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# Wellington City Youth Council Annual Report

*For the year ended 31 December 2018*

**You are not  
your parents,  
you are you.  
Think like you**

**Wellington City Youth Council**

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

# Aroha tētehi ki tētehi

## Love one another

Dedicated to Eva McGauley  
1999-2018

## Introduction

### Mihimihi

*Youth Council had an enormously successful 2018, underscored by our 20th anniversary, the acceptance by Council of the Youth Engagement Framework, expansive engagement around the Long Term Plan, and advice being sought by a wider set of organisations from around Wellington and the country.*

In 2018 Youth Council took on a large and diverse portfolio of work, ensuring that young people were considered across a spectrum of issues from local government to transport networks to employment. All of this work made 2018 one of the most successful and active years in recent memory for the Wellington City Youth Council. Building on the strong foundations we created over 2017, Youth Council forged ahead with expanding the organisations and young people we engage with. In 2018, we not only provided advice to local government, but increasingly connected with central government agencies and the House of Representatives to ensure young people's voices were heard at all levels of decision making.

The Long Term Plan 2018-2028 was a major focus for Youth Council in 2018, as it set out Council's funding expectations and focused over the next ten years - something that young people in Wellington were evidently keen to discuss. Working in close collaboration with Wellington City Council, Youth Council undertook various forms of pre-engagement with young Wellingtonians to hear their views about Wellington City and what the focus should be on over the next decade. When it came down to telling Council what we'd heard, Youth Council put forward a strong view about the importance of doing more to increase housing and protect the environment, alongside a focus on strengthening quality recreation and cultural opportunities.

Youth Council also celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2018, after starting in 1998. It was fitting in this milestone year that we also submitted our Youth Engagement Framework to Council, who accepted it and enlisted Council officers to integrate it into the fantastic engagement activities that Wellington City Council already do.

As an advisory group, it is sometimes easy to get lost in the system - providing written submissions, engaging with the community, presenting to different groups. But throughout 2018, Youth Council also had a focus on our members and ensuring that we are helping to nurture young leaders in the community. This included opportunities for Youth Councillors to become more engaged in their local areas, meet with various influential organisations and individuals, and have a platform to create a real difference in their local community.

The vast diversity of work in 2018 presented an exciting challenge to Youth Council, with Youth Councillors needing to balance the time they contributed to Youth Council with a plethora of other commitments - school, university, work, social activities, sport, whanau, and many more. I'm incredibly proud of the efforts put in by our collective team, with Youth Council making an oversized contribution to policy, public debate, and outcomes for the community in 2018.

There will always be more to do. But I am certain that the work of the Wellington City Youth Council, alongside the passion and dedication of various groups around Wellington and the 70,000 young people aged under 24 in Wellington City, will continue to make a positive difference in our local communities.

My interactions with a broad variety of Wellingtonians over the past year has reinforced just how great a place Wellington is to live, work, and play. The people I've met have instilled in me the importance of community, dedication, and a focus on the future. The outlook is bright for Wellington's future, and I'm excited to see the work Youth Council will continue to do to help keep Wellington as the world's most liveable city.



**Brad Olsen**

Queen's Young Leader - 2016  
Youth Council Chair (until March 2019)  
March 2019

## Purpose | Ngā take

The Wellington City Youth Council's purpose is to:

### Assist and advise

Assist and advise the [Wellington] City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities

### Bring insight

Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a changing world

### Develop members

Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth)



## Membership

### Mematanga

The following people were members of the Wellington City Youth Council during 2018:

Brad Olsen	Chair
Ollie Michie	Deputy Chair
Bethany Kaye-Blake	Dexter Smith
Jackson Lacy	Laura Somerset
Shine Wu	Teri O'Neill
Tim Rutherford	Freja Cook
Raihaan Dalwai	Watene Campbell
Niamh Hyde	Term ended March 2018
Sean Johnson	Term ended August 2018
Jack Marshall	Term ended August 2018
Anya Bukholt-Payne	Term ended August 2018
Meredith Ross-James	Term ended November 2018
Ivana Emer	Term ended December 2018
Carl Bennett	Term started August 2018
Ella Flavell	Term started August 2018
Liam Davies	Term started August 2018
Melania Lui-Fai	Term started August 2018
Neesha Dixon	Term started August 2018
Sarah Gardenier	Term started August 2018



Youth Councillors with Mayor Justin Lester.

## Policies and plans

### Kaupapa here

Youth Council welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback to a number of organisations in 2018, including Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for the Environment, the Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry, and Parliament.

The full list of submissions and consultations Youth Council participated in throughout 2018 is set out below:

#### To Wellington City Council:

- Representation Review
- Connecting City Communities
- Te Tauihu Te Reo Māori Policy
- Long Term Plan 2018-2028
- Youth Engagement Framework
- Alcohol Control Bylaw
- Planning for Growth

#### To other organisations:

- New Zealand Qualifications Framework Review (to New Zealand Qualifications Authority)
- Education Conversation (to the Ministry of Education)
- Online Voting (to the Minister for Local Government)
- Local Electoral Matters Bill (to Parliament's Justice Select Committee)
- Regional Land Transport Plan (to Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- Metlink public transport changes (to Metlink and Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- Zero Carbon Bill (to the Ministry for the Environment)
- Minimum Wage Review (to the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment)
- Mental Health (to the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction)

## Youth Council priorities

### Ngā pūtaka

In early 2018, Youth Council and the Wellington City Council agreed six high-level priorities that Youth Council would focus on throughout 2018. This section reports our progress in these six areas, and highlights some of the work undertaken by Youth Council.

## Priority 1: Long Term Plan 2018-2028

### Pre-engagement

Youth Council's major engagement activities in 2018 focused on Council's public consultation and engagement on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 (LTP). Youth Council worked with Wellington City Council staff to help shape the wording of engagement postcards where young people could write or draw their answers to what they liked best about parts of Wellington and what could be improved.

Members of Youth Council then analysed over 300 postcard responses from young people across Wellington who provided their insights into the issues that will affect Wellington's future.

In March 2018, Youth Councillors, with the support of Wellington City Council, undertook a second engagement activity. Here, Youth Councillors toured around the Wellington waterfront on one of the City's iconic Crocodile Bikes handing out ice blocks to the public. In exchange, the public provided their insights into what things were going well in Wellington, and what things were important to the public when considering Wellington's future. Over 200 people engaged with Youth Councillors during the weekend of 3-4 March 2018.

### Advice and public submission

Youth Council made a strong and passionate submission on the Long Term Plan, both in writing and also to the Long Term Plan Committee, where the entirety of Youth Council stood and addressed Councillors. For the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan, Youth Council adopted a new process for collating opinions on the Plan's proposals. For this, we dedicating an entire Youth Council meeting to going through all the proposals in-depth and deciding on the opinion the Youth Council would take in its submission to Council. This process ensured that a wide range of views were considered, and discussion and debate was encouraged, leading to a comprehensive submission on all aspects of the Long Term Plan. Two issues which Youth Council unanimously agreed Council should be more ambitious on were housing and the environment.

We felt that the resilience and environment section of the Long Term Plan lacked significant action on initiatives to preserve our natural environment, including steps to mitigate the effects of climate change, and encourage the exploration of our city's diverse landscape.

On housing, Youth Council was concerned that Wellington City Council funding for the Wellington Airport runway extension could be better utilised in funding other projects that would make housing in Wellington more affordable. We advocated for Council spending to be directed to building more affordable and social housing, and addressing rising rental costs, which



Above: Youth Councillors submitting on our LTP pre-engagement.

Below: Youth Councillors aboard the 'engagement bike'.



are a particular burden for tertiary students. As Youth Council Chair Brad Olsen quipped in response to questions from Councillors: “If we always do what we’ve always done, we’ll always get what we’ve always got.”

Council’s final Long Term Plan 2018-2028 goes some way to addressing the concerns and ideas put forward by Youth Council. Although there is still more to do, Youth Council looks forward to continuing to working constructively and collaboratively with Council on planning for Wellington City’s future.

Wellington City Council’s public submissions process for the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 generated [significant engagement with younger people](#), with people aged 19-30 being the largest cohort to provide feedback. This age group provided 25% of all submissions on the LTP, despite comprising only 19% of the population. Youth Council is confident that the engagement with young people undertaken prior to and during the submissions period contributed to this higher engagement from the 19-30 cohort.

## Priority 2: Youth Engagement Framework

In 2018, Youth Council’s long term project, Te Tūāpapa Whakawhanake Rangatahi Youth Engagement Strategy, transformed from a Youth Council idea and document into a Council-integrated framework. Our working document, then labelled informally as the ‘Youth Engagement Strategy’ became the Youth Engagement Framework (YEF), as it morphed into a toolkit for Council officers to use when engaging with young people.

In September 2018, the draft Youth Engagement Framework was received by the City Strategy Committee, with the Committee thanking Youth Council for developing the Framework. Councillors set out that Council officers would work with Youth Council to operationalise the Framework and integrate it into engagement practices and use it when considering changes that impact young people.

The development of the Framework was part of a wider programme of increasing engagement with children and young people across Wellington. The Framework has been adapted by Council officers in collaboration with Youth Council to make it a useable document that is relevant to the real-world engagement which Council undertakes, while still maintaining the kaupapa of the original Framework. The benefits and limitations of various engagement methods provides insights so that Council officers can best engage with the local community no matter the topic. Particularly, the Framework signals the importance of closing the feedback loop to ensure that all who participate in engagement feel their voice is valued, considered, and able to make a difference.

Youth Council wishes to extend its sincere thanks to Michael Oates and Clare Lundon from Council’s Engagement and Consultation unit for their assistance with the formation and implementation of the Youth Engagement Framework, to Jack Marshall as the Chair of the YEF Working Group, to Kane Patena and Denise Mackay for their much-appreciated support, to the various Youth Councillors since 2016 who have given their time, expertise, and insights, and finally to all the young people in Wellington who were involved in the Youth Engagement Framework project since its inception in 2016.



*Youth Council Chair Brad Olsen and YEF Working Group Chair Jack Marshall formally presenting YEF to Council.*

## Priority 3: Member development

Member development is an integral part of Youth Council. Both Youth Council and Wellington City Council are committed to developing Youth Councillors, especially in the areas of leadership and engaging wider youth.

In 2018, there were a variety of opportunities, both internally and externally, for Youth Councillors to develop their skillsets.

### Internal development opportunities

Annual events such as the new member orientation helped to bring the six new members who joined Youth Council in August 2018 to get up to speed, alongside providing an opportunity to refresh current members of Youth Council on the foundations of local government and youth engagement, including council structures, wards, mock submission writing, and presentations.

A number of Youth Councillors were fortunate in 2018 to have the opportunity to attend various civic events, including the ANZAC Day National Commemorative Service, the opening of the Cuba Street rainbow crossing, and the Rainbow Hui.

Youth Councillors also assisted Wellington City Council to engage on the draft Te Tauihu Te Reo Māori Policy, by facilitating discussions on the draft policy at Waitangi Day celebrations.

Members gained valuable skills from meeting with both the Pacific Advisory Group, and the Wellington Boys’ and Girls’ Institute, and discussing our work on the Youth Engagement Framework.

Youth Council also celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2018. This milestone was marked by a small celebration of Youth Council’s work over the past two decades, and brought together current Youth Councillors, Youth Council alumni, local MPs, Councillors, Council executive leadership, and staff. The milestone also provided a fantastic opportunity for reflection on all of Youth Council’s achievements over the years, and to what was on the horizon.

In 2018 we also marked the departure of six Youth Councillors. Of particular note was the departure of Jack Marshall, who had provided over 10 years of service to Youth Council, being both Deputy Chair and Chair during his decade-long tenure. His dedication to advancing young people’s interests in Wellington, and his comprehensive institutional knowledge, will be sorely missed.

In late 2018 Youth Council also organised a successful ‘Study Break’ event in Te Ngākau Civic Square. Working with Council staff, Youth Councillors undertook this event as a way to better understand what parts of Wellington young people felt a strong connection to, and where in Wellington improvements could be made. The event had at its centre a sausage sizzle, providing students with a brief reprieve from the stress and strain of the exam study period. Not only did this event provide insights into young people’s views in Wellington, but also gave Youth Councillors a unique opportunity to build their leadership and event management development skills.

### External development opportunities

In November 2018, Youth Council held a meeting with the Wellington Boys’ and Girls’ Institute (BGI), to learn more about our shared interests and ongoing youth development and engagement work. Youth Council also provided comments on some planned research and engagement BGI was looking to undertake in the future.

In early 2018, Youth Council attended the launch of the Don’t Guess the Yes campaign, developed in partnership with NZ Police, Wellington City Council, Victoria University of Wellington Students’ Association (VUWSA), Massey Wellington Students’ Association (MAWSA), and the Sexual Abuse Prevention Network.

Two Youth Councillors assisted Wellington City Council officers to host a stall at the Festival For The Future, which returned to Wellington in 2018. The stall showcased Wellington City Council’s virtual reality (VR) technology and allowed participants to visualise Wellington City and various aspects of the City, including earthquake and flooding risks.

Two Youth Council representatives attended the Wellington Gold Awards, networking with a range of influential Wellingtonians and hearing about the success in the business world in 2018.

Youth Councillors were invited to an event at Parliament held by Jan Logie MP and Volunteer Service Abroad to hear about ending violence against women.

Youth Councillor Shine Wu joined a working group which is assisting with the development of a structure plan for a new community development in Upper Stebbings Valley between Churton Park and Tawa.

Youth Councillor Teri O’Neill was appointed to the Tu Ora Compass Health youth reference group.

Youth Council Chair Brad Olsen was [announced](#) as a finalist in the Public Service category in the Wellingtonian of the Year Awards 2018.



*Above: Cutting the cake at Youth Council’s 20th Anniversary function.  
Below: Youth Council’s ‘Study Break’ event.*



## Priority 4: Consultation on plans, policies, and reviews

### Internal consultations

#### Te Tauihu Te Reo Māori Policy

Youth Council was extremely supportive of this policy, viewing it as a first but symbolic step in integrating the use of te reo into Council and Wellington in general. We advocated for increased signage in te reo, use of te reo both in written and oral form in all aspects of Council business, and the idea of a mobile app which displayed local place names with their respective te reo name. As part of our submission to Council, Youth Council put forward that one way to integrate more te reo was through the use of food by way of a Māori food truck, an idea which was featured in the [New Zealand Herald](#). Youth Council was also excited to see Council swiftly enact another core idea of ours, which was to add a Māori name to prominent Wellington areas, with Civic Square being renamed to Te Ngākau Civic Square. For Youth Council, this was great recognition of the mahi that we put into our submission and a great tangible outcome which originated from Youth Council.



*Youth Councillors helping promote Te Tauihu at Council's Waitangi Day celebrations*

#### Alcohol Bylaw Review

Youth Council made both written and oral submissions on the proposal, citing support for aspects of the plan, especially the extension of the boundary in Mt Victoria, and increased signage. We stated that although alcohol bans are an integral part of alcohol harm reduction, we questioned if the possible alcohol bans considered for Kilbirnie and parts of Kelburn surrounding the University would achieve the desired outcome of reducing alcohol-related harm and nuisance. Regarding Kelburn, Youth Council's view was that it would be more effective if Council worked more closely with the University and the halls of residence to address harm and nuisance. We drew Council's attention to the fact that the halls have a 10pm 'kick out' time for students, and that students would simply go further afield, and continue drinking, possibly in unsafe or unmonitored areas.

#### Connecting City Communities

Youth Council was consulted at the initial stages of this plan's formulation, providing a youth perspective and general feedback on community and neighbourliness in Wellington. We pointed to the fact that most young people who grow up in suburban Wellington, which has a housing stock comprising predominately stand-alone homes, tended to have a stronger connection with their immediate neighbours and local community than those growing up in apartments or similar style housing. We also noted that generally students don't tend to have strong connections with their neighbours or local community, since they aren't usually involved with local schools or clubs and aren't often in one property for an extended length of time. Youth Council felt that more innovative approaches such as shared spaces, or Council-run local events, could help to change this.

#### Representation Review

Youth Council made both written and oral submissions to Council on this Review. The submissions supported Council's proposal for slight boundary changes and agreed with Council that it is more important for communities not to be arbitrarily split and stated that the boundaries closely matched what young people in Wellington City would broadly consider to be their 'local community'. We also supported the addition of te reo names to the wards and felt that it was an appropriate implementation of the Te Tauihu Te Reo Māori Policy.

#### Planning for Growth pre-engagement

Youth Council was invited to participate in pre-engagement for Council's Planning for Growth project, after an initial Council officer-led briefing and consultation with Youth Council. A small group of Youth Councillors subsequently met with the Planning for Growth creative team. Youth Council was very supportive of the proposal citing that long-term frameworks such as this are essential if Wellington is going to retain its vibrant, compact, and inclusive vibe, whilst maintaining healthy and sustainable growth. In addition, the focus on city resilience and improving our housing stock and transport links to accommodate such growth was heralded.

### External consultations

Throughout 2018, Youth Council also undertook consultation activities with a range of organisations external to Wellington City Council. Many organisations contacted Youth Council to arrange a discussion with Youth Councillors, highlighting the high regard Youth Council and its feedback is held in by various organisations. External consultations in 2018 included:

#### Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction

With mental health being an important issue for young people, Youth Council organised a dinner with other youth leaders and members of

the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction. At the dinner, Youth Councillors discussed access and barriers to mental health services, potential solutions, and how young people could engage with the Government Inquiry. Youth Councillors subsequently provided a formal written submission to the Government Inquiry, with our ideas clearly incorporated throughout the Government Inquiry's [final report](#).

#### New Zealand Qualifications Framework Review

Youth Councillors met with representatives from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to discuss the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), how the NZQF is used by learners, and what feedback young people had that would make the NZQF more usable to recognise skills and education.

#### Education Conversation

Following on from our consultation with NZQA, Youth Council received a presentation from the Ministry of Education about their NCEA review and Education Conversation. Youth Council also provided a formal submission on the importance of providing young people with the skills and knowledge to tackle a 21st Century world.

#### Online voting

After discussions about the various benefits and concerns around online voting, Youth Council wrote to Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, Minister for Local Government. Youth Council's letter urged the Minister to instruct officials to progress online voting trials in local government as fast as possible. The Minister wrote back to inform Youth Council that she was taking Youth Council's views into consideration, and had discussed our letter with Hon. Andrew Little, Minister of Justice.

#### Local Electoral Matters Bill

As a direct result of our letter to the Minister for Local Government, Youth Council also provided a formal submission to Parliament's Justice Select Committee on the Local Electoral Matters Bill, which looked to clarify and strengthen local government election activities. Youth Councillors also provided an oral submission and had a productive conversation with the Select Committee around how to engage young people. The Select Committee also requested a copy of Youth Council's Youth Engagement Framework for their reference.

#### Regional Land Transport Plan

Given continued youth interest in public transport, Youth Council provided a submission to Greater Wellington Regional Council's Regional Land Transport Plan mid-term review. Our submission centred around increasing access and convenience for young people, and the importance of public transport in creating better environmental outcomes. Youth Council's submission led to a [front-page story in the Dominion Post](#) about the importance of integrated ticketing in Wellington.

#### Metlink public transport changes

Following the changes to Wellington's public transport network in mid-2018, Youth Council requested a briefing and discussion session with Greater Wellington Regional Council and Metlink to highlight how young people were affected by the changes, and what improvements could be made to enhance positive public transport outcomes. This meeting was very productive for both sides, and Metlink have indicated an interest in continuing to liaise with Youth Council around public transport and young people in Wellington.

#### Zero Carbon Bill

Youth Council also received a presentation from officials at the Ministry for the Environment on options for the proposed Zero Carbon Bill and discussed challenges in the climate change space. Youth Council also provided a formal submission to the Ministry on the proposal and will continue to contribute to discussion around the Bill once it is put before Parliament for further discussion.

#### Minimum Wage Review

Changes to the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment's Minimum Wage Review led to the Ministry approaching Youth Council about providing input from a youth perspective on upcoming minimum wage changes. Youth Council was one of only nine organisations consulted, and the only organisation to focus particularly on youth views. Youth Councillors noted how changes to the minimum wage could affect young people in employment, particularly in the retail and hospitality sectors. Youth Council also highlighted the importance of recognising how minimum wage changes could affect students, and the need to discuss changes like the minimum wage review within the



*Above: Youth Councillors working with NZQA on their reviews.*

*Below: Our oral submission to Parliament's Justice Select Committee.*



context of wider government tax and transfer settings to ensure that higher minimum wages weren't just eroded by abatement thresholds and similar settings that are separate from, but interrelated with, wage settings. Youth Council's points were thoroughly considered and feature prominently in the final [Minimum Wage Review](#).

### Meeting with Nicola Willis MP

In late 2018 Youth Councillors were invited to a discussion with National Party Wellington Central-based MP Nicola Willis at Parliament. Youth Councillors discussed broad issues of concern and interest in Wellington City and are hoping to continue meeting with Wellington-based politicians as schedules permit to provide a youth perspective on Wellington.



*Youth Councillors meeting with Nicola Willis MP.*

## Priority 5: Reporting

After changing reporting timeframes in 2016, Youth Council submitted two concurrent Annual Reports for the 2016 and 2017 years to the City Strategy Committee in August 2018.

These Annual Reports outlined the work undertaken by Youth Council over the preceding two years and used a new, more vibrant, style to make Youth Council's Annual Reports stand out to readers. Both annual reports, and previous annual reports from 2014, can be found on Council's website.

## Priority 6: Other projects

### Youth Summit

Youth Council provided ongoing feedback to Council officers when required around the Youth Summit that Wellington City Council held in late 2018.

Additionally, three Youth Councillors attended parts of the Youth Summit and assisted with some sessions during the day. Youth Councillors also heard from young people at the Summit about their ideas for Wellington and provided this feedback to Council and Youth Council.

### Other items

Youth Council was also involved with a limited number of other items which do not fall under any other priority categories:

- Youth Council Chair Brad Olsen met with representatives from the Lightning Lab GovTech 2018 team and discussed youth engagement and barriers young people face when engaging with government.
- Wellington City Council Senior Democracy Advisor Dominic Tay and Youth Council Chair Brad Olsen presented to a group of students undertaking a Bachelor of Youth Development at WelTec/Whitireia about youth engagement with local government and what Youth Council does.
- Conscious of the environmental and financial impact of the fortnightly payslips, Youth Council resolved to stop receiving paper payslips and asked Council to provide electronic payslips.

### Passing of Eva McGauley

In late 2018, Eva McGauley passed away after a battle with cancer. Eva was a former Youth Councillor, an honorary member of Youth Council, and a constant force for change in Wellington. She started the charity Eva's Wish to help stop sexual violence and support survivors. Through her work, the government created a sexual harm helpline - Safe to Talk - for people to talk to trained specialists about sexual harm.

Youth Council will forever remember Eva's passionate spirit and determination to create a better world.

## Acknowledgements

### Ngā aumihi

Youth Council thanks our various supporters and those that enable us to do the work we do, including parents, friends, colleagues, and in particular Council officers and elected members.

Our sincere thanks are given to Dominic Tay for his incredible work in his role as a Democracy Advisor and Youth Council's direct Council liaison. We additionally extend our gratitude to Youth Councillor Jackson Lacy for his incredible design skills across the year, including his work formatting this Annual Report.

2018 Annual Report authors: Brad Olsen, Ollie Michie, Tim Rutherford, Jackson Lacy

### Image credits

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Page 4-6: Wellington City Youth Council

Page 8: Wellington City Youth Council

Page 10: Office of Nicola Willis MP





Page 3: Supplied

Page 7 (clockwise): Jackson Lacy, Wellington City Youth Council

Page 9 (clockwise): Wellington City Youth Council, NZ Parliament

## **Wellington City Youth Council**

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

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