

# Tupuranga Waikato Waikato Progress Indicators

## Scorecard 2024

The Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) measure social, economic and environmental progress in the Waikato region.

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



### **ECONOMY**

**Income**  
Real median weekly household income.

**Building activity**  
Real value of new building consents issued.

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

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

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

### **SOCIETY**

**Crime**  
Rates of victimisation per 10,000 population.

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

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

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

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

**Housing affordability**  
Ratio of housing costs to household disposable income.

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

**Life expectancy**  
Life expectancy at birth.

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

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

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

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

**Public transport**  
Passenger transport boardings per resident per annum.

**Road safety**  
Social costs of road injury crashes per capita.

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

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

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

### **ENVIRONMENT**

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

**Air quality**  
Exceedances of the regional guideline for particulate matter.

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

**Recycling**  
Self-reported prevalence of household recycling.

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

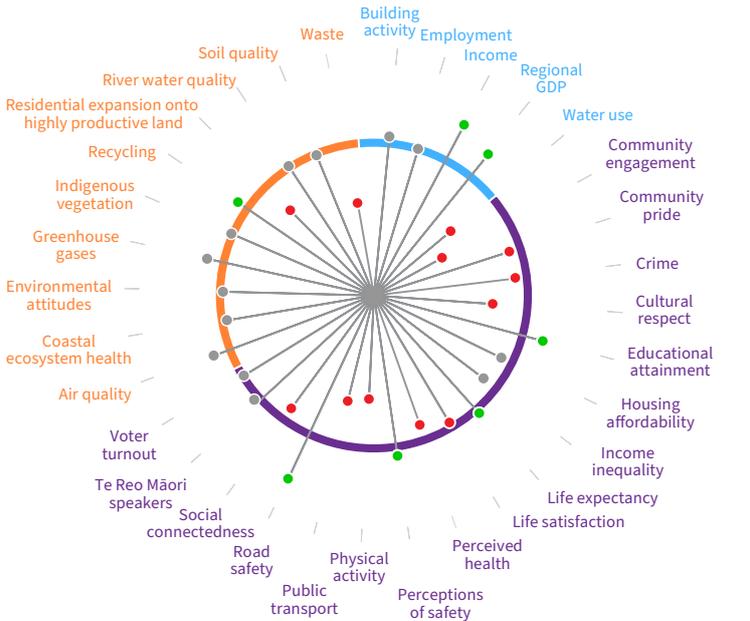
**River water quality**  
Percentage of water samples taken from rivers and streams deemed unsatisfactory for ecological health.

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

**Waste**  
Tonnage of waste to landfill per annum.

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

- ECONOMY
- SOCIETY
- ENVIRONMENT

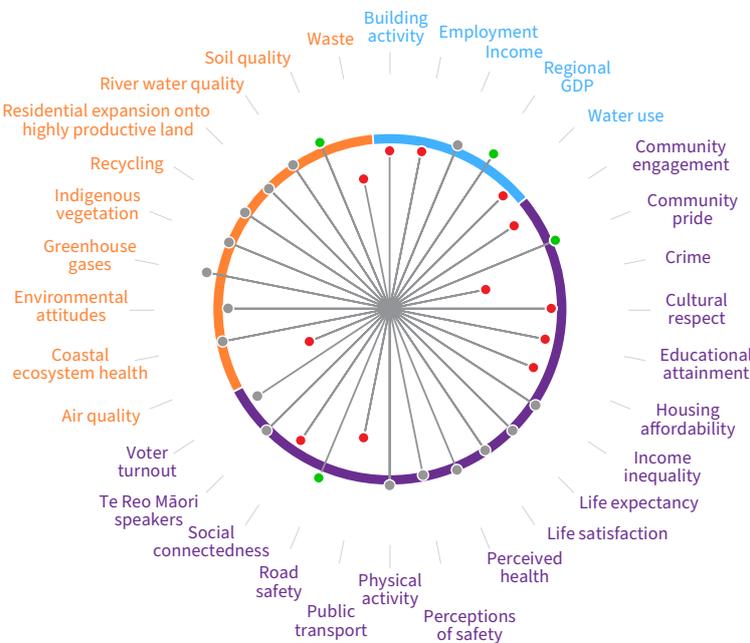


### Long-term trends (2006-07 to latest available data)

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

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

The largest **negative trends** over this period are (in declining order) poorer perceptions of community engagement, more waste to landfill, higher water use, lower frequency of physical activity, less use of public transport, 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.
- Over the longer-term, air quality shows an improvement but for the period 2018 to 2023 there was a general 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, but declined in 2022.
- There was an apparent decline in housing affordability in 2023, however this indicator 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 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.

