

Waikato Affordable Energy Webinar Series

June-November 2026



**Wellbeing
Waikato**
TOIORA O WAIKATO

Research.
Knowledge.
Storytelling.

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Wellbeing Waikato



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Independent Charitable Trust focused on:

- Regional intelligence about what's most important to households and whanau
- Identifying emerging risks early
- Surfacing underlying drivers, not just symptoms
- Convening government, iwi, councils, community organisations and the private sector around decision-useful insights.



Quarterly Report

Waitomo District

Housing

Key pillar changes

Median Sale Price

\$400K

— No Change

As of Jun 2026, the median sale price in Waitomo District is \$400K, which has not changed since Mar 2026.

Median Rent Price

\$424

▲ 2.3%

As of Jun 2026, the median rent price in Waitomo District is \$424, which has increased by 2.3% since Mar 2026.

Years to Save for Deposit

6.6 yrs

▲ 0.83%

As of Jun 2026, the number of years to save for a deposit in Waitomo District is 6.6, which has increased by 0.83% since Mar 2026.

Purchasing affordability (% of income spent on mortgage)

22%

— No Change

As of Jun 2026, the purchasing affordability in Waitomo District is 22%, which has not changed since Mar 2026.

Rental affordability (% of income spent on rent)

27%

▲ 2.3%

As of Jun 2026, the rental affordability in Waitomo District is 27%, which has increased by 2.3% since Mar 2026.

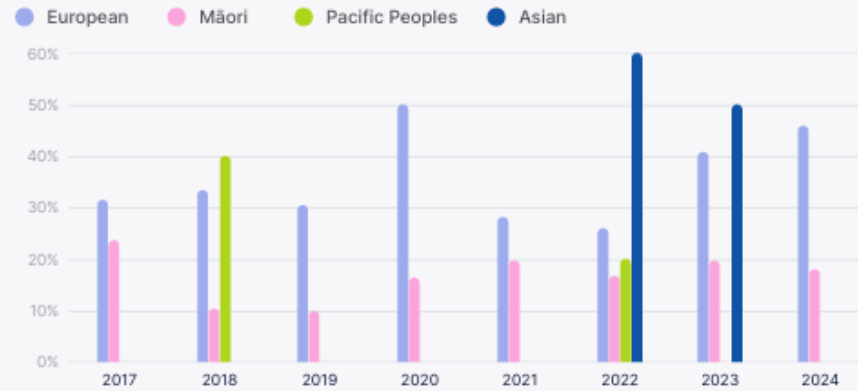
Home ownership rate (% of individuals who own their home)

38%

▲ 6.8%

As of Mar 2023, the home ownership rate in Waitomo District is 38%, which has increased by 6.8% since Mar 2018.

School leavers with NCEA level 3 by ethnicity



In Jan 2024, European students in Waitomo District had the greatest proportion of students leaving with NCEA Level 3. European have seen the greatest change in NCEA Level 3 pass rates since Jan 2023, increasing by 13% to 46%.

School leavers with NCEA level 3 by gender



As of Jan 2024, the percentage of female students leaving with NCEA Level 3 in Waitomo District was 19%. This is lower than the 25% pass rate for male students. Compared to Jan 2023, the pass rates have decreased for female students and stayed the same for male students.

Schools with greatest change in NCEA level 3 pass rate

Pass Rate	% Amount	% Change ↓
Piopio College	67%	▲ 117%
Te Wharekura o Maniapoto	33%	▼ -42%
Te Kuiti High School	23%	▼ -12%

The NCEA Level 3 pass rate of Piopio College has increased by 117%, representing the greatest change in Jan 2024 compared to Jan 2023.

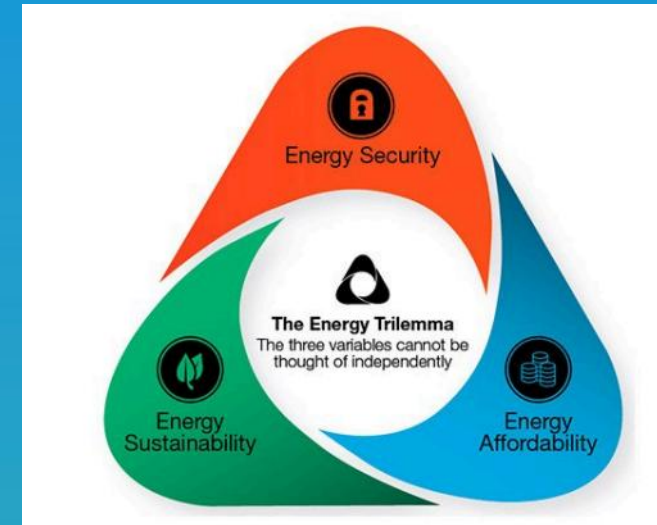
School leavers with no NCEA qualification by ethnicity



In Jan 2024, Māori students in Waitomo District had the greatest proportion of students leaving with no NCEA qualification. Māori have seen the greatest change in no NCEA qualification rates since Jan 2023, increasing by 33% to 31%.

Energy systems need to be:

- Affordable
- Reliable
- Sustainable



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4 Big Questions

1. How does the electricity system actually work—and why is it designed this way?
2. What drives power prices, and how could they be made more affordable?
3. How does energy affordability affect household and community wellbeing?
4. What would a better system look like—and how do we get there?



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Taking the Power Back



Kelli Pike
GoEco



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Taking the Power Back

Kelli Pike

Pou Para Kore

"If we want an *affordable, reliable* and *sustainable* electricity system, we need to *change the lens* through which we make decisions".



Ōritetanga:

*fair and equitable
in distribution*

Gore council fuming after deal
to move dross turned down



Documents reveal government's
multi-million offer to Rio Tinto
despite ruling out a subsidy

New Zealand threatens to sue Rio Tinto
after floods threatened toxic waste

Minister says he has 'had enough' of company's failure to
deal with waste dump that was almost breached by South
Island floods



Kaitiakitanga:

*guardianship of our
environment and
people*



Rangatiratanga:

*self determination and
authority*





"If we want an ***affordable,***
reliable and ***sustainable***
electricity system,
we need to ***change the lens***
through which we
make decisions".



Q&A



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The Affordable Energy Webinar Series

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Larry Blair

New

Energy Consultant and Literacy Advocate

7 October



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Upcoming Speakers:

Gareth Cartwright, Executive Officer: Community Energy Network

14 October

Stew Hamilton, CEO of Mercury NZ

21 October

David Wilson, Member of Parliament: New Zealand First

28 October

Blair Dickie, Principal Strategic Advisor: Waikato Regional Council

4 November

Martin Atkins, UoW Ahuora Centre for Smart Energy Systems

11 November

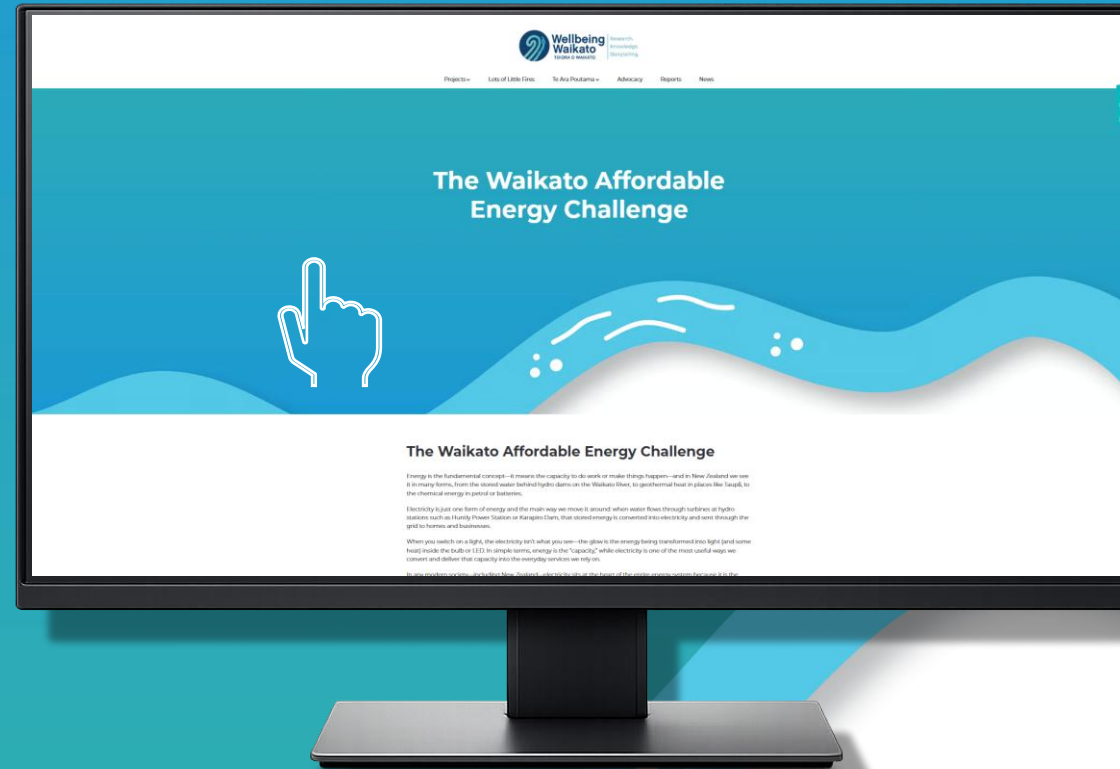
New



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Thank you!

www.wellbeingwaikato.org.nz

harvey@wellbeingwaikato.org.nz

021 913 418



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