

Porirua's story

The early days

The settlement of modern Porirua had its beginnings in the 15th century. Ngāti Tara, Ngāti Ira and later Ngāti Toa would have hunted birds, fished from the harbour and estuaries, and used timber and flax from the bush and forest. Resources to provide shelter and food were plentiful.

Modern day Porirua grew from the small villages of the early 1900s in a very short space of time. In the late 1940s town planners saw Porirua as a future satellite city of Wellington and social housing grew rapidly in Porirua East through the 1950s, along with the early roading and underground infrastructure to support it.

This early development followed the natural contours of the land, but the arrival of modern earth moving machinery by the 1960s meant the landscape itself was changed. By the 1980s new areas of land along the inner harbour coast had been created by reclamation, the Kenepuru Stream had been realigned, and the early city centre had begun to emerge. Private homes began to be built at a faster rate than social housing. Industries such as Todd Motors, Kodak and Ashley Wallpapers were established and provided employment for the growing population.

Porirua today

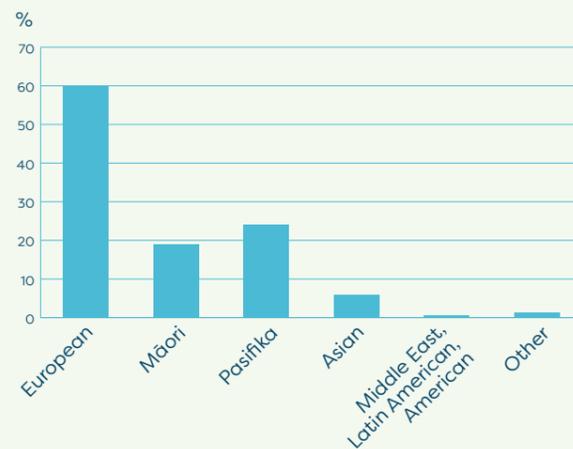
There are 56,100¹ people living in Porirua City making it the seventeenth largest council in New Zealand and the fifth largest in the lower North Island.

Porirua City is made up of villages from Pukerua Bay in the north, Titahi Bay in the west and a large rural sector including Pāuatahanui, and borders Wellington city's suburb of Tawa.

We are a young city

We have a very young community; 40% of our people are aged 25 years and under, one of the youngest populations in New Zealand. By contrast, we currently have one of the smallest populations of 65+ in the country.

Porirua City



We celebrate our diversity

In terms of how we identify culturally, we have a diverse population with our Pasifika community being almost twice the size of Auckland at 25% of our total population, along with one of the smallest proportions of European people (60%).

Our city has a mix of household types and incomes

We live in a wide range of household types. Almost half of our households have only two people living in them. At the other end of the scale, the percentage of people living in homes

with five or more people is the highest in the country at 16.3%.

On average, personal incomes in Porirua are the third highest in New Zealand. Our workforce makeup is very similar to Wellington, Auckland and Hamilton, with a high number of professional, clerical and administration workers, but relatively few machine operators, labourers and tradespeople.

We are a vibrant city, but not all residents enjoy the same quality of life. Some people experience poor social outcomes related to health, education, housing, employment and income.

Estimated population as at 30 June 2016²

Ward	Age group						Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	18-24	25+	
Northern	1,364	1,669	1,555	871	1,571	14,926	21,957
Western	1,025	988	771	437	982	6,765	10,968
Eastern	2,054	1,905	1,734	1,136	2,443	12,383	21,654
Porirua City total	4,443	4,562	4,060	2,444	4,996	34,074	54,579

Households with five or more people in Porirua City³

Area	Number	Total	% of suburb
Cannons Creek East	315	939	34
Waitangirua	339	1,020	33
Cannons Creek South	123	423	29
Cannons Creek North	237	885	27
Ascot Park	168	810	21
Porirua East	129	657	20
Elsdon - Takapūwāhia - Porirua Central	126	771	16
Titahi Bay South - Mana Island	171	1,257	14
Aotea - Papakōwhai	195	1,575	12
Endeavour - Resolution	126	1,254	10

¹ Data from i.d. Community Profile estimated population at June 2017.

² Data from i.d. Community Profile estimated population at June 2016.

³ Data based on 2013 Census.

We are a growing city

Porirua City continues to grow as revealed by rising Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. In the year to September 2017, the city's GDP rose by 2.5%, much faster than the 1.9% noted in the same period in 2016 and registering the highest growth in the last five years. At the same time, the perception and reputation of Porirua City is changing. This is substantiated by our key strength – our people are young, diverse and have a range of skills across all levels of industry.

We are building

Between 2008 and 2013, there was a net migration of 1,329 people into the city, and 83% were from Wellington City. This growth continues to put pressure on housing needs and is evident in accelerated residential investment over the years. New building consents rose by more than 100% in the past five years (September 2012 – 2017).

Economic confidence is increasing, supported by a number of ongoing and proposed projects, like the Transmission Gully Motorway, Porirua Adventure Park, City Centre Revitalisation and the Eastern Porirua Regeneration. The construction of the motorway started in September 2014 and is scheduled to finish in 2020. It will place Porirua City in a central position, in terms of regional connectivity, to Hutt City, Wellington City and Kāpiti Coast and will also provide an opportunity to increase commercial and industrial activity in the city. The Porirua Adventure Park is expected to attract larger volumes of visitors and tourists, and have several positive flow-on effects that will be boosted by the revitalisation of the city centre.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour is our taonga

Porirua City's most significant natural feature is Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. These are Onepoto from the Paremata Bridge to the inner city shoreline, and Pāuatahanui stretching east from the Paremata Bridge and ending at Pāuatahanui Village. Through the history of our city the harbour has provided food and recreation.

The landscape surrounding the city has been altered by land development for housing and land reclamation on the harbour coastline in the inner city, and impacted by higher flows of poor quality unfiltered stormwater into the harbour through modified stream channels. The health of the harbour has suffered and silt and sediment have affected wildlife in the water and how people use the harbour for recreation.

Our climate is changing

Like many New Zealand cities, we are exposed to natural hazards, especially earthquakes, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion. In recent years the effects of the November 2016 Kaikōura earthquake, Cyclone Gita and flooding events, which have closed roads and schools, are reminders of the impacts of these hazards.

Our future

Over the next 20 years the city will change. The Transmission Gully Motorway will open in 2020 and, along with new land becoming available for housing and industrial development, will make our city more attractive as a place to live, work and raise a family.

Growth

Our city growth has been modest in the past 10 years, but the rate of growth is now accelerating. As Aotea reaches capacity, new developments at Kenepuru and Whitby are expected to bring some relief in property demand in the medium term. Our next District Plan, expected to be completed in 2020, is likely to make even more land available for housing.

We already have increasing business investment in the city with Turners Car Auctions, Porirua Adventure Park and other businesses coming here. Office space is beginning to fill with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples and Te Puni Kōkiri setting up branches from Wellington. We expect this trend to continue as businesses realise Porirua City's potential.

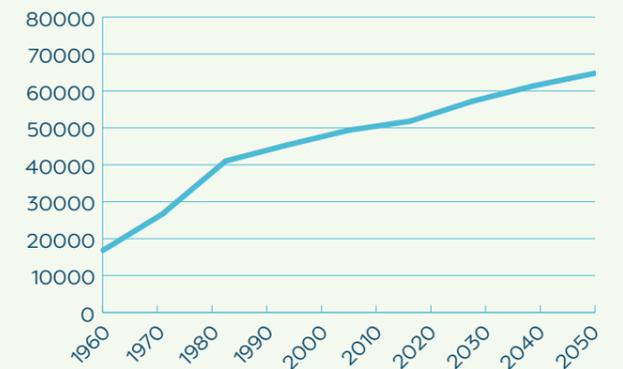
Housing

The type of housing being built will also change. We will soon see the completion of the first inner city apartment block in the old NZ Post building in Serlby Place and anticipate more medium density housing development and a greater diversity of housing types. We're also expecting to see central government lead regeneration of the older social houses in Eastern Porirua.

Population

By 2038 we're expecting to have a population of just over 64,000 people and the number of new houses will increase to 22,230. This is a faster rate than the population growth rate, meaning our average household size should reduce.

Projected population



Environment

Our environment is also transforming. We are already experiencing climate change – a collection of climate effects that will worsen existing weather hazards over time. We expect that in the Wellington region we'll have warmer temperatures, heavier rainfall, higher winds and rising seas. We are focusing on how we position the city to better cope with climate change.

Our city's needs requires us to balance good quality services and infrastructure with affordability, ensuring a better future for our young people while taking care of today's needs, and encouraging a sustainable level of growth with the right level of care of our environment and investment.