



Whakawhanake  
Kāinga Komiti

Urban Growth Partnership  
for Greater Christchurch

# Draft Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan - Summary

Over the past 15 years, Christchurch and its surrounding towns have grown rapidly. By 2050, more than 700,000 people are projected to be living in Greater Christchurch – 30% more than there are today, with the population potentially doubling to 1 million people within the next 60 years, if not earlier.

Collective effort is required to increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change, improve access to employment, education and housing, reduce carbon emissions, and create a sustainable and prosperous future.

In 2022, the Greater Christchurch Partnership and the Crown established an Urban Growth Partnership for Greater Christchurch – the Whakawhanake Kāinga Komiti<sup>1</sup>. The partnership is focused on shared objectives related to affordable housing, emissions reduction, and creating liveable and resilient urban areas. The first priority of the partnership is to develop the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan.

## Greater Christchurch

Greater Christchurch is found at the meeting point of the Canterbury Plains, the Pacific Ocean, and the volcanic remnants of Whakaraupō / Lyttelton and Te Pātaka a Rākaihautū / Banks Peninsula. It extends from Rangiora in the north to Lincoln in the south, and from Rolleston in the west to Sumner in the east. It includes the flat lands and Port Hill areas of Ōtautahi Christchurch.

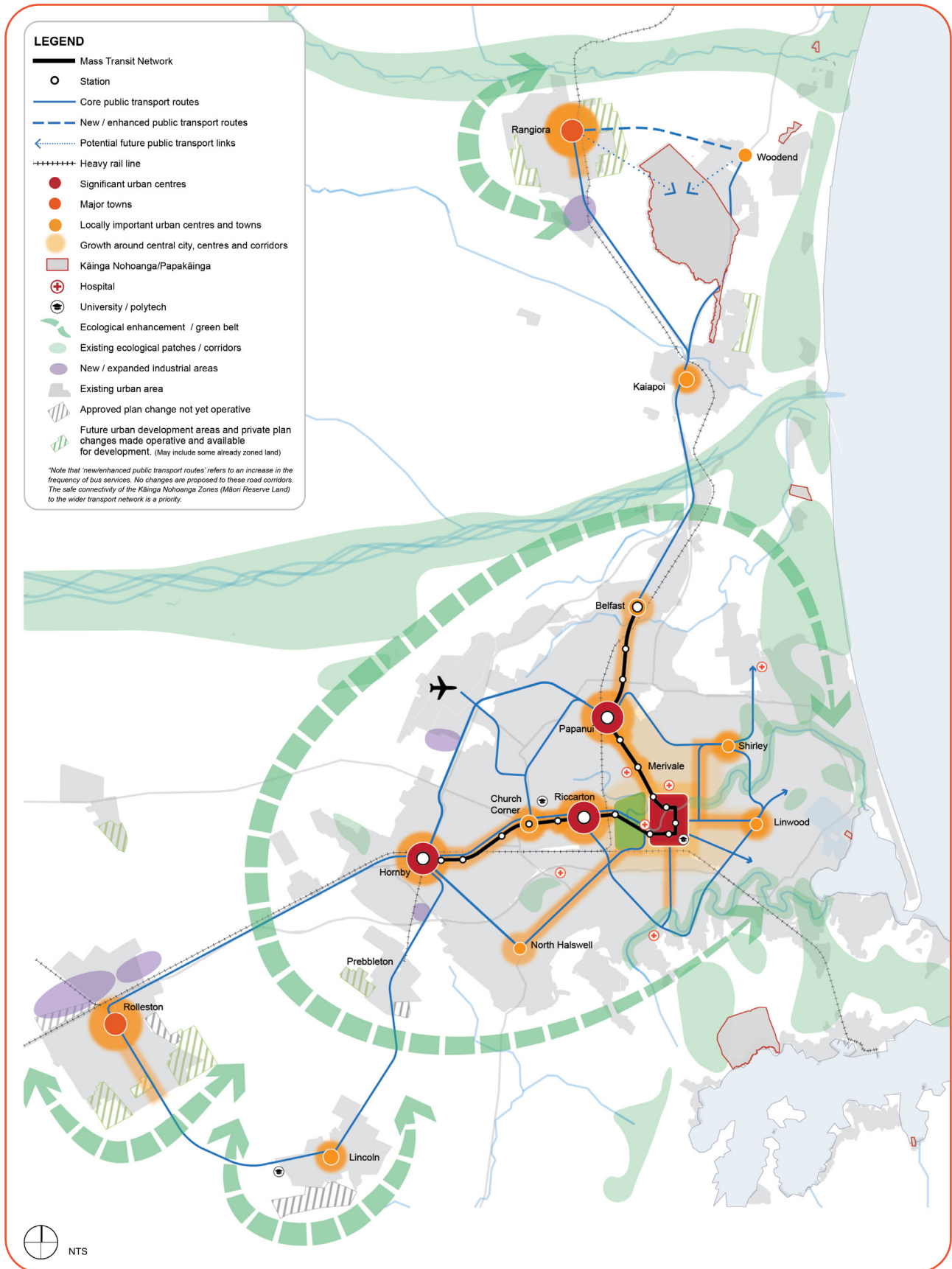
Greater Christchurch is part of a cultural landscape that holds significant historic and contemporary cultural importance for Ngāi Tahu whānui. Greater Christchurch traverses the takiwā of three Papatipu Rūnanga: Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Taumutu and Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki), with the marae of Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke being located within the Greater Christchurch area.

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<sup>1</sup>This partnership includes Local Government: Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri District Council; Mana Whenua; and Central Government: Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand, Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Kāinga Ora, Te Tari Taiwhenua - Department of Internal Affairs.

# Map 1 – Draft Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan

## 700,000 - 1 MILLION PEOPLE



# Context

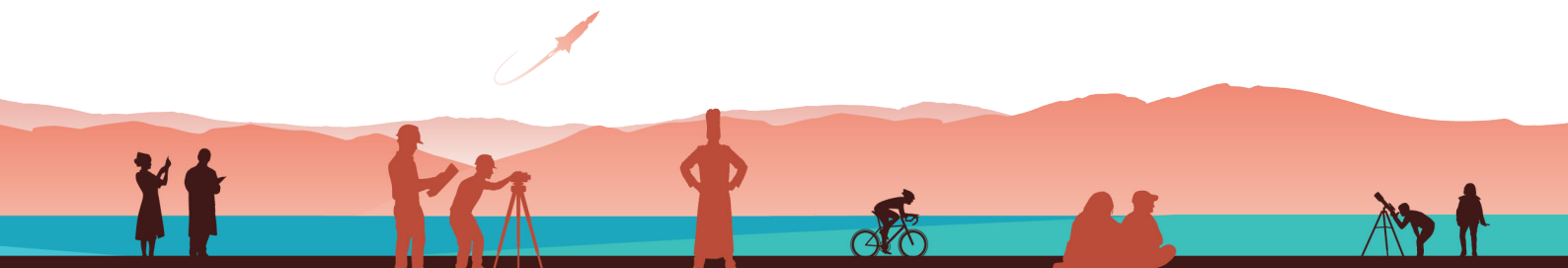
The purpose of the draft Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan is to:

- Set a desired urban form for a projected population of 700,000 (to 2051) and beyond that to 1 million people to ensure Greater Christchurch is future-proofed in the context of population growth and climate change.
- Deliver the top priority of the Urban Growth Partnership for Greater Christchurch to develop a Spatial Plan that coordinates and aligns the aspirations of central government, local government and mana whenua.
- Satisfy the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development for the Greater Christchurch councils to jointly prepare a Future Development Strategy.

## Mana Whenua Priorities and Expectations

The Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan needs to reflect the values of mana whenua and give effect to their priorities and expectations. In summary, the expectations relevant to the Spatial Plan include:

- Supporting kāinga nohoanga on Māori Land, including infrastructure and improved accessibility.
- Supporting kāinga nohoanga within urban areas.
- Protecting Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Taonga and Ngā Wai.



# The draft Spatial Plan

In early 2023 we asked residents through the Huihui Mai engagement about how they thought we should tackle important issues such as responding to climate change, preserving the environment, making our region more resilient to natural disasters, and making housing more affordable. You can find out more about this engagement and what we heard here: <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/urbangrowthprogramme/huihui-mai>. This engagement and our work to develop the evidence base has informed the development of the draft Spatial Plan.

The draft Spatial Plan builds on and replaces the previous plans and strategies developed for Greater Christchurch. It provides a blueprint for how population and business growth will be accommodated in Greater Christchurch into the future, through targeted intensification in centres and along public transport corridors. This includes a clear pathway for how the sub-region will create prosperous and well-functioning urban environments and build greater resilience in the context of the changing environment.

The draft plan proposes six opportunities, which link to a set of clear directions and key moves to help shape the future of Greater Christchurch. The spatial strategy is detailed in the table below.



#1

Protect, restore and enhance historic heritage and sites and areas of significance to Māori, and provide for people's physical and spiritual connection to these places



#2

Reduce and manage risks so that people and communities are resilient to the impact of natural hazards and climate change



#3

Protect, restore and enhance the natural environment, with particular focus on te ao Māori, the enhancement of biodiversity, the connectivity between natural areas and accessibility for people

**Opportunities**  
Ngā Āheinga

**Directions**  
Ngā Ahunga

**Focus growth through targeted intensification in urban and town centres and along public transport corridors**

**Enable the prosperous development of kāinga nohoanga on Māori Land and within urban areas**

1.1 Avoid urban development over Wāhi Tapu

1.2 Protect, restore and enhance Wāhi Taonga and Ngā Wai

2.1 Focus and incentivise growth in areas free from significant risks from natural hazards

2.2 Strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change and natural hazards

3.1 Avoid development in areas with significant natural values

3.2 Prioritise the health and wellbeing of water bodies

3.3 Enhance and expand the network of green spaces

3.4 Protect highly productive land for food production

3.5 Explore the opportunity of a green belt around urban areas

**Key Moves**  
Ngā Kōkehanga Matua

**The prosperous development of kāinga nohoanga**

**A strengthened network of urban and town centres**

**A mass rapid transit system**



#4

Enable diverse and affordable housing in locations that support thriving neighbourhoods that provide for people's day-to-day needs



#5

Provide space for businesses and the economy to prosper in a low carbon future



#6

Prioritise sustainable transport choices to move people and goods in a way that significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and enables access to social, cultural and economic opportunities

4.1 Enable the prosperous development of kāinga nohoanga on Māori Reserve Land, supported by infrastructure and improved accessibility to transport networks and services; along with the development of kāinga nohoanga within urban areas

4.2 Ensure sufficient development capacity is provided or planned for to meet demand

4.3 Focus, and incentivise, intensification of housing to areas that support the desired pattern of growth

4.4 Provide housing choice and affordability

4.5 Deliver thriving neighbourhoods with quality developments and supporting community infrastructure

5.1 Sufficient land is provided for commercial and industrial uses well integrated with transport links and the centres network

5.2 A well connected centres network that strengthens Greater Christchurch's economic competitiveness and performance, leverages economic assets, and provides people with easy access to employment and services

5.3 Provision of strategic infrastructure that is resilient, efficient and meets the needs of a modern society and economy

6.1 Enable safe, attractive and connected opportunities for walking, cycling and other micro mobility

6.2 Significantly improve public transport connections between key centres

6.3 Improve accessibility to Māori Reserve Land to support kāinga nohoanga

6.4 Develop innovative measures to encourage people to change their travel behaviours

6.5 Maintain and protect connected freight network

**A collective focus on unlocking the potential of Priority Areas**

**An enhanced and expanded blue-green network**

# Priority Areas

Priority Areas will be a key tool to progress shared objectives through the implementation of the Spatial Plan. Seven Priority Areas have been identified through a technical evaluation – these include areas that offer significant opportunity for change, such as accelerated urban development to support the desired pattern of growth, environmental change to enhance resilience, or exemplar projects. In addition, Māori Reserve land is identified as a Priority Area arising from Te Tiriti Partnership, as is the development of kāinga nohoanga within urban areas. The Priority Areas for Greater Christchurch are summarised in the table below:

Priority Areas arising from Te Tiriti Partnership	Priority Areas arising from technical evaluation		Priority Area
	Priority Development Areas		
Kāinga nohoanga on Māori Reserves and within urban areas	Rangiora Town Centre and surrounds		Eastern Christchurch area
	Mass rapid transit phase one corridor	Papanui	
		Central City	
		Riccarton	
	Hornby		
	Rolleston Town Centre and surrounds		

Eastern Christchurch has been identified as a Priority Area, rather than a Priority Development Area. The area has not been included as a development/growth focus but primarily to recognise the need for a partnership approach to support this area to adapt to the risks and impacts of climate change, and to build community resilience.

## Joint work programme

The Partnership will work together to implement the Spatial Plan through a joint work programme comprising key actions and initiatives, and the Priority Areas identified above. The progress of the joint work programme will be reported biannually through a monitoring report.

The Spatial Plan is an enduring document, with the scope for new Priority Areas, key actions and initiatives, and tools to be added if they are required in future. The plan will be reviewed and updated as needed every 5 years.

## Looking to the future

Moving to a low carbon future, along with building the capacity of communities and ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change, will be major challenges over the coming decades.

The key moves and directions work together to focus growth around key public transport routes and centres, reducing emissions, creating resilient communities, and supporting a prosperous economy. A focus on an enhanced and expanded blue-green network will support and benefit biodiversity and ecosystems, provide adaptation to climate change, and provide integrated connections between people and the natural environment. The draft Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan reflects mana whenua priorities and expectations, by supporting kāinga nohoanga on Māori land, and within urban areas, and providing direction to protect Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Taonga and Ngā Wai.

Greater Christchurch will be a place that supports the wellbeing of residents and the environment both now and for generations to come.

