



Ruakiwi Reservoir Insights Report

Reserves Act Reclassification

23 September – 22 October 2025

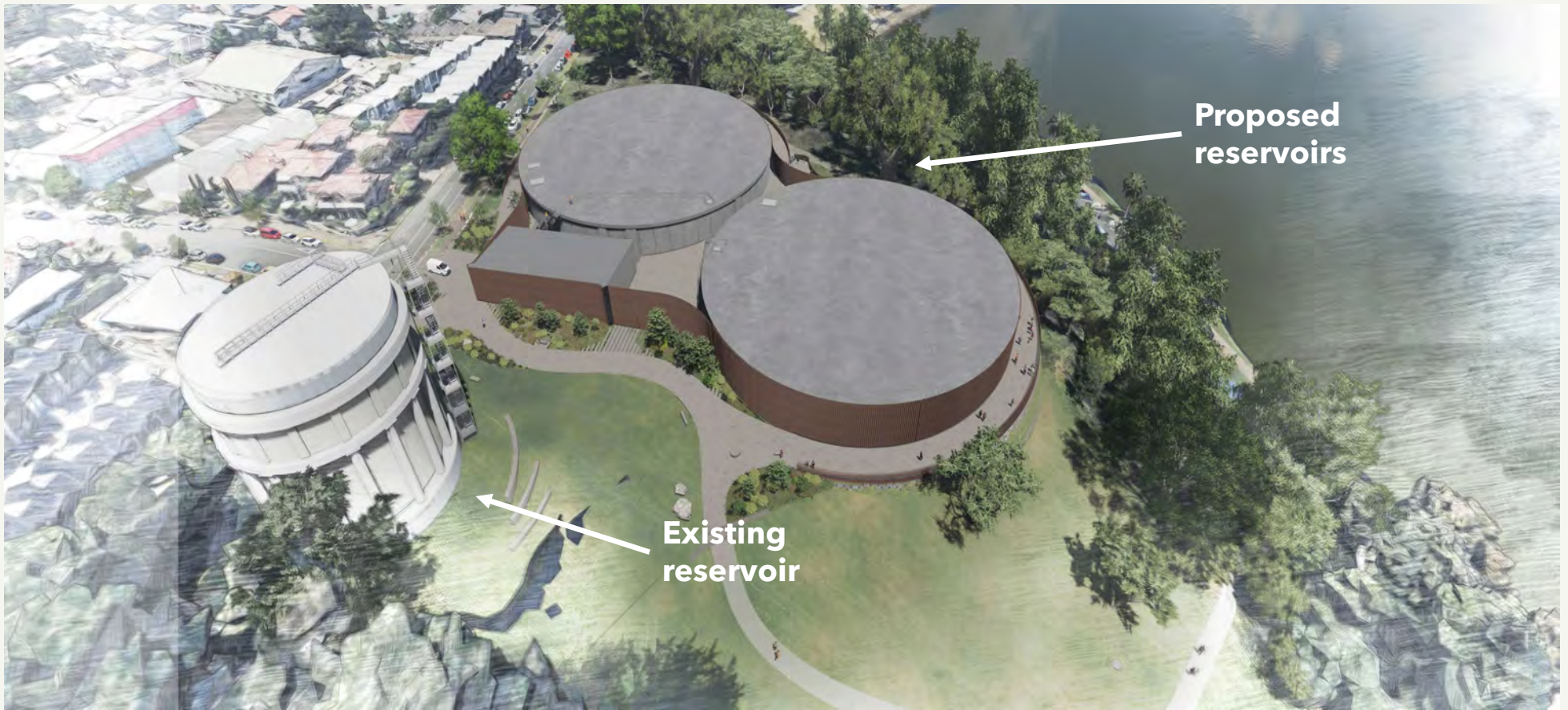


**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Project overview

- Two new 25ML reservoirs needed to increase drinking water supply and firefighting capacity for the growing central city
 - First by 2028, second by 2040
 - Ensures reliable water for residents, businesses, and Waikato Hospital
 - Supports central city growth – 10,800 more people expected by 2035
- Ruakiwi site at Hamilton Lake chosen after technical, environmental, and cultural assessments
- Site offers hydraulic advantages for efficient gravity-fed supply and has served the city for over 100 years

Project overview



Previous engagement

Phase 1: Initial public engagement (18 February - 18 March 2025)

- Sought public feedback on the concept of the new water reservoir.
- Engagement activities included two public drop-in sessions and a Have Your Say webpage.
- Received 94 submissions. Comments indicated general support for the project.
- Feedback helped shape the concept design and understand how the community uses the space.

Phase 2: Targeted engagement with directly affected residents (May 2025)

- Hand-delivered invitations to Ruakiwi Road residents for a workshop held on 27 May 2025.
- At the workshop, presented the updated concept design, gathered feedback, and answered questions.
- Provided alternative feedback options via email for those unable to attend the workshop.
- Follow up site visits were conducted with some residents to further understand their perspectives and concerns. These visits led to design changes, including lowering the level of the pump house.

Previous engagement

Phase 3: Public engagement on design elements (26 June - 13 July 2025)

- Invited public input on specific design elements such as materials, landscaping, and public access.
- Engagement activities included a public drop-in session and a Have Your Say webpage.
- Further direct engagement and feedback from affected residents.
- Received 177 submissions.
- Feedback indicated strong support for the proposed design materials and a connecting path to the lake. It also helped confirm the stormwater treatment and identified which path features would be delivered.

Consultation: Reserves Act

- From **23 September - 22 October 2025**, Council sought public feedback on two legislative processes required to enable construction of the new reservoirs:
 - Notice of Requirement (Resource Management Act 1991) - to designate the land for water infrastructure
 - Reclassification (Reserves Act 1977, Section 24(1)) - to reclassify part of Lake Domain Reserve from Recreation Reserve to Local Purpose (Water Infrastructure)
- This insights report focuses on submissions received on the Reserves Act reclassification. A separate report covers submissions on the Notice of Requirement
- We received **22 submissions** on the Reserves Act Reclassification

Processing feedback

- Respondents were asked one multi-choice question and had one free-text question where they could expand on their thoughts.
- The majority of submissions were made through our online survey tool, hosted on Council's Have Your Say page.
 - Emails and hardcopies were entered into our online survey tool.
 - There was one duplicate submission (e.g. someone had responded twice) - we kept their most recent response.
- Counts and percentages were calculated using Microsoft Excel. Text comments were grouped into themes.

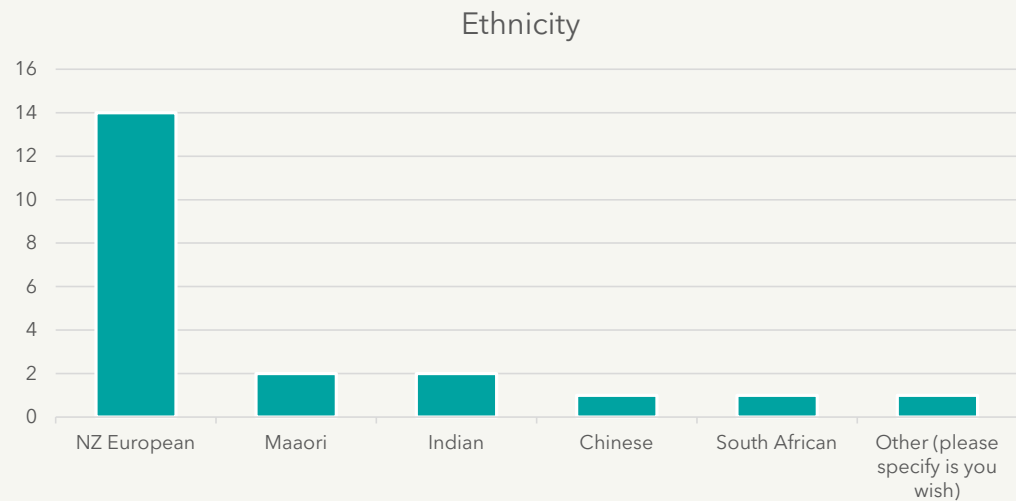
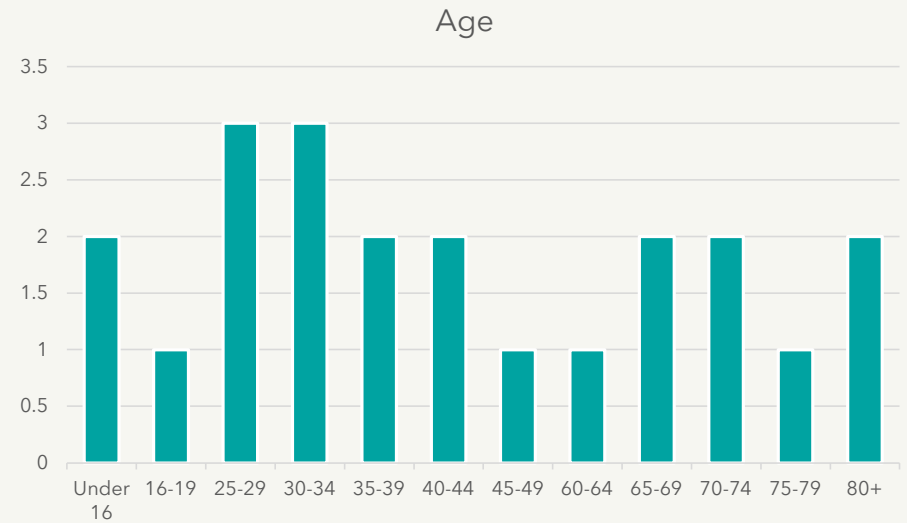
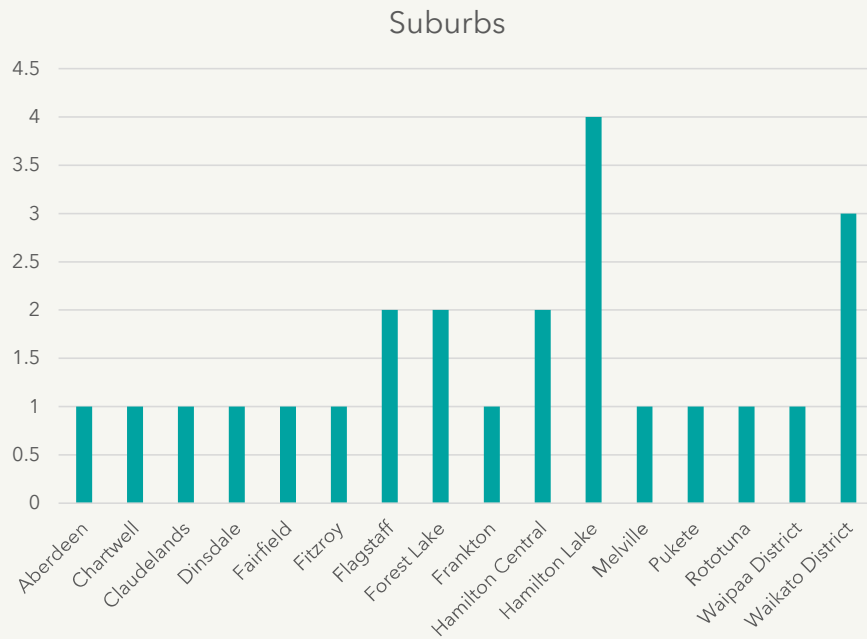


Submission insights

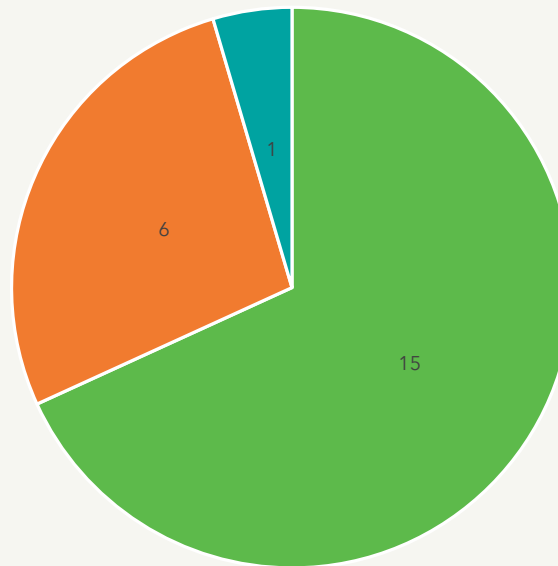
**Lake Domain
reclassification**

Who participated?

Respondent demographics



Do you support the reclassification?



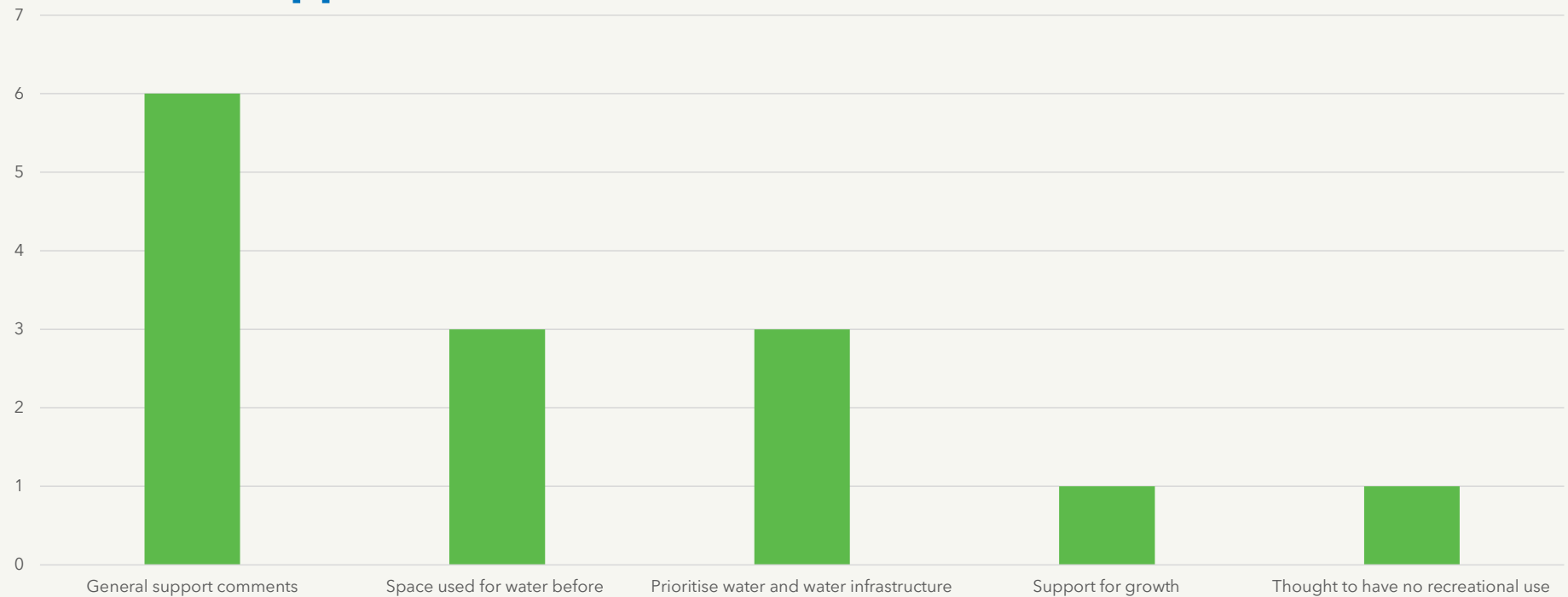
■ Option 1: Change the classification

■ Option 2: Do not change the classification

■ I don't have a view or I am unsure about this

Please provide a reason for your response

Reason for support



Themes for support

"Please provide a reason for your response"



**Space already being
used for water**

n = 3

*"..... I feel as if not taking
advantage of the prime location
& close promixity to the pre-
existing reservoir would be a
missed opportunity."*



**Prioritise water and
water infrastructure**

n = 3

*"Water is important
infrastructure and needs to
be prioritised"*



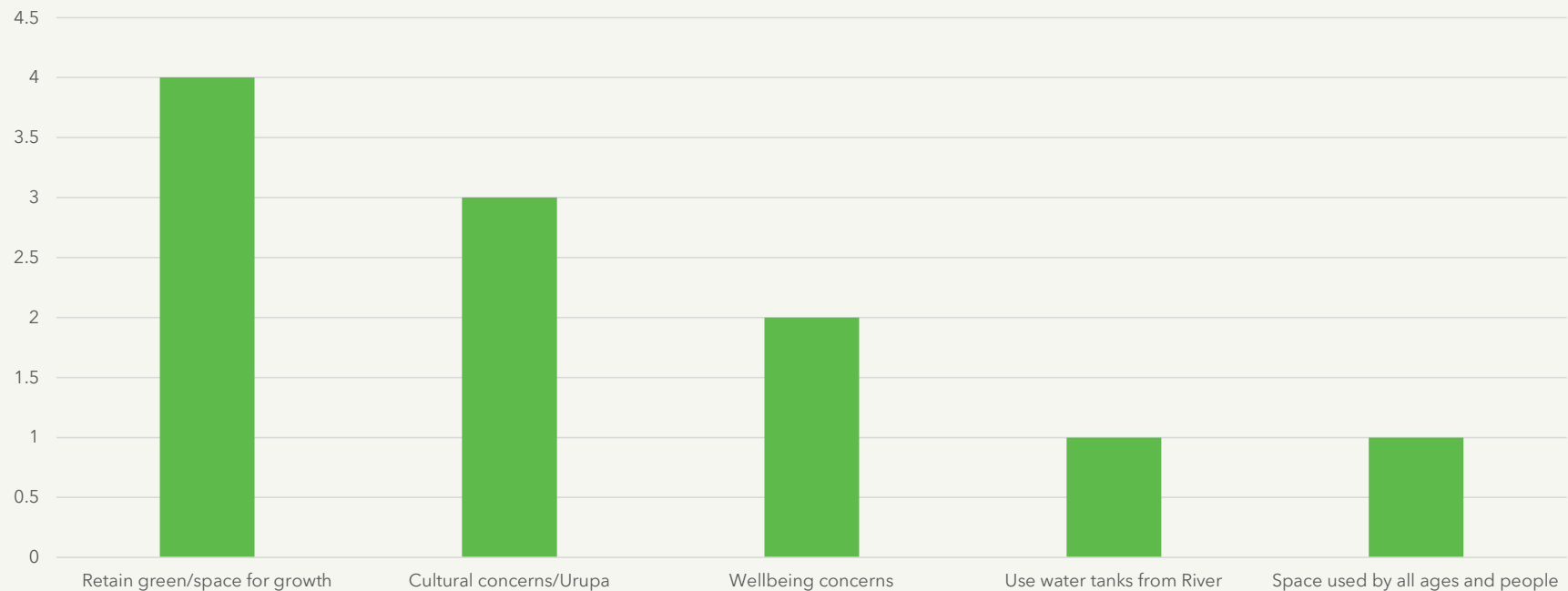
Support for growth

n = 7

*"As it seems inevitable that
the current reservoir will not
be able to cater to
projected changes in the
area & population
growth....."*

Please provide a reason for your response

Reason for non-support



Themes for non-support

"Please provide a reason for your response"



Wellbeing concerns

n = 2

"There are very limited community reserves of great value such as the lake. Restricting access would compromise the wellbeing of many residents...."



Cultural concerns/Urupa

n = 3

"...Where are the cultural values and impact assessment reports and why aren't they attached to the proposed project?....."



Retain green/open space for growth

n = 4

"We object to the change of classification because a city which is reported as being fastest growing city in NZ should be providing additional open spaces and parks for the growing population not reclassifying existing parklands and building ugly water reservoirs...."

Key findings

- We heard feedback from **22 respondents**.
- **15 respondents (68%) support or support in part Council's proposal** of the reclassification of the Lake Domain for the reservoirs.
- Those in favor of the change believe it is necessary for the growth of the city.
- Those who didn't support the reclassification have concerns for the city's growth and the need to maintain green/open spaces, or had cultural and wellbeing concerns.

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the top-left corner, there is a green triangle pointing towards the center. In the bottom-right corner, there is a blue shape that resembles a stylized wave or a mountain peak, pointing towards the center.

Engagement results

Outreach

Engagement results



- 1 social media post
- 3 event posts
- 137,176 heard about the consultation

- 1131 engagements through social media

- 22 individuals provided feedback

What's next?



Community consultation

23 September – 22 October 2025



Hearings for verbal submissions

February – March 2026 (TBC)



Decision made

April 2026 (TBC)



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