

# Anei ā mātou whakataunga Here are our decisions



Kua pāheko whānuitia tō tātou hapori...

## We've engaged with our community...

Early in this process we recognised that to get more people sharing their thoughts with us, it's our responsibility to facilitate a new kind of engagement that is local at its heart.

We identified 12 neighbourhoods across the district and when preparing our Long Term Plan, we worked with established and respected community leaders to highlight key issues that are facing their community. We've done this because we know the needs of our District and communities are diverse – sometimes different, sometimes the same. No matter what, one size does not always fit all.

We still need to tackle some District-wide issues, but by taking a closer look at what's happening in your backyard we believe we can create a District that is a true reflection of everyone, now and in the future.

Our 12 neighbourhoods:

- Waihi Beach/Athenree
- Katikati/Aongatete
- Te Puna/Minden
- Ōmokoroa
- Matakana Island
- Whakamarama
- Omanawa/Lower Kaimai
- Oropi/Ohauiti/Pyes Pa
- Te Puke
- Paengaroa
- Pongakawa/Pukehina
- Maketu

### Phase One

#### Your place Tō Wāhi

(30 May to 30 June 2023)

- 12 community events organised by Community Leaders
- Workshops with iwi/hapū representatives
- Instep Young Leaders Breakfast
- Your Place Tō Wāhi website
- Digital and print advertising
- Facebook and Social Media engagement
- Council-led and local community topics

**31,663**

pieces of feedback across 12 neighbourhoods

### Phase Two

#### Formal engagement

Special Consultative Procedure  
(17 May to 17 June 2024)

- 12 community events
- Workshops with iwi/hapū representatives
- 24 groups presented at our formal hearings
- Notification to over 500 community groups and key stakeholders
- Mail out to 2203 non-resident ratepayers
- Postcards sent to 281 Pukehina residents
- 573 comments on social media to inform community sentiment

**3,884**

submission points over 588 submissions

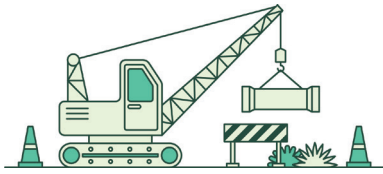
Overall we received

**35,547**

individual pieces of feedback across the development of this plan

**The decision document outlines the key decisions that feed into the Long Term Plan.**

# ...ā, kua kōwhiri i ētahi whakataua hirahira ...and have made key decisions



## Project timing and rates affordability

To strike a balance between affordability and ensuring our District keeps moving forward, the timing of some projects has changed to spread the cost over future years and reduce the immediate rates impact.



## Roading and walkway/cycleway projects

Funding for specific roading and walkway/cycleways projects has been reduced to lessen the impact on rates. We looked at where we could pause some upgrades for a year, use existing reserves or reduce investment and slow the timing of delivery.



## Heavy vehicles have a greater impact on our roads and users need to pay more towards their maintenance

Properties in the commercial, industrial and post harvest zones are likely to use heavy vehicles and have a greater impact on our roads. We've changed how we charge roading rates, meaning other zones will pay less to reflect the lesser impact they have on the roading network.



## Town centre development fund

To ensure town centre development is funded in the fairest way possible, the collection of the town centre development rate will be permanently stopped.



## Pukehina development rate

The collection of the Pukehina Development Rate has been permanently stopped. The remaining funds will be used for other projects in the Pukehina community that need funding.



## Te Puna Station Road

The closure to vehicles on Te Puna Station Road will continue while Council continues to assess the most appropriate solution for its long-term future.



## Future community facilities fund

All properties will contribute to a fund for new community facilities in the District.

Ānei he tiro  
whānui o te mahere  
**Here's the  
overview  
of our plan**





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Whakataau hirahira  
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# Our plan. Together

Kia ora,

We are committed to ensuring that our rohe thrives now and for generations to come.

Our Long Term Plan is our guide - our picture of what we will strive to achieve for our community and the mahi needed to build a future we can all be proud of.

Our plan focuses on the essentials, striking a careful balance between delivering the critical infrastructure to ensure we all have things like clean drinking water and safe roads, and the things that make our District a place where we can build healthy communities where people can live good, fulfilling lives, with amenities such as libraries, swimming pools and playgrounds.

However, achieving this has required us to make some tough decisions in the light of the difficult economic conditions and rising costs.

Finding ways to cut costs without compromising services is always a challenge. Repairing damage from severe weather, upgrading our roads, adhering to higher legislated standards for water assets, and providing quality facilities all come at a significant cost.

In this decision document, you will find key highlights of the decisions we've made in response to issues we discussed with you during our extensive consultation processes.

To prioritise what's most important, we've had to make reductions in some areas, including big cuts to our cycleway budget and halting the Town Centre Development Fund, as well as looking at operational efficiencies. In the first year, these decisions mean an average rates increase of 13.47 per cent, driven mainly by unavoidable increases in the cost of providing and maintaining our roading, water supply, and wastewater activities, as well as other cost increases such as for insurance.

We remain committed to completing significant, necessary, and long-awaited infrastructure projects, including the permanent replacement of the No.4 Road bridge in Te Puke, the new library and community hub in Waihi Beach, upgrades to the Dave Hume Pool in Katikati to make it better for users and extend its life, and prioritised major stormwater upgrades in Waihi Beach.

Just like you, we love and care deeply about the future of our rohe. We've listened to your feedback and made decisions that reflect our shared vision.

While the plan sets out our goals for the next decade, it's not set in stone. We will review it in three years, when the economic climate could be different - and hopefully more positive.

We're committed to listening to our people and doing the right things for the right reasons. During the consultation period, we received almost 600 submissions from individuals, organisations, and businesses.

Your feedback shaped the final plan, leading to changes that reflect your priorities and giving comfort to us as decision-makers that we were on the right track with our key proposals. These included increasing the roading rate differential, continuing the closure to vehicles on Te Puna Station Road (and progressing mitigation of the effects of this), pushing out the future Community Facilities Fund, and stopping the Pukehina Development Rate.

As we navigate shifting government policies and evolving expectations such as reforms in water management, resource management, climate change, and the future of local government - which could have significant implications for the size and shape of Council - we remain committed to financial prudence and careful planning to ensure our District continues to prosper and grow.

There is always more mahi to do, but we are confident in our commitment and capability to achieve great things through this plan.

Let's continue to make our District an even better place for ourselves, our tamariki, and future generations.

Mā tō tātou iwi. For our people.

Ngā mihi nui,



James Denyer  
Mayor

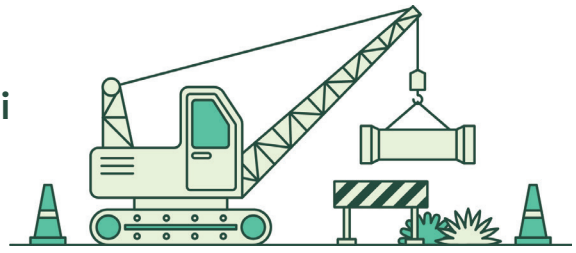


# Whakataurua hirahira Key proposal decisions



## Key proposal

# Taeatanga reiti me te raupapa mahi Rates Affordability and Project Timing



To strike a balance between affordability and ensuring our District keeps moving forward, we proposed to change the timing of some projects to spread the cost over future years and reduce the immediate rates impact.

We are very aware of the pressure faced by our residents and businesses – affordability, cost of living, inflation and the current economic conditions. Council looked in detail at our capital and operational budgets and considered how we can reduce and smooth the costs over the next 10 years. This included considering deliverability concerns, community expectations, affordability, sweating assets and amending the timing of projects to reduce costs.

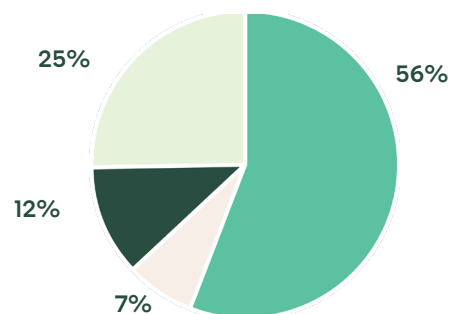
## ✔ What we've decided

The following table outlines the key projects with significant budget impacts and timing changes.

Through our deliberations, we also decided to:

- Reduce the operational spend for Dave Hume Pool in Katikati
- Reduce the operational spend for Te Puke Swimming Pool
- Reduce the Economic Development Activity budget for years 1, 2 and 3.

## Your feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Change the timing of some projects to reduce the immediate impact on rates (2024/25) and then spread out some of the costs in future years
- **Option 2:** Stick to the original timing of some projects
- **Option 3:** Seek to defer additional projects to reduce rates impacts
- **Additional comments:** Primarily rates affordability concerns

Ward	Project description	Prior plan timing	Rephased timing
Waihi Beach - Katikati	Moore Park Toilets - upgrade of existing facilities	2024	2027
	New Northern Harbour Boat Ramp	2025	Outside of 10 year plan
	Katikati Bypass Joint Officials Group	Remove from plan <sup>1,2</sup>	
Kaimai	Ōmokoroa Ferry Infrastructure - to enable a commuter ferry service from Ōmokoroa to Tauranga	Remove from plan <sup>1,3</sup>	
	New Ōmokoroa Library and Service Centre	-	2033
Te Puke - Maketu	Te Puke Swimming Pool - new indoor facility to replace the existing pool	2025	2028
	Paengaroa Sports Field - upgrade	2027	2030
	New Maketu Community Hub	Remove from plan <sup>1,4</sup>	
	Arawa Road Reserve Development	-	2028
	Pongakawa Heritage House Car Park Development	-	2028
Sub-regional	TECT Park Adventure Playground	2025	2029
	TECT Park Te Matai Sealed Driver Training Area	2025	2027
	Council Contribution to Sub-Regional Coastal Park	2027	2029

1 Removal of these projects from the 2024-34 Long Term Plan was identified as part of the deliberations process in order to achieve further savings.

2 The Katikati Bypass Joint Officials Group project was for \$1,100,000. It was historical funding that Council would contribute to the bypass if it was prioritised by Central Government. Given there is no known timeframe for this project we have removed this project from the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

3 Ōmokoroa Ferry Infrastructure - to enable a commuter ferry service from Ōmokoroa to Tauranga - this project was for \$3,000,000 and has been removed given ongoing uncertainty and the recent deferral of further feasibility work by other potential funders. It can be reconsidered through future planning processes when there is increased certainty.

4 New Maketu Community Hub - this project was for \$3,000,000 and was included in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. It has been removed based on feedback received.





## Key proposal

Me whakaiti iho te moni ki ētahi kaupapa rori me ngā kaupapa ara hīkoi / ara pahikara kia whakaiti iho i te pānga ki n`ga reiti



# We need to spend less on some roading and walkway/cycleway projects to reduce the impact on rates

Maintaining our roads is one of the top issues in our District and is the biggest area of spending for us annually. Materials to build and maintain our roads are around 27% more expensive than three years ago. We still want to carry out planned projects for our communities, but to reduce the financial impact we proposed to take a little longer to get everything done. We looked at where we could pause some upgrades for a year, use existing reserves or reduce investment and slow the timing of deliver to reduce the impact on rates.

## ✔ What we've decided

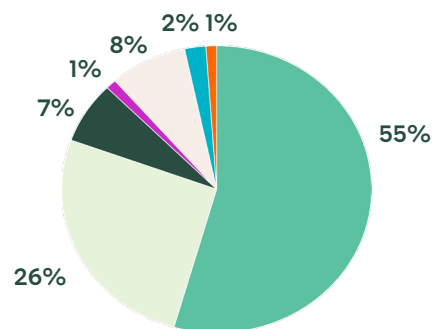
**We decided to spend less on specific roading and walkway/cycleway projects to reduce the impact on rates.**

This decision means for the first year of the Long Term Plan, the budget for Community Board roading funds, public transport infrastructure and minor upgrades of rural roads is reduced to \$0. These budgets revert back to planned funding arrangements from year two of the plan onwards.

This decision does not impact the reserve funds held by community boards to spend on roading projects. Community Boards can still use these funds, and plan ahead for year two when the budget is reinstated. Any changes to the framework of funding for community roading projects would be considered separately through a review of the Community Roading Allocation Policy 2014.

Seal extensions and walking and cycling budgets have been reduced for the entirety of the 10 year plan. Submissions received regarding seal extension requests for specific roads will be considered under our Seal Extension Prioritisation Policy process.

## Your feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Spend less on specific roading and walkway/cycleway projects to reduce the impact on rates
- **Option 2:** Spend more on specific roading and walkway project budgets
- Prioritise road maintenance spending over walkways and cycleways
- Walkway/cycleway maintenance
- Spend less than proposed
- Prioritise investment in walking and cycling
- Additional comments

## Key proposal

Ko te whakaaro nō mātou, he nui ake te pānga o ngā waka taumata ki ngā rori, ā, me utu ngā taraiwa ki tōna pupurutanga pai



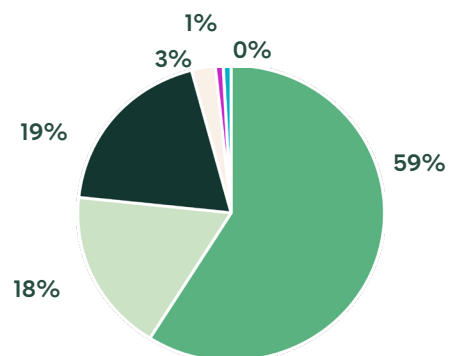
# Heavy vehicles have a greater impact on our roads and users need to pay more towards their maintenance

In our District, different types of properties contribute to road-related expenses at different rates. We call these differentials. We recognise that those properties in the commercial, industrial and post harvest zones are likely to use heavy vehicles and have a greater impact on our roads. We proposed to increase the differential these properties pay to reflect this.

## ✔ What we've decided

We decided to increase the roading rate differential for properties zoned in commercial, industrial and post harvest zones from 2.0 to 4.0. This will mean that other zones will pay less toward the roading rate, reflecting the lesser impact they have on the roading network.

## Your feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Increase to 4.0
- Option 2: Increase to 3.0
- Option 3: Status quo
- Option 4: Case by case
- Option 5: Increase differential further
- No differential applied



## Key proposal

Kei te hiahia mātou ki te whakamutu i te Pūtea Whakawhanake i te Pokapū Tāone mō te rohe whānui



# We want to permanently stop collecting the District Wide Town Centre Development Fund

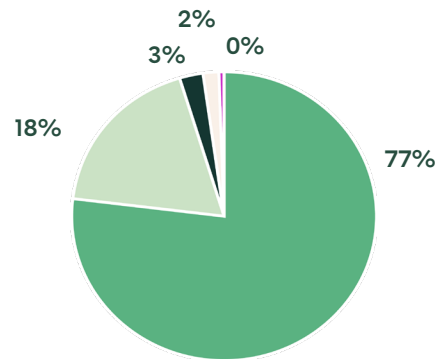
The Town Centre Development Fund is a pool of money shared between the four major towns in our District - Waihi Beach, Katikati, Ōmokoroa and Te Puke. It is built up by collecting \$10 annually from every property in the District. To ensure town centre development is funded in the fairest way possible, we proposed to permanently stop collection of this rate.

## ✔ What we've decided

**We decided to permanently stop collection of the town centre development fund.**

We want to ensure we are funding these projects in the fairest way possible and give transparency to our ratepayers for what projects are being progressed and when. This does not impact the Katikati Town Centre Rate which is a separate targeted rate.

## Your feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Stop collecting the Town Centre Development Fund
- **Option 2:** Replace with contestable fund
- **Option 3:** Status quo
- **Option 4:** Alternative approaches
- **Additional comments**

## Key proposal

Kei te hiahia mātou kia panonitia te āhuatanga kia utua ngā hanga hapori



# We want to change the way we fund community facilities

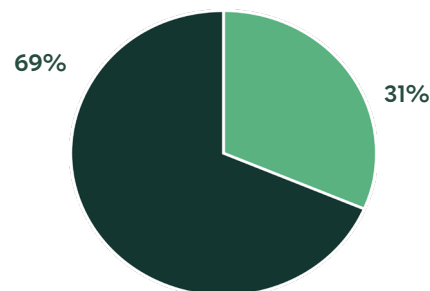
To make sure community facilities have enough money to be built and taken care of, we need a good plan for funding. When community groups receive Council funding towards their facilities, it makes it easier for them to access additional funding from other sources. We proposed to introduce a new fixed fee per property to contribute towards a community facilities fund.

## ✔ What we've decided

**We have decided to create a fixed fee per property to help fund these projects. This is introduced at \$25 in year three of the Long Term Plan and will increase to \$50 per property from year four.**

We heard from the community that they wanted more information on how this fund would operate so we will use years one and two to develop the criteria of the fund, to ensure we make fair decisions that will fund facilities for everyone to enjoy. Decisions on community facilities during the interim period will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis.

## Your feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Introduce fixed fee
- **Option 2:** Continue to fund case by case

## Key proposal

Kei te hiahia mātou kia whakamutua rawatia te kōhi i te Reiti Whakawhanake Pukehina



# We want to permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate

In 2000, Council introduced a targeted rate of \$20 a year for Pukehina property owners to go towards a potential future wastewater scheme (sewerage scheme) for the area.

In 2022, the Pukehina Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association asked us to consider changing the purpose of the rate. The future of this rate was a key proposal for our Annual Plan 2022/23, when we decided to pause the rate until there was more certainty around the Three Waters reform and future wastewater needs for Pukehina. There is still some uncertainty around when or if a wastewater scheme will be needed for Pukehina, however this will not be required within the next 10 years.

We asked our community whether to permanently stop the rate, and what to do with the funds collected to date.

## ✔ What we've decided

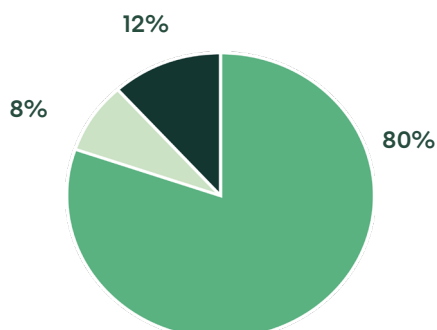
**We decided to permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate, as Council has no current plans to develop a wastewater scheme in Pukehina.**

We heard mixed views from Pukehina residents on what to do with the money collected to date with support being received for refunding and repurposing the money. Noting the complexities involved with refunding the money to all properties we decided to repurpose this for existing projects in the Pukehina community that need funding. We heard through feedback the importance of having clarity around how this would be administered, and we will work with the local community to determine what these projects will be.

## Your feedback

### Should we permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate?

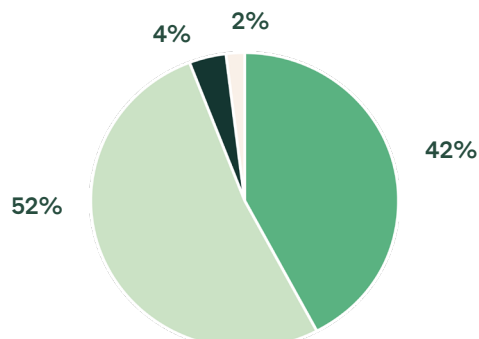
Pukehina Resident Feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Stop collecting permanently
- **Option 2:** Re-start collecting at \$20 p.a
- **Option 3:** Continue to pause the rate

### What should we do with the money already collected?

Pukehina Resident Feedback



- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Repurpose for existing projects
- **Option 2:** Refund the collected money
- **Option 3:** Repurpose for septic tank cleaning
- **Option 4:** Retain for a future wastewater scheme

## Key proposal

Kei te whaiwhakaaro mātou kia katia rawatia te Rori Teihana o Te Puna



# We want to consider permanently closing Te Puna Station Road

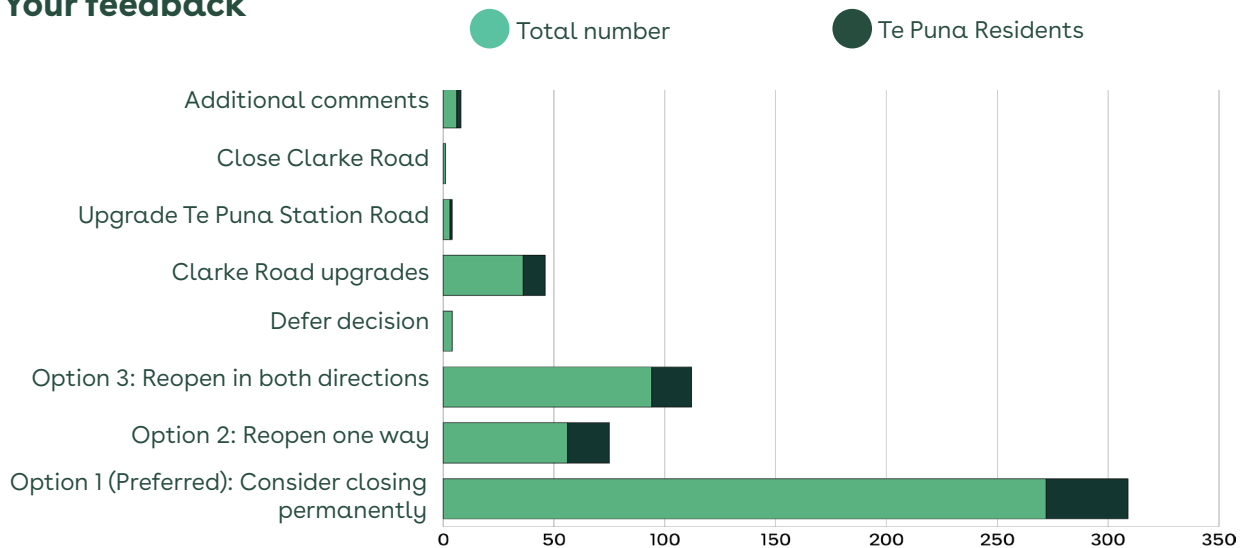
Recent weather events have caused significant damage to Te Puna Station Road. Repairs have enabled the road to be opened to pedestrians and cyclists only, while a 600-metre section of the road remains closed to vehicles. Repairing the road will be costly and no guarantee it would be a permanent fix, as ground stability issues are likely to continue. We asked our community what they thought about the future of Te Puna Station Road.

## ✔ What we've decided

The closure to vehicles on Te Puna Station Road will continue while Council continues to assess the most appropriate solution for its long-term future. This will still allow access for pedestrians and cyclists, as we will relocate the shared path to the western side away from the riverbank as well as maintain optionality for the future of the road.

In response to concerns relating to the impact of heavy vehicles using Clarke Road, we will prioritise ways this can be addressed including a potential review of the Traffic and Parking Enforcement Bylaw 2019.

## Your feedback



Ngā whakataunga ki ngā kaupapa kua whakamōhio mai i ō koutou whakautu

# Decisions on other topics raised in your feedback



## Decisions on other topics

# Community Building

Our Community Building activity focuses on empowering communities to achieve their own aspirations. We received requests from several organisations to support their community-based work in the social, arts and culture sectors.

The topics and decisions are set out here.

### ✘ Declined

#### Aquatic Survival Skills Trust

**We decided not to approve funding of \$180,000 for the first three years of the long term plan to support delivery a water survival skills programme across Tauranga and the Western Bay communities.**

The focus of the Aquatic Survival Skills Trust is on delivery of a water survival skills programme for schools in conjunction with Bay Venues at community pools. The community pools in Te Puke and Katikati are not managed by Bay Venues. We will endeavour to explore future opportunities once the project is up and running, to gain clarity on how the programme could be delivered to schools within in the Western Bay District.

### ✔ Approved

#### Western Bay Museum

**We decided to approve \$10,000 funded through existing budgets to be used for design and layout concept drawings for the redevelopment of the museum.**

The redevelopment will provide the opportunity to move forward with sharing Māori history and heritage through the museum space. By reconfiguring the exhibition, this will enable Māori and colonial history to be displayed in a cohesive and culturally appropriate way. Completing the concept plan will then allow the Museum to seek funding for the redevelopment from a range of funders.

### ✔ Approved

#### Daily Charitable Trust Lunches in Schools Programme

**We will work with The Daily Charitable Trust to prepare a brief for the Mayor on the Te Puke Lunches in Schools programme.**

The Daily Charitable Trust are set to lose over 80% of their funding as a result of the changes in government policy for the Lunches in Schools programmes. Colab requested advocacy support from Council on behalf of The Daily to ensure the Minister has an understanding of the work that has been achieved and what will be lost through the changes.



No change

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## Te Puke Community-led Community Plan

**We will work with Colab, EPIC Te Puke, Te Puke EDG and the Te Puke Community Board on the delivery of local priorities for community and economic development.**

Te Puke Community Board submitted to request development of a community-led community plan for Te Puke, following the completion of the Te Puke Spatial Plan. They also submitted a request for increased presence of community development staff in Te Puke and a localised resource to support implementation of the community plan.

Council has supported Colab to facilitate focus groups that have identified priorities and workstreams for community planning. The next step is to consider Council's role in delivering on these priorities through the spatial plan, what else Council can do and what priorities the community can lead. Any requirement for further community-led planning will be determined at the completion of this work through the spatial plan. Council Community Development staff currently have an active role in Te Puke and will continue to do so.

No change

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## Katikati Community Centre Targeted Rate

**We decided to make no change to the targeted rate for Katikati Community Centre, and will work with the Centre to ensure services are promoted and accessible for Waihi Beach residents.**

Waihi Beach Community Board requested that the targeted rate for Katikati Community Centre be removed for Waihi Beach residents, based on the view that the Centre does not cater for Waihi Beach.

Katikati Community Centre is funded from a ward based targeted rate, with 25% of their funding coming from the Waihi Beach Community Board area. The programmes and referral pathways offered by the Centre are beneficial to Waihi Beach residents. Examples include the Poutama Youth to Employment Programme and the significant support provided to the school to ensure digital connectivity for isolated whanau during Covid. The Community Centre is a key referral pathway to government departments in particular support from social services and health agencies, which are not otherwise available in the ward.

Council will work with the Centre to ensure services are promoted and accessible for Waihi Beach residents.



## Decisions on other topics

# Community Engagement

**We received 27 submissions relating to community engagement.**

These covered five themes including:

- Accessibility and timing
- Feedback on the Long Term Plan consultation process
- Community involvement and input
- General satisfaction comments
- Future improvement suggestions

### **No change**

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Council will continue to endorse the communications and engagement approach for all key community engagement processes on a case-by-case basis.





## Decisions on other topics

# Community Facilities

Community Facilities includes our halls, cemeteries and elder housing.

We received 17 submissions on this activity, these decisions are as follows:

### ✓ Approved

#### Cemeteries - Natural Burials

**We decided to bring forward funding for a natural cemetery in Te Puke.**

We received five requests for funding for a natural cemetery in Te Puke be brought forward. This work had been planned for 2025 to 2027 in our previous Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 but had been reprioritised in our draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

This work will be progressed according to the original timeframes, starting with a review of our Cemeteries Bylaw in 2024/25.

### No change

#### Community Halls

**We decided to continue to loan fund \$300,000 for the Te Puke War Memorial Hall.**

Five submitters commented on community halls, including the fees to hire and use of the halls. The community halls within our District are owned and operated by local hall committees, who are responsible for the bookings and maintenance of the buildings.

One request asked that Council defer funding for the improvement for Te Puke War Memorial Hall. This work is already being progressed and the funding has already been approved.

### No change

#### Community Use of Council Buildings

We received one submission requesting that Council, alongside other funders, invest in suitable buildings in Te Puke for essential community services and not-for-profit organisations to operate from.

There is currently one Council owned building in the eastern part of the district that has been made available for this purpose. Should this or future Council owned buildings become available, staff will work through the process to lease them.

### No change

#### Elder Housing

We received three submissions regarding elder housing. These submissions raised concerns around the cost of Council providing elder housing, as well as requests for the seven elder housing units that were demolished at Waihi Beach be replaced at a different site.

Elder housing is a ringfenced activity, which means it can not be rates funded. Any future development of these units would either be grant funded or loan funded. The future of the specific units at Waihi Beach will be discussed by Council through a separate process.

### No change

#### CCTV

We received three requests for the installation of CCTV cameras. Council runs a contestable CCTV Fund which is scheduled to run later in 2024, these requests have been referred to this process.



## Decisions on other topics

# Economic Development

This activity focuses on Council's role in supporting economic development, tourism, promotions, events and town centre development.

Our decisions are as follows:

### ✘ Declined

#### Film Bay of Plenty

**We decided not to provide additional funding to Film Bay of Plenty and continue with the current service delivery contract.**

Film Bay of Plenty aims to attract screen productions to the Bay of Plenty and grow this sector locally. They requested that Council provides additional funding to support the establishment of a regional incentive fund. This fund would support productions that can commit and prove that 60% of the total production budget will be spent locally - including using local cast, crew, locations and suppliers.

Council decided that at this point in time, the level of Council investment is right for the services provided.

### No change

#### Town Centre Promotion and Enhancement of Local Tourism

**We decided to continue current funding arrangements for town centre promotion, economic development and enhancement of local tourism.**

We acknowledge the submissions from Focus Katikati Economic Development Group and Te Puke EDG in relation to promotion and enhancement of local tourism.

We encourage Katikati Focus Economic Development Group to build a relationship with Katch Katikai to understand how they would work together, prior to Council committing to any funding arrangements.

We will work with our current service delivery providers, including Tourism Bay of Plenty around local tourism opportunities.

### ✘ Declined

#### Tauranga Māori Business Association

**We decided not to provide \$40,000 per annum for the next three years to Tauranga Māori Business Association.**

We plan to work with Priority One, Toi Kai Rawa and the Tauranga Māori Business Association to understand roles and responsibilities of how these organisations work together and the services they offer. This will help to determine what additional resources Council should contribute to support growing the capacity and capability of Māori businesses in the future.





## Decisions on other topics

# Libraries and Service Centres

Our libraries provide welcoming and inclusive spaces where people can connect and access knowledge.

We received six submissions on this activity, these decisions are as follows:

### No change

#### Waihi Beach Library and Community Hub

**We will continue as planned with the Waihi Beach Library and Community Hub build.**

Four submissions were received regarding the Waihi Beach Library project. Two submissions were in favour of the project, one sought to defer the project to lessen the impact on rates and one was regarding the design of the build.

Public support for the facility has been positive and this project is now nearing the end of the detailed design phase prior to the building consent being lodged.

### No change

#### Ōmokoroa Library and Service Centre

**We decided to keep the planned funding for the Ōmokoroa Library and Service Centre and will consider the short and medium term future of this building as part of the Annual Plan 2025/26.**

One submitter requested that funding for a new Library and Service Centre in Ōmokoroa be brought forward, and that Council work with the Ministry of Education on this build being alongside a future school.

### Declined

#### Mobile Library

**We decided not to investigate a new library service in the form of a mobile library.**

One submission was received requesting a library in Te Puna.

We considered investigating a new library service in the form of a mobile library that would provide library services to our communities across the District, including Te Puna. Council chose not to progress this work at this time due to the economic implications and as this goes above our levels of service for libraries. Our libraries in Ōmokoroa, Katikati and Waihi Beach will continue to provide library services to the western side of the District.



# Natural Environment and Sustainable Living

Natural environment and sustainable living sets out Council's contribution to achieving a clean green and valued environment.

### No change

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#### Environmental enhancement

Six submissions were in support of environmental enhancement in the district. Royal Forest and Bird encouraged Council to invest and support pest animal and plant control with a preference for natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions. Council will explore opportunities for nature-based solutions for infrastructure through spatial plans, asset management plans and climate change adaptation plans.

### ✘ Declined

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#### Sea Cleaners Trust

**We decided not to approve funding for \$25,000 per year to Sea Cleaners Trust.**

Sea Cleaners Trust is a full time coastal, harbour and estuary litter clean up programme that has been running successfully in Auckland for two decades and plans to expand to the Bay of Plenty region. Council will explore future opportunities to determine where support can be provided in the future for a Sea Cleaners Trust launch in our District.

### ✘ Declined

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#### Maketu Ōngātoro Wetland Society

**We decided not to approve funding of an additional \$13,250 per year to Maketu Ōngātoro Wetland Society.**

Council currently provides funding for Maketu Ōngātoro Wetland Society to deliver their conservation education programme to six of the 13 schools in the Te Puke/Maketu Ward. The request for the increased funding was to enable the Society to deliver this programme to six additional schools.

A key purpose of Council's service delivery contracts is to enable organisations to leverage funding from other funders to grow their services, we recommend that the society seek this support prior to Council exploring what other support can be provided in the future.



# Planning for the Future

Our Planning for the Future activity maintains and develops strategic plans, policies and bylaws to support the wellbeing of communities. This involves responding to legislative changes, updating and developing new strategies, monitoring the impact of growth and development in our District, undertaking community engagement and working with key stakeholders and other agencies to plan for our future.

No change

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## Housing

**We will continue implementation of Council's Housing Action Plan and priority projects.**

Five submitters commented on housing, including suggesting innovative housing solutions and support for local housing action plans.

Council's Housing Action Plan has recently been updated, which sets out Council's priorities and approach to facilitating housing being provided to meet the communities needs. This plan includes further work to enable minor dwellings, affordable housing options and ongoing collaboration with community housing providers.

No change

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## Spatial Planning

**We will ensure submissions on spatial planning, structure planning and district plan rules will be considered through upcoming planning processes.**

Understanding the future needs of our communities helps Council to understand what infrastructure, housing and community facilities may be required over the next 30 to 50 years. One of the ways to achieve this is through Spatial Plans.

Comments made relating to spatial planning will be considered as part of the Te Puke Spatial Plan that is currently being developed, and to input into initial discussions for the proposed Kaimai Ward Spatial Plan.

Council will continue to engage our communities to understand what future services are required to manage growth appropriately.

No change

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## Climate Change

**Council will ensure submissions to this topic are considered when refreshing Council's Climate Change Strategic Framework.**

We received nine submissions on climate change, ranging from support for Council's current approach, requests for Council to do more, concerns about whether the proposed level of investment is necessary and management of waterways.

Work is currently underway to refresh Council's Climate Change Strategic Framework and these submissions will be considered through this process.

No change

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## Waters Reform

**We will continue to meet legislative requirements regarding water service delivery, in consultation with community where appropriate.**

Three submissions raised issues around future delivery of water services and the legislative reform impacting this space.

Anticipated legislation, including the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill, means that Council must prepare a Water Services Delivery Plan to determine the best option for the financially sustainable delivery of water services for our community. This will require Council to consider the options available for the delivery of water services and have conversations with the community before a decision is made.





## Decisions on other topics

# Regulatory Services

**Regulatory Services includes building consents, resource consents, community protection and animal control.**

Ten submissions were received on this topic, and the majority of these related to resource consent matters outside of the scope of the Long Term Plan.





## Recreation and Open Space

Recreation and open space includes parks and reserves, and facilities such as walking and cycling trails, playgrounds, courts, skateparks and sports fields.

We received multiple submissions requesting funding for upgrades of existing parks and reserves as well as new facilities.

### ✘ Declined

#### Te Puna Quarry Park Society

**We decided not to fund \$50,000 for Te Puna Quarry Park upgrades.**

Te Puna Quarry Park Society requested that Council consider funding two projects including felling some large pine trees and upgrading the sealing of part of the tracks in the park at Te Puna Quarry Park.

Staff will investigate the feasibility of removing the pine trees to see if it is logistically possible and if so, if it can be done on a cost neutral basis.

The sealing of the roadway from the main carpark to the amphitheatre is estimated to cost \$50,000. This is not able to be funded at this time, however may be considered through future processes.

### ✘ Declined

#### Katikati and Waihi Beach Reserve Planning

**We decided not to develop new netball courts at Moore Park and defer requests regarding planning for Katikati/Waihi Beach Reserves to the review of the Katikati/Waihi Beach Reserve Management Plan.**

Five submissions were received regarding specific reserves within the Katikati/Waihi Beach Ward.

A full review of the Katikati/Waihi Beach Reserve Management Plan is scheduled to begin in 2027 and these submissions will be considered through this process, including new hardcourts at Moore Park.

### ✘ Declined

#### Commerce Lane Toilets

**We decided not to replace the Commerce Lane public toilets in Te Puke.**

Te Puke Community Board requested a full replacement of the public toilets at Commerce Lane Carpark and suggested they be replaced with a Kiwi Camp facility. The estimated cost of this is \$500,000.

These toilets are recognised as a key piece of infrastructure connected to a popular reserve and walkway/cycleway network and were recently upgraded in 2020.

### ✘ Declined

#### Te Puke Gymsport

**We decided not to fund Te Puke Gymsport's request (\$250,000 per year, across three years) for a new facility at Centennial Park.**

In 2018, Council agreed to enter into a lease with Te Puke Gymsport to enable construction of the proposed Bay of Plenty Movement HQ on Centennial Park. Council has also previously granted the club \$18,000 for a feasibility study.

Te Puke Gymsport requested \$250,000 per year for three years in support to build the Bay of Plenty Movement HQ. They noted in their submission that the ability to demonstrate Council's commitment to support this project would act as a valuable signal to other funders that Te Puke Gymsport have Council and community support.

Other funding opportunities may be available in the future including Council's proposed community facilities fund.



# Representation

Our representation activity ensures that we have effective representation arrangements to best serve our communities and ensure robust decision making.

## No change

### Representation Review

Four submissions were received regarding representation arrangements. These have been considered as part of developing Council's initial proposal which has been adopted for consultation, providing the opportunity for further community feedback on the specific representation arrangement proposals.

## No change

### Elected Members Remuneration

Two submissions related to Elected Member remuneration. Council does not set the remuneration for Elected Members or rules regarding reimbursement of costs incurred by members undertaking their duties. This is set by the Remuneration Authority and more information is available on its website.





# Solid Waste

Our solid waste activity includes our kerbside collection service, recycling centres, education programmes and the planning for future infrastructure in the district. This is guided by the vision on minimising waste to landfill and aligns with our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024.

**No change**

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## Waste Infrastructure

**Council supports waste infrastructure growth in the sub-region in principle, and will defer any consideration of funding to the Long-Term Plan 2027-37 process following planning and stakeholder engagement.**

We received six submissions regarding planning for current and future waste infrastructure within the sub-region.

Initial investigations are currently underway with neighbouring Councils to identify requirements for future waste infrastructure for the sub-region. Results of these investigations will inform future planning and community engagement. This includes any need for a future transfer station and looking at how to maximise the benefit from existing facilities.

**No change**

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## Kerbside Service

Four submitters commented on the pay as you throw (PAYT) tag system used for the kerbside rubbish collection service. This system was introduced to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and encouraging use of the rates funded recycling, glass and food scrap collection. These concerns will be addressed through a review of the kerbside collection service signalled in Council’s Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

**No change**

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## Illegal Dumping

Three submitters expressed concerns around illegal dumping. Our team react quickly to remove illegal dumping when it is reported and will continue to do so.





## Decisions on other topics

# Stormwater

Council's stormwater network is designed to manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to buildings and property, in a way that avoids negative impacts on the environment.

We received nine submissions on this activity. Council will continue to work with landowners and/or lessees on a case-by-case basis to enable sustainable and efficient stormwater management.

## Decisions on other topics

# Support Services

Our support services activity supports the day to day operations of Council.

25 submissions were received on this topic, relating to rates disclosures, personnel costs and Council's procurement processes.

### No change

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#### Procurement

Council is currently undertaking a review of its procurement framework. Where possible, we will engage with the market to provide opportunities to support and grow our local suppliers.

### No change

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#### Personnel Costs

Ten submitters requested that Council consider reducing staff numbers and/or salaries. We take our responsibility seriously to achieve the right balance between resourcing and delivering our services, and we continuously monitor this. We anticipate that if there are significant changes to the delivery of three waters, this will prompt a wider review of our organisational requirements.



# Tangata Whenua Relationships and Engagement

Tangata Whenua engagement and relationships are an important aspect of Council's work, with partnership forums being in place in various forms for over 10 years, specific funding being provided across a number of activities, and dedicated resource in place to continue to grow our capability and capacity in this space.

## No change

### Waiāri Bridge Area Restoration

**We decided to continue with planned funding in relation to the Waiāri Bridge Area Restoration.**

Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group, with support from Tauranga City Council, submitted seeking funding for implementation of the priorities identified in the Waiāri Kaitiaki cultural recognition framework. This funding was already included within the draft Long Term Plan, so Council has decided to continue with this planned funding in line with the submissions received.

## No change

### Increases to existing budgets

Three submissions supported additional funding for marae sustainability, papakāinga and cultural recognition projects such as iwi and hapū planning.

The budgets proposed in the Long Term Plan are sufficient to provide this support to iwi and hapū projects, and staff will work collaboratively to support the overall aspirations of Tangata Whenua.





# Transportation

Council’s transportation activity aims to provide infrastructure that enables our communities to travel across our district safely and efficiently. Our district is growing fast and our roading programme seeks to balance meeting this growth with the need to maintain affordable levels of service for our District’s communities.

**No change**

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## Multi-Modal Transport

We received 17 submissions on multi-modal transport, including 13 submissions on walking and cycling. These submissions were included within decisions on key proposal two – reducing roading and walkway/cycleway projects to reduce impact on rates.

Five submissions advocated for better public transport services, which is a key responsibility of Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Western Bay will continue to advocate and work with Regional Council for an increase in public transport services for our District.

**No change**

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## Seal extensions for gravel roads

Through our key proposal two, we proposed reducing the budget for seal extensions. Council’s Seal Extensions Prioritisation Policy 2022 outlines Council’s selection criteria for how road sections are prioritised for sealing and the process this follows. We received one submission from Whakamarama Community Inc relating to seal extensions on Whakamarama Road. This request will be considered in alignment with the policy.

**No change**

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## Road Maintenance

22 submitters advocated for specific repairs and asked that Council place a greater emphasis on road maintenance.

In October 2023, Council’s road maintenance contract changed to be delivered by multiple suppliers operating under short term contracts, which has enabled greater flexibility when responding to service requests and specific maintenance needs.

**No change**

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## Speed Limits

Seven submitters requested investment in speed enforcement cameras and road safety features to encourage road users to slow down.

Staff are currently developing a programme for implementation of speed limit changes while acknowledging that new legislative changes signalled by Central Government may result in further changes being required. There is currently uncertainty around the timeframe for these changes and we will keep the community informed as we know more.

**No change**

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## Road Improvements

28 submitters advocated for specific roading improvements.

Minor improvements are delivered as necessary to meet our communities needs. Major projects are identified through the Regional Land Transport Plan, which is prepared by the Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee and sets the priorities for the next 10 years. Major transport initiatives not scheduled in this plan are unlikely to secure government funding and may need to be fully funded by Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**No change**

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## Street Trees

One submitter requested increased investment in street tree maintenance.

Currently all street trees are inspected every three years and that pruning, or removal of trees be undertaken to address risk to traffic, private property or increase visibility. Any change to this approach would be contemplated through the future development of a Street Tree Policy.

## Decisions on other topics

# Wastewater

Council's wastewater activity aims to ensure that wastewater treatment and disposal systems are sustainable and continue to meet environmental and health and safety standards.

We received seven submissions on this activity. Council takes a proactive approach when planning for wastewater and will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure successful delivery of wastewater services to the community.



## Decisions on other topics

# Water Supply

Our water supply activity supplies drinking water to over 16,000 properties in our District.

✓ Approved

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## Capital Investment

Additional capital investment is required within the water supply activity. Increased regulation from Central Government has prompted new requirements to upgrade our existing facilities to meet new drinking water standards. We have ensured our budgets reflect the work needed to meet these requirements.

No change

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## Fluoridation

31 submissions expressed concerns around the mandatory fluoridation of Council's water supplies at the Athenree and Wharawhara water treatment plans. Council will continue to keep communities informed regarding the fluoridation of water in the District, in line with legislative direction received from Central Government.



## Decisions on other topics

# Tiakina o mātou pūtea Managing our finances

✓ Approved

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## Revenue and Financing Policy

**The Revenue and Financing Policy sets out Council's position for determining who pays for what. This provides a high-level rationale for the split of funding for each activity.**

**The final policy contains the following key changes:**

- Simplifying the policy and introducing a banding structure to demonstrate the funding sources
- Simplifying our rates and moving the four district-wide targeted rates to the Uniform Annual General Charge
- Changes to how some of our activities are funded, with water supply and natural environment and sustainable living having minor changes
- Changes to our Regulatory Services Activities, with Resource Consents and Animal Services having the greatest changes.

✓ Approved

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## Rates Remission Policies

**As part of this Long Term Plan, we reviewed our Water Rates Remission Policy and Remission of Rates Policy.**

### Water Rates Remission Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide certainty regarding the conditions which must be satisfied before Council will accept an application for the remission of excessive water consumption charges from a metered Council water supply caused by previously undetected leaks.

It also aims to provide fair and reasonable relief to ratepayers who have excessive water consumption due to leakage and to encourage customers to get all leaks repaired in a reasonable timeframe.

### Remission of Rates Policy

The purpose of this policy is to enable Council to act fairly and reasonably in its consideration of penalties for overdue rates, due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control or where there is limited financial impact on Council.

### What we decided

One submission was received in support of the draft policies and the final policies have been adopted with no further changes.

## Financial Contributions

**Financial contributions assist with the costs of providing infrastructure for growth. Council's District Plan allows financial contributions to be charged for water, wastewater, stormwater, ecological protection, transportation and recreation and leisure.**

Six submissions were received on the changes proposed to financial contributions. Key issues raised include:

- Historic discounting of financial contributions
- Principles and governance of process
- Approach to financial contributions
- Specific infrastructure projects contained within the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34
- Feedback on the consultation process
- Requested decrease for specific financial contributions
- Requested withdrawal of the proposed 2025 financial contributions, remodelling and re-consultation
- Requested withdrawal of the Te Puke Wastewater financial contribution
- Waihi Beach financial contribution and rates affordability

We decided to maintain the 2024/25 financial contributions schedule and make no further changes. We will also seek to progress investigations on how we fund growth-related infrastructure going forward. When progressing a new framework, this will enable a collaborative approach as we consult with key stakeholders and the wider community on what this may look like.

# Tirohanga rēti

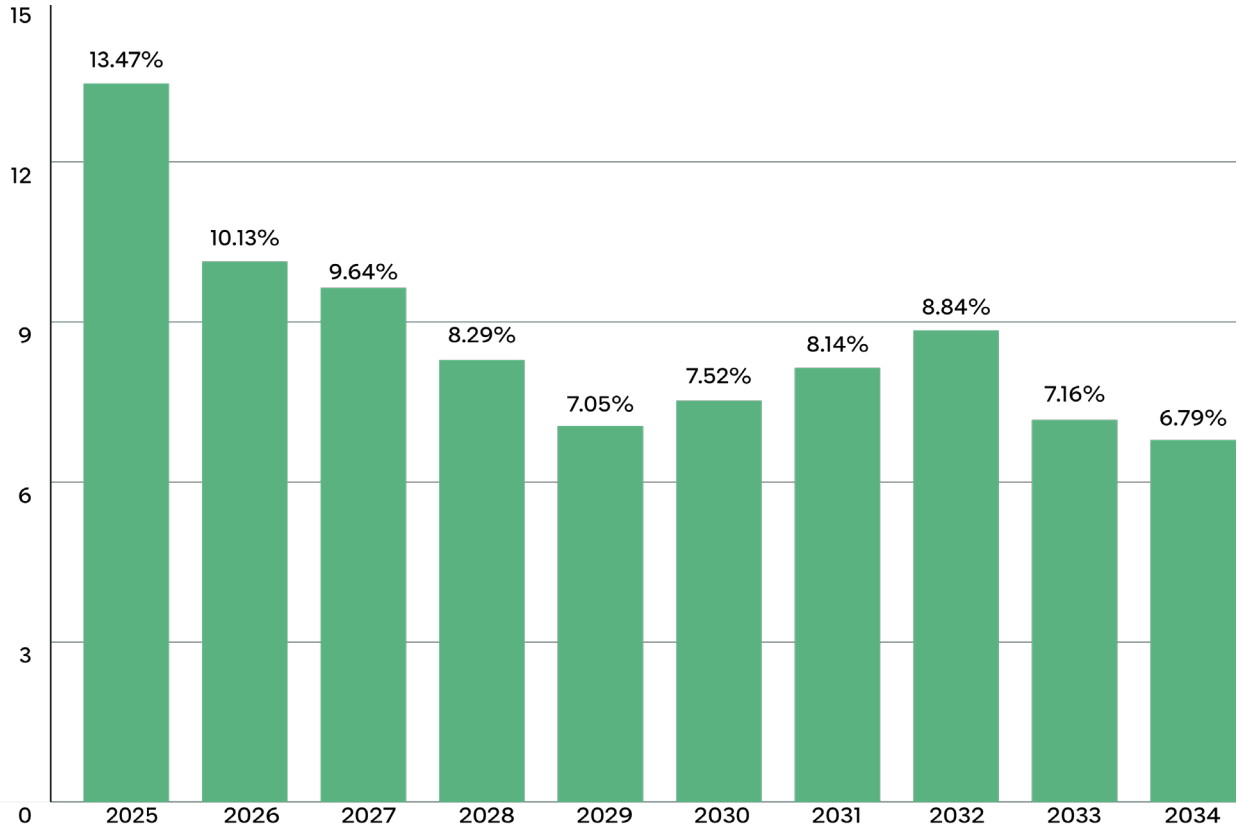
# Rates

# overview



# Rates overview

The rates increase for Year One of the Long Term Plan is an average of 13.47% per property. Here's our final rates increases for years 1 to 10 of the Long Term Plan.







# Tōu Koromatua me Ngā Kaikauniwhera a Rohe Your Mayor and Councillors



## Your Mayor



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## Te Puke-Maketu Ward Councillors



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**Laura Rae\***  
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*\*Laura was sworn in as Councillor on 15 August 2024 following the passing of Councillor Richard Crawford in March 2024.*

Ka mihi ake mō tō āwhina  
i tēnei mahi whai huarahi

**Thank you for helping us shape the  
next 10 years**



**Western  
Bay of Plenty**  
District Council

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Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i  
Ngā Kuri-a-Whārei ki  
Ōtamarākau ki te Uru

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