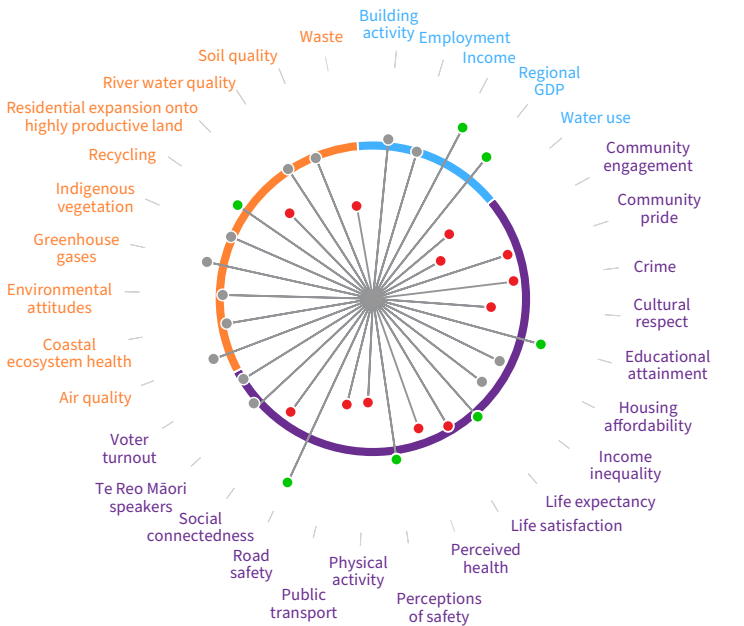


The Waikato Progress Indicators (WPI) use ‘circles of wellbeing’, a new approach to illustrating progress in the Waikato region. This enables us to visually display information about many indicators in a single diagram.

- ECONOMY
- SOCIETY
- ENVIRONMENT

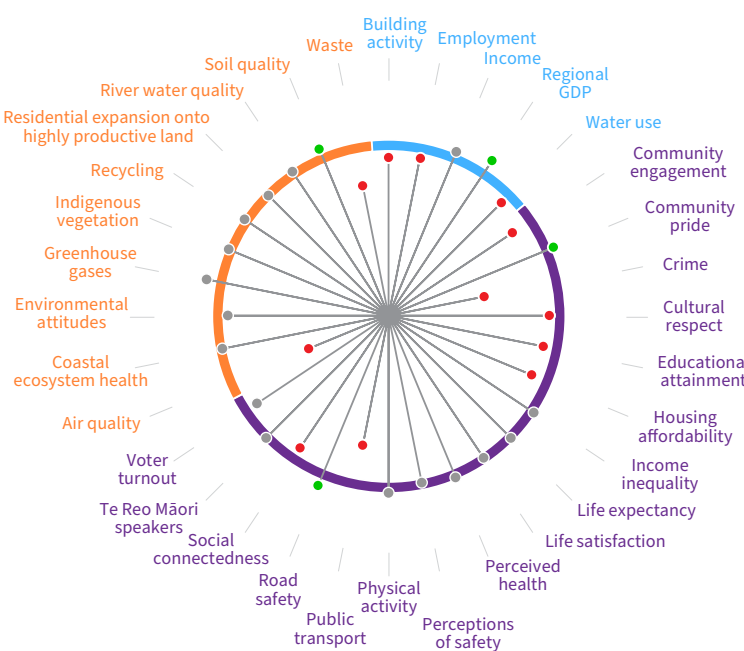


Long-term trends (2006-07 to latest available data)

The circle to the left plots the overall change for the Waikato region for the period **2006-07 to latest available data** for all WPI indicators. Where a spoke extends outside the circle it means an improvement (green). Where the spoke falls within, it represents a worsening trend (red). No significant change is indicated by when a spoke is approximately on the circle (grey).

The most notable **positive trends** over this period are (in declining order) road safety, incomes, regional GDP growth, educational attainment, recycling, perceptions of safety, and life expectancy.

The largest **negative trends** over this period are (in declining order) poorer perceptions of community engagement, more waste to landfill, higher water use, lower frequency of physical activity, less use of public transport, lower perceptions of cultural respect, and more residential expansion onto highly productive land.



Short-term trends (2018 to latest available data)

The circle to the left plots the more recent trend for the Waikato region from **2018 to the latest available data** using the same approach. Observations from these graphs and supporting WPI information include:

- Criminal offence data had previously been improving over the longer-term, but since 2018 the Waikato annual regional crime rate has trended upward.
- Community pride increased slightly between the 2018 and 2022 survey years.
- Over the longer-term, air quality shows an improvement but for the period 2018 to 2023 there was a general increase in the number of exceedances per year, most likely due to the use of new monitoring instruments giving higher readings.
- Educational attainment of school leavers peaked in 2016 and has been relatively stable since then, but declined in 2022.
- There was an apparent decline in housing affordability in 2023, however this indicator can be highly variable from year to year.

Comparison of Waikato with average New Zealand

The circle to the left compares the current state of selected WPI indicators for the **Waikato region versus New Zealand** (latest results available). Where a spoke extends outside the circle it means the Waikato region performs better than New Zealand (green). Where the spoke falls within the circle, the Waikato region performs worse than New Zealand (red). Where a spoke falls approximately on the circle this indicates the Waikato region performs about the same as New Zealand (grey). For all WPI indicators not shown, directly comparable national results are not available.

The diagram shows that compared to the national average, the Waikato region:

- has a relatively high percentage of Te Reo Māori speakers, high frequency of physical activity, high levels of community pride and social connectedness, community engagement (perception of public’s influence on Council decision making), and slightly higher level of life satisfaction (overall quality of life), but
- is behind the national average on a range of indicators, including road safety, crime, recycling, GDP per person and household incomes.

