guidance and expertise of Reverend Nove Vailau'au and Lealamanu'a Aiga Caroline Mareko.

A special acknowledgement is made to the late Reverend Perema Leasi, a servant of God and a tireless champion of the residents of eastern Porirua and the region. He was a friend to the project, advocating for more and better homes for the community of eastern Porirua.

Thanks also go to Thinkplace, the Kahui Ako, and our colleagues from Porirua City Council, in particular Vanessa Masoe, Stephen Flude, Bryan Patchett and Robyn Steel.

Gratitude and acknowledgement of key people in making this a success goes to the facilitators who all went above and beyond to ensure Pacific voices were heard and reflected in this engagement and in the project planning process. Fa'fetai tele lava!

Much appreciation goes to the Kāinga Ora team, consultants and their families for the many late nights and weekends spent ensuring that the people's voices of eastern Porirua are seen, heard and reflected in the kaupapa and direction of this project.

And last, but not least, thank you to all of the residents, individuals, families, businesses, churches and groups who took time to contribute and help shape the future of eastern Porirua.



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