



## Community Engagement Summary

This summary presents the findings of the first phase of Porirua Development's engagement process, which ran from March to 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.

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.

This summary provides a broad overview of the engagement. A full overview of the engagement can be found in the Community Engagement Report: *Whakawhānaungatanga*.

### Background

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 Rangatira.

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 to ensure that the community's voices and input are reflected in the early stages of Porirua Development's planning processes.

### Summary of feedback

The extensive engagement process, held over nine-month period, attracted feedback from a significant cross-section of our community on a variety of topics.

Overall, housing, the environment and wellbeing are the main subjects people wanted to talk about. This includes the themes of open space, social connectedness, recreation and leisure, transportation, and community safety.

Other themes that attracted a large number of responses were community facilities, public transport, arts, cultural diversity and better access to health and social services.

There is significant support for change to housing and amenities in eastern Porirua but it comes with some reservation. 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.

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.

### Key concerns

People expressed concerns about:

- being displaced or losing their home
- maintaining deep connections to place and their home
- affordability and impacts of gentrification in general
- lack of communication, deception and misleading information
- being disappointed like they were in the last renewal
- the 'roll out' process and really want to know more
- lack of clarity around the parties involved in the redevelopment
- what this development means for community, and how funding will be allocated
- not everyone being 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.

**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.**

### How we engaged

We held a number of community and stakeholder engagements in 2019 including:

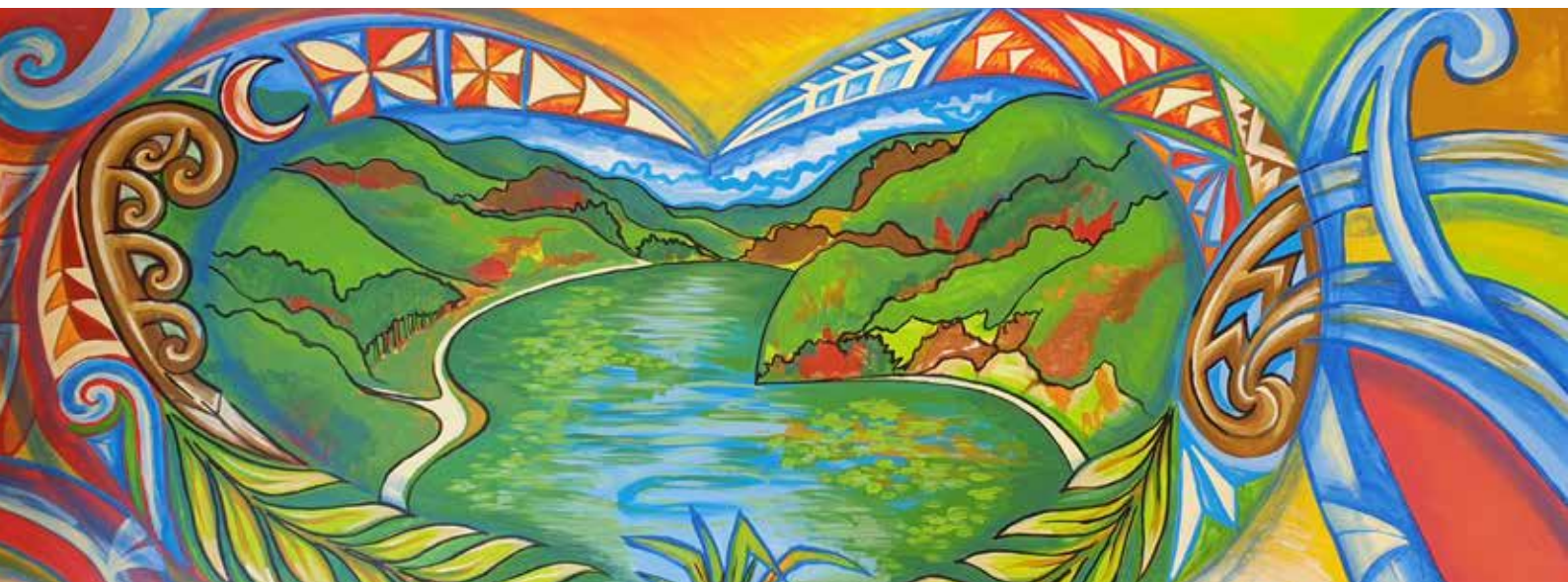
- Ka Mua Ka Muri: over 40 workshops with school children and local artists
- Share Your Voice sessions (June and July)
- stalls at CAREERfest, the Pacific Night market and the Waitangirua market
- Change is Coming sessions (November to December) which included ethnic-specific and group-specific engagements
- Social Pinpoint interactive maps and surveys
- attending meetings with specific stakeholders.

In partnership, we also developed a Pacific Engagement Strategy and a Youth Engagement Strategy to ensure our engagement approaches were appropriate.

### How we got the word out there

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:

- information on the Porirua Development and Porirua City Council's websites and Facebook pages, and on community group Facebook pages
- Porirua Development's e-newsletter and by email
- flyer and poster drops to homes, shops, businesses, markets, churches, schools, community services in eastern Porirua
- attending resident association meetings, networking groups and Pacific Leaders group meetings
- advertising in *Kapi-Mana News* and on Samoa Capital Radio.







## What people told us by theme

### Housing

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.

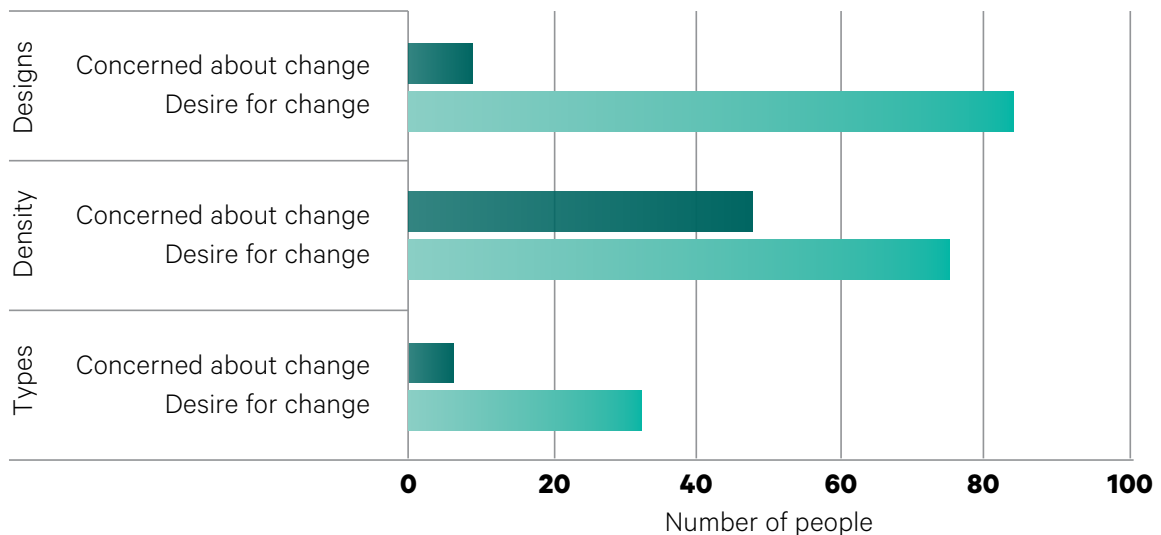
People appeared to have a clear understanding of the need for growth, but had reservations about the potentially negative consequences of increasing density without due consideration to outdoor space, privacy, parking, traffic management and safety.

There is support for a broader range of housing types and designs, as shown in the graph below. While there is strong support for increased housing density, there is also a level of concern about change.

People are cautious about increasing density and the design of new housing. They 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 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.

**Concern versus desire for change to housing**





## Environment

Collection and disposal of rubbish generated much discussion, ranging from a desire for greater inorganic disposal services to better recycling capability. People wanted to see bigger rubbish bins with recycling centres at the shopping centres, clearer information and education about how to recycle, and steps taken to prevent the dumping of rubbish.

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

People also wanted to see an increase in green spaces, community gardens, attractive streetscapes and access to nature. They were conscious of the impact of medium density housing, so wanted an assurance there would be green spaces incorporated into the planning and design.

## Getting around

There is a general consensus that it is far easier, quicker and more convenient to use a car to get around, despite the cost of petrol and maintenance. 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.

Traffic management, parking, roads and footpaths were hot topics, mostly in the context of improving safety and making the urban environment more accessible.

The widespread view is that public transport in eastern Porirua is substandard. People expressed significant reluctance to use it, based on factors including lack of frequency and reliability, significant distances to walk to bus stops, bus stop safety and weathertightness, inadequate routes, and poor connectivity to the wider transport network.

Public transport accessibility is a very real issue, with footpaths and gradients often not allowing the buses to kneel, inadequate seating, and the physical design of the buses and shelters not allowing for wheelchairs, walking frames and prams.

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

There is strong support to invest in walkways, to make them safer, wider, accessible and connect them to suburbs and streets, which would encourage people to walk more often. People also wanted to see more cycling and there was support for separate cycle lanes, driver and cyclist education, and better cycleway connections.

## Parks and open spaces

The key ideas relating to this theme are creating parks and recreation spaces centred on whānau and communal activities; making parks and playgrounds safer and more accessible; enhancing the natural environment with planting of native flora; fences around playgrounds; running inclusive fun community and cultural events and activities; and preserving the taonga of Bothamley Park and Cannons Creek lakes.

The improvements people wanted to see include more amenities, such as BBQ areas and umu pits, seating, toilets, water fountains, better lighting, trees for natural shade in family recreational areas, and exercise and play equipment. Many saw this as an opportunity to suggest multi-purpose recreational spaces, such as stages for performance, spaces for sports tournaments, such as kilikiti (Samoan cricket), and hosting other games and recreational activities, and educational spaces for children.





### **Shopping centres**

Almost half of people want to see more variety of shops in the future, such as an expansion of the markets, a supermarket and butcher, as well as clothing and material shops. People wanted to see less of the takeaway shops, pubs and TABs and more access to healthy and multi-cultural food options. People want to see more locals owning their own businesses, which would employ local people.

### **Community facilities**

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.

A significant number of people want to see better sports facilities and more sports activities 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 cultural arts could thrive.

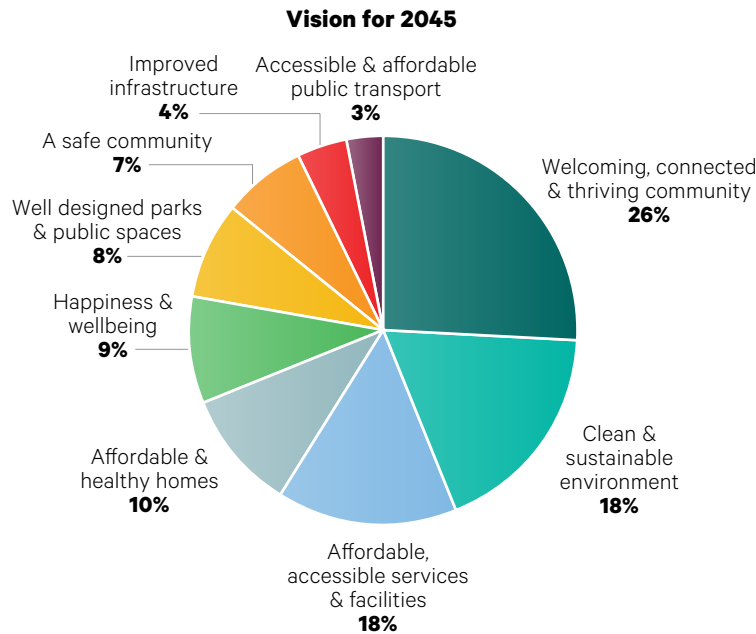
### **Vision to 2045**

As part of the Change is Coming sessions in November and December, 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:



***It will be a city where I will want to live in for the rest of my life. It will be the Pacific Porirua***

***A place that is world leading in terms of accessibility***

***Our children will live well in their new environment, from the love and grace of god***

***A beautiful Porirua city, with everyone getting along***

***A community where values of love and looking after one another are fostered***

***Our community has grown and has greater cultural integration and appreciation***

## Next steps

The feedback is being considered by the Porirua Development team and their technical consultants as part of our comprehensive area plan, the Spatial Delivery Strategy, which 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 also 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. The draft Spatial Delivery Strategy will be presented to the community for feedback in 2020 as part of phase two of the engagement process.