

# Hurunui YOUTH STRATEGY



The Hurunui Youth Strategy aims to recognise and value the voice of young people in the Hurunui District. This document provides guidance for priority setting, ongoing support, and development of our young people. The Hurunui District Council acknowledges the unique contribution young people make as valued citizens who are not only the future of tomorrow but the voice of today.

The Hurunui is a large geographical area with a low population base, creating a number of challenges for our young people. Our aspiration is for a district where young people are connected within their communities, their environment is valued, they are supported to thrive and embrace opportunities. We want all young people in the Hurunui District to have access to recreational, educational, cultural, and social opportunities.

The Hurunui District Council established the Hurunui Youth Programme (HYP) in 2008 to offer flexible and youth centered development opportunities for young people in the district. At the time it was unknown what to expect or what the result would be. Ten years on, the Hurunui now has a highly valued youth programme and a much respected youth council. As the council's youth services continue to grow, the need for a document to publicly recognise the voice of young people was identified.

Thanks to the funding from the Ministry of Youth Development Partnership Fund (2017) the council was able to support local young people, Hurunui Youth Councillors and Hurunui Youth Programme Committee members to create this foundation document. Over a five month period, more than 300 young people in the Hurunui District were consulted with and contributed to the development of the Hurunui Youth Strategy. Through engagement at local youth and community events, in school and online our young people identified what they want to keep, change and create for their district.

**VISION:** ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND ARE VALUED AND SUPPORTED IN THIS BY THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

**MISSION:** TO STRIVE FOR A DISTRICT WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, SUCCEED AND REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.



This document has been created to drive better long term outcomes for young people in the Hurunui and will be used to guide ongoing Hurunui District Council youth services, the Hurunui Youth Programme, Hurunui Youth Council and the community as a whole. The young people described in this document are 12-24 years.



This strategy has been designed by young people for young people, and is the voice of Hurunui Youth.

# Hurunui YOUTH STRATEGY

**The Hurunui District is strengthened to create innovative bright futures for our young people.**

- Collaboration of communities and agencies to create job opportunities
- Investment in positive experiences to enhance the skills of local young people
- Commitment to the retention of young people

## FUTURE FOCUS

**Young people live in an environment that is nurtured today to be enjoyed by future generations.**

- Active citizenship in the protection and restoration of our unique biodiversity
- Our local natural environment is accessible for all youth to enjoy
- Opportunities for youth engagement in sustainable education

## OUR ENVIRONMENT

## CONNECTED COMMUNITY

**Hurunui young people value the sense of community and opportunities to be connected locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.**

- Accessible communities
- Public services, access and amenities are valued
- Embracing the diversity in our district

## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**A district where young people continue to learn and grow, and their contribution is valued in our communities.**

- A commitment to provide opportunities to engage in events, sports, and recreation
- Pathways for youth participation and engagement in democracy
- A strengths-based approach to enhancing the wellbeing of our young people