

Annual Report Summary 2024/25

Pūrongo ā Tau

For the financial year ended 30 June 2025

A copy of Council's full Annual Report is available from nelson.govt.nz



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Mayor's foreword

Kupu whakataki a te Koromatua

Nelson City Council turned 150 in 2024. We are one of New Zealand's oldest city councils; there were only five 150 years ago – Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Dunedin.

The launch of a book in June 2025 covering the 50 years of Council from 1974 to 2024 was the culmination of the commemorations to mark our sesquicentennial. *Welcome to Whakatū Nelson City Council 1974-2024*, written by Paul Christoffel, follows earlier Council publications at the centenary, covering 1924 to 1974, and the 50th jubilee, covering 1874-1924.

One of the most striking features of Council's past half-century was the massive improvement in the city's infrastructure, services and environment. Our water was frequently rationed, and its quality was among the worst in NZ in the 1970s. Large investments, each controversial at the time, in the Maitai Dam in 1980s, water meters in the 1990s and the Tantragee Water Treatment Plant in 2000s ensured the supply and quality of our water is now among the best.

We've made huge environmental gains over the past 50 years with the York Valley Landfill, Pascoe St Waste Recovery Centre, Bell Island and Wakapuaka oxidation ponds, the phasing out of open fires and the creation of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary.

Over the past year, we have continued to improve and maintain our infrastructure and services to best serve our community. Here are some of the highlights:

Storm recovery

Good progress was made in 2024/25 on the Council recovery work from the August 2022 storm. Of 16 landslides that required stabilisation works, 10 have been completed, construction is underway on two and the work is being procured for the remaining four. The broader infrastructure work is more than 60% complete.

This storm recovery work is so well advanced that it no longer requires the oversight of the Storm Recovery Taskforce, which has been dissolved. From 1 July 2025, the remaining work will be reported through the normal process of six-monthly infrastructure and annual reports.

I wish to acknowledge the high standard of work undertaken by Council staff during the past three years. Nelson is more advanced than other regions that had major storms around the same time, enabling families and the city to recover more quickly.

Growing community housing

In September 2024, I joined in opening eight homes that form stage two of Habitat for Humanity's 22-home Shields Way development at Stoke.

Council supported this development with contributions from its Housing Reserve. The Housing Reserve was established in November 2020 with \$12 million following the sale of Council's 142 community housing units to Kāinga Ora.

A total of \$8.9 million from the Housing Reserve has been approved, which will help deliver 111 new homes.

Housing remains a significant issue for our city and these additional, affordable homes are helping resolve it.

Maitai Dam aeration project

The Maitai Dam was commissioned in 1987 and provides a reservoir capacity of 4 million cubic meters of water. This reservoir is an important water source for the city.

Temperature stratification during the summer period, from November to April, has long affected the dissolved oxygen levels within the reservoir and as a result, in the Maitai River south branch. This led to elevated concentrations of naturally occurring contaminants and could create complexities for the water treatment plant if water needed to be sourced from the depths of the reservoir.

To address these issues, a new aeration system was installed in the Maitai Dam. It includes a pipe with discharge nozzles that produce bubble plumes, which encourage mixing, increasing the oxygen saturation within the reservoir. This improves the water quality and habitat in the dam and the Maitai River.

The aeration system was commissioned in December 2024 and is working well. It is a good, practical example of how Council is working to improve the environment.

Bridge to Better project

The \$78 million Bridge to Better project involves a massive upgrade of the infrastructure and streetscape of one of the oldest parts of central Nelson. Some of the pipes are more than a century old and the capacity is insufficient to support multistorey commercial and housing developments.

Preliminary works started last year with a new water supply ring main along Bridge St East, Halifax and Collingwood streets. The project also involves a new wastewater pump station on Paru Paru Road and a new floodgate was installed at Saltwater Creek in early September, which will help keep high tides and storm surges from pushing back into the city streets, including the Wakatu Square carpark.

Enabling works have commenced already and the main construction period will be between early February 2026 and July 2027. Everyone's patience, flexibility

and goodwill during this time will be most appreciated as well as support for the businesses in the area. This is the largest redevelopment project in our city centre ever and is a critical part of our ambitions for city revitalisation.

Nelson Bus Hub

Work was completed in 2024/25 on plans for the new Nelson Bus Hub at Millers Acre, which will be the hub for all Nelson bus services including the InterCity, school bus, tourism and eBus services. The physical work got underway in July and is expected to be completed this summer.

This new hub will have six bus bays, compared with four at the current Bridge Street depot. The Bridge Street depot site will be used as a works yard for the Bridge to Better project whereafter Council intends to sell the property for development as part of its city revitalisation plans.

Tāhunanui Beach surf lifesaving club

Plans for a new surf lifesaving club at Tāhunanui Beach progressed over the past year after Council committed \$1.65 million to the project through the Long Term Plan 2024-34. Nelson Surf Life Saving Club must raise the rest of the funding and got a huge boost in August 2024 with \$1.6 million from Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Central Government Capital Fund. The next step is consents and detailed design with construction expected to start next year.

Tāhunanui Beach is one of Nelson's most precious jewels, popular with locals and tourists alike. But the surf lifesaving club's facilities are amongst the worst in the country with equipment stored in four different places. The surf lifesaving club is more than a sports club; it provides an important public service with its volunteer patrols to help keep our beach safe. It also provides valuable opportunities for youth development.

Tāhunanui Beach contaminated waste cleanup

More than 10,500 tonnes of contaminated material was removed from our iconic Tāhunanui Beach between September and December 2024 after wood waste was dumped there in the 1960s.

Thanks to my fellow Elected Members, Council staff, contractors, consultants and iwi for delivering the clean-up project on time and under the \$4.89 million budget. I also acknowledge the support of Environment Minister Penny Simmonds and the Government contribution of \$3.44 million towards this clean-up cost.

Climate Change Strategy

The Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy including the Climate Action Plan was adopted on 3 July 2025 after consultation in March and April, hearings in May and deliberations in June.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the consultation or shared their thoughts at one of the engagement events. We received 95 submissions.

This strategy is our path forward, showing the roles Council, businesses, landowners, community groups, iwi and whānau and individuals can play in reducing emissions. It is particularly important that Council shows leadership in meeting its targets for emissions reductions.

Soft plastics kerbside recycling

In October 2024, The Packaging Forum, supported by Council, started a six-month trial of the first industry-funded soft plastics kerbside recycling programme.

The trial involved 1,000 households, including mine. During that initial six-month period, more than 600,000 plastic bags/wrappers were collected and recycled – equal to 100 bags/wrappers per household per month. They were recycled by Future Post in Blenheim into fence posts, bollards and railings that are on sale at Mitre 10 Nelson.

Council in May 2025, agreed to further investigate the possibility of adding soft plastics recycling to Council's existing recycling collections. On the back of that decision, in June 2025, The Packaging Forum agreed to extend the soft plastics kerbside recycling programme trial for a further year.

Project Mahitahi

A five-year project aimed at ecosystem restoration in the Maitai/Mahitahi Valley concluded in 2024/25 with great results including the planting of over 150,000 native plants/trees.

This collaborative project was supported by Nelson City Council with funding from the Ministry for the Environment and Department of Conservation along with tree funding from Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service and Trees That Count.

Other results included 40 hectares of weed control, 128 hectares of pest animal control, with more than 3,300 predators trapped and extensive crack willow control covering more than 17 kilometres of riverbanks along the Maitai River and Brook Stream.

International cricket

In July 2024, the Nelson and Tasman councils approved changes to the Saxton Field Reserve Management Plan that enable international cricket matches to be held at Saxton Oval.

The amendments were made because a section in the Saxton Field Reserve Management Plan 2021 banned alcohol advertising, but sponsorship deals around international cricket matches had some alcohol advertising. The amended plan allows exceptions to be granted by the Chair of the Saxton Field Committee and CEOs of the Nelson and Tasman councils for international cricket where there are existing sponsorship arrangements that include alcohol advertising.

We had international matches involving the Black Caps and the White Ferns last summer and two Black Caps games have been announced for this November. This will be the third summer in a row we have secured international cricket in Nelson after a previous five-year drought.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Smith', written in a cursive style.

Hon Dr Nick Smith

Mayor of Nelson

Welcome to our summary of the Annual Report 2024/25

Each year in October Council produces its Annual Report which outlines progress on the commitments it made in its work programme for the year. The report includes performance information on Council's activities, and a detailed set of audited financial statements.

This document is a summary of the Annual Report 2024/25. It gives a condensed overview of the key findings and provides a snapshot of Nelson City Council's performance, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read the full Annual Report at: [Annual Reports - Nelson City Council](#)

Copies of the full Annual Report 2024/25 are also available at all Council libraries, and at the Customer Service Centre.

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Independent Auditor's Report

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Nelson City Council Group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Nelson City Council Group for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 18 to 36:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary key achievements and service performance for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025 in our auditor's report dated 30 October 2025.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report includes emphasis of matter paragraphs drawing attention to the following disclosures in the full annual report:

Future of water delivery

Note 2.29 on pages 161 and 162 of the full annual report outlines that in response to the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms, the Council has decided to deliver water services itself directly.

There is some uncertainty as the proposal is yet to be accepted by the Secretary for Local Government.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 17 of the summary of the annual report.

Inherent uncertainty in the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions

The Council has chosen to include a measure of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its performance information. Considering the public interest in climate change-related information, we draw attention to pages 109 to 111 of the full annual report on the performance information, which outlines the inherent uncertainty in the reported GHG emissions. Quantifying GHG emissions is subject to inherent uncertainty because the scientific knowledge and methodologies to determine the emissions factors and processes to calculate or estimate quantities of GHG sources are still evolving, as are GHG reporting and assurance standards.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of *Professional and Ethical Standard 1: International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards)* (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to the audit, we have reported on a limited assurance engagement related to the Council's debenture trust deed. Other than the audit, our report on the disclosure requirements, and this limited assurance engagement, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Group.



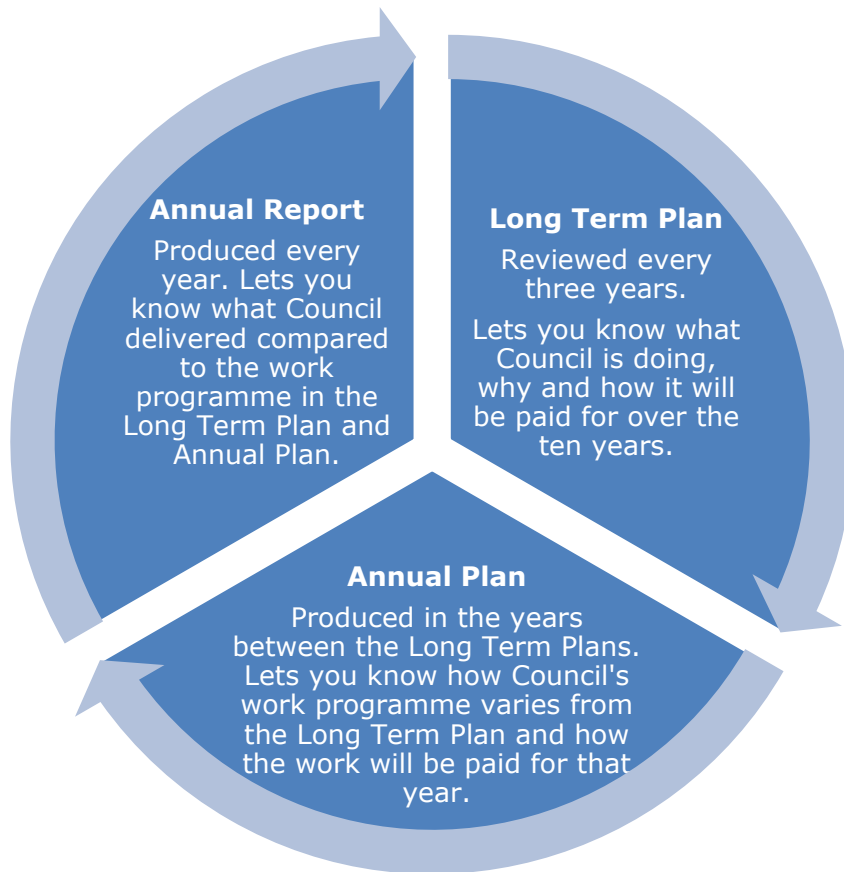
Julian Tan
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Christchurch, New Zealand
20 November 2025

Introduction

As one of six unitary authorities in New Zealand, Nelson City Council undertakes a wide variety of work to meet the combined responsibilities of as both a city and a regional council.

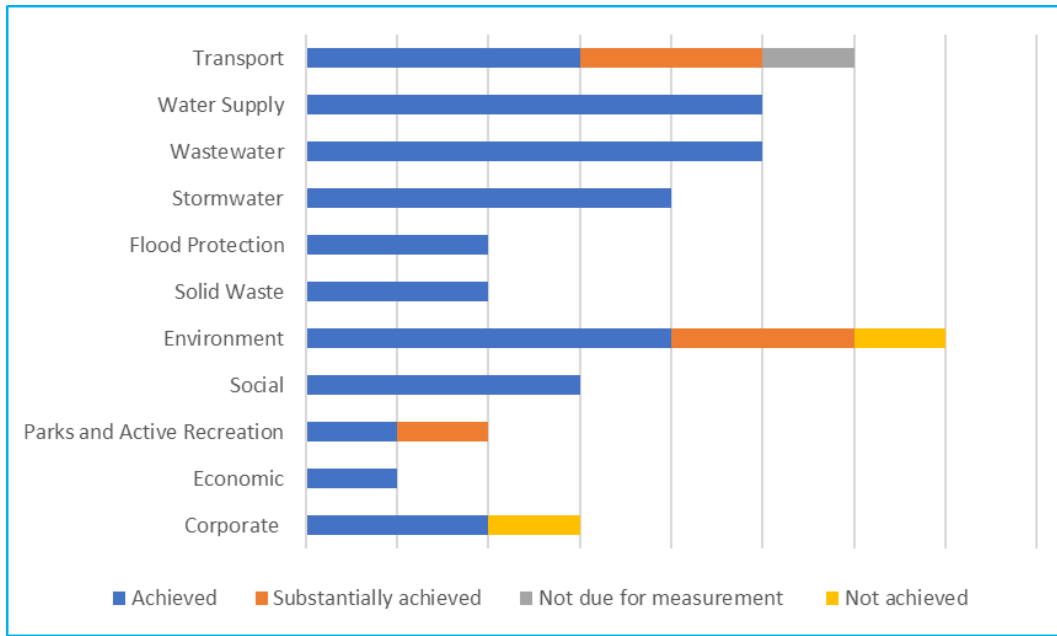
We manage a range of local infrastructure (such as roads) and community assets and services (such as parks and libraries). We carry out science and environment activities, land use planning, resource management functions and develop plans to meet the current and future needs of the city.

The Annual Report is an important step in this planning cycle, as it outlines to the community how Council has performed against the commitments it made in its work programme for the year, as set in the Long Term Plan (LTP). The most recent Long Term Plan was adopted in 2024, and covers the next 10 years, with a focus on the first three years of the Plan. The Annual Report covers the first year of this Plan – i.e. 2024/25.



Performance overview: year ended 30 June 2025

The Annual Report provides an update on Council's non-financial performance against 40 key performance measures across its eleven activity areas. Council has successfully achieved 80% of its targets, with an additional 12.5% substantially achieved. The chart below provides a summary of our results by activity area:



Financial overview: year ended 30 June 2025

Council is required under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 (section 101) to manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general dealings prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of its community. Council must ensure that each year's projected operating revenues are set at a level sufficient to meet that year's projected operating expenses (break-even).

This Summary Annual Report shows that Council recorded a net surplus before revaluations (for the year ended 30 June 2025) of \$1 million, which was \$19.1 million less than budgeted surplus of \$20.1 million. An explanation of this variance can be found in note 40 in the accounts section of the full annual report.

The surplus is \$1 million in the 2024/25 financial year, while in the 2023/24 financial year there was a \$7.3 million deficit. The accounting surplus/deficit includes capital items such as road subsidies and grants relating to capital projects, revaluation and vested assets which are required to be treated as revenue for accounting purposes.

As of 30 June 2025, Council's borrowings, net of deposits and cash, were \$241 million, compared to the budget of \$252 million. The actual net debt is lower

than the budget mainly due to movements in the capital program compared to the 2024/25 budget.

This Summary Annual Report 2024/25 was prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP) and complies with International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and other applicable financial reporting standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities.

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, modified by the revaluation of land, certain infrastructural assets, investment property and biological assets. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand (\$000). The financial statements of Nelson City Council are for the year ended 30 June 2025. The financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 30 October 2025.

Statement on fostering Māori participation in Council decision-making

Te whakatītina i te urunga o Ngāi Māori

Council is committed to strengthening partnerships with iwi and Māori of Te Taihū and providing opportunities for Māori involvement in Council decision-making in a meaningful way.

In December 2023, Council signed the Kia Kotahi Te Taihū, Together Te Taihū partnership agreement with the eight iwi and neighbouring councils of Te Taihū. The agreement promotes collaboration on shared priorities and regional challenges. In early 2025, five strategic priorities were agreed across the eleven partners: increased regional investment and economic development, strengthening community resilience, improving housing access and affordability, protecting and restoring the environment, and embedding critical awareness of tangata whenua culture, knowledge and language.

Other actions undertaken by Council in 2024/25 included supporting cultural events, providing meaningful engagement opportunities through forums and advisory groups, and building staff capability via the Te Puāwaitanga Cultural Competency Framework.

Council's climate action

Nelson is already experiencing impacts of the changing climate in Nelson such as more frequent storms, coastal erosion, and variable weather. While businesses and households are adopting measures to address climate change, greater action is needed to get it right for future generations.

Climate mitigation and adaptation is embedded in Council's Long Term Plan, with projects like the East-West cycleway and new bus hub to encourage forms of transport that will help reduce transport emissions (which make up about 60% of Nelson's emissions) and stormwater upgrades and flood protection improving resilience.

In July 2025, Council adopted the Whakatū Nelson Climate Change Strategy (including an Action Plan), setting targets to cut community emissions by 8.3% annually (excluding biogenic methane) from 2025–2035 and reduce Council emissions by 43% in Waste and Transport sectors by 2030. The Strategy focuses on key areas where both Council and the Nelson community can make a significant impact, including low-emissions transport, a resilient built environment, and a zero-waste society. Recent initiatives include a carbon footprint inventory, regional risk assessment, adaptation planning for the Wood, and three rounds of Climate Change Grants.

Local Water Done Well

Legislative Context and Council Response

Council adopted its Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) in August 2025 and submitted it for review by the Secretary of Local Government by the statutory deadline of 3 September 2025. The Secretary of Local Government could either accept or decline the WSDP or require further information from the Council about it. At the date of adoption of the Council's Annual Report on 30 October 2025, the Secretary of Local Government was still considering the Council's WSDP.

The submission of the WSDP followed significant legislative changes under the Local Water Done Well programme introduced by the newly elected Government in December 2023, which included the requirement for Council's to decide how it will deliver water services to the community.

After consulting the community in late 2024, Council confirmed its preference to retain in-house water service delivery, now subject to stricter regulatory and financial requirements. The WSDP outlines how services will remain sustainable, meet quality standards, and support housing growth, including detailed asset and investment planning.

New legislation passed in August 2025 establishes an enduring framework for water services, introducing enhanced compliance, economic regulation, and consumer protections. Council must now report operational performance to Taumata Arowai and financial performance to the Commerce Commission, requiring increased input from staff and Councillors, as well as a requirement to fund a share of the costs incurred by Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission.

For the latest information on water services policy and legislation, visit:

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-and-Legislation>

Recovery from the August 2022 severe weather event

Council continued recovery work from the August 2022 severe weather event, focussing on landslip remediation, infrastructure repairs, and flood protection under a "build back better" approach to improve resilience.

Projects completed include debris barriers, retaining walls, stormwater controls, replanting, and road reinstatement. With central government funding from the Regional Infrastructure Fund, Council is progressing flood mitigation along the Maitai River, including floodways, floodwalls, and stopbanks, with design and consent work underway.

The recovery programme is expected to run until 2028/29.

Our activities

Ngā mahi a te Kaunihera

The following sections are organised by activity for funding and accountability and cover everything that Council does. The sections provide information summaries on these activities, and further information including community outcomes, performance measure achievement and financial performance can be found in the activity pages of the Annual Report 2024/25.

The activity groups of Council are:

- Transport - Te Ikiiki
- Water supply - Te Ratonga Wai
- Wastewater - Te Para Wai
- Stormwater - Te Wai Āwhā
- Flood Protection - Te Ārai Waipuke
- Solid Waste - Ngā Para Totoka
- Environment - Te Taiao
- Social - Te Pāpori
- Parks and Active Recreation - Ngā Papa Rēhia, Mahi Rēhia hoki
- Economic - Te Ohaoa
- Corporate - Te Rangapū

In 2024/25 Council, including joint committees, had an agreed Annual Plan capital works programmed of \$102 million, excluding carry forwards. \$66 million of the approved Annual Plan budget plus carry forwards from 2023/24 was spent across Council. The variance of \$36 million against the Annual Plan budget was largely attributable to projects that were pushed to future years. Budget for these projects has been carried forward to future financial years for project delivery.

Transport

Te Ikiiki

Council manages the roads, footpaths, and transport services in Nelson, while the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) oversees State Highway 6. Council's responsibilities include public transport, road safety, traffic and parking control, street cleaning, lighting, and regulating activities on road reserves such as speed limits and heavy vehicle routes.

The goal is to provide a safe, efficient, and accessible transport network that supports multiple modes, including low-carbon options. Council works closely with Tasman District Council through joint plans and committees to ensure integrated transport planning and investment across the region.

Highlights for 2024/25

Council has delivered major transport improvements, including resealing streets and completing road resilience projects. An extra \$2 million from NZTA will fund works in areas affected by the 2022 flood event that didn't qualify for recovery funding from NZTA at the time. Safety upgrades include new 80km/h limits on Cable Bay and Maori Pa Roads and 30km/h zones at four schools. eBus patronage has stabilized at 918,393 journeys, with an operational review underway to secure future funding and grow use. Construction of a new central city transport hub at Millers Acre is progressing for completion by December 2025. Over one kilometre of new roads, including the final connection of Clarence Drive to Princess Drive, has improved connectivity and resilience.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Transport activity achieved 3/6 performance measures, substantially achieved 2/6, with one performance review not due for measurement in 2024/25.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Transport	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	24.6	13.3
Operating Expenditure	22.6	22.6

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details.

Water Supply

Te Ratonga Wai

Council supplies high quality water that is safe to drink to homes and businesses throughout a piped network. This network includes dams and weirs on the Maitai and Roding Rivers, the treatment plant at Tantragee Saddle and pipes, pumps, and storage reservoirs throughout the city. Charges are based on metered use to incentivise efficient use and share costs fairly.

Reliable water is vital for health, industry, and tourism, so Council prioritises a safe, reliable and efficient supply while protecting the ecological, recreational, and cultural values of our water sources.

Highlights for 2024/25

In 2024/25, Council completed the Maitai Dam aeration project, improving water health by increasing dissolved oxygen and reducing temperature stratification. Fluoridation works for the city's water supply were finished in early 2025 following a directive from the Director-General of Health. Watermain upgrades on Bridge Street East, Collingwood Street, and Halifax Street were completed in July 2025 as part of the Bridge to Better project, increasing capacity for city centre housing. Investigations continued for a new reservoir at the north end of the city to boost network resilience, alongside planning for water services and a large reservoir to support future development in the Maitai Valley and central city.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Water Supply activity achieved 5/5 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Water Supply	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	8.8	10.2
Operating Expenditure	10.5	11.3

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details.

Wastewater

Te Para Wai

Council manages Nelson's wastewater network, operating pump stations and pipes that carry around eight million litres per day from Stoke and Tāhunanui to the regional Bell Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, and another eight million litres from central Nelson and Atawhai to the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant (NWWTP) at Wakapuaka.

The Bell Island plant, managed by the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (a joint venture with Tasman District Council), treats wastewater from both councils' urban areas and major industrial operations. Council owns and operates the NWWTP, which includes pre-treatment facilities, oxidation ponds, and wetlands with discharge to Tasman Bay.

Providing a piped wastewater system and treatment is critical to prevent harm to people and property and to avoid contamination of the environment.

Highlights for 2024/25

In 2024/25, Council lodged a new resource consent application for the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant, which remains on hold pending updated national water quality standards, allowing operations to continue under current conditions. Detailed design for the Paru Paru Road pump station upgrade progressed as part of the Bridge to Better project, and preliminary design work continued for renewing the major rising main from Neale Park to the treatment plant, a critical project to replace aging infrastructure.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Wastewater activity achieved 5/5 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Wastewater	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	11.1	10.1
Operating Expenditure	12.0	9.4

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Stormwater

Te Wai Āwhā

The stormwater network includes pipes, open channels, and overland flow paths that convey stormwater to receiving rivers and streams, or directly to the sea. In many parts of the city, a fully reticulated system is not available, so individual properties discharge stormwater to on-site soakage or roads as part of the primary drainage system.

Effective stormwater management is essential to prevent water accumulation in low-lying areas (ponding), which can cause harm to people and damage buildings, property, and the environment.

Highlights for 2024/25

In 2024, a contractor was appointed for the next stage of the Washington Valley infrastructure upgrade, which includes the replacement of the St Vincent Street box culvert. Early contractor involvement allows the contractor to work alongside the design team, material supply, programming, constructability, and pricing, with on-site work starting in August 2025.

The stormwater network upgrade in Catchment 3 of the Tahunanui Hills was completed in December 2024 to reduce geotechnical risk to stormwater services and reduce surface flooding risks. Stormwater improvements in Strawbridge Square were finished in January 2025 to prevent carpark flooding during heavy rainfall and protect nearby properties. In March 2025, Washington Terrace wastewater and water pipes were replaced, including replacing the connections to the property boundary.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Stormwater activity achieved 4/4 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Stormwater	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	9.0	4.3
Operating Expenditure	3.9	3.8

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Flood Protection

Te Ārai Waipuke

Council's flood protection activity focuses on maintaining and upgrading larger streams, culverts, and constructed channels through which streams flow. Works include increasing floodwater capacity, protecting channel banks from erosion, and removing gravel where flow capacity is reduced, while ensuring sensitivity to freshwater environments. It also includes flood modelling and land use planning to identify risks to new developments from flooding rivers and streams during heavy rainfall. A new component of flood protection activity addresses coastal hazards such as storm surge, erosion, and sea level rise. Council has extended flood protection services to rural areas previously excluded, charging a flood protection rate for this service and moving this rate to be on a land value basis across the city.

These actions aim to reduce flash flooding risks caused by Nelson's foothills and floodplain development, protecting people, property, and the environment where feasible and affordable.

Highlights for 2024/25

In 2024, Council secured \$9M in Central Government Regional Infrastructure Funding for Maitai flood management works and repairs, contributing to a total project cost of \$15M. Major construction on the Saxton Creek upgrade was completed in 2023–24, with final planting and site works finished in 2024–25. Other key achievements include the first stage of Oldham Creek channel repairs, initiation of the Cleveland Terrace intake, improvements to the Oldham Creek intake at Frenchay Drive, and commencement of design work for other related flood protection projects.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Flood Protection activity achieved 2/2 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Flood protection	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	3.7	4.0
Operating Expenditure	3.8	3.5

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Solid Waste

Ngā Para Totoka

Council's solid waste activity focuses on reducing waste creation and diverting material from landfill through initiatives like the Rethink Waste Whakaarohia programme, operation of the Nelson Waste Recovery Centre, kerbside recycling, green waste, and litter collection.

Funding comes from landfill gate fees, government levies, and income from Pascoe Recovery fees and charges, meaning the activity does not rely on rates. The activity does not include landfill management, as the landfills at York Valley and Eves Valley are owned by the two Councils and managed by the joint Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit, on behalf of the Nelson City and Tasman District Councils. However, 50% of the impact, being our share of the joint landfill, is included in the financial tables.

The goal of this activity is to minimise landfill waste through reuse, recycling, and reprocessing – making better use of resources, reducing environmental harm, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Highlights for 2024/25

A key achievement in 2024/25 was developing the draft Nelson Tasman Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, a regional strategy guiding effective waste management and reduction. Progress continued on the business case for domestic kerbside organic waste collection, scheduled for completion in October 2025. A new kerbside recycling contract was awarded in 2024 and began on 1 July 2025, ensuring ongoing support for household recycling. The 'Bring It' reuse programme launched in July 2024, encouraging customers to use reusable cups at participating cafés, with a second phase starting 1 July 2025 to promote reusable containers for takeaway meals—further reducing landfill waste and supporting sustainable habits.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Solid Waste activity achieved 2/2 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Solid Waste	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	2.2	2.0
Operating Expenditure	12.3	10.8

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details.

Environment

Te Taiao

Council, as a unitary authority, manages both regional and district responsibilities, covering air quality, freshwater, marine and coastal environments, biodiversity, biosecurity, land management, and the built environment, including urban development and growth. Roles include resource management planning, resource and building consents (including compliance), environmental projects, biosecurity regulation, and monitoring and reporting on environmental health. The City Centre programme promotes a people-friendly, sustainable urban area, while planning supports growth and infrastructure coordination. Council also oversees the marine environment up to 12 nautical miles into Tasman Bay to ensure navigational safety.

These activities protect Nelson's natural environment, recognise iwi kaitiakitanga, and ensure urban and rural areas are well planned, accessible, and sustainably managed.

Highlights for 2024/25

Housing affordability remains above the national average, and Council continued working with partners in 2024/25 to address this through social housing initiatives, plan changes for higher density, and the Nelson Future Development Strategy. The Bridge to Better project progressed, alongside city revitalisation efforts such as a new bus and arts hub, Rutherford Playspace, and community-led initiatives like the City Spring Clean.

The government's resource management reform is progressing, with new legislation expected by late 2025. Locally, three Nelson Resource Management Plan changes advanced: Private Plan Change 28 (Mahitahi/Bayview) became operative in December 2024, Private Plan Change 30 and the Nelson Airport runway extension Notice of Requirement were approved but remain under appeal; and Plan Change 29 (Housing and Hazards) was notified in June 2025, introducing higher building heights in the inner city centre and fringe environments, updated hazard provisions, papakāinga allowances, rezoning of St Vincent/Vanguard Streets, and bespoke provisions for Manuka St hospital.

The State of the Environment report (2019–2023), presented in December 2024, is now guiding Council's broader work to reverse environmental degradation. Key initiatives in the integrated catchments area included catchment surveys, wetland restoration in Todd Valley, erosion control with 30,000 trees planted, new soil maps, and environmental grants funding 32,000 plants and fencing.

Biodiversity efforts saw adoption of the Regional Pest Management Plan, a new Cat Management Bylaw, and completion of Jobs for Nature projects, including restoration in Wakapuaka and Sharlands Valley, planting over 160,000 natives, and pest and weed control to protect ecosystems.

Air and water projects included operationalising a coastal modelling tool for Nelson Haven and supporting seagrass restoration trials through Cawthron's 'Restore the Meadows' campaign.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/25 the Environment activity achieved 4/7 performance measures, 2/7 were substantially achieved and 1/7 was not achieved.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Environmental Management	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	1.3	1.0
Operating Expenditure	26.9	22.2

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Social

Te Pāpori

Council provides social, cultural, arts and heritage activities, services and facilities. Examples include libraries, community halls, public toilets, arts and heritage facilities, events, Opera in the Park and grants to support initiatives like the Nelson Arts Festival. It also supports community development through grants and partnerships, prioritising groups supporting those most in need.

These activities enhance quality of life, celebrate heritage, foster resilience, and strengthen community wellbeing and cohesion.

Highlights for 2024/25

Council supported groups working with vulnerable communities through grants and partnerships, distributing \$386k via the Community Investment Fund. A vulnerable housing action plan was developed and is being rolled out to support Nelson residents living in housing vulnerability. Strategic partnerships were strengthened across disability, kai, and neighbourhood sectors. The Te Taihu Community Development Agency was established as a Charitable Trust, beginning project work with Council and bi-cultural partnerships grew with Whakatū Marae. Youth Council contributed to submissions and were active in events like Youth Week. The new Chin community gardens were initiated at Queen Elizabeth II Reserve.

Council supported community arts and heritage projects, including murals, exhibitions, and events celebrating Māori and multicultural stories. Highlights included the “Waitī, Waitā, Waioira” installation and the Tuku 25 Whakatū festival with 70 events. Heritage facilities saw strong visitation and hosted major events and arranged restoration projects..

The Community Events Fund provided \$83k to support 19 events and Council delivered popular events such as Opera in the Park, Matariki Festival, Summer Movies Al Fresco, and NYE celebrations, achieving 87% satisfaction. A disappointment for the region was Te Matatini Board’s decision not to host the 2027 festival in Te Taihu due to concerns over accommodation, transport, and freight.

During 2024/25, Nelson Public Libraries delivered a wide range of programmes, services, and facility improvements that strengthened community engagement and supported learning, creativity, and wellbeing.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/25 the Social activity achieved 3/3 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Social	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	6.5	2.9
Operating Expenditure	18.6	18.8

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Parks and Recreation

Ngā Papa Rēhia, Mahi Rēhia hoki

Council manages 11,250 hectares of parks and reserves, including over 10,000 hectares of conservation land for biodiversity and recreation. These spaces provide sporting facilities like Saxton Field, mountain biking trails, and natural areas such as the Maitai Esplanade Reserve, while hosting national and international events that deliver social and economic benefits.

Parks and reserves support healthy lifestyles, protect biodiversity, absorb carbon, improve air and water quality, and help mitigate flooding and noise impacts as Nelson grows.

Highlights for 2024/25

Council advanced trail and recreation initiatives, appointing a Trail-Based Recreation Advisor, opening new Grampians tracks and renewing signage, and upgrading the Coppermine Great Ride. The Adopt a Spot programme grew to 57 volunteer groups, contributing 17,000 hours and planting 5,500 trees. Recreation facilities saw strong results: Waahi Taakaro Golf Course membership rose to 327, Maitai Camp and Brook Valley Holiday Park upgrades progressed, and pools improved with plant and facility upgrades and national lifeguard recognition.

In 2024, Council awarded an eight-year Open Spaces Operations and Maintenance Contract to Green by Nature, introducing a measure-and-value model and new asset management system for improved transparency. Venue and Saxton facility management shifted to CLM, delivering strong community feedback and a 37% revenue uplift at Saxton.

Key projects included Tāhunanui Back Beach remediation, reinstating the Tāhunanui playground train, planning Victory Square upgrades with the Karenni community and installing an accessible toilet at Corder Park. The Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 replaced the 2017 version, balancing visitor access with environmental protection. Council also finalised its 10-year Ngāti Koata access agreement, securing recreational access while recognising cultural and forestry values.

In 2024/25, Nelson Marina prepared for its transition from a Management Organisation, ensuring that the transfer met the 1 July 2025 Long Term Plan deadline. This milestone is strongly supported by Council and positions the marina to better deliver long-term strategic goals.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/25 the Parks and Recreation activity achieved 1/2 performance measures, and substantially achieved 1/2 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Parks and Recreation	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	22.4	16.1
Operating Expenditure	22.8	16.8

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Economic Te Ohaoa

Council delivers economic development through the Nelson Regional Development Agency (NRDA), which also serves as the Regional Tourism Organisation. NRDA focuses on business growth, workforce development, industry collaboration, and attracting investment, while promoting tourism and supporting the blue economy sector. Council also partners with the Chamber of Commerce, and Uniquely Nelson to strengthen local businesses and showcase the city. These efforts aim to build an innovative, sustainable economy, attract talent and investment, and ensure long-term community wellbeing.

Highlights for 2024/25

In 2024/25, NRDA supported 205 businesses directly and engaged with a further 65. A Major Developments Forum was launched in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, with plans to make this a six monthly forum.

Nelson Tasman achieved the country's highest visitor satisfaction score (NPS +61), which means that travellers who visited the region on their most recent domestic trip reported the highest satisfaction levels in the country.. The Destination Partnership Programme grew to 63 partners, contributing \$144k to programme delivery. Events during the year included briefings on sector performance, training opportunities, campaign results, regional brand positioning, destination management challenges and opportunities, and tips for tourism operators to leverage major events to increase stay and spend.

The Nelson Events Fund supported 31 economic events, including the inaugural Spectacle running festival, which attracted 1,500 entrants (32% from outside the region).

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Economic activity achieved 1/1 performance measures.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Economic	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	0.0	0.0
Operating Expenditure	2.3	2.4

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Corporate
Te Ranapū

Council’s corporate activities ensure smooth operations, managing finance, IT, partnerships, and democratic processes. They include civil defence emergency management in collaboration with Tasman District Council, to promote the resilience of our communities and respond to hazard events. Council also oversees a small property portfolio and several Council Controlled Organisations delivering public benefit and strategic outcomes. Council supports iwi to have input into Council’s decision-making processes, including through the iwi-Council Partnership Group.

The corporate activity supports a smooth-running organisation, robust and democratic local decision-making, and effective partnerships for the benefit of all in our community.

Highlights for 2024/25

Whilst rates collection became more challenging in 2024/25, with arrears rising to 1% of rates levied, Council continues to offer payment plans, postponement and rebate schemes. Council adopted the Annual Plan 2025/26 in June, confirming a 6.5% average rates increase as forecast.

The updated Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan was adopted in April and included details of the role of Māori and iwi in emergency management, resilience goals, and new national standards. Work progressed on options for combined Civic offices and a replacement for the Elma Turner Library, with a business case due late 2025. IT upgrades improved mapping, network resilience, and emergency operations, while cybersecurity readiness reached 72%, ahead of the Association of Local Government Information Management New Zealand local government benchmark of 60%.

Forestry transition to continuous canopy systems began in Maitai and Marsden valleys, supported by a new Forest Systems Manager overseeing 10,000 hectares of forested land.

LTP performance measure achievement:

In 2024/45 the Corporate activity achieved 2/3 performance measures, with 1/3 measures not achieved.

For more information please refer to the full Annual Report.

Expenditure - Corporate	Budgeted for 2024/25 (\$ million)	Actual Spend for 2024/25 (\$ million)
Capital Expenditure	14.3	7.7
Operating Expenditure	23.5	24.4

These figures are approximate. See the full Annual Report for details

Financial Statements

Nelson City Council's full financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE standards. The summary financial statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial statements. The summary financial statements comply with PBE Standards as they relate to summary financial statements.

Summary of Financial Performance

For the year ended 30 June 2025

The Nelson City Council Group consists of Nelson City Council, its subsidiaries – Nelmac Ltd, the Nelson Civic Trust, the Bishop Suter Trust and the Nelson Regional Development Agency – and joint operations and joint ventures.

Summary of Statement and Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

For the year ended 30 June 2025

		Council			Group	
		Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
\$NZ000's	Note	2025	2025	2024	2025	2024
Total revenue		175,760	205,622	171,368	190,056	189,672
Total operating expenditure*		(174,796)	(185,568)	(178,690)	(192,516)	(196,897)
Share of joint operation's surplus	25	0	0	0	3,669	(2,420)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		964	20,054	(7,322)	1,209	(9,645)
Income tax expense	10	0	0	0	48	(210)
Net surplus		964	20,054	(7,322)	1,257	(9,855)
Land and Infrastructure revaluations	19,31	25,521	46,663	89,372	25,848	89,372
Total other comprehensive revenue		25,521	46,663	89,372	25,848	89,372
Total comprehensive revenue		26,485	66,717	82,050	27,105	79,517
*includes finance costs of	9	12,826	11,485	11,067	12,990	11,335

Summary of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2025

		Council			Group	
		Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
\$NZ000's	Note	2025	2025	2024	2025	2024
Balance at 1 July		2,234,538	2,226,431	2,152,489	2,422,229	2,335,260
Total comprehensive revenue		26,485	66,717	82,050	27,105	79,517
Equity at 30 June	31	2,261,023	2,293,148	2,234,538	2,449,334	2,414,777

Summary of Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 30 Jun 2025

		Council			Group	
		Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
\$NZ000's	Note	2025	2025	2024	2025	2024
ASSETS						
Total current assets		45,658	33,208	65,445	54,004	73,491
Total noncurrent assets		2,522,161	2,570,251	2,475,240	2,706,227	2,659,518
Total assets		2,567,819	2,603,459	2,540,685	2,760,231	2,733,009
LIABILITIES						
Total current liabilities		57,746	64,733	84,787	62,808	88,435
Total noncurrent liabilities		249,050	245,577	221,360	248,089	222,345
Total liabilities		306,796	310,310	306,147	310,897	310,780
Total net assets		2,261,023	2,293,149	2,234,538	2,449,334	2,422,229
EQUITY						
Accumulated funds	31	450,584	477,956	446,788	505,683	501,594
Reserves	31	1,810,439	1,815,192	1,787,750	1,943,651	1,920,635
Total equity		2,261,023	2,293,148	2,234,538	2,449,334	2,422,229

Summary of Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 Jun 2025

		Council			Group	
		Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
\$NZ000's	Note	2025	2025	2024	2025	2024
Net cash flow from operating activities	32	54,356	58,002	32,162	52,008	35,011
Net cash flow from investing activities		(53,728)	(101,085)	(108,365)	(51,021)	(110,056)
Net cash flow from financing activities		4,850	43,084	74,900	3,750	73,511
Net (decrease)/increase in cash, cash equivalents, and bank overdrafts		5,478	1	(1,303)	4,737	(1,534)
Cash, cash equivalents, and bank overdrafts at the beginning of the year		11,229	7,520	12,532	12,637	14,170
Cash, cash equivalents, and bank overdrafts at the end of the year	12	16,707	7,521	11,229	17,374	12,636

Summary of Commitments and Contingencies

As at Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Council		Group	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
\$NZ000's	2025	2024	2025	2024
Commitments under:				
Capital contracts	10,466	12,728	14,937	17,957
Operating leases as lessor	6,255	6,738	29,917	30,896
Operating leases as lessee	2,065	2,086	8,679	3,156
Contingent Assets and Liabilities:				
No quantifiable contingent assets or liabilities				

Events occurring after the balance date

Council:

Transfer of Marina Assets and Share Issuance

Nelson Marina Management Limited (NMML) was incorporated in August 2023 for the purpose of assuming ownership and operational control of the Nelson Marina. Effective 1 July 2025, NMML acquired the marina assets from Nelson City Council (NCC) through a fair value transaction.

In consideration for the transfer of assets, NMML will issue shares to NCC. This amount represents the agreed transfer value and will be reduced by the value of any liabilities assumed by NMML as part of the transaction. The net amount, after deducting the assumed liabilities, will determine the final value of shares issued to NCC.

Borrowings

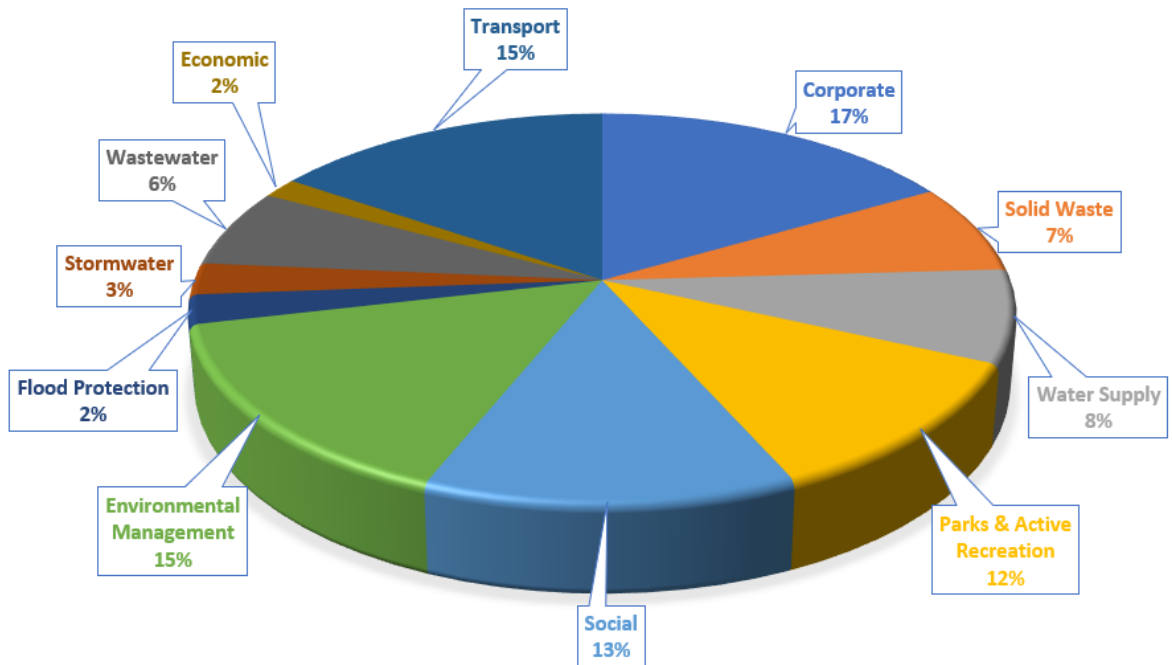
Since 30 June 2025, Nelson City Council have borrowed a further \$26.0 million of which \$17.0 million is pre-funded debt.

Group:

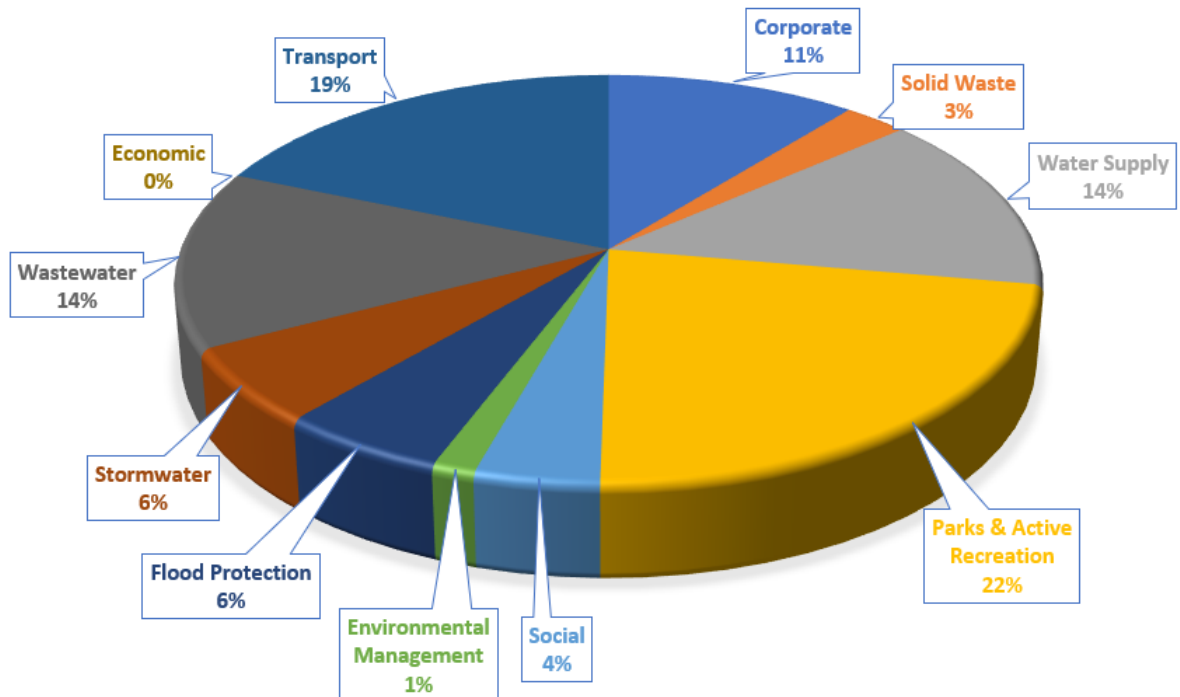
There have been no significant events after the balance sheet date that materially impact the Group's financial position.

Expenditure Summary

How your rates dollar was spent:



Council's Capital Expenditure



Performance of Council Controlled Organisations

Council reports on the performance of Council Controlled Organisations are available in the full Annual Report, including details on Infrastructure Holdings Limited (Port Nelson & Nelson Airport), Nelmac, Nelson Regional Development Agency, Tasman Bays Heritage Trust, and The Bishop Suter Trust. Further information is available for each Council Controlled Organisation in their respective Annual Reports.

[Organisations the Council is Responsible for - Nelson City Council](#)

Contact us

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Enquiry@ncc.govt.nz

03 546 0200

nelson.govt.nz

Council Customer Service Centre

Open from 8:30am to 5:00pm weekdays (9:00am on Wednesdays) in Civic House, corner Halifax and Trafalgar Streets.

Correspondence

Written correspondence to Council should be addressed to the Chief Executive, PO Box 645, Nelson, 7040. Emails should be sent to enquiry@ncc.govt.nz

Attend a Council meeting

All Council meetings are open to the public to attend in person. Council meetings are advertised in Our Nelson, Nelson Mail and listed on the Nelson City Council website. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of Council and its Standing Committees. You could be asked to leave a meeting if Council needs to discuss a confidential topic. To do that, Council would pass a resolution to that effect, under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. We live stream full Council meetings, Committee meetings, Panel meetings and Business Unit meetings. Visit the [Nelson City Council YouTube Channel](#) to view meeting livestreams and recordings. Please note that any joint Committees administered by Tasman District Council are not livestreamed but recordings are available from Tasman's website.

Public forums

There is a public forum at the beginning of most ordinary Council and Committee meetings where up to 30 minutes will be available for members of the public to speak to Council. (Note that five minutes is the time limit given to an individual speaker). Public Forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority. You need to book a time before the meeting by contacting the Governance Team at 546 0436 or email: governance.advisers@ncc.govt.nz. Please send through your request at least three working days before the meeting (if not sooner) and note that the time set aside for Public Forum is in demand.

Petitions

The presentation of a petition to Council or its Standing Committees must also conform to certain rules. Petitions need to be provided to the Chief Executive at least five working days before the meeting it is being presented at. For more information contact the Governance Team at 546 0436 or email governance.advisers@ncc.govt.nz.