

Tupuranga Waikato Waikato progress indicators

Scorecard 2023

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

This scorecard compares latest data with baseline results for each indicator (2006 - 2007).

For each of the 32 indicators, results are shown as improving trends, worsening trends or no

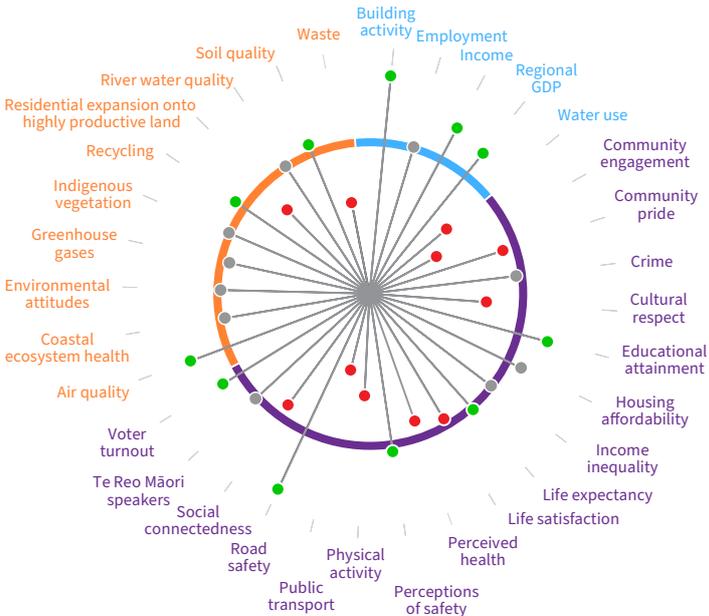
significant change over the last 15 years. The indicators are grouped by wellbeing theme - economic, social and environmental wellbeing. For further information refer to waikatoregion.govt.nz/wpi



ECONOMY		SOCIETY		ENVIRONMENT	
	Building activity Real value of new building consents issued.		Employment Percentage of total working-age population who are employed.		Air quality Exceedances of the regional guideline for particulate matter.
	Income Real median weekly household income.		Water use Water allocation as a percentage of primary allocable water (Waikato River).		Environmental attitudes New Ecological Paradigm - Percentage pro- or mid-ecological.
	Regional GDP Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.		Community pride People's sense of pride in the way their city/town looks and feels.		Recycling Self-reported prevalence of household recycling.
	Community engagement Percentage of people who agree the public can influence Council decisions.		Educational attainment Percentage of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or above.		Soil quality Percentage of monitored soil sites meeting at least five soil quality targets.
	Cultural respect Level of agreement that having people with different lifestyles and cultures makes area a better place to live.		Life expectancy Life expectancy at birth.		Waste Tonnage of waste to landfill per annum.
	Crime Rates of victimisation per 10,000 population.		Perceptions of safety Percentage of adults who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.		
	Housing affordability Ratio of housing costs to household disposable income.		Perceived health Percentage of people who rate their overall health good, very good or excellent.		
	Life satisfaction Percentage of people who rate their overall quality of life positively.		Public transport Passenger transport boardings per resident per annum.		
	Physical activity Percentage of people who say they were physically active on five or more of the past seven days.		Te Reo Māori speakers Percentage of Te Reo Māori speakers in the total population.		
	Social connectedness Percentage of people who feel a sense of community in their neighbourhood.		Life expectancy Life expectancy at birth.		
			Perceptions of safety Percentage of adults who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.		
			Road safety Social costs of road injury crashes per capita.		
			Voter turnout Average voter turnout in local council, DHB and regional council elections.		
			Coastal ecosystem health Traits Based Index calculated for estuarine monitoring sites.		
			Indigenous vegetation Extent of indigenous vegetation on land.		
			River water quality Percentage of water samples taken from rivers and streams deemed unsatisfactory for ecological health.		

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

- ECONOMY
- SOCIETY
- ENVIRONMENT

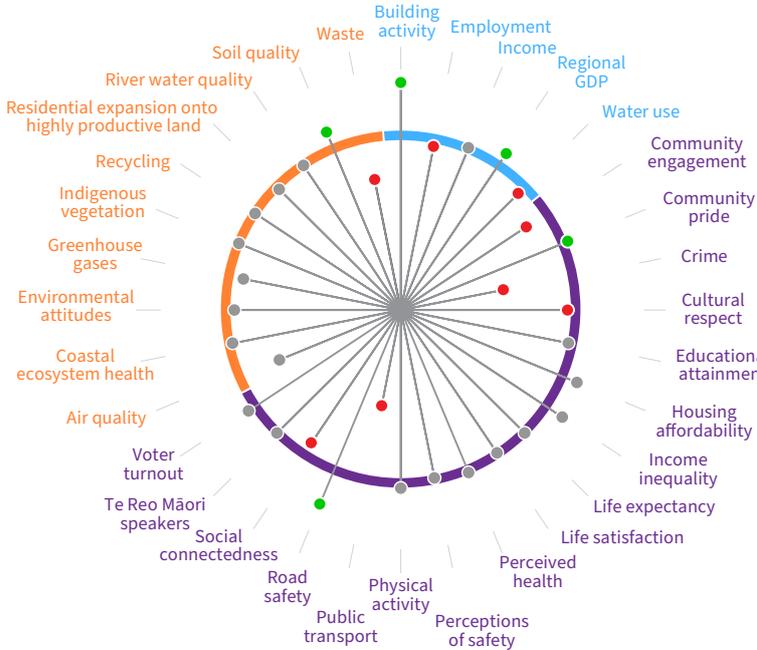


Long-term trends (2006-07 to latest available data)

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

The most notable **positive trends** over this period are (in declining order) building activity, road safety, air quality, incomes, educational attainment, regional GDP growth, voter turnout, recycling, soil quality, perceptions of safety and life expectancy.

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



Short-term trends (2018 to latest available data)

The circle to the left plots the more recent trend for the Waikato region from **2018 to the latest available data** using the same approach. Observations from these graphs and supporting WPI information include:

- Criminal offence data had previously been improving over the longer-term, but since 2018 the Waikato annual regional crime rate has trended upward.
- Community pride increased slightly between the 2018 and 2022 survey years.
- There was an apparent increase in greenhouse gas emissions since 2018, but not enough to call this a significant adverse trend.
- Over the longer-term, air quality shows an improvement but for the period 2018 to 2022 there was an increase in the number of exceedances per year, most likely due to the use of new monitoring instruments giving higher readings.
- Educational attainment of school leavers peaked in 2016 and has been relatively stable since then.
- There was also an apparent decline (improvement) in income inequality since 2018, and an apparent improvement in housing affordability, however these indicators can be highly variable from year to year.

Comparison of Waikato with average New Zealand

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

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

- has a relatively high percentage of Te Reo Māori speakers, high frequency of physical activity, high levels of community pride and social connectedness, community engagement (perception of public’s influence on Council decision making), and slightly higher values of building activity per capita and level of life satisfaction (overall quality of life), but
- is behind the national average on a range of indicators, including road safety, crime, recycling, GDP per person and household incomes.

