



# YOUR CHANGES IN THE LAND OF RANGES



Ko āu panonitanga i te  
Whaitua o Ngā Pae Maunga

**LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034**  
Consultation Document

# He aha ka mua i a tātau?

## WHAT'S AHEAD OF US?

**Tararua is quickly becoming known as a fantastic place to live and work, leading to growth that brings both opportunities and challenges. Balancing this growth with its associated costs is critical, and it won't be easy.**

We've gained significant insights into the condition of our core infrastructure and services, such as water and roading. While they're functional, the reality is we do face some challenges. Our Long Term Plan addresses these challenges, but it's really key to understand that solutions won't all happen in the first year.

We want to be upfront with you, keep you informed, and involve you in decision making so let's take a closer look at the road ahead.

### 1. Funding

Our biggest challenge is managing growing costs, we have a low ratepayer base, and we, like many, are juggling high interest rates and inflation which is driving up debt servicing expenses. Everything comes at a high cost, from resources to people, which are both in high demand and limited.

### 2. Infrastructure

Right now, our current services and infrastructure enables us to go about our daily lives. However, our infrastructure is ageing, and national compliance standards are increasing. Supply chain issues, increased costs and futureproofing for growth, means we have some big challenges ahead to work through.

### 3. Maintenance

As a district we have a huge amount of existing assets that all cost to maintain. Things like parks, reserves, roads, footpaths and our water infrastructure. It's important we invest in maintaining them effectively to ensure we provide quality community facilities and infrastructure for future generations. Not doing so now will lead to much greater costs in the future.

### 4. Systemic Challenges

We operate within a system that isn't perfect, but it's what we must work within. It can be tough balancing short leadership terms with long-term projects, and on top of this we need to figure out how to financially make things happen for our district with a disproportionate share of taxes. These challenges have a significant impact on what we're able to deliver to our district.

### 5. Our Changing Climate

The effects of climate change are evident in our own backyard. We only need to recall the havoc unleashed after the 9 storms we have faced in the past two years, including 2 cyclones. While our urban centres were largely spared the devastation that regions further north experienced, it serves as a reminder that we need to prepare better for future extreme weather. The resilience of our people and communities during these challenges has been remarkable, and it's vital to approach all our responsibilities with a focus on future solutions, like increased drainage, to tackle future climate-related impacts.





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# He kupu takamua nā te Koromatua rāua ko te Toihau

## MAYORAL AND CE FOREWORD

Tēnā koutou katoa,

The Tararua District is a wonderful place to call home. We are fortunate to live, work and play against a backdrop of majestic mountains, wind-swept beaches, a relaxed lifestyle, and a welcoming community. Our community stands together in tough times.

As we set this Long Term Plan (LTP) for our district, we need to stand together once more. We have some tough decisions to make. Like councils all over the country, we are working with inflation, increased interest and insurance costs and regulatory changes, along with essential infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life.



We would love to do all the things our community wants to see happen, but we can't. The hardest part of this LTP is keeping rates affordable during a cost-of-living crisis. Our focus is on delivering essential infrastructure services in the most affordable way. We must do more with less, and we need your feedback to ensure we are on the right track.

There are several 'big ticket items' proposed that will have the greatest impact on rates: a new 'roading differential' rate, and significant increases to funding for drainage on our roads, and our three-waters networks (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater).

In our draft LTP, 41% of the total capital projects are in the three waters space. Our Asset Management Plan identified that we need to invest \$157 million over 10 years, with a large portion in the first few years.

We also know we need to renew 87.2 kilometres of pipes including 6.5 kilometres of old earthenware pipes that are close to 90 years old. These should ideally be replaced in year one at a cost of \$6.7 million, but we are proposing this is spread over six years.

There has been a lot of talk around the Council table about our debt levels as from year five of this LTP we come close to exceeding our limit, which doesn't give us much 'headroom' should we face another crisis such as Cyclone Gabrielle.

This is why we are taking the conservative approach of doing the minimum to achieve compliance for the lowest impact on rates, and to ensure capacity for future growth.

We recognise that now isn't the time to push forward with large-scale projects. Our focus is on finding sustainable solutions and maintaining our services and infrastructure, so we can continue to provide a reliable and cost-effective service to the community.

So, what does this mean for rates? We are proposing to smooth the rates over a six-year period with an average rate increase of 9.48%. There will always be rating variances between urban, rural, and industrial/commercial sectors. This Council has focused on keeping costs where they lie, which is explained on pages 16 and 17. This LTP consultation document has been one of the most challenging. As a Council we remain committed to doing our absolute best for the Tararua community. Please have your say.

Ngā mihi nui

Tracey Collis - Mayor

Bryan Nicholson - Chief Executive

# Te Whakamahanatanga o te Ao

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Climate change affects us all. Cyclone Gabrielle and increased adverse weather events have given us in the Tararua District first-hand experience on how a changing climate impacts our lives. These impacts are expected to continue and intensify in the future.**

Council's services and infrastructure are directly affected from storms and drought, but also by the economic impact on our residents and businesses.

Population changes, including migration, will be a big challenge for councils in the future. Dealing with this will need more investment in infrastructure and put pressure on both public and private services.

In this Long Term Plan, Council is planning for population growth while continuing to increase resilience in water supplies and meet environmental requirements for wastewater. There is and has been a huge increase in subsidised roading works subsequent to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Tararua District Council are signatories for the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan and have a commitment to uphold. We are working on various ways we can implement parts of this plan in this Long Term Plan period.

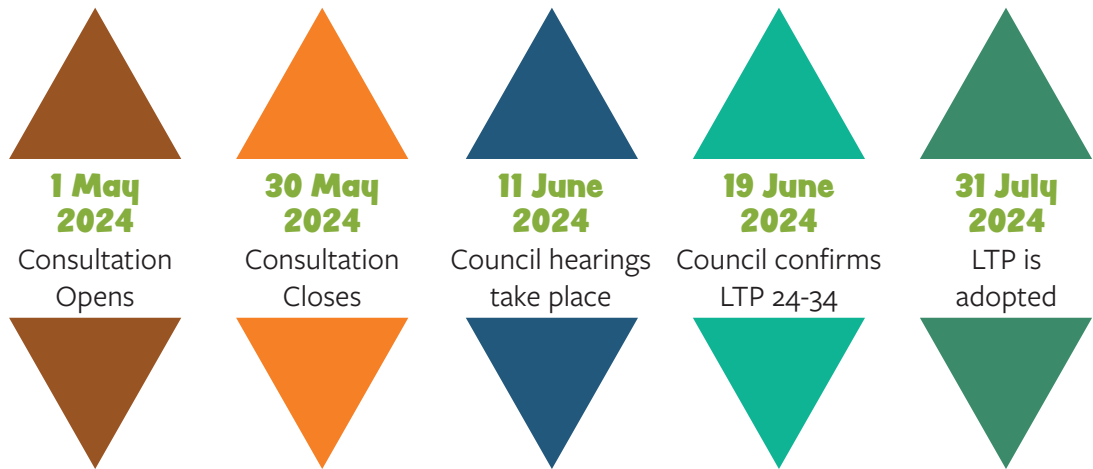
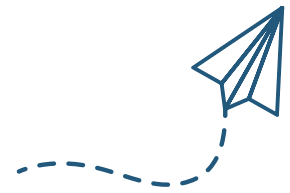
To read the full plan, head to:

[www.horizons.govt.nz | managing-natural-resources-climate | manawatu-whanganui-climate-action-joint-committee](http://www.horizons.govt.nz | managing-natural-resources-climate | manawatu-whanganui-climate-action-joint-committee)



# Tukanga mahere pae tawhiti

## LONG TERM PLAN PROCESS



### What exactly is a Long Term Plan?

**Really simply, the Long Term Plan is a roadmap outlining what your Council wants to achieve and how it will be funded over the next 10 years. It outlines the activities, services, and projects we intend on delivering, and determines when, where and how we will deliver them.**

It's time for a check in. By law, the Long Term Plan must be reviewed every three years, and the last LTP was reviewed in 2021. Plenty has changed since then, Cyclone Gabrielle, changes to our Covid-19 response, high cost of living – certainly time for a fresh look.

Think of this consultation document, as a condensed version of the Long Term Plan. We use this opportunity to get your input on key issues, so that we can shape our decisions together.

The 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan will come into operation from July 2024.



# Tō tātau rohe

## OUR DISTRICT

Our population: **19,050** <sup>1</sup>

Projected population growth 2034: **20,357**

District population by age: <sup>2</sup>

0 - 14



21.6%

15 - 39



26.6%

40 - 65

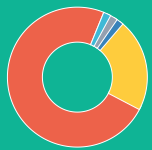


35%

65+



20.6%



■ NZ European  
■ Māori  
■ Pacific peoples  
■ Asian  
■ Other

District population by gender:  
49% male, 51% female



24.01% of our population is Māori <sup>3</sup>  
(National average is 17.1%)



Te reo Māori speakers **4.7%** <sup>1</sup>  
New Zealand Sign Language **0.6%**  
English speakers **97.7%**



- Median property value: **\$477,000** <sup>3</sup>
- Home ownership: **49%** <sup>3</sup>
- Average years to save for a house deposit: **10** <sup>3</sup>
- Median rent price per week: **\$381** <sup>3</sup>

### 10 years

Average years to save for a house deposit <sup>3</sup>



- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)  
Annual to June 2023: **1,054 million** <sup>4</sup>
- Median household income: **\$68,000** <sup>3</sup>
- Employment rate: **94%** <sup>3</sup>
- People living in high deprivation: **34%**  
(That equates to **6,477 people**) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stats NZ estimate

<sup>2</sup> Economic Development Plan, Tararua District Council, June 2018, P.6

<sup>3</sup> Dot Loves Data, 8 September 2023

<sup>4</sup> Infometrics, Quarterly Economic Monitor, June 2023

# He Anga Rautaki

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**Our Strategic Framework identifies and celebrates the Tararua District, and everything that we love about living and working here. It consists of our Vision for the future, the Foundations that we are committed to, Strategic Enablers that enable us to plan for the future, as well as Our Focus Areas and Desired Outcomes that we want to achieve.**

This Strategic Framework has shaped the development of our draft Long Term Plan and the projects, services, activities and programmes of work we're planning for the next 10 years.

We would love to have your feedback on our Strategic Framework. Please scan the QR code to provide feedback on this.



### OUR VISION

**Tararua - Thriving Together -**

**Ka huri tahi ngatahi Tararua**

We thrive together. Vibrant, connected communities where our land and waters are nurtured and our people flourish.

Mā te whenua, mā te waiora tātou e ora ai hei hapori ngangahau hei hapori honohono hoki.

### OUR FOUNDATIONS

#### Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making. Specific principles and requirements for local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

#### Local Government Act

Enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

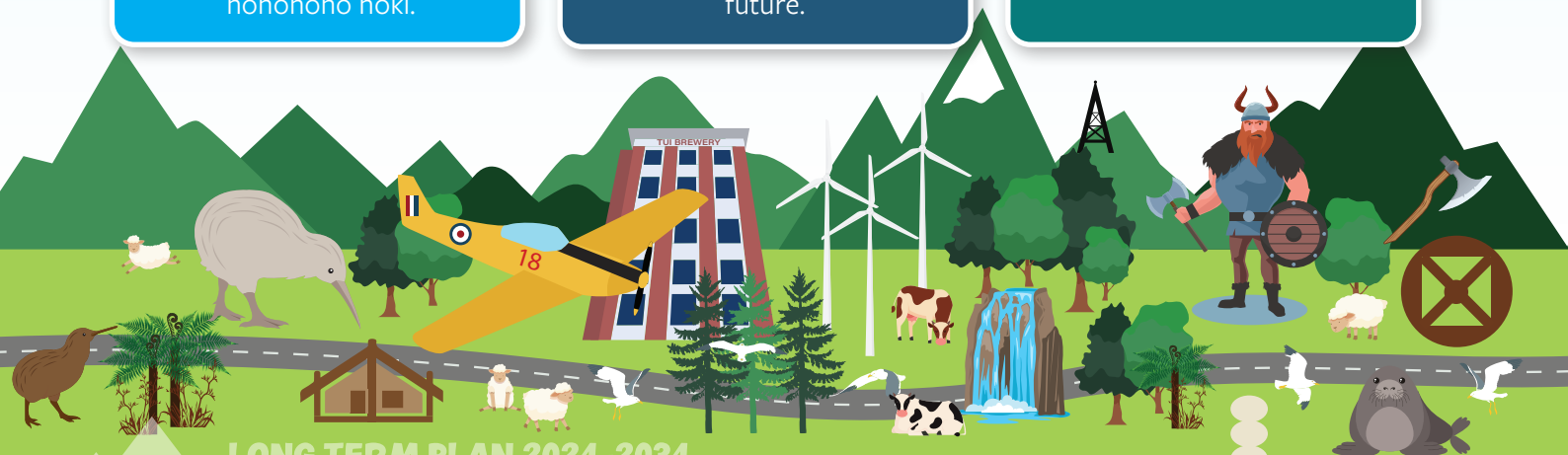
### STRATEGIC ENABLERS

#### Infrastructure Strategy

Reliable infrastructure that is fit for purpose and future proofs our thriving district for tomorrow.

#### Financial Strategy

Building a sustainable footing to increase the resilience of our assets and services, plan for the future.





# O mātou wāhanga aronui

## OUR FOCUS AREAS

The main Focus Areas of our Strategic Framework are represented in the icons below. You'll see these icons illustrated at the end of each Options item in the document to help you understand how it aligns to the Strategic Framework.



### Thriving District

We grow Tararua in a smart and sustainable way that values our identity. We use our resources sustainably and with care, to ensure they are looked after for our future generations



### Improving our Environment

We celebrate our environment and work together to enhance our local natural resources and minimise our negative impacts on them. Our district is home to a unique and beautiful landscape



### Connected Communities

We provide facilities and services that meet the needs of our communities, enabling whānau living in Tararua to thrive.

Our district is enriched by our community that are actively engaged in, and contribute to, our thriving Tararua



### Interactive Councils

We engage with our community and respond to their needs, continuously improving over time.

Our Council provides fit for purpose services in an engaging way, improving confidence and encouraging our community to engage with us

## OUR DESIRED OUTCOMES

The people are thriving, happy, safe and well

Partnerships with iwi are honoured

The natural environment is improved while still producing a diverse range of primary industry food and products

Quality community facilities and infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of future generations and support our long-term prosperity

We are nimble; ensuring we have the capacity, innovation, and adaptability to improve community well-being, while promoting balanced & sustainable growth

We work collaboratively, gaining strength from each other as challenges and opportunities arise, to make great things happen

# Whakatipu

## GROWTH

### Life is a highway

We've got some awesome changes and opportunities in our near future, like the completion of the new Te Ahu a Tūranga Manawatū-Tararua Highway in 2025. This will create even more growth for our district, and we want to be ready for it. 13 minutes from Woodville to Ashhurst – how good.

Just think what this could bring; more people, jobs, and business. We don't just want to become commuter towns. We need to attract business and industrial growth throughout our district, which can also provide jobs for our locals. If we plan right, we'll all benefit and that is why alongside our District Strategy, we're working on a specific Growth Strategy and full District Plan review.

Our current population is 19,050 and our projected population growth by 2034 is 20,357. It's important

we grow Tararua in a smart and sustainable way that values our identity and ensures we are ready for the opportunities this reliable connection will bring.

There are many things to keep in mind as we look forward to this growth, ensuring we consider climate change impacts, thinking about what our largely rural landscape can and should produce, making sure people can continue to work with greater flexibility, and safeguarding our infrastructure so it can keep up with our growing district.

Balancing growth and affordability are key. We aim to be realistic about what's needed for growth while ensuring it remains within our means. It's about making growth and affordability work hand in hand for a sustainable future.

In 10 years  
**20,357**  
people are  
expected to call  
Tararua home.



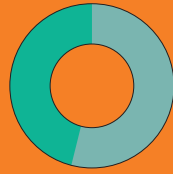
# Hei ngā tekau tau te haere ake nei

## OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS...

We are budgeting on spending

**\$1.143 billion**  
**on our district**

Operational (\$763 million)  
Capital (\$380 million)



**\$568 MILLION**

(just under half of our overall budgeted spend)

**WILL BE FUNDED BY RATES**

We are looking at an average rates increase for all rate types after growth, of

**8.07% over 10 years\***

**WITH A MAXIMUM AVERAGE INCREASE OF  
11% in the first 5 years.**



By 2027/28  
**OUR DEBT**  
is set to peak at  
**\$149**  
**MILLION**



Our rates revenue is  
**48.32%**  
of our total operating  
revenue

for year one (2024/2025  
of this Long Term Plan)

\*Excluding growth on rates revenue



# Ētahi o ngā utu haupū rawa hei ngā 10 tau ake nei

## SOME OF THE CAPITAL COSTS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS

It will cost  
**\$1.143 billion**  
of operating and  
capital expenditure to  
grow and run our district

More than  
**\$14 million**  
will be spent on growth projects (like water  
infrastructure and roads) to make sure we're  
ready for all the new people moving into Tararua.



### Stormwater

We'll be spending  
**\$787,000** to develop and install  
new stormwater infrastructure across  
our district  
We'll also be spending  
**\$8.5 million**  
to upgrade current stormwater  
infrastructure



### Transportation

We'll be spending  
**\$182 million**  
on renewing our roads and  
**\$5.9 million**  
on maintaining our footpaths  
We'll also be putting **\$42,000**  
into new cycle/walking trails



### Water treatment and supply

We'll be investing  
**\$83.2 million** in our  
infrastructure to treat and  
supply water



### Solid waste management

**\$460,000**  
will be spent on solid waste  
management



### Wastewater

**\$31.4 million**  
will be invested to wastewater  
infrastructure development



### Property

We'll be spending **\$36,000**  
on maintaining Council buildings.  
We'll also invest **\$766,000** in  
maintenance and improvements of our  
housing for the elderly units



### Libraries

**\$1.5 million** will be spent on  
new library books, software, apps  
and other library equipment



### Parks and reserves

**\$533,000**  
will be spent on further enhancing our  
parks and reserves



### Camping grounds

**\$338,000**  
will be spent on  
maintaining our  
Camping grounds



### Community buildings

**\$4.6 million**  
will be spent on  
maintaining and  
upgrading our  
Community buildings



### Public conveniences

**\$266,000**  
will be spent on  
maintaining and  
upgrading our Public  
conveniences



### Cemeteries

**\$193,000**  
will be spent on  
maintaining and  
upgrading our  
cemeteries



### Swimming pools

**\$2.2 million**  
will be spent on  
maintaining and  
upgrading our  
swimming pools



### Playgrounds

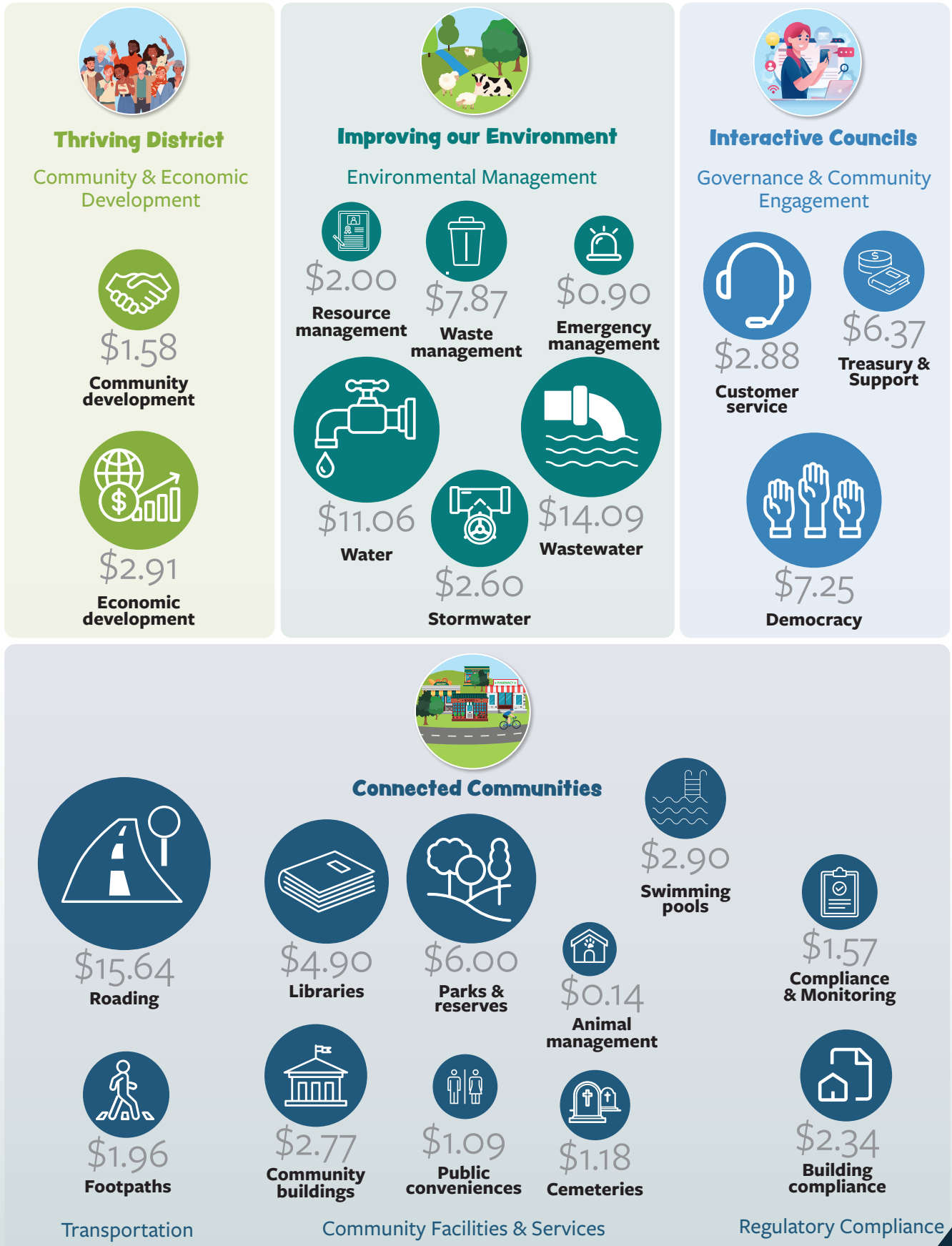
We'll be spending  
**\$863,000**  
to maintain and upgrade  
playgrounds

# Ka ahatia āu moni reti ?

## WHERE DO YOUR RATES GO?

Every \$100 collected is allocated to these services

This graphic shows the range of services that the 2024/25 rates will go towards. Some of them may not be obvious to you. In total, rates make up about 48% of the Council's annual income.



# Ētahi anō taipitopito mō ngā mea nunui

## SOME MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE BIG TICKET ITEMS

### What do we have? What's the situation? What's the plan?

### What's the cost?

(Over the next 10 years)

#### Transportation



##### Including:

**2,000 kms** of roads  
**410** bridges  
**125 kms** of footpath

We are facing funding constraints associated with a very large road network, small ratepayer base and rising costs

Our road network is extremely vulnerable to changing climate and land use activities resulting in poor access, safety and resilience for users

- Maintaining and operating the system at a level that meets the current and future needs of users
- Increase resilience so that our transport system is able to cope with natural and human inflicted hazards

**\$188,336,899**  
of which **\$147,322,283**  
is subsidised  
and  
**\$41,046,616**  
*funded by a combination of rates, existing reserves and debt funding*

#### Water Supply



##### Including

**300 kms** of water pipes  
**7** water treatment plants  
**14** reservoirs  
**8** water intakes

Despite recent investments, our water infrastructure faces challenges due to ageing assets, under-resourcing, and the need for maintenance

Parts of our current water supply assets will need maintenance, renewal and replacement. As we are experiencing now, the costs of doing nothing will likely end up being higher in the long run

- Undertake on-going maintenance and renewal programmes to meet levels of services & extend the life of existing infrastructure where possible
- Continue to build understanding of our existing infrastructure
- Address existing deficiencies in key areas such as meeting NZ Drinking Water Standards

##### Totals:

**District wide:** \$45,629,730  
**Dannevirke:** \$24,388,944  
**Woodville:** \$7,368,971  
**Eketāhuna:** \$2,350,895  
**Pahiatua:** \$5,709,686  
**Norsewood:** \$361,054  
**Ākitio:** \$153,320  
**Pongaroa:** \$278,616  
**Total: \$86,241,215**  
*funded by a combination of rates, existing reserves and debt funding*

#### Wastewater



##### Including

**7** treatment plants  
**21** sewer pump stations  
**95 kms** of wastewater pipes  
**1,100** maintenance chambers

Several Treatment Plants are nearing the end of their lifecycle, facing potential challenges in meeting wastewater treatment standards due to aging infrastructure and outdated processes.

Investment is required to upgrade and ensure their resilience to meet the community's future needs.

- Compliance with wastewater discharge consents
- On-going maintenance, reticulation renewals, upgrades and extensions
- Addressing issues such as reducing stormwater that gets into our wastewater network and removing the risk of water backflow from properties into the network.

##### Totals:

**District wide:** \$36,914,152  
**Dannevirke:** \$ 11,968,646  
**Woodville:** \$2,890,346  
**Eketāhuna:** \$2,097,200  
**Pahiatua:** \$3,792,258  
**Norsewood:** \$1,384,673  
**Pongaroa:** \$ 925,775  
**Ormondville:** \$ 1,503,502  
**Grand total: \$ 61,476,552**  
*funded by a combination of rates, existing reserves and debt funding*

#### Stormwater



##### Including

**28 kms** of stormwater pipelines,  
**1,160** maintenance chambers and sumps

The majority of the stormwater network relies on natural water courses and limited connected pipe infrastructure.

The overall system needs to be upgraded for the future needs of the district, population growth projections and climate change

- On-going maintenance reticulation renewals, upgrades and extensions

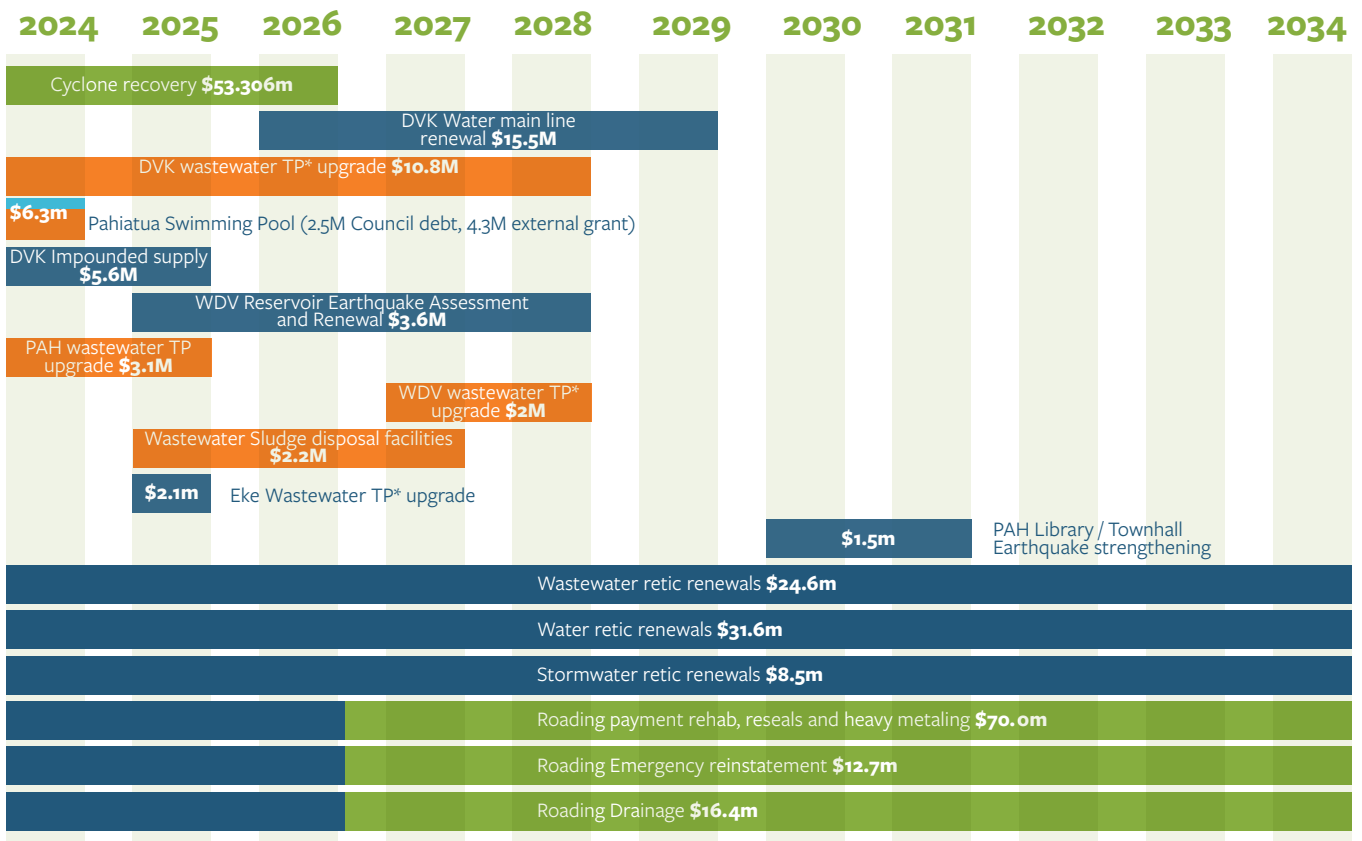
**District Stormwater**  
Reticulation Renewals:  
\$8,463,484

**District Stormwater**  
Development:  
\$787,050

**Grand total: \$9,250,534**  
*funded by a combination of rates, existing reserves and debt funding*

## OTHER KEY PROJECTS

Rates
Debt
Government subsidies
External grants



\*TP - Treatment Plant

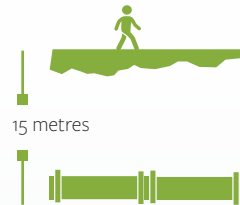
### A few more facts about our water infrastructure assets:



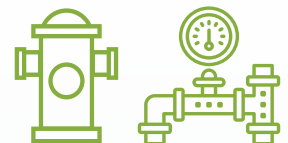
We have **300kms** of drinking water pipes. That's the same distance as from Dannevirke to Gisborne



The oldest drinking water pipe is **123** years old



Some of the older pipes are **15** metres underground



**1000** fire hydrants and **663** water meters are also part of the water infrastructure network

### Some other examples of our assets include:



**80** parks and reserves, totalling ± **310** hectares, **19** cemeteries, **40** Community buildings including halls, **13** playgrounds, **21** public conveniences, **85** pensioner flats, **3** swimming pools, **4** libraries, **4** camping grounds, **25** Memorials, **7** Administration buildings, **1** Aerodrome, **20** Domain boards, **5** Rural Fire Stations, **4,600** recycling bins and crates, **4** libraries, **4** transfer stations, **10,335** culverts, sumps, manholes and other drainage assests, **8,489** road signs, **1,587** street lights, **1,336km** of retaining walls along the side of our roads, **1,842km** of road stormwater channels and drains

# Ngā Panonitanga Reti Tūtohu

## PROPOSED RATES CHANGES

Here's a rough idea of the average increase on rates in Year One of our Plan.

These estimates are based on our preferred option of rates smoothing over 6 years (see p.20/21).



### Urban

Low land value

Average Increase **15.39%**

2023 Land value \$90,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$3,234

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$3,732

An extra

**\$9.58**  
PER WEEK



### Urban

Medium land value

Average Increase **16.55%**

2023 Land value \$135,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$3,707

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$4,321

An extra

**\$11.80**  
PER WEEK



### Urban

High land value

Average Increase **14.11%**

2023 Land value \$140,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$4,007

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$4,573

An extra

**\$10.88**  
PER WEEK



### Rural

Lifestyle

Average Increase **2.63%**

2023 Land value \$300,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$2,858

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$2,933

An extra

**\$1.45**  
PER WEEK



### Rural

Medium land value

Average Increase **14.75%**

2023 Land value \$2,920,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$8,206

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$9,417

An extra

**\$23.29**  
PER WEEK



### Rural

High land value

Average **DECREASE 2.89%**

2023 Land value \$6,190,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$20,648

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$20,049

A DECREASE

**\$11.51**  
PER WEEK





## Industrial/Commercial

Low capital value

Average Increase **11.58%**

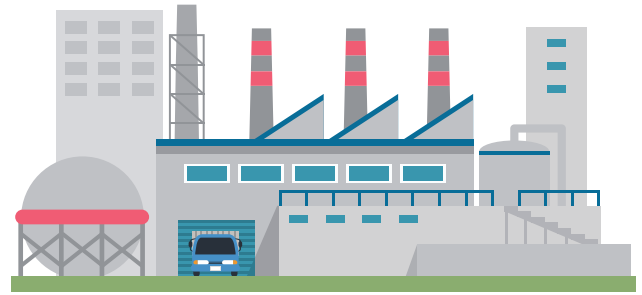
2023 Land value \$45,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$3,462

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$3,864

An extra

**\$7.71**  
PER WEEK



## Industrial/Commercial

High capital value

Average DECREASE **4.35%**

2023 Land value \$1,060,000

Actual rates 2023/24 \$14,909

Proposed rates 2024/25 \$14,259

A DECREASE

**\$12.50**  
PER WEEK

## WHAT'S DRIVING YOUR RATES?

Urban - Low land value		Urban - Medium land value		Urban - High land value		Industrial/Commercial Low capital value	
	\$		\$		\$		\$
Three Waters	274.53	Three Waters	274.53	Three Waters	274.53	Three Waters	274.53
Recycling Rates	94.73	Kerbside Recycling	94.73	Kerbside Recycling	94.73	Recycling Rates	118.75
Library/Swimming Pool	45.3	Library/Swimming Pool	45.3	Library/Swimming Pool	45.3	Ind/Com & Utilities Targeted Differential	-44.02
Combined Town Centre	4.08	Combined Town Centre	-8.68	Combined Town Centre	4.08	General District rate	28.92
Total Roading rates	9.47	Total Roading rates	20.15	Total Roading rates	-11.91	Library/Swimming Pool	45.3
Urban Target Rate	-5.4	Urban Targetd Rate	-33.91	Urban Targetd Rate	-61.91	Combined Town Centre	-8.68
UAGC	-14.83	UAGC	-14.83	UAGC	-14.83	Roading LV Differential Rate	1.09
General District rate	90.06	General District rate	236.4	General District rate	235.82	UAGC	-14.83
<b>Rates increase 15.39%</b>	<b>497.94</b>	<b>Rates increase 16.55%</b>	<b>613.70</b>	<b>Rates increase 14.11%</b>	<b>565.81</b>	<b>Rates increase 11.58%</b>	<b>401.05</b>

Rural - Lifestyle		Rural - Medium land value		Rural - High land value		Industrial/Commercial High capital value	
	\$		\$		\$		\$
Total Roading rates	-99.35	Total Roading rates	-33.53	Total Roading rates	-165.26	Recycling targeted rate	80.94
General District rate	115.54	General District rate	1,205.24	General District rate	-471.18	Ind/Com Rural Targeted Differential	-2,087.16
Library/Swimming Pool	45.3	Library/Swimming Pool	45.3	Library/Swimming Pool	45.3	General District rate	297.48
Recycling targeted rate	16.2	Recycling targeted rate	16.2	Recycling targeted rate	16.2	Library/Swimming Pool	45.3
UAGC	-14.83	UAGC	-14.83	UAGC	-14.83	Combined Town Centre	6.95
Combined Town Centre	4.08	Combined Town Centre	-7.25	Combined Town Centre	-8.68	Roading LV Differential Rate	1,013.01
Metered water	8.28					UAGC	-14.83
<b>Rates increase 2.63%</b>	<b>75.24</b>	<b>Rates increase 14.75%</b>	<b>1,211.13</b>	<b>Rates decrease -2.89%</b>	<b>-598.45</b>	Metered water	8.28
						<b>Rates decrease -4.35%</b>	<b>-650.03</b>

# Ngā kōwhiringa Options





# 1

## RATES SMOOTHING

**Like many Councils in New Zealand, we're facing big financial challenges. On average, local Council rates are going up by 15%. In the Tararua District, we need to increase our rates by 16.29% in 2024/25 to deliver on our responsibilities to our community.**

**We know this is a large increase, so in this Long Term Plan (LTP) we're exploring ways to lessen the financial impact on ratepayers. To get here Council had prioritised the capital projects, reduced operational budgets and focused on delivering on its core activities. To lessen the financial impact further we are considering delaying our depreciation funding and smoothing the rates increase in Year 1 of the LTP by spreading it over the first 3 or 6 years. This means instead of one big jump in 2024/25, ratepayers would see incremental rises over time. For example, if we smoothed rates over 6 years, Year 1 becomes an 10.30% increase. You can see the full breakdown in the table on the next page.**

### Background

Financial budgeting and forecasting is extremely complex, especially in today's financial and regulatory landscape. High interest rates and inflation, increasing compliance coupled with changes in key central government policies like the three waters legislation, is causing a lot of financial uncertainty for local Councils.

Everything we do is costing more to deliver and managing these rising costs with a small and sparse rate payer base over a large geographical area, is an added layer of complexity.

Key to these challenges is our three waters infrastructure, that's stormwater, wastewater and drinking water. These are almost exclusively funded by rates and make up the most of Council's capital expenditure. A large portion of our infrastructure is already ageing and underperforming, requiring replacement or significant upgrades in the near future.

In spite of the uncertainties, we have no choice but to make some tough decisions now.

### What's happening now?

We're looking at every area of council expenses, trimming budgets where we can and delaying non-essential work. We're also more than doubling what we're borrowing to adapt to huge project costs for water, wastewater and regulatory compliance.

Knowing exact costs is difficult and regrettably, it's not something we can guarantee. As a Council, we're moving forward with the best information available, fully aware that uncertainties still loom large.



### What is depreciation funding you may ask and why this lever?

Depreciation is a major expense and makes up almost a third of our overall expenses.

Depreciation funding is a way to account for the wear and tear of assets such as bridges, roads, facilities, and water treatment plants over time. When these assets need to be renewed or replaced, depreciation helps to pay for this to happen. By funding this depreciation through rates each year, ratepayers can contribute their fair share towards the use of these assets, both currently and in the future.

There is a significant risk to Council in not properly budgeting for depreciation. It could mean having too much or too little money to fix or replace things when needed.

Depreciation funding is part of our broader financial and infrastructure planning. You can see how spreading out the rates increase over the first few years, and delaying how we fund depreciation would work in the table at the top of the next page.

## These are the 3 rates smoothing options

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
1	16.29%	6.52%	10.99%	6.47%	7.20%	6.56%	7.39%	6.44%	6.66%	6.13%
2	12.09%	12.11%	11.31%	4.65%	7.20%	6.56%	7.39%	6.44%	6.66%	6.13%
3	10.30%	10.13%	10.71%	9.95%	9.45%	6.36%	4.41%	6.44%	6.66%	6.13%

### OPTION 1 - No smoothing

The required increase is all absorbed in Year 1 of the LTP  
 Not delaying depreciation funding is more prudent due to uncertainties in the environment we operate  
 Council will be balancing its budgets by funding the right amount of depreciation  
 Future rates increases are less lumpy  
 Rates increase in Year 1 is not affordable  
 Due to uncertainties, there is the risk that the rates could be higher in Years 2 & 3

#### What is the cost?

NIL

#### How does that impact rates?

Rates are not smoothed. In this option the rates increase is highest in the first year (see Table above)

#### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

#### Impact on level of service?

NIL

### OPTION 2 - Rates smoothing over 3 yrs

Less financial impact for ratepayers in Year 1 of the LTP  
 Rates for Year 1 is affordable  
 Rates smoothing can provide ratepayers with more predictable and stable rate increases over a longer period  
 For Council and ratepayer it is a consistent revenue and cost stream  
 Due to uncertainties, rates increase could be higher in later years  
 Commits Council to a multi-year plan

#### What is the cost?

NIL

#### How does that impact rates?

Rates are smoothed so that the highest increases are in years 2-3 (see Table above)

#### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

#### Impact on the level of service?

NIL

### OPTION 3 - Rates smoothing over 6 years

Even less financial impact in Year 1 of the LTP  
 Due to uncertainties, rates increase could be higher in later years  
 Rate smoothing can provide ratepayers with more predictable and stable rate increases over a longer period  
 For Council and ratepayer it is a consistent revenue and cost stream  
 Due to uncertainties, rates increase could be higher in later years  
 Commits Council to a longer term plan

#### What is the cost?

NIL

#### How does that impact rates?

Rates are smoothed so that the highest increases are in years 4-5 (see Table above)

#### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

#### Impact on the level of service?

NIL

We prefer this option



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### OUR PREFERRED OPTION.

#### We prefer option 3.

We think that it is better that instead of one big jump in 2025, ratepayers would see incremental rises over time.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

### What do you think?

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options:

- 1. No smoothing
- 2. Rates smoothing over 3 years
- 3. Rates smoothing over 6 years

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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I choose  Option 1  Option 2 or  Option 3

Name:

Phone:

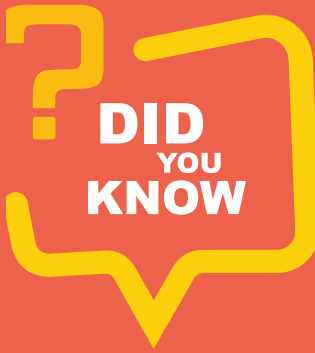
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The cost of living crisis affects us all, and councils are no exception.

It's become significantly more expensive for councils to deliver everything their communities need - which is a big contributor to rates rises.

## Over the past three years...



Bridges are **38%** more expensive to build



Roads are **27%** more expensive to build



Water supply systems are **27%** expensive to build

**It's not just our council's rates that are rising.**

**Rates are rising an average of 15% across the whole country.**

### How much do Kiwis pay in rates compared to tax?

Infometrics estimates an average Kiwi household pays around **\$2,900** a year in rates – and **\$37,000** in tax.

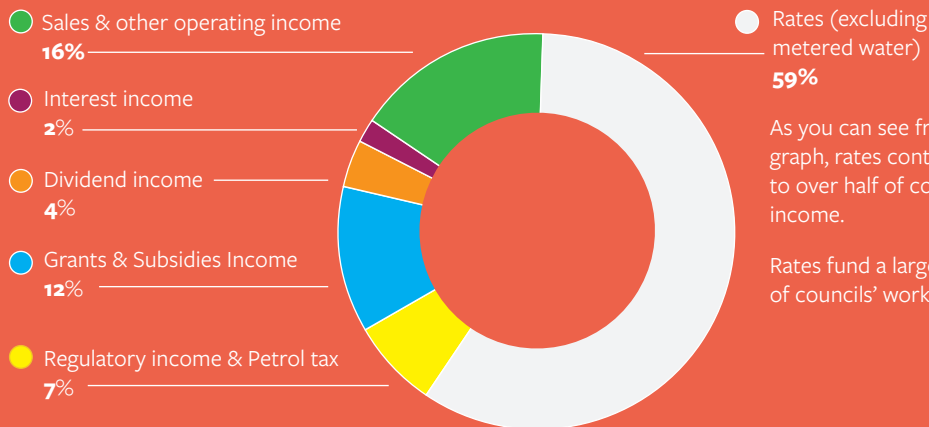
There's huge variation around the country in rates.

(That \$37,000 tax estimate is based on two median income earners and includes both income tax and GST).

When you look at an average household's total tax+rates bill, around **93%** goes to central government and only **7%** to local government.

Central government is requiring more and more of councils – but councils are stuck with limited funding levers.

## Where do councils in New Zealand get their money?



As you can see from the graph, rates contribute to over half of councils' income.

Rates fund a large chunk of councils' work.

### How do rates compare to other household bills?

According to Canstar Blue, the average Kiwi home paid \$2,362 for electricity in the year ending September 2023 (although the cost of electricity varies significantly depending on where you live).



# 2

## PAHIATUA SWIMMING POOL

**Pahiatua’s making a splash with plans for a new indoor aquatic facility, and it’s decision time. Council’s gearing up to dive in – the big question is, how deep?**

### Context

Collaborating with Bush Aquatic Trust, Council has conducted a feasibility study and community survey, looking into a new indoor aquatic facility for Pahiatua. The current Pahiatua outdoor pool is nearing its end of life cycle, has hefty maintenance costs, and is limited to a 10-week, weather dependent swim season which limits its capabilities.

The proposed indoor aquatic facility is seen as a long-term solution that could cater for future growth in our district. The proposed facility isn’t just a pool; the ‘Sprung swimming pool’ design is a year-round hub for swim education, from school programs to private lessons. Plus, it caters to club swimming and offers a therapeutic space for older members of the community. The pool will operate as a programmed swimming pool, which will also reduce the operating cost.

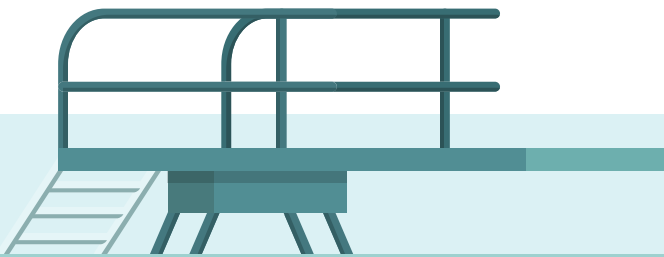
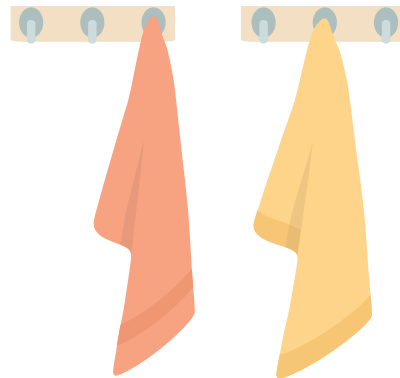
With community needs and future growth in mind, this project is an exciting opportunity for Pahiatua and its surrounding communities.

### What’s happening now?

The new indoor aquatic facility comes with a \$6.1 million price tag. Bush Aquatic Trust have fundraised \$2.5 million. They are now asking Council for a \$2.5 million fundraising boost, which will leave them with approximately \$1.6 million to find.

Council has already contributed \$600,000 to get the project through the design and tender phases and now we need to consider whether we make the additional contribution of \$2.5 million.

The fundraising journey will also need to continue, and while the timeline remains uncertain, the vision for a new, future proof indoor aquatic facility is steadily taking shape.





## Let's take a look at the options

### OPTION 1 - Do nothing, status quo

No extra costs, no impact on rates

Ongoing funding for repair and maintenance on the outdated outdoor pool, prone to ageing issues

Limited usage of the current facility for the Pahiatua community

Pahiatua remain limited in hosting swim schools, meaning community members must travel for lessons

#### What is the cost?

Ongoing funding for maintenance

#### How does that impact rates?

No impact this financial year

#### What is the impact on debt?

No impact

#### Impact on level of service?

No change

In a nutshell, this scenario means we do not give the requested \$2.5 million and there is no impact to rates. Bush Aquatic Trust faces an uphill fundraising task, the community is left travelling for swim schools, and residents have limited local summer swimming options, and no options in winter.

### OPTION 2 - Fund the \$2 million, and once complete the indoor aquatic facility becomes a Council-owned asset.

A revamped indoor aquatic facility for our district, ready for future growth and community well-being

The funding supports a sustainable facility accessible to the community throughout the year

Pahiatua can have their own swim schools, alleviating pressure on other pools in the district

Maintenance from the outdoor pool stops and would go towards the new pool

Council will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the new facility, which will need to be funded by the ratepayer

Bush Aquatic Trust have committed to fundraising to help with the ongoing maintenance costs

It is not clear where the additional \$1.6 million in required fundraising will come from

#### What is the cost?

\$2,500,000

#### How does that impact rates?

\$53.36 per ratepayer (average 10 years)

#### What is the impact on debt?

\$2,500,000 (paid off over 20 years)

#### Impact on the level of service?

Increased level of service, from outdoor to indoor with increased operating hours

We prefer this option



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### OUR PREFERRED OPTION.

#### We prefer option 2.

Getting behind Bush Aquatic Trust’s fundraising can give them the boost they need for that final \$1.6 million. Council support adds a compelling story, paving the way for future fundraising. Working together on the design and build means the aquatic facility becomes a well-planned Council-owned asset—a win for Pahiatua, fostering well-being, a thriving community, and ready for future growth.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

Let us know

#### What do you think?

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options. Should we:

1. Stick with what we currently have?
2. Give \$2.5 million towards fundraising and ensure the new indoor aquatic facility becomes a Council-owned asset?

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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**I choose**



Option 1

or



Option 2

Name:

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# 3

## NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME (NLTP)

**We've done some work on what's needed to increase our maintenance on key parts of our roading assets. We're keen to maintain the momentum that our emergency works program has created and build resilience to ensure we can handle what the future holds, but there's a cost. Let's map out our options.**

### Context

In August, we sent our Activity Management Plan to Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). It's the bid document that shapes their upcoming National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) 3-year block funding and outlines our funding and strategy to achieve our goals. Our bid will be under consideration from March to June, and once we know the outcome, it will guide our plans for the next three years.

This strategy is to take good care of our assets, especially drainage, because it helps preserve our roads and gives good value for money. Better drainage means our roads are more equipped to handle adverse weather events, which is predicted to become a more common occurrence with the changing climate. We need to keep investing in roads, bridges, and large culverts for drainage, while taking into account materials and labour are getting more expensive and contractors are in high demand.

It's also important to remember that starting in July our increased Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) rate kicks in, that means Waka Kotahi/NZTA will cover 73% of maintenance and renewals costs, a 4% increase on previous years.

### What's happening now?

Right now, we have huge momentum in our roading programs driven by a \$44 million emergency works program related to Cyclone Gabrielle, as well as the \$14 million Huarahi Tūhono – Weber to Wimbledon project, both fully financed by Waka Kotahi/NZTA. These projects have given our teams at the Tararua Alliance the chance to build capacity and capability. We're already out there, with more teams than ever working on our roads.

We can make the most of this momentum by keeping your ratepayer investment at \$18 million like before, but with the increased FAR of 73%, up from 69%, it would enable us to access an additional \$8 million from Waka Kotahi/NZTA. This injection of funds would make a substantial difference to the resilience of our roads and this option is already built into the proposed rates increase.

It's a big challenge to execute all of this proposed work in the 3 year time frame, but with our unique collaboration between Council and Downer in the Tararua Alliance, alongside a strong and growing contractor base, we think we're geared up for this challenge now more than ever.

**So the question is, if Waka Kotahi/NZTA accept our bid at its maximum level, should we use the opportunity to invest more in our roads by keeping the ratepayer contribution the same or should we reduce the proposed rates increase by 2% and stick with the current maintenance levels and take on the associated risks.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Tararua District Council



maintains almost **2,000km** of road.

**That's more than the whole length of New Zealand (about 1,600km).**



## Let's take a look at the options

We prefer this option

### **OPTION 1 - Maximise the increased NZTA subsidy and increase our roading program to create a more resilient roading network (rates are as proposed on p.16)**

Maintenance levels increase on our roading network

Increased maintenance investment ensures our roading assets are ready for future adverse weather events

Rates increase up to a maximum of 3%

In this option, if our bid is successful, we use all of the government funding available to us. We think this is good value for money and allows us to build more resilience into our local roads and that's why we are recommending this option. We have already built this option into the proposed rates increase

#### **What is the cost over 3 years?**

We spend	\$ 18,567,573
NZTA spends	\$ 50,201,216
<b>Total spend</b>	<b>\$ 68,768,789</b>

#### **How does that impact rates?**

See page 16.

#### **Impact on level of service?**

Increased level of service with improved roading network resilience

### **OPTION 2 - Keep our roading program spend at the same level as previous planned while receiving the increased NZTA subsidy – rates reduce by approx. 2%**

Roading spend stays the same, but the condition of our roads is likely to deteriorate

Risk that the level of roading network resilience reduces

No extra cost, no impact on rates

Potential drops in levels of service - this means reduced maintenance for some roads

Based on community feedback, there's a clear expectation for a well maintained road network. This option would struggle to meet these expectations

#### **What is the cost over 3 years?**

We spend	\$ 16,171,575
NZTA spends	\$ 43,723,640
<b>Total spend</b>	<b>\$ 59,895,215</b>

#### **How does that impact rates?**

This would reduce the proposed rates by an average of approx. 2%

#### **What is the impact on debt?**

No impact

#### **Impact on the level of service?**

No change



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### OUR PREFERRED OPTION.

#### We prefer option 1.

Not accepting the funding from the NLTP could be disastrous for some of our roads. By accepting the bid, we can move ahead with key maintenance and resilience work to ensure our roading network is strong and ready for the challenges of a changing climate.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

### What do you think?

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options. Should we:

- 1. Accept the funding requested and increase rates for this activity to a maximum of 3%.
- 2. Decline the funding and have no rates increase?

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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**Option 1** or

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# 4

# ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**As we navigate budget constraints, we're looking at ways we can recalibrate our funding models to best ensure money is spent where it's most needed. One of the ways we are looking to do this is revisiting our Economic and Community Development Strategy. Let's build the path forward together.**

## Context

Council is looking at implementing operational cost cuts and reducing grant funding for our Economic and Community Development activities. This will mean an adjustment in the services we offer.

A key area we have been considering in this space is grant funding. Typically, around \$400,000 per year has been allocated for community grants, often managed by groups like Community Boards and Community Committees as discretionary funding for local projects. We are looking to reduce this amount to \$242,000 going forward.

Given the challenges our district is facing, especially with waters services and infrastructure, we have to make some really tough decisions on where best to allocate funds. We've done a lot of work looking at the impact of reducing grant funding, and this reduction has been factored into the proposed rates increase.

Here's how it would affect some groups in our community:

Information centres won't be affected, but discretionary funding for community boards and committees would be halved.

Community groups with existing, historic agreements, including the Main Street grants for minor improvements in our town centres, would need to apply for a smaller pool of funding through a competitive process.

This process would be in the form of a \$100,000 Contestable Fund – meaning everyone, including new applicants, can apply to this one fund, and decisions are made based on the merits of each application, ensuring fairness and transparency in the allocation of funds.

This is not an easy decision to make, and we'd appreciate your input as we consider the best use of these funds moving forward.





## Let's take a look at the options

We prefer this option

### **OPTION 1 - Reduce the funding for the Economic and Community Development activity, including a reduction in community grant funding, and creating a contestable fund of \$100,000 per year**

An immediate costs savings of \$405,778 and a rates reduction of 1.1% from this activity, which is already factored into the rates increase on page 16

Any community group can apply for grant funding as part of the contestable fund

A reduction in levels of service for Economic and Community Development

Less funding available to individuals and community groups

Everyone is applying to the same fund for a variety of activities

Some historic agreements will change

#### **What is the cost?**

We have already included the saving of \$405,778 in the rates proposal on page 16

#### **How does that impact rates?**

We have included this saving in the rates proposal on page 16

#### **What is the impact on debt?**

NIL

#### **Impact on the level of service?**

Reduction in community development support for the community, incl. reduction in support for external funding, and less availability of grant funding

### **OPTION 2 - Do nothing, status quo**

There are no savings therefore no reduction in rates for these activities

Rates would need increase by 1.1% to reincorporate this activity at its current delivery model

Individuals and community groups have the same funding pool to apply to, and grant opportunities as they have in the past

There is no changes to the level of service provided by the Economic and Community Development activities

The current grants are very specific to who they are awarded too. This makes it difficult for other organisations to apply

#### **What is the cost?**

\$405,778 per annum increase in total rates

#### **How does that impact rates?**

This would mean an average 1.1% increase in the proposed rates on page 16

#### **What is the impact on debt?**

NIL

#### **Impact on the level of service?**

No change





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**OUR PREFERRED OPTION.**

**We prefer option 1.**

This provides us with the opportunity to rescope the activity to ensure that value is being provided. It also ensures we are focusing on funding other crucial Council responsibilities like water challenges and aging infrastructure. There is also a reduction of \$405,778 in funding and 1.1% reduction in rates for this activity.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

**What do you think?**

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options. Should we:

- 1. Reduce the funding for the Economic and Community Development activity?
- 2. Do nothing / Status quo

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[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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Photo: Explore Pahiatua

# 5

# DIFFERENTIAL ROADING RATES

**Council is considering creating a specialised sector rate to cover road repair expenses caused by heavy vehicles, such as those from the forestry industry, dairy and industrial activities. Let’s navigate this together!**

## Context

Here’s the issue – a big heavy load, creates way more wear and tear on our roads, and we need to figure out how to cover those costs more fairly.

Local road repairs currently cost around \$5.9 million and are part funded by Council, with Waka Kotahi, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) funding the rest. Waka Kotahi funding comes from fuel taxes and road user charges paid by vehicle owners. So, while it may seem like these charges we already pay should cover road wear and tear, they fall short, and local ratepayers end up paying a portion of these costs.

We know that heavy vehicles cause more wear, so Council is exploring ways to ensure those contributing more to road damage also contribute more to repair costs. The goal is to find a fair solution to collect the amount needed to cover the local roading repairs.

## What’s happening now?

Currently, ratepayers pay a district-wide rate per land value (80% of total roading cost) and a fixed charge (20% of total roading cost) varying by three sectors - urban, commercial/industrial, and rural.

A significant portion of roading rates is based on land values which doesn’t specifically consider heavy vehicle road use. We need to be able to tie the costs to the tonnage moved on local roads and link it back to specific properties.

We can do this by adding a new rating portion – a differential rate that considers tonnage and breaking it down across ten rating categories to ensure it’s fair. Those ten categories are dairy, forestry, farming (non-dairy), industrial, commercial, residential, lifestyle, other, mining and Utilities with a land value of zero.

Think about it like divvying up the total roading costs, and each property gets a slice based on how much heavy traffic it attracts. This new approach ensures everyone chips in for the wear and tear heavy vehicles cause on our roads.

We’ve obtained an independent report from Infometrics and an external expert to determine the estimated total tonnage on our roads, the wear and tear effect, the costs of that wear and tear and an equitable roading rates model. With all that work done, the proposed differential rate requirement is around \$1.1 million. Let’s look at the options.

Examples of the landvalue differential “heavy vehicle” roading rates for different industries (based on land value averages)

Industry	Average land value of property	Option one - no change	Option two - “heavy vehicle” rate	Difference
Dairy farming	\$2,103,944	\$2,138.49	\$2,584.17	\$445.69
Other farming (non-dairy)	\$1,903,052	\$1,959.26	\$1,871.08	-\$88.19
Forestry	\$1,146,292	\$1,284.13	\$2,673.94	\$1,389.81
Lifestyle	\$254,139	\$488.20	\$398.97	-\$89.24
Mining	\$276,666	\$508.30	\$824.68	\$316.38
Other	\$210,614	\$279.51	\$359.73	\$80.22
Residential	\$165,021	\$188.89	\$155.64	-\$33.25
Industrial	\$206,203	\$275.58	\$473.93	\$198.36
Commercial	\$161,859	\$236.02	\$250.70	\$14.69

## Let's take a look at the options

### OPTION 1 - No change

No change to rates, ratepayers stick with a familiar system

A simple, easy to understand system based on only two components

No significant shift in roading rates

The system does not take into account heavy vehicle impacts on our roads

Allocation is based on land values and does not reflect the real drivers of roading costs

#### What is the cost?

No extra cost overall

#### How does that impact rates?

There is no differential heavy vehicle rate

#### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

#### Impact on level of service?

No change

### OPTION 2 - Retain the General and Fixed rates and introduce a 'Heavy Vehicle' rate

This will account for heavy vehicles impact on local roads

It will reflect more fairly one of the key drivers for roading costs, i.e. heavy vehicles

It will allow Council, as growth and land use occur, to account for the impact on local roads and then allocate costs fairly

There will be flexibility as allocation is now based on 3 elements, rather than just two so Council will have extra options

It means a shift in roading rates

There is complexity to this system

#### What is the cost?

No extra cost overall

#### How does that impact rates?

We introduce a differential roading rate for heavy vehicles. Please refer to the Table on p. 36 to see how it affects you

#### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

#### Impact on the level of service?

No change

*We prefer this option*

### Did you know

It's estimated that the damage caused to our roads by one 50 ton logging truck is the equivalent of 8,000 car trips.

(source: NZ Forest Road Engineering Manual 2020)





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### OUR PREFERRED OPTION.

#### We prefer option 2.

We think the benefits of introducing a 'Heavy Vehicle' rate means those contributing most to our roading repairs costs will be paying their fair share.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

Let us know

### What do you think?

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options.

1. Stick with what we currently have?
2. Create a 'Heavy Vehicle' rate which is applied.

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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**I choose**



**Option 1** or



**Option 2**

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Comment:

Please tick if you would like to make your submission in person at a council meeting

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Photo: Michelle Thompson



# Rates Review

## NON-CONTIGUOUS RATING UNITS

**Rural landowners whose land isn't all in one land parcel or right next to each other, right now can receive a remission on annual uniform charges. Council is looking to remove that remission to save ratepayers picking up extra costs. Let's draw a new boundary around this issue together.**

### Context

Up until now Council has given some rates relief to rural landowners whose properties are situated across non-contiguous titles—meaning they aren't adjacent, touching, or sharing a border.

These landowners receive relief in the form of remission on uniform charges for their non-contiguous land, which does apply to those properties which are contiguous or where the land owned is all in one piece.

There are some provisos to get the relief. To qualify owner/s must own all the land, use it together, and have just one house on the whole property. Plus, it must be in our rural areas.

Right now there are about 173 properties in the Tararua District that fit this bill, each with varying distances between their titles. The discount equates to \$263,203 and that has been divvied up among other ratepayers in their General Rates.

### What's happening now?

Council has been providing help that is beyond what is required by law by giving this discount and so we think it's time for a change.

There are a few ways we could handle this. Setting limits on the distance between properties or only giving discounts to properties in town. But those plans are a bit tricky to manage so, like many other councils, the preference is to remove this relief for non-contiguous properties and we want your input to make sure we are all on the same page.

### Let's take a look at the options

<b>OPTION 1 - No change, status quo</b>	
No change to rates. Rate burden is spread to other ratepayers	<b>What is the cost?</b>
	\$263,203
	<b>How does that impact rates?</b>
	General Rates per 100k land value is \$194.85
	<b>What is the impact on debt?</b>
	NIL
	<b>Impact on level of service?</b>
	No change



We prefer this option

## OPTION 2 - Remove the remission for non-contiguous properties

The rates requirement for other ratepayers is reduced by \$263,203

There is rates increase for the 173 properties affected

### What is the cost?

NIL

### How does that impact rates?

General Rates per 100k land value is \$190.39

### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

### Impact on the level of service?

No change



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## OUR PREFERRED OPTION.

### We prefer option 2.

We think it's time we move in the same direction as many Councils around New Zealand and remove this relief for non-contiguous properties.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

Let us know

## What do you think?

We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options.

1. Stick with what we currently have?
2. Remove the relief for non-contiguous properties.

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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# Rates Review

## TOWN CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

**Let’s consider making our town centre refurbishment costs into one district wide rate. We are one Tararua and together we support each other to thrive, powering the progress of the entire district.**

### Context

Right now our town centre refurbishment rate is split, so there’s a rate for Dannevirke in the North and Woodville, Pahiatua, and Eketāhuna in the South. That’s because historically when town refurbishment has occurred, the town getting the makeover pays an extra 10%, and the rest of the cost is split equally.

We’re keen to simplify this with one district-wide rate and avoid the North vs. South vibe that’s not great for our district unity.

### What’s happening now?

Council have already been looking at ways to switch to one district-wide rate for town centre refurbishment and no new money is needed: it’s simply shifting rates around.

If we moved to one district-wide charge, in 2024/25 the new rate will be \$66.67 p.a. – so that’s a reduction of \$7 p.a. for the south and an increase of \$7 p.a. for the north.

We’re also moving away from the North vs. South language in our policies, so we can thrive as one district together.

It’s important to note for ratepayers who have already paid a lump sum for the Dannevirke town centre refurbishment – you won’t pay again with the new district-wide rate. There will still be a charge for the Dannevirke Town Centre Refurbishment for ratepayers that did not take up the Lump Sum Option. You’ve got five years for that transition, and once it’s done, all ratepayers will end up paying just ‘The District Town Centre Refurbishment Rate’ on your rates notice.

We need your feedback on this proposal so we can make a final decision so let’s look at our options.

### Let’s take a look at the options

<b>OPTION 1 - no change</b>	
<p>In this option we carry on as we are paying different rates for north and south</p> <p>This year ratepayers in the north will pay \$65.01 p.a. for town centre refurbishment, and ratepayers in the south will pay \$78.26 p.a.</p>	<p><b>What is the cost?</b></p> <p>No cost</p>
	<p><b>How does that impact rates? Per property p.a.</b></p> <p>Northern - \$ 59.61</p> <p>Southern - \$ 73.87</p> <p>Dannevirke North -\$ 5.40</p> <p>Dannevirke South - \$ 4.39</p>
	<p><b>What is the impact on debt?</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
	<p><b>Impact on level of service?</b></p> <p>No change</p>

We prefer this option

### OPTION 2 - District wide town refurbishment rates.

In this option everyone will pay an equal amount from now on This year that will be \$71.06 p.a. – so that’s a reduction of about \$7 p.a. for the south and an increase of about \$6 p.a. for the north

Whichever option you choose the total overall cost to ratepayers is the same

Included in the \$ above is the charge of \$4.86 for those who did not take the lump sum option for the Dannevirke town refurbishment

#### What is the cost?

NIL

#### How does that impact rates?

\$71.06 p.a

#### What is the impact on debt?

NIL

#### Impact on the level of service?

NIL

Under this plan we remove the North/South ward allocation of rates and pay one district wide rate, allowing us to extend upgrades to our smaller towns, all while fostering a more unified, flourishing district.



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### OUR PREFERRED OPTION.

#### We prefer option 2.

We would like to see one district wide rate for town centre refurbishment costs and move away from North vs. South language.

Closing date for submissions is 30 May 2024 at 5pm

Let us know

### What do you think?

#### We want to hear your thoughts on the proposed options.

1. Stick with what we currently have?
2. Create one district wide rate for town centre refurbishment cost.

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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# SUBMISSION FORM

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Name:

Phone:

Email:

## GA - NON-CONTIGUOUS RATING UNITS

### Which option do you prefer?



- Option one:** Stick with what we currently have?
- Option two (our preferred option):** Remove the relief for non-contiguous properties.

Comment

## GB - TOWN CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

### Which option do you prefer?



- Option one:** No change to the rating system and continue to rate as North and South.
- Option two (our preferred option):** Create one district wide rate for town centre refurbishment cost.

Comment

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**  
[www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/whatchanges)



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# OTHER CHANGES

## Significance and Engagement Policy

**The Significance and Engagement policy sets out how we at Council gauge the degree of significance of various issues, proposals, assets, decisions, and activities, and ensures we talk about any big decisions before we make them.**

Here's how it works; before we get started on a new project or proposal, we'll weigh up its significance to the community and consider the most effective ways to engage before decision-making occurs. As a rule of thumb, the more significant a decision, the greater the need to involve the community in the decision-making process.

The current policy, established in 2014, was last reviewed in 2018. Within Council we've done our homework on the policy using our review framework, and the changes we have made to the policy reflect the feedback we have gathered through this process.

Council has considered and adopted the updated policy by Council resolution, and the policy will be included in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and published on our website.

The changes to the policy can be summarised into four categories:

1. Language refresh - we're updating the language in our policy to make sure it stays relevant and matches the style of our other documents, both inside and outside the Council. This helps us keep everything clear and up-to-date with the best ways of doing things.
2. Iwi and Māori engagement - we're enhancing engagement with iwi and Māori by adding a statement to the policy, reflecting Council's commitments to Treaty principles, partnership, and participation in decision-making processes.
3. Updated modes of communication - We're updating our 'How we Engage' section to include social media as one of our methods. A recent survey revealed that social media is the top choice for community communication, this update ensures we effectively engage with residents.

4. Decision tree addition - we're simplifying decision-making with the addition of a decision tree / flowchart to the policy. This proposed update provides an overview of the significance assessment process, guides engagement levels, and boosts transparency.

We would love your feedback on the changes.

The full policy can be found on [www.tararua.govt.nz | publications | bylaws-policies](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/bylaws-policies)

## Fees and Charges

Every year Council reviews its schedule of fees and charges. The fees and charges set by councils are an important tool for managing affordability and rates increases by diversifying revenue sources, recovering costs, maintaining affordability for ratepayers and incentivizing responsible use of services. By carefully reviewing and adjusting fees and charges annually, councils can ensure that they remain fair, equitable, and reflective of the cost of service provision.

Please refer to our webpage for the schedule of Draft Fees and Charges 2024-2025.

## Service performance measures

The LTP should provide a clear basis for assessing Council's performance. The service performance information allows communities to effectively assess the council's performance and hold it to account.

The performance reporting framework should reflect the Council's intended direction, both overall and for each group of activities. It should provide clarity about what the Council plans to achieve in the short term and an indication of its plans and performance in the longer term.

In this LTP, Council reviewed its performance measures and made changes to align them to our strategic framework and focuses its activities on what they need to measure their performance against. These measures help councils monitor performance, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate accountability to ratepayers.

# Hei pārongo māu For your Information





# COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ASSETS

## Community buildings and land rationalisation

Did you know Council owns 40 community buildings, including halls? Council also owns land parcels across the district (not including our parks and reserves). One of our desired outcomes in our strategic framework is to have quality community facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of future generations and support our long-term prosperity.

We're the caretakers of these spaces that bring our communities together for social, cultural, recreational, and educational activities. From management and maintenance, to power bills, we handle it all, and we know these spaces are often the heart of our thriving communities, especially in our rural areas.

Over the next year, we're taking a close look at these spaces to understand how our communities use them. Do we need all these buildings and land parcels, would we be wiser to consolidate and look towards creating Community Hubs?

## Integration of council services

While we consider our spaces and look at hubs, we also need to think about how our services are delivered, do we need to change the hours we operate and use cool new tech to get things done? The key thing is, it's got to be fair for everyone across the district, and it has to be something we can all afford.

As a Council, we're on a mission to streamline things, making sure we're smart with where we are spending, while keeping those services strong and accessible for everyone. Councillors are figuring out where our services should be in the next 10 years and what they look like, and they want to hear from you. So, get ready to have your say, because together, we're building a thriving Taranaki!

## Birch North Forest

Did you know that Council owns a forestry block known as Birch North Forest? While it has been a decent asset in the past, Council has decided to sell the forest. Why, you ask? Well, there's a few reasons. First off, obviously forestry is not core council business. Plus, it's pretty risky. Selling the forest will help Council pay off some debt and put us in better financial position. This opens opportunities to invest more in important things like fixing up our infrastructure. Council have teamed up with Forest NZ to commence the sale of the forest.

## Swimming Pools and Campgrounds

In 2022/23, our 3 Council owned pools welcomed 14,695 visitors. Right now, each pool has a different model for delivering that service to its community. As part of our Service Level Review, we're thinking about streamlining – one approach for all pools. It's very similar for our 4 Council owned campgrounds. They hosted 16,009 happy campers last year but again, every campground is managed a little differently. So, in this review, we want to create one model that fits all, creating efficiency while keeping that fantastic service for our communities and visitors.

Service level reviews are all about lifting the hood and taking a closer look at a few of our services and to make sure they are running right. This is a must-do under the Local Government Act, and it ensures we are doing things efficiently, effectively, in line with what our community needs, and what they may need in the future.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Sealed and Unsealed Roads

In year one of the Long Term Plan, the Tararua Alliance Rooding Asset team will be completing a research piece around possible changes to levels of service on our roads. Once complete, this research will be presented back to Council for discussion and direction.

The research will identify and understand highly underused sealed and unsealed roads and consider, if changes need to be made and what those changes would look like.

Before any changes are made, we'll be consulting with the community and those directly affected.

## Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply

In October 2023, Council had to pause starting the physical repairs on the Dannevirke Impounded Supply. There were some key reasons for this at the time, important pieces of information were still outstanding, and like many, we were facing supply chain challenges, alongside issues around the dam liner system.

At that same meeting, Council decided to fast track getting extra water treatment facilities and storage for treated water. This was to boost our resilience in both the short and long term.

Throughout the year, preparation work has been getting underway for the permanent repair but, due to the significant cost needed for these repairs, Council will be coming back to the community to consult on options. When that happens, we will also know if we have any other water sources that are available to us, so we look forward to talking more with you on this later in the year.

## Three Waters – The Financial Stretch

Over the next ten years, Tararua District Council will start replacing many pipelines due to their age and condition.

Many water, wastewater and stormwater pipes were installed around the World War II period and are now failing. Normally this work would be manageable, except all councils are now financially stretched. This follows years of investment required to meet increasing standards for treating water and wastewater.

Councils are also having to build upfront for the growth in population and climate related events which are pushing our assets beyond their engineering design. Resilience and planning for more growth are now essential. So in this plan, Tararua District Council is on the edge of its financial limits and sustainability. The cost is now significant, and it is becoming increasingly unaffordable to our small communities, where we have no options to scale up to reduce cost.

Standards are further increasing, and some projects have not been funded in this plan, because they are beyond our limits. This increases our risk to shock events. Also, there is no new funding source indicated in the Government's "Local Water Done Well" programme. This means debt and users will still be the main sources of funding, for whoever delivers the services in the future. This is a huge financial stretch to all users and councils, including us.

# OTHERS

## Solid waste

We've been considering our Solid Waste delivery and in October, Council took charge of managing our Transfer Stations, giving us more opportunity to drive positive changes. We're also developing a Waste Management Minimisation Plan for the whole Tararua District, and your thoughts on recycling and waste habits matter. Last year's waste audit wasn't the best news – no improvement, and landfill is expensive. Imagine saving money if we recycled more! There may also be ways to save by considering if we keep all four transfer stations in the district. It's all up for discussion and your input on what's affordable and how it affects you is crucial – we'll be consulting on this soon.

For our urban ratepayers benefiting from kerbside recycling, you will notice an increase in your rates. This directly reflects the rising costs from our service provider.

## District plan/growth Strategy/ Urban Design

First off, we've got the Growth Strategy – we're growing, and want to be ready for it! The Urban Growth Strategy is our master plan for the next 30 years, predicting where growth will happen, figuring out the best places for it and, importantly, considering how we will be able to handle it in the best possible way. We've already chatted with the community on this, and your feedback will inform the development of a new District Plan

Next, we have our District Plan Review – a mandatory 10-year check-up on the 'rule book' that guides land use in our district. It's not just about following the law; it's about keeping things current, aligning with national policies, and making sure the Tararua District grows sustainably in all areas; economic, environmental, and social, while preserving our unique charm.

Last is the Future Community Urban Design Project, funded by 'Better Off Funding' this is something special. Picture this: communities and experts teaming up for design workshops, figuring out how to make our spaces not just functional but come up with solutions for urban design issues. It's a community led approach, ensuring our towns are vibrant, welcoming, and ready for whatever the future holds.

This is exciting stuff, we're reviewing, growing, and designing our way into a thriving future! Keep an eye on the District Plan Review page on our website for information, to sign up for updates and when we need your valuable input. The more, the merrier!





**As with most councils around New Zealand, Tararua District Council is faced with the ongoing challenge of meeting ever-increasing regulatory, compliance and standards for infrastructure (water, wastewater, stormwater and transport) while maintaining affordability for ratepayers.**

This challenge is made all the more difficult as the effects of historic investment limitations in infrastructure renewals over the last few decades is starting to emerge.

Given Tararua's small and ageing population, maintaining affordability is an important aspect of the infrastructure decisions we make. To help affordability Council funds depreciation on infrastructure assets so the money is there to renew or maintain them when required. Council also actively seeks opportunities to secure funding subsidies wherever possible.

We believe our Transport assets are in good overall condition for their age, our pipe networks need significant focus and our treatment plants are a mixed bag but we know more now than we did before about the condition and performance of some of our infrastructure despite there still being gaps in our knowledge. Council continues to invest in gathering information and data on the condition of our infrastructure to inform effective investment decisions. This information helps Council to plan targeted renewals that are based on the condition and functionality of assets, not just age. Having current and reliable information also enables Council to forecast and predict where we can be the most enabling for future growth in the district.

Predicted growth in Tararua District has added an additional challenge to those already being faced by Council. On top of maintenance and renewal decisions, we now need to consider how and where population can best be accommodated in our networks or where new infrastructure might be required in future.

The impacts of our changing climate are becoming an ever-increasing consideration when it comes to infrastructure decisions. Much like we do with natural disasters, we must now factor in how our infrastructure will perform during adverse events, such as intense rainfall and flooding, when considering projects. Cyclone Gabrielle demonstrated the need for resilience in our

infrastructure so the rebuild is including a strong focus on the needs of our community while preparing for the next weather event.

Legislative changes are increasing the required standards and compliance, especially with regard to impacts on freshwater. Conditions of resource consents may also be altered significantly resulting in major investments to meet new conditions. Taumata Arowai has become Aotearoa's dedicated water services regulator to oversee and enforce drinking water regulatory framework, with an additional oversight role for wastewater and stormwater networks. There is also an increased focus on road safety nationally and increased maintenance and resilience. Central Government has recently released its proposal for new activity classes solely focused on maintenance and renewals in the "Local Road Pothole Prevention" Activity class. The focus areas that will have the greatest impact include investing in economic growth and productivity; increased maintenance and resilience; and safety and value for money projects.

In preparing our 30-year infrastructure strategy we have determined the following key strategic responses we will be taking:

- Continue to build our knowledge and understanding of our existing infrastructure.
- Undertake on-going maintenance and renewal programmes to meet current asset consumption and extend the life of existing infrastructure where possible.
- Address existing deficiencies in key areas such as meeting NZ Drinking Water Standards, compliance with wastewater discharge consents and undertaking minor road safety improvements.
- Address known key network performance issues such as reducing stormwater that gets into our wastewater network and removing the risk of water backflow from properties into the network.
- Improving infrastructure resilience such as road drainage and increasing our water storage ability.



# Rautaki Ahumoni

## FINANCIAL STRATEGY

**The financial strategy sets out our planned approach to financial management over the life of the 10 year plan. It outlines how council intends to manage its financial resources, details the funding required to support capital investments and service delivery, and assess the impacts on rates, debt, service levels, and investment resulting from decisions made.**

This long term plan we have set four guiding principles to help us achieve our vision while establishing a sustainable foundation for the long-term that ensures funding to enhance the resilience of our assets and services, enable growth and plan strategically for future generations in a financial sustainable way.

### What guides us



**Affordability** – Council will deliver on public value while balancing rates affordability, sustainability, and reflecting the services this plan details we will deliver



**Financial Stability** – Ensuring council manages its finances in a way that maintains financial prudence and ensures long-term financial sustainability and resilience



**Investment in Infrastructure** – Continue to invest in our infrastructure to ensure our assets are able to provide services now and into the future while considering inter-generational impacts of decisions we make



**Revenue Sources** – To maximise the amount of external funding received to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers

The key theme of this financial strategy is a continuation from our previous strategy with the need to create financial headroom to enable Council to respond in the future to opportunities, challenges or unforeseen events as they arise.

Council has been facing and is continuing to face significant increases in regulatory compliance requirements particularly in our water and wastewater activities. Council has undertaken significant investments in this space over the last 10 years, and is required to continue as Council works towards its wastewater treatment plants achieving their resource consents.

Growth is a major opportunity for our district, but it comes at a high initial cost. Further investment will be required as we develop strategies to enable growth, particularly in infrastructure, community and recreation facilities, and increased service levels.

Council's debt has increased significantly over the prior three Long Term Plans and is expected to continue to increase during this Long Term Plan. To ensure debt is maintained within prudent levels by having sufficient headroom to enable future investments and respond to unforeseen events, Council needs to ensure it follows the 2% dedicated debt repayment funding, introduce additional depreciation funding in years 3 – 10 to build up depreciation reserves required for its renewal programme, and increase borrowing limits and becoming a credit rated Council to increase its borrowing abilities in later years of this plan.

Affordability – we explain affordable as something is inexpensive or reasonably priced. Council aims to deliver its services in an affordable way but faces challenges in spreading the cost over a small number of ratepayers. We continue to experience significant cost increases as has every house and business in New Zealand due to the much higher inflation than what was planned for.

Significant cost increases have occurred, in the three waters and roading activities due in part to legislative requirements as well as recovering from devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle and previous weather-related events. As signaled previously, keeping up with the cost increases means that rates increase are needing to be higher.

When assessing affordability, we visit our regular environmental scans that look at local and political issues that could impact our district. We then consider our spend before going ahead and if spending is not necessary, to do so.

In trying to maintain affordability and provide essential services to our community we are constantly trying to find the happy medium between these things. We revisit our budgets annually, weighing up necessities and nice to haves and this plan as with the previous annual plan have paired back to the minimum and what is necessary across the board.

To achieve Council’s strategy of being financially sustainable and prudent, the strategy focuses on the following inter-linked key strategic directions that enable Council to achieve its strategic objectives, whilst ensuring financial sustainability and prudence by leaving headroom for the unknown as mentioned here:



**Rates Limit:** Increase Council’s rates limit to service the increased debt levels, fund the operational cost increase resulting from investment in infrastructure and growth projects, and increase cost to meet service levels.



**Dedicated Debt Repayment:** Continue with the dedicated debt repayment programme which ensures Council has continued financial resilience whilst continuing to invest in infrastructure that meets existing community needs and enables growth.



**Borrowing Limits:** Increase Council’s debt limits to enable further capital investment to improve infrastructure, including community and recreation facilities that enables growth.



**Revenue Sources:** Alternative funding streams in line with Council’s pricing strategy and ensure opportunities for external funding is maximised.



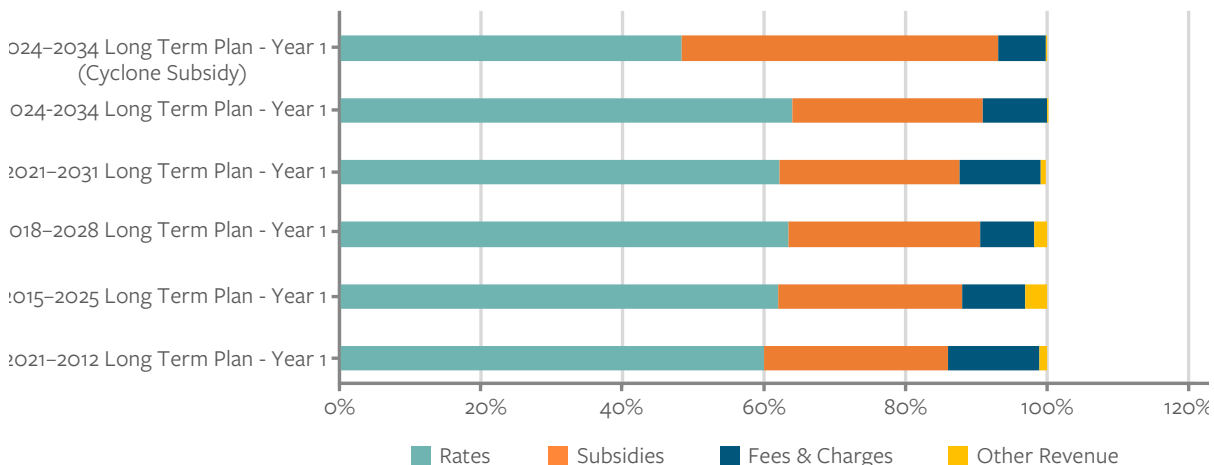
**Balanced budget:** Council will meet s100 of the LGA balanced budget requirement by fund an appropriate level of depreciation for future asset renewals and build reserves

## Funding Requirements

This long term plan has arguably been one of the most challenging to balance affordability against the communities wants and needs, the regulatory environment, Council’s aspirations, and the ability to fund them.

Affordability has been at the forefront of every decision that has been made. In addition to inflation, interest costs, depreciation costs and loan repayments, the proposed increases are attributable to the following factors;

- Increased compliance for wastewater treatment and management
- Resilience and compliance for water treatment and management



- Resilience and increased maintenance for our roading network
- Reticulation investment – historic low investment
- Growth – impacting three waters reticulation. Funding option available e.g. Development Contributions
- Solid Waste – expect increases in later years
- Urban and above ground Infrastructure – maintenance and growth

### Rates Limit

Council appreciates the pressure rates place on our community. It is important to us to ensure we are spending prudently, and we engage regularly through various forums to understand the needs of our community.

We believe we have achieved a balance in the decision that has been made but recognise that rates do contribute to a sizeable portion of household costs. We have set the rates limits for this plan as follows:

- Years 1 to 5 (2024-2028): rates increase less than 11%
- Years 6 to 10 (2028-2034): rates increases in any

one year will be maintained within the weighted average local government cost index, which is calculated as BERL and specifically reflects the types of costs faced by councils, plus three percent, plus two percent dedicated for additional principal debt repayment

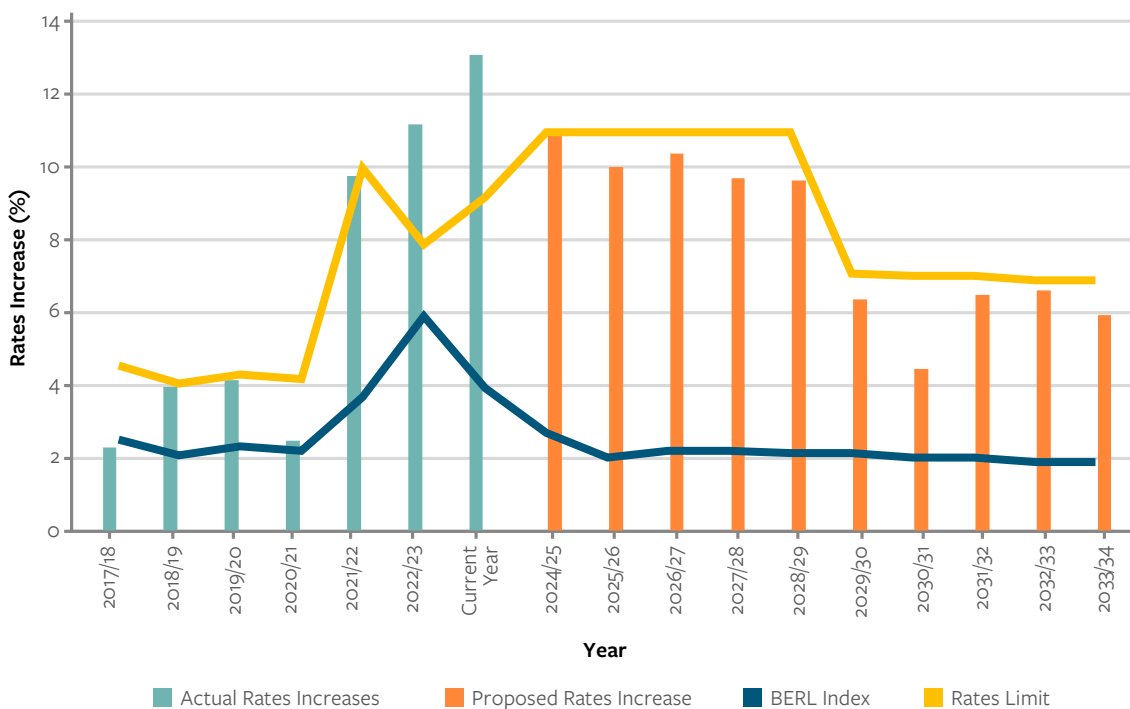
The proposed rates increases for the 10 year plan 2024-2034 can be seen below.

Sector	Proposed	2024	Change	% Change
Rural	20,915,796	19,157,817	1,757,979	9.18%
Urban	18,413,310	16,304,316	2,108,995	12.94%
Industrial / Commercial	3,033,818	2,947,242	86,576	2.94%
<b>Total Rates</b>	<b>42,362,923</b>	<b>38,409,374</b>	<b>3,953,549</b>	<b>10.29%</b>

### Borrowing Limits

In its previous Long Term Plans, Council embarked on an ambitious capital investment programme and it is continuing to invest heavily for the length of this Long Term Plan.

As a result, Council’s debt is projected to increase significantly from \$60 million to a peak of \$149 million





during the course of the Plan.

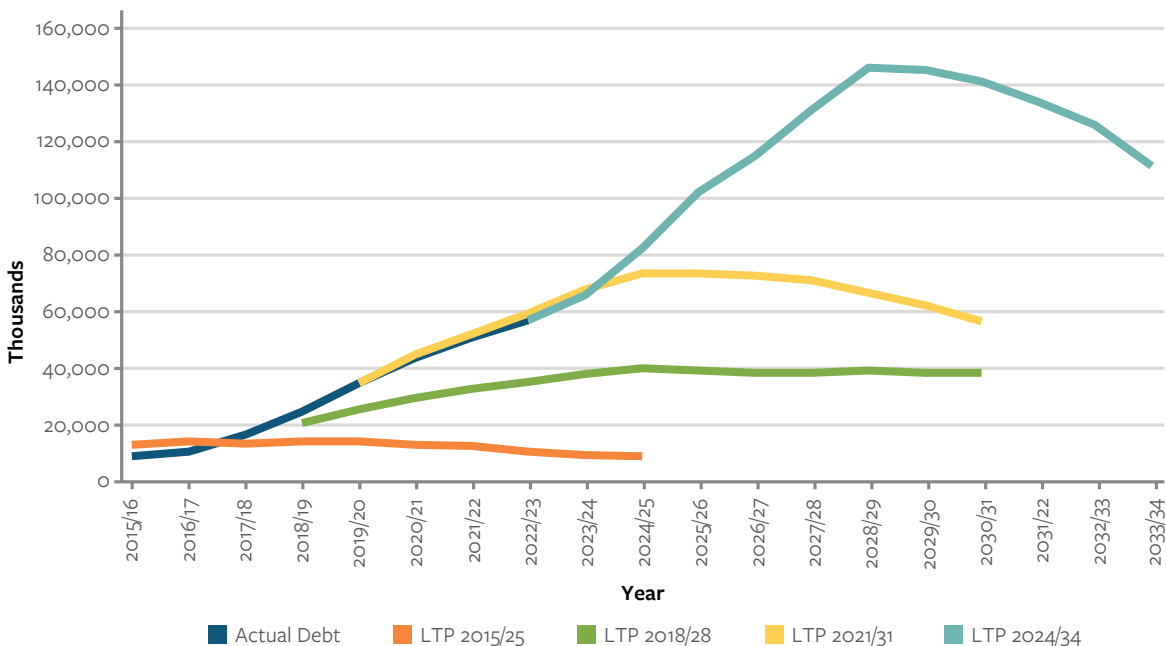
To enable this investment, with rising interest rates and increase to Council’s debt levels, Council has increased three of its debt limits as can be seen in the table below.

Even with these increases to our borrowing limits, Council is expecting to breach one of this limits in year 5. As part of this strategy Council will look to become a credit rated Council in years 2-3 to allow itself time to increase these borrowing limits if required prior to the year we are anticipating to breach.

this Long Term Plan and is recommended to continue, without this strategy and a strategy to fund additional depreciation Council will not have sufficient headroom in years 4-10 to fund the capital works programme or respond to an unforeseen event.

	2021-2031 Long Term Plan	2024-2034 Long Term Plan
Net Debt as a Percentage of Revenue	< 150%	< 175%
Net Interest on External Borrowings as a Percentage of Total Revenue	< 7%	< 10%
Net Interest on External Borrowings as a Percentage of Annual Rates Income	< 10%	< 15%

External debt repayment was provided from surplus cash from depreciation reserve funding (used to fund the replacement of long-term assets). With Council’s infrastructure aging, and planned renewals increasing, meant that there was no longer sufficient surplus cash to repay external debt and the debt repayment programme was implemented. This hasn’t changed in



# Ngā Whakapānga Koromatua me ngā Kaikaunihere

## MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS CONTACT INFORMATION



**HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR**  
**Mayor Tracey Collis**



**Erana Peeti-Webber**  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
NORTHERN WARD COUNCILLOR



**Councillor**  
**Naioma Chase**  
TĀMAKI-NUI-Ā-RUA  
MĀORI WARD



**Councillor**  
**Kerry Sutherland**  
NORTHERN WARD  
COUNCILLOR



**Councillor**  
**Steve Wallace**  
NORTHERN WARD  
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**Councillor**  
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**Councillor**  
**Alison Franklin**  
SOUTHERN WARD  
COUNCILLOR



**Councillor**  
**Scott Gilmore**  
SOUTHERN WARD  
COUNCILLOR



**Councillor**  
**Peter Johns**  
SOUTHERN WARD  
COUNCILLOR



**Councillor**  
**Michael Long**  
SOUTHERN WARD  
COUNCILLOR

For more information about the elected members of Tararua District Council, please visit:  
[www.tararoadc.govt.nz/your-council/council-contacts](http://www.tararoadc.govt.nz/your-council/council-contacts)

# Me pēhea e tuku ai o whakaaro

## HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY



Consultation opens on 1 May 2024 and closes at 5pm on 30 May 2024



Anyone can make a submission on this Consultation Document: [www.tararua.govt.nz/LTP24-34](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/LTP24-34)

### Making your submission on paper:

Hard copy feedback forms can be filled out and sent to:

**PO Box 115,  
Dannevirke 4942  
Use the FREEPOST  
Number 69367.**

Forms can be cut out from the consultation document, downloaded on our website or picked up from our Libraries and Customer Service centres.

### Making your submissions online:

Head to

[www.tararua.govt.nz/  
LTP24-34](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/LTP24-34)

or scan the QR code and fill in our online feedback forms.

### Making submissions in person:

We will be at events all over the district throughout May. Head along and chat to your elected members to have your say. We will have paper and online forms available for you to make your submission. Check out our Facebook page or website for details on events near you!

[www.tararua.govt.nz/  
LTP24-34](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/LTP24-34)



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## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TARARUA

