

Customer use case

Hutt City Council

From an urgent backup rescue to a
tested hybrid cloud

Hutt City Council

From an urgent backup rescue to a tested hybrid cloud

SECTOR	LOCATION	SERVICES	CUSTOMER SINCE
Local government	Lower Hutt, New Zealand	IaaS, DRaaS, BaaS, GPU as a Service	2024

The challenge

Hutt City Council (HCC) serves more than 100,000 residents in Lower Hutt, Wellington region. In early 2024 the council was put in a difficult position. Its managed service provider was threatening to withdraw access to backup infrastructure and data unless HCC agreed to significantly higher contract terms.

That was the immediate problem, and it put council data at risk. Behind it sat a bigger one. HCC's on-premises Nutanix environment was approaching end of support, and the council needed a partner who could deal with the backup situation first and then deliver a long-term hybrid cloud strategy: infrastructure hosting, disaster recovery across geographically separated sites, and room for new workloads such as GPU-accelerated GIS.

What ASI did

ASI moved quickly to secure HCC's backup data, then delivered the wider platform change in three phases.

Phase 1: Backup rescue and cloud migration

The first job was to make HCC's backups independent of the previous provider. ASI replicated the critical backups to ASI Cloud and reconfigured data protection so it no longer depended on that provider. In parallel, HCC's core workloads moved from the on-premises Nutanix environment to ASI Cloud IaaS in Auckland, with dedicated networking connecting council sites to the cloud environment. Approximately 39 TiB of virtual machine workloads were migrated.

Phase 2: On-premises modernisation

With the immediate risk dealt with, ASI took ownership of the rest of the infrastructure change. That covered the server build-out, migrating workloads from VMware vCenter to Nutanix AHV, restructuring the on-premises backup strategy, and deploying an onsite Nutanix cluster so the council could run a hybrid cloud model.

Phase 3: Full-scale disaster recovery failover

HCC had never run a full-scale DR failover. ASI ran the first one after hours to limit disruption and to validate the disaster recovery capability properly. Rather than a test exercise, HCC committed to a live production failover from the outset, moving its workloads from the Auckland data centre to ASI's Christchurch site. The failover covered domain

controller replication, network connectivity and firewall configuration. It gave HCC real geographic separation and proved business continuity in practice, not just on paper. For the first time, the council had a tested, proven DR posture.

Ongoing: GPU as a Service for ArcGIS

Building on the platform, HCC will deploy GPU-enabled virtual machines in ASI's Auckland data centre to run Esri ArcGIS workloads. GPU as a Service on ASI Cloud gives the council that capability without the capital cost of buying and hosting GPU hardware on premises.

The outcome

What started as an emergency response has become a long-term hybrid cloud partnership. HCC now runs a modern, resilient infrastructure across two geographically separated New Zealand data centres, with a tested DR capability and the flexibility to take on new services as its needs change.

- **Rapid response**

ASI secured HCC's critical backup data under urgent time pressure, preventing potential data loss.

- **Geographic resilience**

Workloads replicated between Auckland and Christchurch for real disaster recovery.

- **Full cloud migration**

Moved from an ageing on-premises Nutanix environment to ASI Cloud IaaS, removing end-of-support risk.

- **Platform for growth**

GPU as a Service supports new workloads such as ArcGIS without capital investment.

ASI Cloud services used

Service	What it covers
IaaS	Nutanix-based infrastructure in ASI's Auckland data centre
DRaaS	Disaster recovery between Auckland and Christchurch
BaaS	Backup as a Service on Cohesity
GPU as a Service	GPU-enabled virtual machines for Esri ArcGIS workloads
Platform migration	VMware vCenter to Nutanix AHV