



Paremata Residents Association

ANNUAL REPORT August 2025

Introduction

Over the last year the Association's activities have had both an external and an internal focus.

Externally there were business as usual tasks (such as Porirua City Council annual plan and proposed bylaw changes); there were issues that are frequently pursued but are still not resolved (such as wastewater overflows, the clearways, and the future of State Highway 59).

Internally, we needed to develop a new Constitution and new operating processes to re-register as an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. That was a time-consuming exercise (see below for more details). In addition, we looked at ways to improve communications with our members and the wider community, including an upgrade of our website.

And, as expected, we will continue to represent the interests of our members and residents. If you are aware of any issue that is affecting, or will affect, our community, you can email us at Secretary.parematara@gmail.com.

Key Activities 2024/25

Wastewater overflows

Residents attending the AGM will see a visual slide show of wastewater discharges on Mana Esplanade and the effect of these overflows on the Pauatahanui Inlet. The selection of photos show overflow events from 2010 to 2025 (last month). The same problem, the same impact, over 15 years and still not fixed. It's becoming more frequent and seems to be getting worse. And it will not stop until the substantial stormwater inflows are prevented and the sewer main from Plimmerton roundabout to Papakowhai is renewed and upgraded. More in-fill housing and new developments further north are not helping.

Building the large wastewater tank to prevent overflows into the Porirua Stream, protect the CBD and control the flow to the treatment tank, won't help the overflows in Mana and Paremata, or pollution of the Inlet, until the stormwater inflows are reduced and the pipes are adequate to safely get the wastewater to the tank.

The Paremata Residents Association has been raising this issue with the Council and Wellington Water for many years. Clearly there is something fundamentally wrong with pipe connections into the sewer main and/or the condition or size of the sewer. The problem has been investigated many times, but nothing done has reduced the problem. Bolting down a surcharging manhole only transfers the overflow somewhere else upstream. Stopping these overflows does not appear to be a big enough priority. Discharges that pollute the Inlet are just as unacceptable as discharges into the Porirua Stream.

Renewal of the sewer main along Mana Esplanade has been included in long term plans, but then delayed or simply forgotten. In fact, several measures to address the discharges were identified by

the Council for implementation in 2013/14 and 2015/16, but they didn't happen and we are still waiting. So, when will this become a big enough priority?

What we need now is a firm commitment to stopping the discharges. Since Porirua City Council has not been able to give that, perhaps the new 3 Waters entity will, when established next financial year.

The Future of State Highway 59

Almost three years ago, the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) advised they would be developing a strategic plan for State Highway 59 from Porirua to Paekakariki. The report would address the clearways and much needed safety improvements for Mana Esplanade and St Andrews Road. But we're still waiting – not even a draft report is available. NZTA now say they are waiting to obtain more certainty on the scale and timing of future housing development in the Northern Growth Area. It could be a very long wait!

Meanwhile the number of large trucks on the road has increased and the safety issues remain - speeding vehicles, no enforcement for incorrect use of clearway lanes, residents having difficulty getting in and out of their properties, narrow footpaths too close to moving traffic. Apparently, this road is not a priority for NZTA because there are few reported crashes and no-one has been killed.

The Paremata Residents Association knows this is not good enough, so we will continue to advocate until a sensible solution is reached. At the very least, the bylaw for this road needs to provide for enforcement of conditions when the clearways are not operating, and clearway times need reducing in line with the lower level of peak traffic.

Annual Plan and Rates

The large increase in rates for 2024/25 was discussed at our committee meetings many times this year. The rates increase (both PCC and GWRC rates) has been difficult for many, especially those on fixed incomes. Concerns were raised about affordability, expenditure and value, with questions over what could be done to limit future rates increases to, or below, the inflation rate.

One concern is that there is often insufficient detail on expenditure in the draft annual plan to decide whether our rates are being properly targeted and spent efficiently. Budgeting appears to be cost-plus rather than zero-based. Also, we are not often given the opportunity to decide on options to reduce the rates, such as focussing on must-haves rather than nice-to-haves, what can we do without (if only temporarily) or delay, and user pay charges.

All of this was a key focus for us when we had the opportunity to submit on the PCC Annual Plan for 25/26. The Council had trimmed their original budget (but still with little detail provided) and the draft document presented some options that would reduce rates further. This is a step in the right direction that we encourage the Council to continue and develop. We supported all options, but the savings were minor.

If Council is serious about keeping rates affordable (Porirua has some of the highest rates in NZ) there needs to be a detailed look at Council expenditure and its operations. That comment also relates to Greater Wellington Regional Council. We expect to see a significant reduction in Council rates next year when the 3 Waters entity is operational, however this must not be used as an opportunity to increase spending on remaining functions or nice-to-haves, without consultation.

Unsafe activity on the Inlet

Concerns were raised by residents of the dangerous actions of some users of jet skis and power boats on the Pauatahanui Inlet. Instances of speeding craft in the Ivey Bay to Browns Bay channel and close to the shore (there is a 5knot rule); near misses between jet skis and other water users; and unsafe towing practices of some power boats. This creates the danger of injury to water users.

We raised this safety issue with the Harbour Master, who has decided to install information signage at the popular launching site between the Paremata bridges and two 5kph buoys will be placed in the Browns Bay area to raise awareness of the rules and increase safety.

Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail

I was confident the heritage trail would be completed this year. Wrong again! Last year only the layout design of text, graphics and photos on the history boards needed to be finished, produced, and installed onto mounting frames already manufactured and foundations already in place.

One year later and progress has hardly changed. After 8 years of effort and many thousands of dollars already spent, we can't give up at this last hurdle. So, we will continue to pursue completion for the benefit of local residents and visitors to Ngati Toa Domain.

Draft New Constitution

The Paremata Residents Association is an incorporated society. The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 requires all incorporated societies to re-register under the new Act before 5 April 2026. That involves preparing some new documents and adopting some new processes in the way we operate, to comply with the Act. The key changes are to our Rules (now called a Constitution), with specific mandatory requirements; consent forms with contact details for new members; eligibility requirements for Executive Committee Members.

There are advantages in remaining an incorporated society, so we have developed our draft new constitution for adoption at the 2025 AGM and will be implementing the new processes. The new Constitution was quite a time-consuming task, largely due to updating the way we will be operating, while retaining relevant parts of our current Rules and including the mandatory requirements of the Act, all in a relatively concise document.

The Association is very grateful for the input of Judi Jones in developing the new Constitution, with her knowledge of the requirements of the 2022 Act and attention to detail and accuracy.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their input this year that enabled your Association to continue representing the residents of Papakowhai, Paremata, Mana and the southern part of Camborne. The current committee includes:

President	Tony Shaw
Vice President	Judi Jones
Treasurer	Luke Waghorn
Secretary	Frank Moes
Communications	Mark Morrison
Committee	Russell Morrison, Ian Barlow, John Nichols, Brett Jones, John Chester and Andy Mallard

Unfortunately, Andy Mallard, John Chester and Mark Morrison will not be seeking re-election this year. We thank them for their contribution to the Association's activities.

I want to recognise the Council updates provided at our executive committee meetings, particularly from Porirua City Councillors Ross Leggett (in 2025) and Josh Trlin (in 2024), and Greater Wellington Councillor Chris Kirk-Burnnand.

For yet another year, I would like to thank Euon Murrell and Tommy's Real Estate for continuing to support the Association with the printing and supply of our newsletters.

Tony Shaw

President, Paremata Residents Association