



Paremata Residents Association

ANNUAL REPORT August 2026

Introduction

It certainly doesn't seem like 12 months to me, but the AGM is here again. When I look back over the last 12 months at the diverse issues that were discussed and submissions lodged, it's clear the focus was on change and some of it is very significant for Porirua's residents. But change can be good, provided it's well thought through and implemented, and has a positive impact on the community.

And that is where the Paremata Residents Association provides value for our community. We raise issues, we lobby, and we submit on proposals and plans for the benefit of the community and always seek a positive outcome.

I anticipate the next 12 months will be no different, dominated by Tiaki Wai issues; local government amalgamation; annual and 10-year plans; implementation of the Porirua Harbour Accord; planning for expansion in the Northern Growth Area (between Plimmerton and Pukerua Bay); and assessing the effects of increased higher-density development on the character of our community (including problems with vehicle parking, loss of privacy, sun and views).

As expected, the Paremata Residents Association will continue to represent the interests of our community whenever we can.

If you are aware of any issue that is affecting, or will affect, our community, you can email us at Secretary.paremata@gmail.com.

Key Activities 2025/26

New Constitution

You may recall that last year's AGM passed a resolution approving (with a minor amendment) submission of the Association's new constitution to the Incorporated Societies Registrar. The Association was required to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 with a constitution complying with the mandatory requirements of the Act. I am pleased to report that re-registration was successful and the new constitution is now our operating document.

A copy of our new constitution is on our website: www.paremataresidents.co.nz.

To comply with the 2022 Act some of our practices and procedures have needed to change. Probably the change of immediate interest to our members relates to membership of the Association. Previously membership has been by household, with payment of the annual subscription covering all named adults in the household. Membership continues to be open to all residents and ratepayers in our area but now applies to an individual person. Applicants wishing to apply for membership must complete and submit to the Secretary the membership application form soon to be on our website.

Existing members do not need to re-apply. Previously named adults in a household can continue as individual members by each paying the 2026/27 annual subscription. If we don't have the necessary contact information now needed, we will ask you for that.

We are aware the change to the structure of membership may mean an increase in costs for a household where more than one adult wants to continue to be a member. To reflect this, we intend to continue this year with a low subscription rate per member.

Our Website

I must apologise to residents who have accessed our website this year and wondered if it had been abandoned. Towards the end of last year, our website was moved to a new software platform, hosted by Rainbow Creative of Porirua.

This was an upgrade to provide more flexibility and improved stability. However, the move also created the problem of learning how to use it, and that was a bigger problem than expected. But with help and training from Rainbow Creative, we are now increasingly able to use the website as intended. So, you can expect to see more content in the future.

Wastewater overflows on Mana Esplanade

Wellington Water was our guest speaker at last year's AGM, which included mention of their plans to avoid wastewater overflows onto Mana Esplanade during heavy rain events. There are two wastewater mains down the Esplanade to the Paremata Bridge pump station. The work involved installing a bypass at the pump station by St Barnabas Church to divert some wastewater from one pipe causing the overflow from manholes, to the second pipe (which has fewer manholes on the Esplanade and presumably spare capacity).

The meeting identified that the bypass would not solve the problem of overflowing wastewater, but simply move it from the Esplanade to the Dolly Varden car park and contamination of the Inlet would continue. Wellington Water admitted that this was not a complete solution, but it would reduce the impact on residents and vehicles along Mana Esplanade.

The bypass was installed earlier this year and unfortunately there was a substantial wastewater overflow at Pascoe Avenue during the next heavy rain event. Changes were made to the volume and pressure at the bypass and, fortunately, we are not aware of an overflow event since.

The discharge of effluent to land or the Inlet is unacceptable and will only increase in heavy rainfall as more residential properties continue to be built between the Paremata Bridge and Pukerua Bay. Our view is that the only long-term solution is to upgrade the wastewater system along Mana Esplanade. Now we have Tiaki Wai to educate on this issue.

Mana Esplanade & St Andrews Road

Reluctantly, I believe we must accept that the NZ Transport Agency will not be honouring its commitment to develop a strategic plan for State Highway 59 any time soon. The strategic study was intended, amongst other things, to decide the future of the Mana Esplanade clearways and address documented safety issues of the Esplanade and St Andrews Road.

Following complaints about speeding traffic along Mana Esplanade and St Andrews Road, NZ Police did increase surveillance, which was good to see (but not for those caught speeding) and should be continued. However, there are two other actions that should also be taken now:

- Clearway hours were last adjusted in April 2020 (before the Transmission Gully Motorway opened) to cater for increased traffic volumes at peak times. Once TGM opened, traffic volumes dropped significantly (as expected) and traffic counts taken at that time indicated that those volumes no longer reached the levels required to warrant continuation of the

clearways. Since then, however, anecdotal evidence suggests that volumes have increased, with many motorists favouring use of SH59 over Transmission Gully for various reasons and others shifting from using trains to using cars. It's clear that **clearway hours need to be reviewed and reduced to only what is necessary.**

- The intention of the Environment Court when approving clearways through Mana was that they should only be used at peak traffic times – at other times, the kerbside lanes were intended for cycling and parking only, and to provide separation between housing, pedestrians and vehicles.

Despite an undertaking to “arrange for appropriate enforcement to occur in order to ensure that the clearway lanes operate as anticipated, NZTA's Mana Clearway Bylaw is focussed on parking restrictions in the kerbside lane when the clearway is operating. It does not cover any restriction on its use as a vehicle lane when clearways are not operating.

Therefore, the Police have no legal ability to prevent its use as a traffic lane when a clearway is closed. The result is the potential for accidents when vehicles move out of the kerbside lane, often due to a legally parked vehicle or damage the parked vehicle; safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians; difficulty for residents driving into and out of their property; and the impact of increased noise, vibration and exhaust fumes on homes.

The Bylaw needs to be amended to restrict the use of a clearway lane as a traffic lane when the clearway is not operating.

The Porirua City Council's growth strategy 2053, page 22, contains an illustration of what Mana Esplanade could become – a multimodal two-lane road with wide footpaths. It's an interesting concept that would help restore more of a community environment. The problem is that we see Mana Esplanade as a residential community separated by an access road, but NZTA appears to only see it as a transport corridor. We welcome any support the Porirua City Council can provide to resolve this dilemma.

Council and Water Rates

Over the last year, the Association has received regular updates from Porirua City and Greater Wellington Councillors. The separation of council and water rates was a major topic of discussion. We were concerned about the total cost of both, whether the 26/27 rates would be based on new property valuations, and the impact of this change on our residents. So much uncertainty, which finally became clearer in June when the council and water rates for 26/27 were announced.

After last year's large rates increase, our message to the Councillors was that there are real issues of affordability, and restraint is needed. The transfer of water assets and costs from PCC and Greater Wellington to Tiaki Wai will significantly reduce council debt but this must not be used as an opportunity for increased spending.

Having passed ownership of the Council's water assets to Tiaki Wai, Porirua City Council was able to set a zero average rates increase for residences. Actual council and water rates for an individual houseowner will depend on their property valuation relative to the average valuation. Tiaki Wai has announced water rates for Porirua of around \$2,300/year.

We all know that more investment in water assets is necessary, and we need Mana Esplanade pipes upgraded. Of course it's going to cost, but published information about Tiaki Wai's proposed future water charges are alarming. The Paremata Residents Association will be monitoring the future proposals and plans of Tiaki Wai, Porirua City and Greater Wellington Councils, and making submissions on behalf of our members when appropriate.

Local Body Amalgamation

The Government's "Simplifying Local Government" reforms is about change through amalgamation. The message appears to be - decide how to change or have change decided for you, and decide quickly. So, faced with that ultimatum, councils in this region have been exploring options and appetite for council amalgamation. The deadline set by Government to submit a draft amalgamation proposal was 9 August 26. So, no pressure there!

The Paremata Residents Association has been following amalgamation discussions with both interest and concern. Exploring possible changes to the way local government is structured with neighbouring councils in the Wellington Region, was supported by a majority of Porirua voters at the last local body election. However, with 8 local bodies and a regional body in our region, there are many amalgamation options and we hope that common sense will prevail. Our main concerns with amalgamation include any impact on rates and that Porirua needs to retain an adequate level of representation and funding.

At the time of writing this report there was still some disagreement and debate on amalgamation options, particularly whether Wairarapa, Kapiti and Upper Hutt are in or out. Two submissions have been lodged by Council's in our region. We await news on the content of these draft amalgamation proposals with strong interest, and, of course, the Government's response.

Ngati Toa Domain Heritage Trail

I was confident the heritage trail would be completed and installed by July this year, but I was wrong. Some text errors have been identified, the historical accuracy of some statements have been challenged, and there is debate on what information needs to be included. Neither the Porirua City Council or the Paremata Residents Association want the historical accuracy or content of the heritage trail to be an issue of debate. So, a final review of the text needs to be carried out.

After 8 years of effort and many thousands of dollars already spent, we can't give up at this last hurdle. The heritage trail needs to accurately reflect what is known about the history of the Domain and be completed for both the benefit of local residents and visitors.

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:

Chair	Tony Shaw
Vice Chair	Judi Jones
Treasurer	John Nichols
Secretary	Frank Moes
Committee	Russell Morrison, Ian Barlow, Brett Jones

I want to thank our Porirua City Councillors and Regional Councillors who provided updates on council matters at our executive committee meetings, particularly Nathan Waddle, Claire Johnstone and Phil Rhodes, together with Ross Leggett and Moira Lawler.

Tony Shaw

Chair, Paremata Residents Association