

# Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

## Wellington Youth Council

### Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, 18 May 2022

**Time:** 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**Venue:** Whātaïtai (16.11), Level 16 Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington and Teams

### Purpose

- Assist and advise the City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities.
- Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a challenging world.
- Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth).

### Membership

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Laura Jackson
<b>Members:</b>	Leandra Broughton, Saiah Claydon-Wade, Artemis Crawford, Nīkau Edmond-Smaill, Ella Flavell, Ali Haidari, Laura Jackson (Chair), Henry Lockhart, Akira McTavish-Huriwai, Anastasia Reid (Deputy Chair),
<b>Liaison Councillors:</b>	Cr Tamatha Paul, Cr Jill Day (Alternate)
<b>WCC Staff:</b>	Meredith Blackler (Chief People and Culture Officer), Emily Deans (Democracy Advisor), Jamie Shackleton (Senior Advisor Community Development), Vondy Thornton (Senior Resilience Advisor), Jared Corston (Senior Resilience Advisor Place & Connection), Ariel McLean-Robinson (Community & Neighbourhood Advisor), Silas Phillips (Advisor)

## Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 4.03pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
  - Saiah – for lateness;
  - Waimarama, Jackson, Pulupaki, Josh & Greer – for absence.

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. Anastasia welcomed the visitors, and everyone introduced themselves. Youth Councillors and visitors shared what was on top with them for this week.

## Items

4. Updates
  - Henry said there is nothing much to update on the **elections working group**. Please let Henry know if you have any ideas around the election.
  - Laura gave an update on **recruitment**. Recruitment closes on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May at 9am and we will be conducting interviews the week of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. Please share with anyone who is interested.
  - Anastasia and Emily gave an update on the departing youth councillor **farewell**. It is next meeting; 1 June 2022 and the farewell starts at 4.30pm. Please come at 4pm as usual as we will have updates and the new leadership election before the farewell event. The farewell will have speeches, including from the Mayor, Councillor Paul and Anastasia, we will hand out certificates and share kai. Please let Emily know if you want to be involved (eg. karakia mō te kai) or have any other ideas.
  - Emily gave an update on the new youth councillor **induction**. We will hold an induction for new Advisory Group members (including new Youth Councillors) on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of June – please hold this date in your diaries, more information will come shortly. This will be optional for existing members (as it will be unpaid) but will be a good chance to network with the other Advisory Groups.

5. Youth Hub workshop, *Presented by Ariel, Jared and Vondy*.

Jared introduced Youth Hub and explained that the project came about following engagement with youth people (including Youth Council) and is a part of Pōneke Promise to meet the needs of young people in Pōneke. Jared explained the team is currently in the process of finding a venue for the Youth Hub and will share more information as soon as possible.

Ariel shared some slides (Attachment One) and introduced that the focus of this workshop is to create a blurb to inform the naming and purpose of the new Youth Hub. Ariel gave the current Youth Hub blurb and an example blurb that Te Pokapū Hapori is using.

Ariel shared the results from the survey about Youth Hub. Rangatahi want the Youth Hub to hang out with friends most. Young people are most interested in table-top games and work experience workshops. The types of spaces young people wanted include lounge or hangout spaces and supplies such as Wi-Fi and charging statements.

Ariel split everyone out into groups to write a Youth Hub blurb to inform a new name and Vondy led the group on teams. The Youth Hub team will come together and will use these ideas to start writing a draft. The draft blurb/s will then come back to Youth Council for approval.

Youth Councillors categorised their ideas into the following categories:

- Where people feel....
- Somewhere I can....
- A place where....
- Somewhere that has....
- Anything else important

Ariel thanked everyone for the feedback. They will take it and draft responses to send back to Youth Councillors for final approval. Anastasia thanked the youth hub team for their workshop.

6. Cost of Living kōrero, *Presented by Brad Olsen.*

Brad introduced himself and shared slides (Attachment Two) about the increased cost of living we are experiencing right now. Highlights from the presentation include:

- Food grants still up 59% from pre-pandemic levels and food prices are at their highest in a decade (except kumara prices are down!). Petrol prices are up 45% per annum before the fuel cut (we are borrowing to fund this cut that we will have to pay back).
- Wellington is one of the most expensive rents in the country. Rents on cheaper properties are increasing at higher rates.
- We have the highest inflation since 1990. The costs are rising and will likely continue to rise.
- Only 25% of workers got a pay increase that is relatively close to inflation.
- The Reserve Bank's job is not to increase inflation, they dropped interest rates at the start of the pandemic to stop inflation. Then New Zealanders started buying more with their extra money but there wasn't enough supply. Now banks have to increase interest rates to limit how much money goes into the rest of the economy. This is very difficult for those on lower incomes. The solution to inflation is to make interest rates higher but this has a negative impact on lower income households.

Brad asked Youth Councillors if they have any questions or areas they want to discuss further.

What is the Council's relationship to the increased cost of living?

- Brad responded that rates do make up part of inflation. There is tension between wanting to deliver more (increase rates) and the increased cost of living. These are difficult choices.
- Energy prices are a real challenge for people – this drives more people to social services provided by Councils such as libraries.

What can we do about the cost of living?

- Brad noted that it is currently hard for people to find workers, there's a good argument for workers to negotiate for higher wages with their employers.
- The other thing we can do is to prioritise, what needs to be paid for first. Look for places where you can cut costs.

For people in university, what is your advice? How do you find enough time to study and work to survive?

- Brad noted that the first year is the hardest, as you spend a lot for your halls and your own food. Prioritisation comes in there. Find ways to have fun on the cheap!
- Councillor Paul added that there are always paid roles in student organisations like VUWSA and keep that in mind. VUWSA is a living wage employer.
- Look at for scholarships - if you don't ask, the answers always no. If it looks like you might fit the criteria always apply.
- Push the shame away and ask for financial help and reach out if you need support.
- Saiah added that applying for university hardship funds can be whakamā but they are there when you need them. As Māori there are iwi funding you can apply for too.

How do we to balance between spending (debt) and cutting support?

- This is very difficult. Brad's bottom line for decision-making is if I cut this will someone die.

Do you think community gardens are a valid option to think about with inflation?

- Yes, anything that makes a difference is a good thing. It's great for building community and there's ownership that comes from community gardens which is something that can help mental health too.

Is there scope for different councils to have different minimum wage based on living costs?

- Brad mentioned the difficulty here is that each person/household has differences in living expenses. You also don't want to discrimination on individuals living situations.

- There are also different costs for different areas in each region (eg. Supermarket costs are higher in small towns).
- The council is trying to spend on things (infrastructure/social services) that make living cheaper to try to share out the load.

Anastasia thanks Brad for the presentation and the visitors for joining the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.32pm.

## **Information**

**Next meeting date:** 1/06/2022

### **Portfolio / Working Groups:**

- Recruitment working group (led by Laura & Anastasia)
- Election working group (led by Henry)
- Youth Hub (led by Josh)
- Communications working group (tbc)



# Youth Hub

Naming steps and survey information



# Our hopes for this session:



To share with you some of the results of the survey that we ran last year



To put together a blurb for the naming of the Youth Hub

# Wellington City Council's Naming Policy Te Māpihi Maurea

- WCC's naming policy sets guidelines and principals for the naming and renaming of council affiliated locations. The goal for this is to create a more bicultural city by incorporating Pōneke's Māori history, present, and future
- New names are based off of a summary of the purpose and uses of the location as well as the history and culture around the space, and are created in consultation with mana whenua
- We would you to design a blurb on the purpose and uses of the youth hub, based on the information that we received in the survey we put out last year and your own thoughts



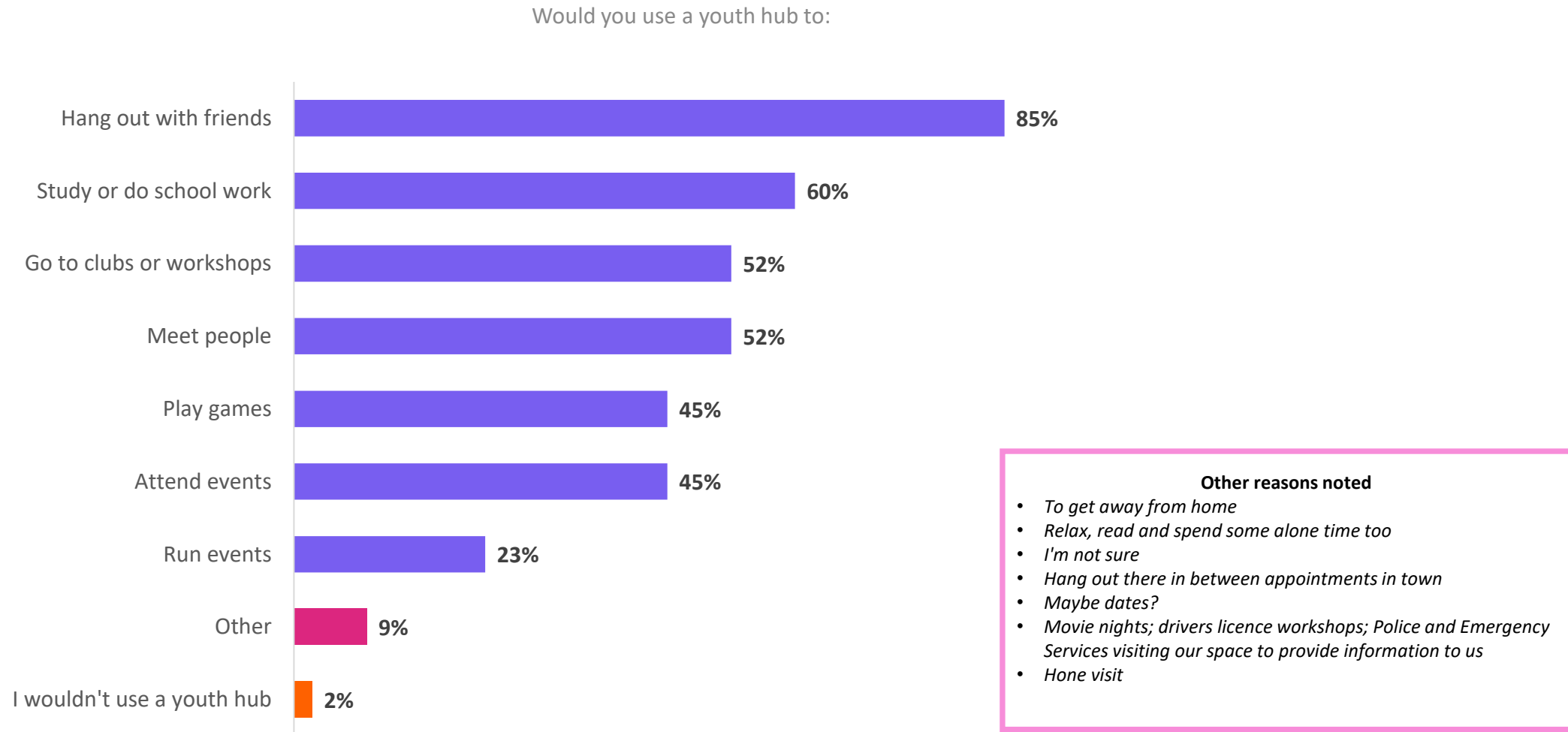
# Example Blurbs: Te Pokapū Hapori and our Youth Hub One Pager

**“Space that is flexible and multi-use for Community development activities including small meetings, co-located working spaces, clubs and social gatherings with activated programming and services...** In the context of the Social Contract, this space will enable the building of relationships and trust for those diverse resident communities that call the Central City home, and that help to contribute to a stronger perception of public safety and social support. Specific functions for the space could be collaboration, meetings, a safe warm hangout, an event space, and a staging area for other local initiatives.”

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**“A safe, welcoming space for youth to socialise, play, study, create and connect with their community. A place where they can thrive and feel a sense of ownership and belonging in the Central City.** As part of the Pōneke Promise and its commitment to youth wellbeing, WCC will deliver a dynamic, easily accessible space designated for rangatahi. The space will be inviting to all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, encouraging physical, social, cognitive and emotional hauora. Provision will also be made for facilitated programmes in partnership with youth organisations across the city. Youth will feel they have a place that provides them with the ability and autonomy to be themselves, where they can be free and connect with each other.

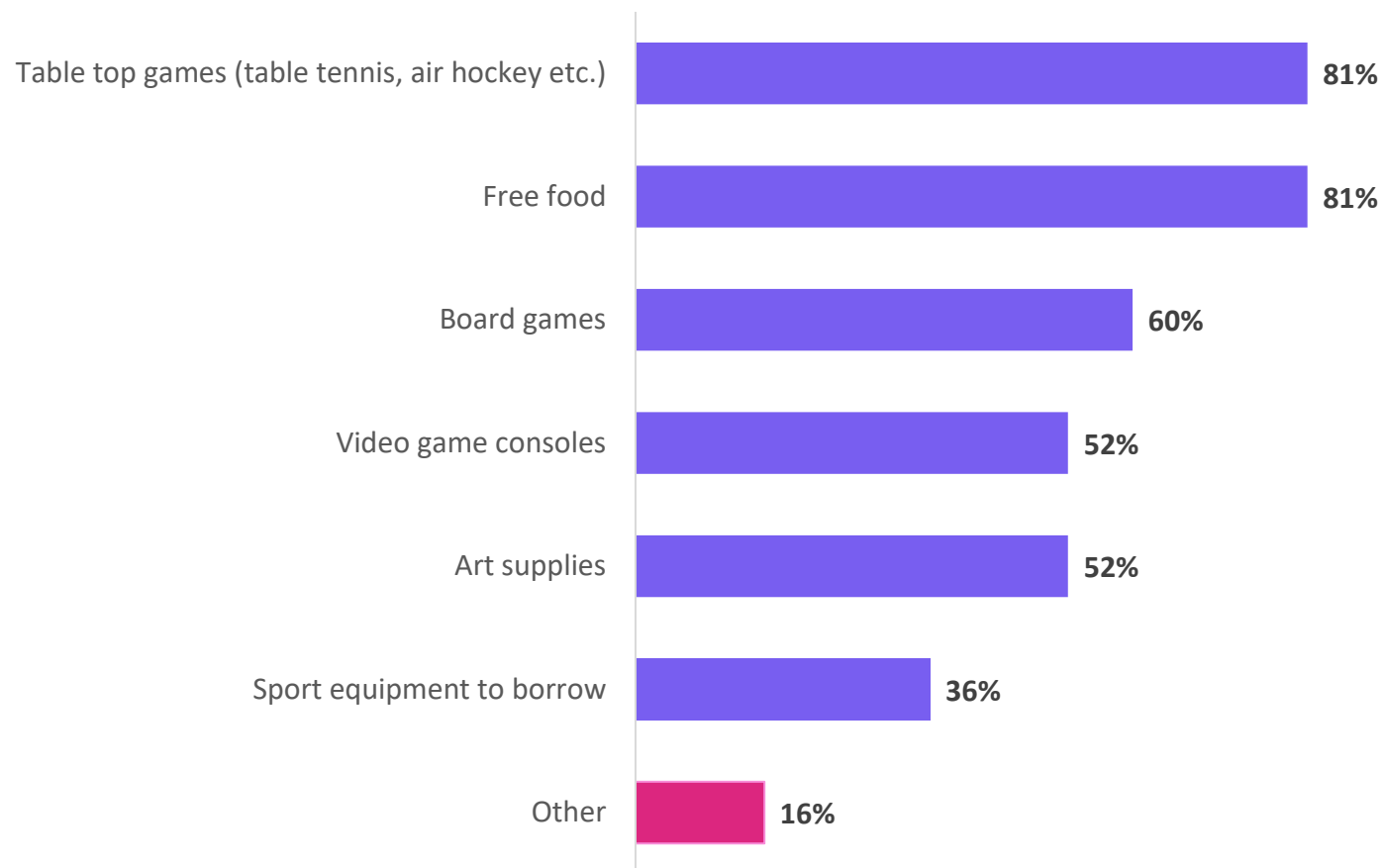
# What would you use a youth hub for



Base: Respondents who said they would or might use a youth hub in the central city (n=92) multiple response question percentages add to more than 100%

# Desired non-structured activities at the youth hub

What kind of non-structured activities would you like to see there?



## Other activities noted

- *free library, safe bathrooms*
- *Books!!!! To read, like a library*
- *Just good space to socialise in, couches, tables. Bit of a lounge feel.*
- *music equipment*
- *Movies and watching gaming tournament*
- *A cheap cafe*
- *Phone chargers - charging ports*
- *this technically is a table top game but i feel like we have very different understandings of the term, so d&d.*
- *Indoor basketball and indoor football*
- *People who could help me take steps to become more independent.*
- *Xbox*
- *Dungeons and dragons*
- *Visit as walk*

Base: Respondents who said they would or might use a youth hub in the central city (n=90) multiple response question percentages add to more than 100%

# Desired structured activities at the youth hub

What kind of events, workshops, and structured activities (if any) would you like to see there?



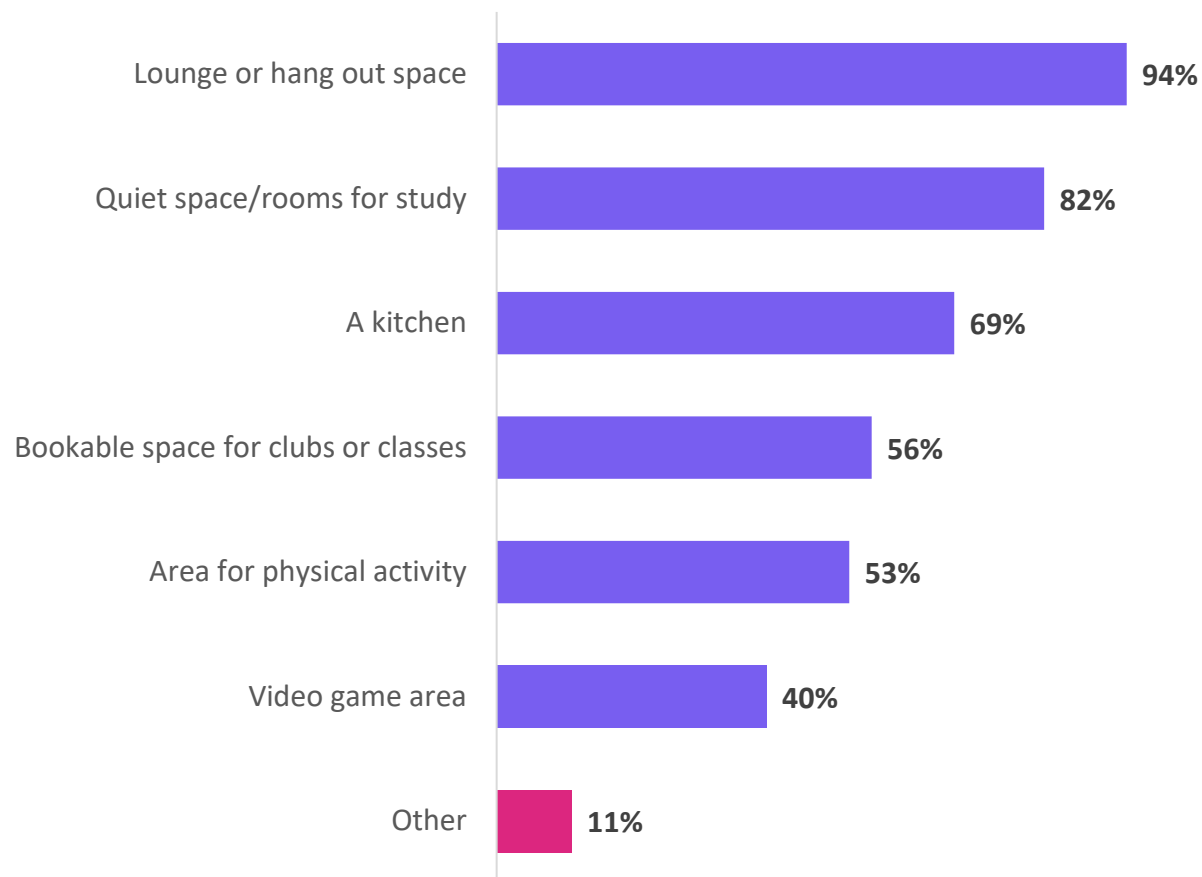
## Other activities noted

- Sports activities - dodgeball or basketball
- Genuine inclusion of disabled people.

Base: Respondents who said they would or might use a youth hub in the central city (n=90) multiple response question percentages add to more than 100%

# Desired types of spaces at the youth hub

What kind of spaces do you think are important to have in the Youth Hub?



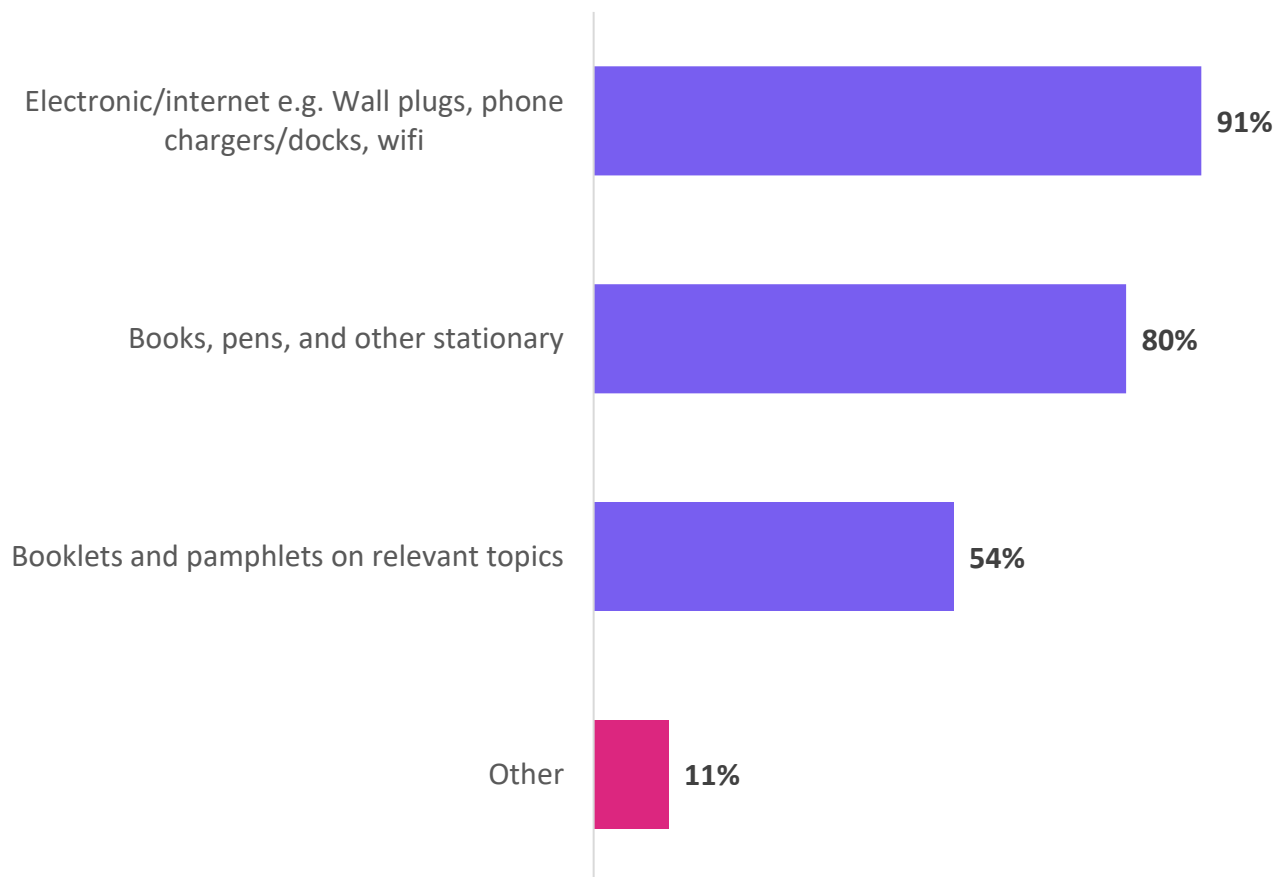
## Other spaces noted

- Room where people can tic and stim w/o any judgement
- stage for music
- music space, activity areas, video games/movie space
- Not sure
- A room for people who have autism etc to be able to access things to stim
- A garden or plants would be nice.
- No video gaming space. Youth and young people already do alot of that at home and in the own environment. Would like the Youth Hub to be a place to connect not disconnect playing video games.
- Catch up
- Cultural foods

Base: Respondents who said they would or might use a youth hub in the central city (n=89) multiple response question percentages add to more than 100%

# Desired supplies or resources at the youth hub

What kind of supplies or resources do you think would be useful to have there?



## Other supplies noted

- some computers, a projector tv screen
- Basketball hoop, mini skateboard ramp, netball hoop, indoor volleyball?
- music equipment
- lockers for valuables so people can engage in activities without worrying about stuff internet and computer access - tabs with useful sites on them private space with certain sites blocked
- In terms of wifi, it has to be like good wifi yknow. Not that crappy cbd free wifi sort of thing
- Drinks
- Table tennis, pool table, desktop computers and a large working desk/study space, bean bags for comfort, fully equipped kitchen space with dishwasher, fridge/freezer, microwave and plates, cups and cutlery etc.
- Something from shop
- a counsellors/psychologist office

Base: Respondents who said they would or might use a youth hub in the central city (n=89) multiple response question percentages add to more than 100%

# Blurb crafting

- Split into groups of 4-5 people
- Brainstorm and record some ideas for the blurb in your group
  - This could include key words, mind maps, pictures, and full sentences
  - You should try to describe what you see as the uses and purposes of the hub
    - Include your own and the survey's ideas (we have printed copies as well)
- We'll come back together, share our ideas, and then draft one master blurb together out of your work

# Expensive just to survive – a cost of living kōrero

Wellington City Youth Council

Brad Olsen – Principal Economist

18 May 2022

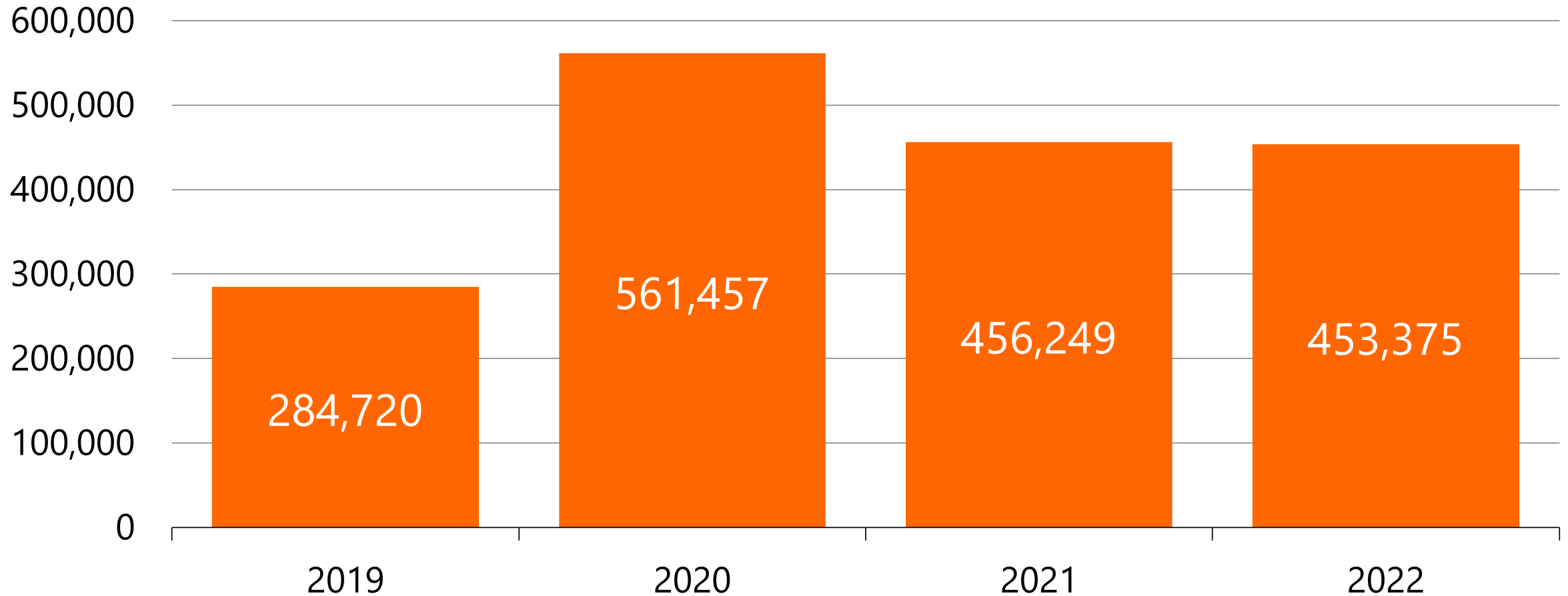


## Expensive essentials

### Food grants still up 59% from pre-pandemic levels

Total food grants provided for the first 17 weeks of each year

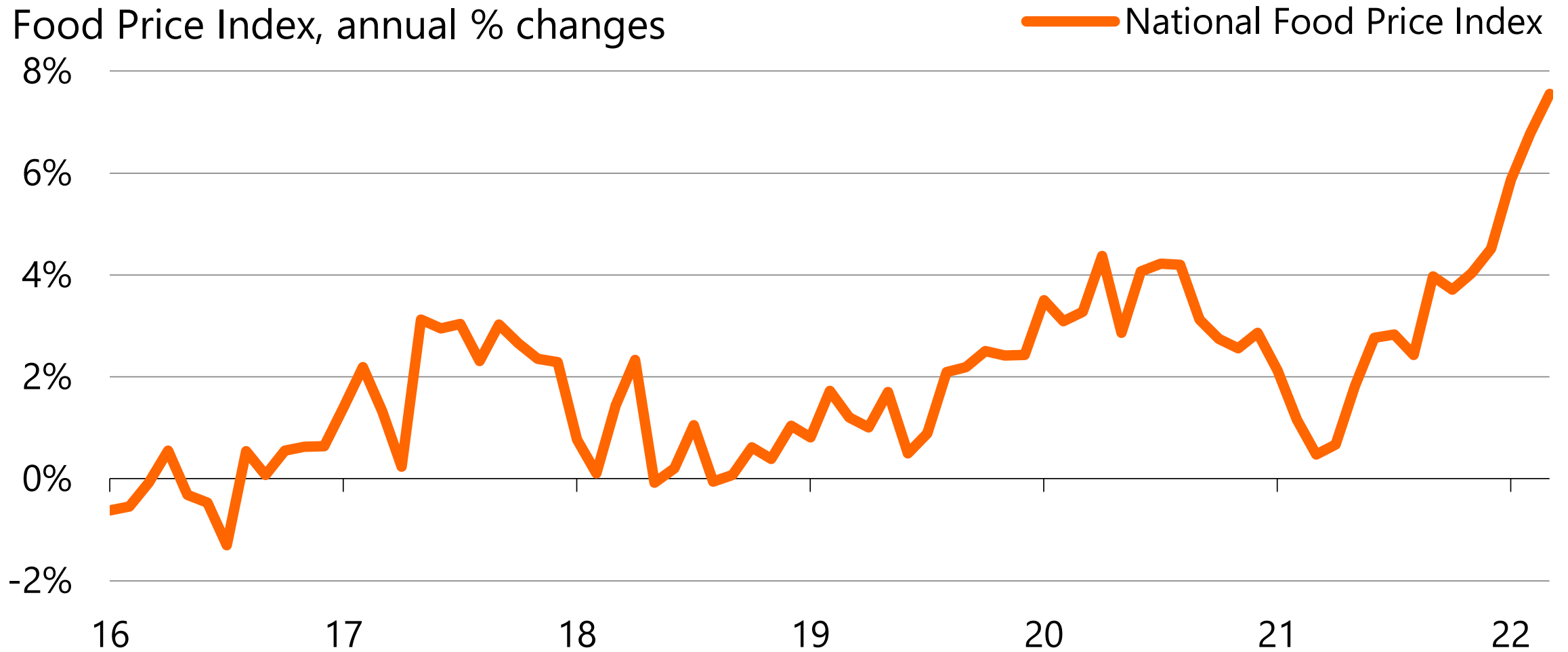
Food grants



## Expensive essentials

# Food prices rise at their fastest in a decade

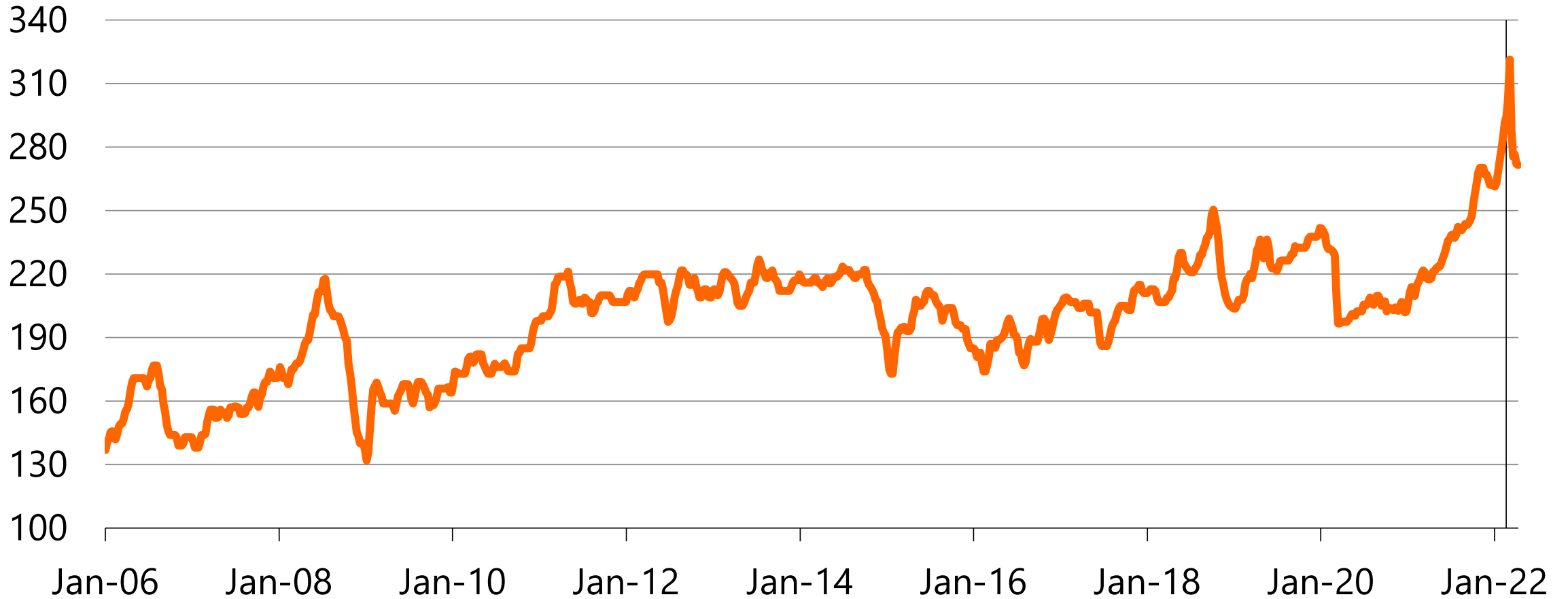
Food Price Index, annual % changes



## Expensive essentials

### Petrol up 45%pa before fuel excise cut

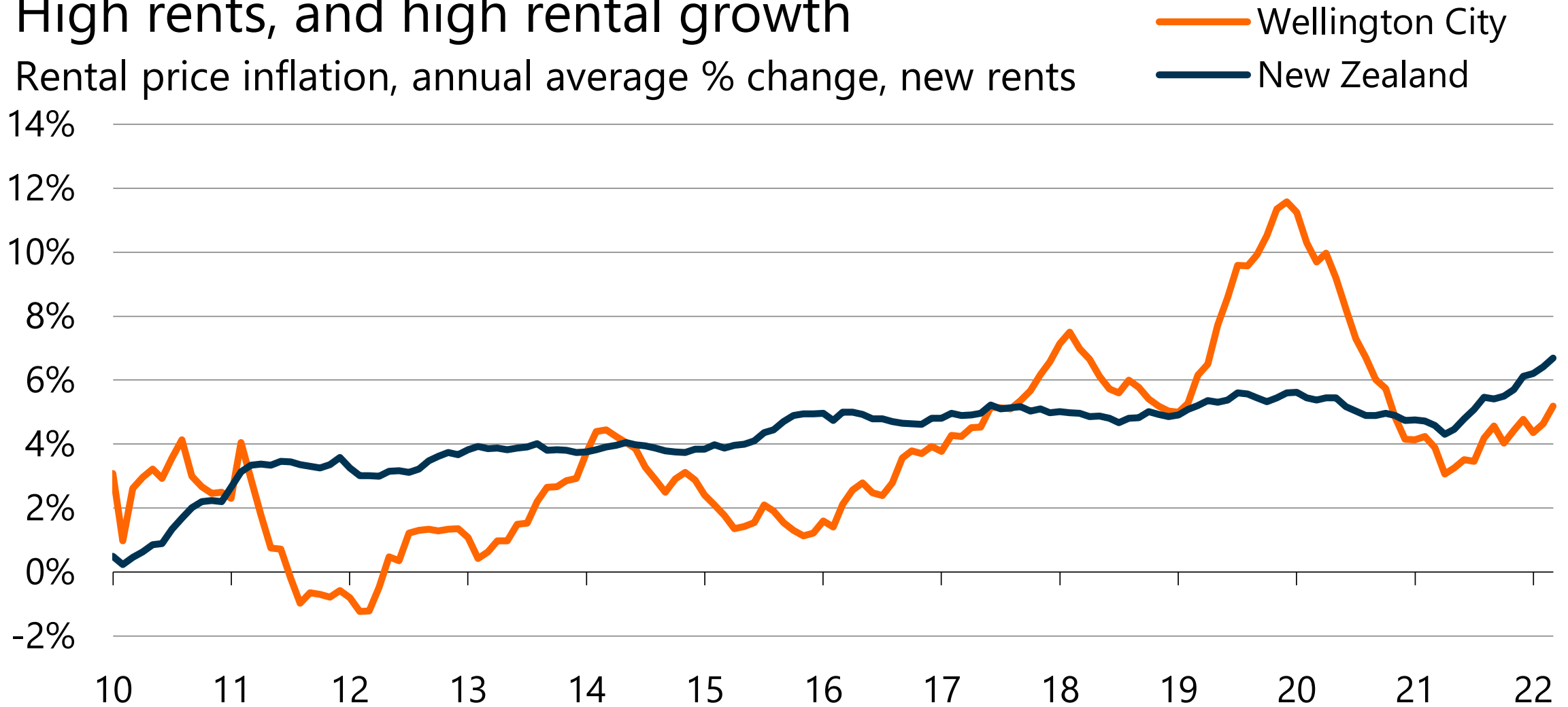
Petrol (91), c/L, NZ main port price, weekly



## Expensive essentials

### High rents, and high rental growth

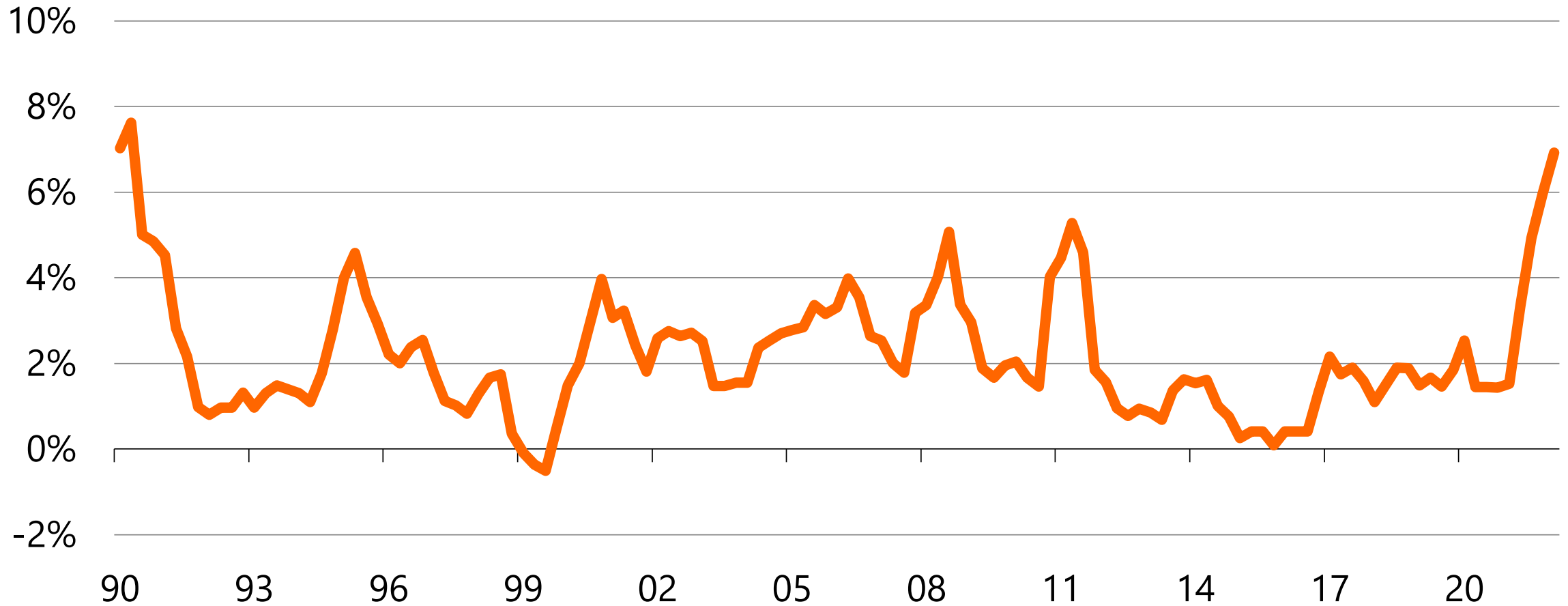
Rental price inflation, annual average % change, new rents



## Expensive essentials

# Highest inflation since 1990!

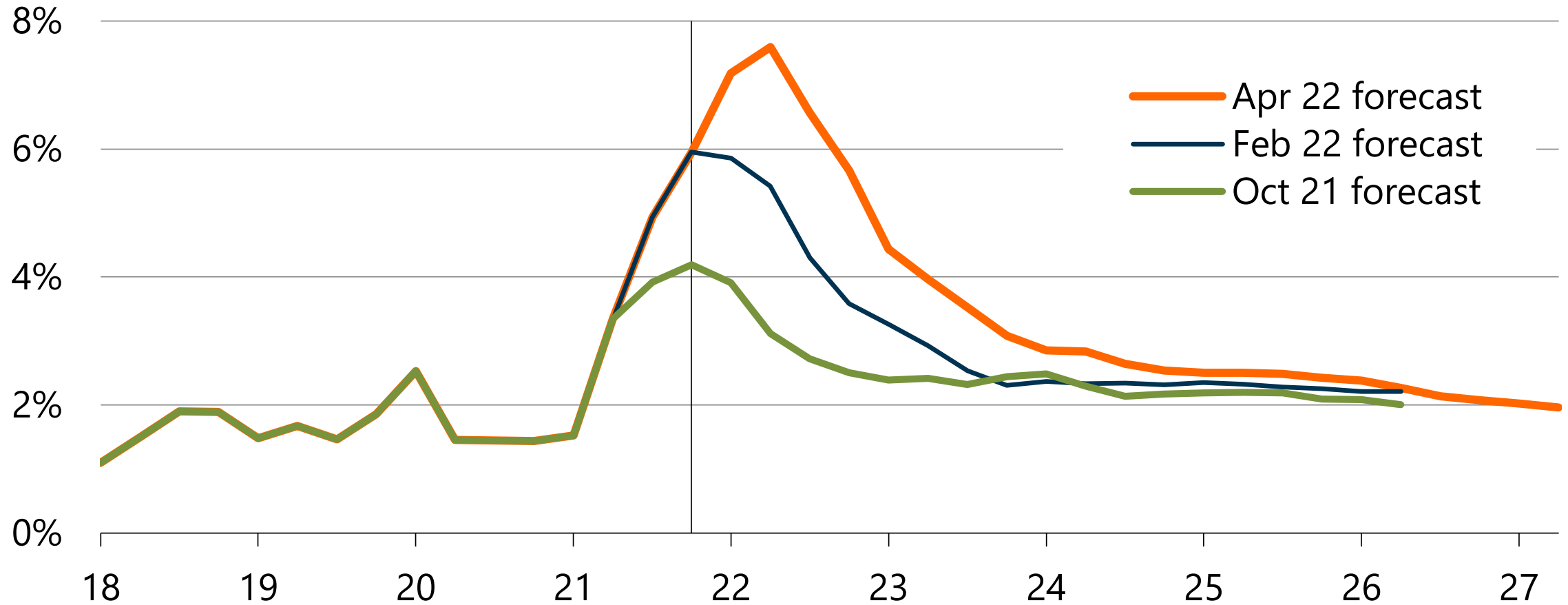
Inflation, annual % change



# Costs are rising

The Reserve Bank might eventually hit its 2% target

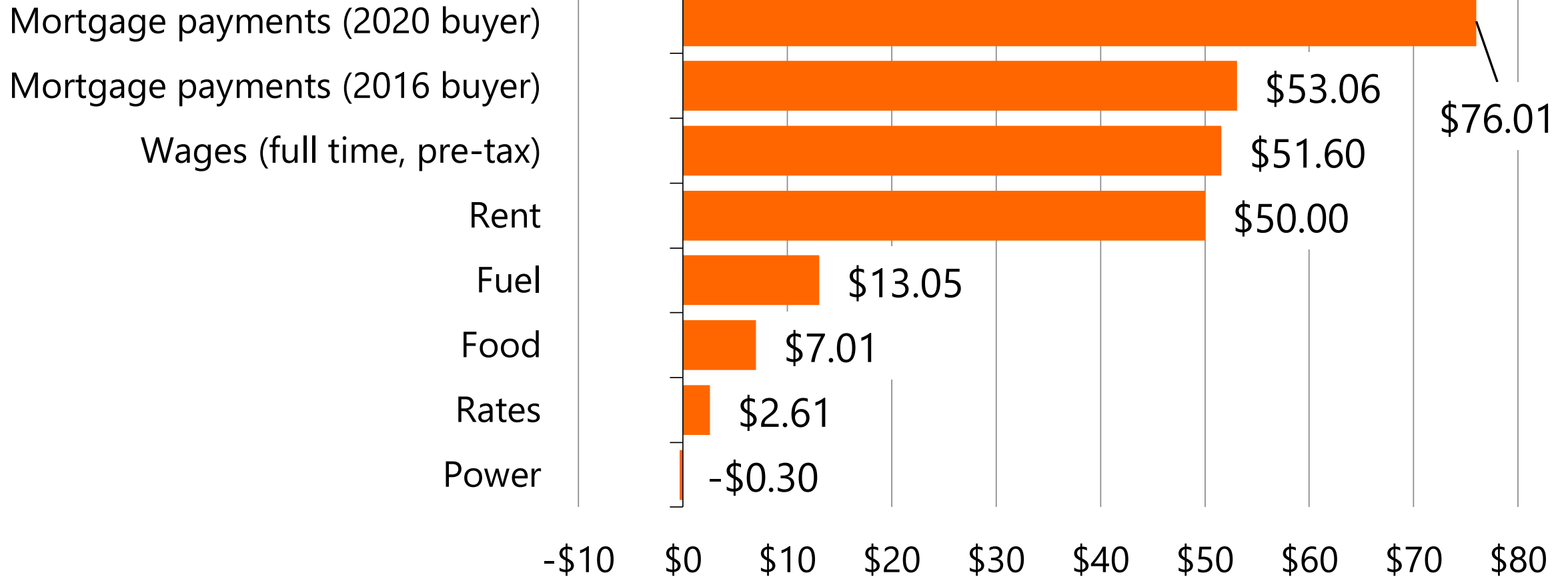
Inflation forecast comparison, annual rates



## Essential costs up \$70-\$100pw

### The rising cost of essentials

Weekly increase in item, Dec-21 vs Dec-20



# Families under pressure

## The rising cost of essentials

Weekly increase in item, Dec-21 vs Dec-20

Family of four (two parents, two kids)

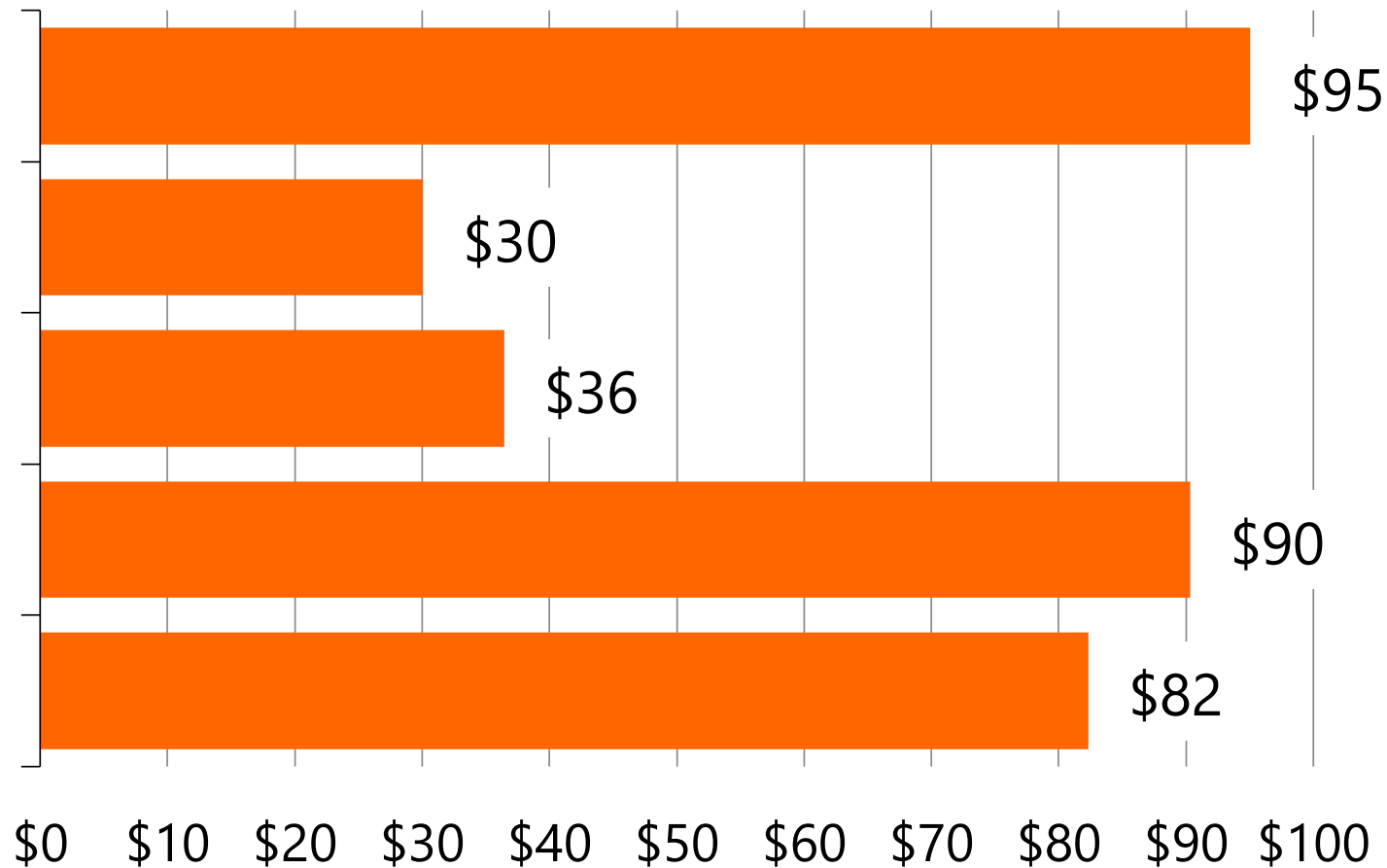
Beneficiary household

Low income household

Auckland household

NZ household

Weekly increase

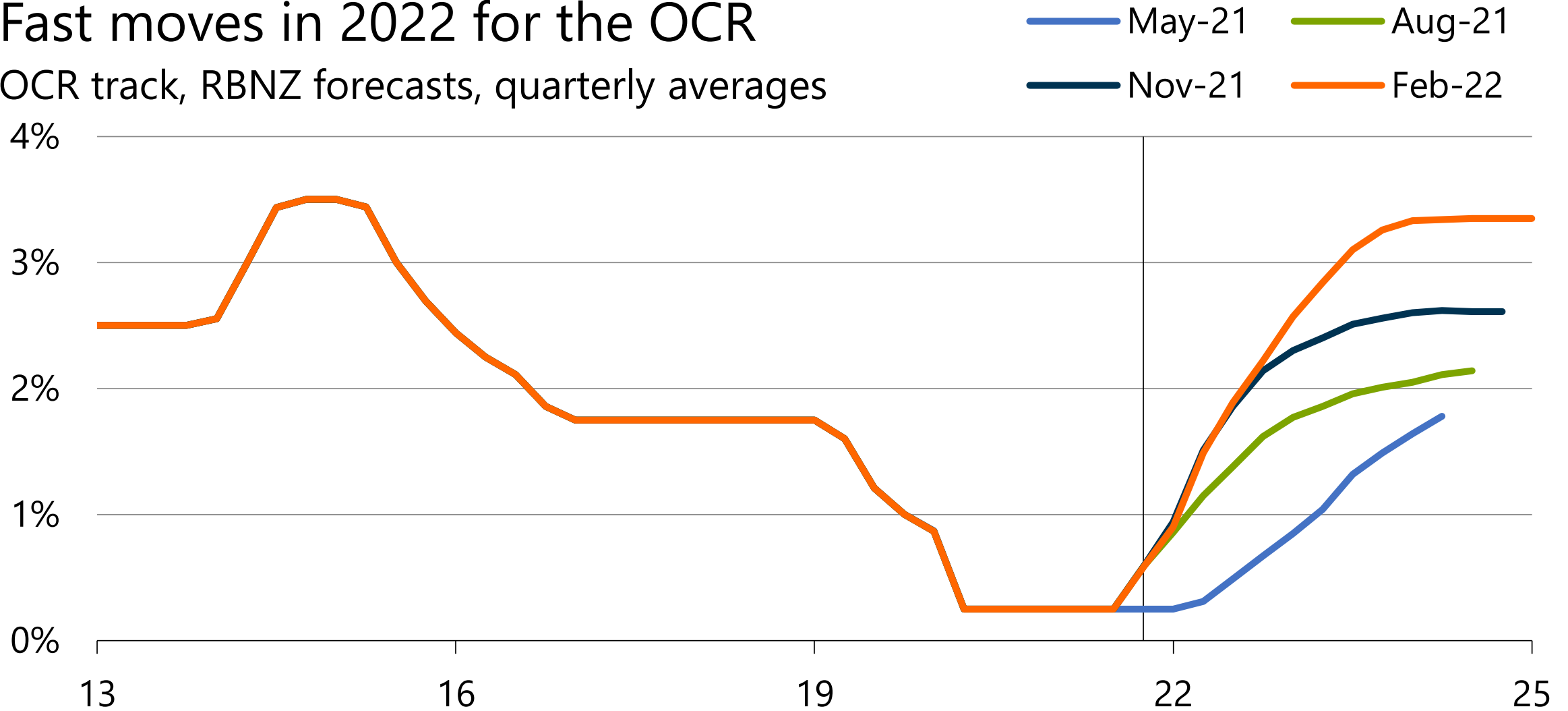




# Raising more for longer

## Fast moves in 2022 for the OCR

OCR track, RBNZ forecasts, quarterly averages



**Brad Olsen – Principal Economist**

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