



Section 5 Policies, Summaries and Statements

Kaupapa here Tautuhi Tatauranga

Significant Accounting Policies

This section includes financial statements and information. The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to include forecast financial statements for the local authority within the Long Term Plan (LTP). The main purpose of providing prospective financial statements is to enable stakeholders (residents and ratepayers, other local authorities, business community groups and government regulatory bodies etc.) to make decisions regarding Council and how it conducts its business.

Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

The Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense shows all of Council's prospective revenue earned and expenses incurred for the years ended 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2034. Revenue includes revenue received from rates and other revenue such as investment revenue, rent and fees while expenses paid includes costs such as operating costs, interest payments and depreciation.

This Prospective Statement shows how total comprehensive revenue and expense is arrived at. Total comprehensive revenue and expense is then added or subtracted from Council's equity as shown in the Prospective Statement of Changes in Equity.

Prospective Statement of Changes in Equity

This Prospective Statement provides information about the nature of changes in Council's equity for the years ended 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2034.

Prospective Statement of Financial Position

The Prospective Statement of Financial Position shows the assets and liabilities of the Council as at 30 June each year from 2024 to 2034.

Assets include cash, accounts receivable (money owed to Council but not yet received), investments and buildings, operational and infrastructural assets. Current assets are amounts owed to Council that are expected to be received within the next 12 months while current liabilities are Council's debts that are due to be paid within the next 12 months. Investments are Council funds held in revenue earning securities while property, plant and equipment are of a permanent nature and are held for the benefit of the community.

Non-current liabilities represent money owed by Council that does not have to be paid within the next 12 months.

Prospective Statement of Cash Flows

This Prospective Statement covers all the inflows and outflows of cash during the year covered by the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense. The Prospective Statement of Cash Flows identifies the sources and application of cash in respect of Council's operating, investing, and financing activities.

Prospective Proposed Statement of Accounting Policies

These explain the basis upon which the prospective financial Prospective Statements are prepared. They explain the methods adopted by Council used to measure the transactions incorporated into the financial Prospective Statements above.

Prospective Funding Impact Statement

The Prospective Funding Impact Statements ("PFIS") have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting) Regulations 2011, which came into effect 11 July 2011.

This is a reporting requirement unique to local government and the disclosures contained within and the presentation of these statements is not prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice (GAAP).

The purpose of these statements is to report the net cost of services for significant groups of activities (GOA) of Council and are represented by the revenue that can be attributed to these activities less the costs of providing the service. They contain all the funding sources for these activities and all the applications of this funding by these activities. The GOA PFIS includes internal transactions between activities such as internal overheads and charges applied and or recovered and internal borrowings.

The PFIS is also prepared at the whole of Council level summarising the transactions contained within the GOA PFIS, eliminating internal transactions, and adding in other transactions not reported in the GOA statements. These items include but are not limited to gain and/or losses on revaluation and vested assets.

They also depart from GAAP as funding sources are disclosed within the PFIS

as being either for operational or capital purposes. Revenue such as subsidies received for capital projects, development contributions and proceeds from the sale of assets are recorded as capital funding sources. Under GAAP these are treated as revenue in the Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense.

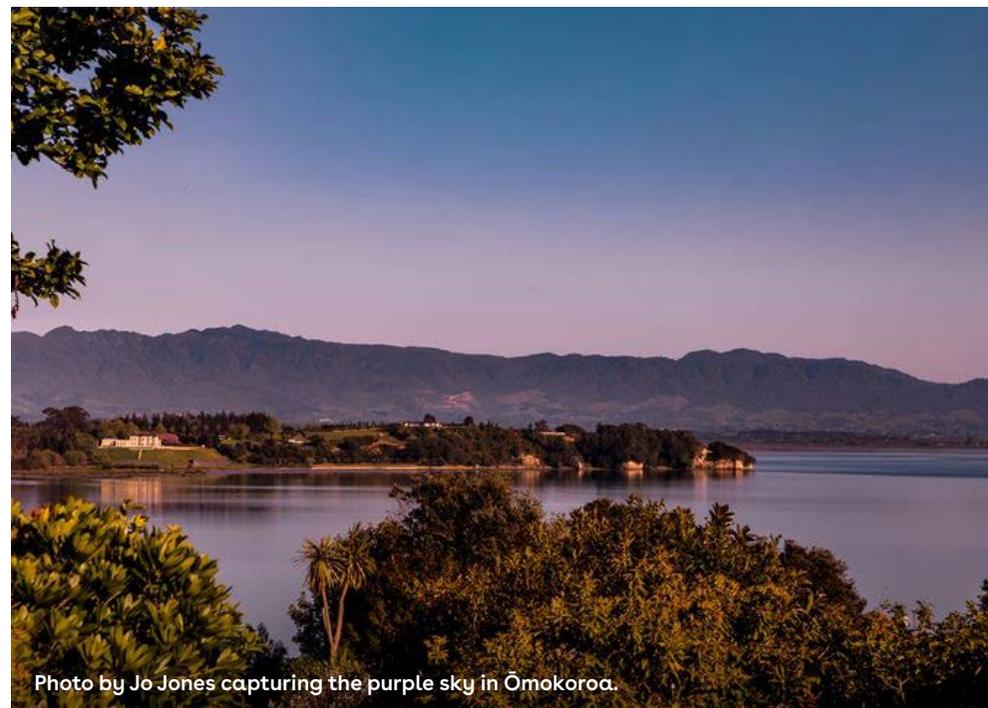


Photo by Jo Jones capturing the purple sky in Omokoroa.

Proposed Statement of Accounting Policies for Prospective Financial Statements

Reporting entity

Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) is a territorial local authority established under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and is domiciled and operate in New Zealand. The relevant legislation governing Council's operations includes the LGA and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Council provides local infrastructure, local public services, and performs regulatory functions to the community. Council does not operate to make a financial return.

Council has designated itself and the group as public benefit entities (PBEs) for the purposes of complying with generally accepted accounting practice.

The prospective financial statements of Council are for the 10 year period ending 30 June 2034. The financial statements of Council for each year within the Long Term Plan (LTP) are to be authorised for issue by Council.

Basis of preparation

These set of prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP and opening balances for the year ended 30 June 2024. Estimates have been restated accordingly if required. No actual financial results have been incorporated within the prospective financial statements.

Council and management of Council accept responsibility for the preparation of the prospective financial statements, including the appropriateness of the assumptions underlying the prospective financial statements and other required disclosures.

Council, who are authorised to do so, believe the assumptions underlying the Prospective Financial Statements are appropriate and as such, have adopted the Consultation Document and have approved it for distribution on 9 May 2024.

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout.

Statement of compliance

The prospective financial statements of Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA, which include the requirement to comply with NZ GAAP. The prospective financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA and the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014, which include the requirement to comply with NZ GAAP.

The prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE accounting standards. These prospective financial statements comply with PBE Standards.

Measurement base

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis, except where modified by the revaluation of land and buildings, certain infrastructural assets, investment property, forestry assets and certain financial instruments (including derivative instruments).

Presentation currency and rounding

The prospective financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000).

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

In preparing these prospective financial statements, Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future, these are outlined in the Informing our Planning section. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations or future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Cautionary note

The information in the prospective financial statements is uncertain and the preparation requires the exercise of judgement. Actual financial results achieved for the period covered are likely to vary from the information presented, and the variations may be material. Events and circumstances may not occur as expected or may not have been predicted or Council may subsequently take actions that differ from the proposed courses of action on which the prospective financial statements are based.

The information contained within these prospective financial statements may not be suitable for use in another capacity.



Photo by Hollie Jones capturing a paddleboarder at Tuapiro Point.

Changes in accounting policies

At the time of preparation of this Plan there were no expected significant changes in the accounting policies to those applied in the preparation of these Prospective Financial Statements.

Assumption underlying prospective financial information

The financial information contained within these policies and statements is prospective information and has been prepared in compliance with PBE FRS 42: Prospective Financial Information. The purpose for which it has been prepared is to enable the public to participate in the decision-making processes as to the services to be provided by Council over the financial years from 2024/25 to 2034/35 and to provide a broad accountability mechanism of the Council to the community.

Significant accounting policies

Revenue

Revenue is measured at fair value.

Rates Revenue

The following policies for rates have been applied:

- General rates, targeted rates (excluding water-by-meter), and uniform annual general charges are recognised at the start of the financial year to which the rates resolution relates. They are recognised at the amounts due. Council considers that the effect of payment of rates by instalments is not sufficient to require discounting of rates receivable and subsequent recognition of interest revenue.
- Rates arising from late payment penalties are recognised as revenue when rates become overdue.
- Revenue from water-by-meter rates is recognised on an accrual basis based on usage. Unbilled usages, as a result of unread meters at year-end, is accrued on an average usage basis.
- Rates remissions are recognised as a reduction of rates revenue when the Council has received an application that satisfies its Rates Remission Policy.
- From 1 July 2022 Council no longer collects rates on behalf of Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Financial Contributions

Financial Contributions are recognised as revenue when the Council provides, or is able to provide, the service for which the contribution was charged otherwise, development and financial contributions are recognised as liabilities until such time as the Council provides or is able to provide the service.

Waka Kotahi / NZ Transport Agency roading subsidies

The Council receives funding assistance from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, which subsidises part of the cost of maintenance and capital expenditure on the local roading infrastructure. The subsidies are recognised as revenue upon entitlement, as conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure have been fulfilled.

Other grants received

Other grants received are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if the conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the conditions of the grant are satisfied.

Building and resource consent revenue

Fees and charges for building and resource consent services are recognised on a percentage completion basis with reference to the recoverable costs incurred at balance date.

Entrance fees

Entrance fees are fees charged to users of the Council's local facilities, such as pools. Revenue from entrance fees is recognised upon entry to such facilities.

Landfill fees

Fees for disposing of waste at the Council's landfill are recognised upon waste being disposed of by users.

Provision of commercially based services

Revenue derived through the provision of services to third parties in a commercial manner is recognised in proportion to stage of completion at balance date. Generally, this is determined by the proportion of costs incurred to date bearing to the estimated total costs of providing the service.

Sales of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when a product is sold to the customer.

Infringement fees and fines

Infringement fees and fines mostly relate to traffic and parking infringements and are recognised when the infringement notice is issued. The revenue recognised is determined based on the probability of collecting fines, which is estimated by considering the collection history of fines over the 2-year period.

Vested of donated physical assets

For assets received for no nominal consideration, the asset is recognised at its fair value when the Council obtains control of the asset. The fair value of the asset is recognised as revenue, unless there is a use or return condition attached to the asset.

The fair value of vested or donated assets is usually determined by reference to the cost of constructing the asset. For assets received from property developments, the fair value is based on construction price information provided by the property developer.

For long-lived assets that must be used for a specific use (for example, land must be used as a recreation reserve), the Council immediately recognizes the fair value of the asset as revenue. A liability is recognised only if the Council expects that it will need to return or pass the asset to another party.

Donated and bequeathed financial assets

Donated and bequeathed financial assets are recognised as revenue unless there are substantive use or return conditions. A liability is recorded if there are substantive use or return conditions and the liability is released to revenue as the conditions are met (for example, as the funds are spent for the nominated purpose).

Interest and dividends

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

Dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment has been established.

Dividends are recognised in surplus or deficit unless the dividend clearly represents a recovery part of the cost of the investment.

Construction contracts

Contract revenue and contract costs are recognised as revenue and expenses respectively by reference to the stage of completion of the contract at the balance date. The stage of completion is measured by reference to the contract costs incurred up to the balance date as a percentage of total estimated costs for each contract.

Contract costs include all costs directly related to specific contracts, costs that are specifically chargeable to the customer under the terms of the contract and an allocation of overhead expenses incurred in connection with Council's construction activities in general.

An expected loss on construction contracts is recognised immediately as an expense in the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense.

Where the outcome of a contract cannot be reliably estimated, contract costs are recognised as an expense as incurred and where it is probable that the costs will be recovered, revenue is recognised to the extent of costs incurred.

Construction work in progress is stated at the aggregate of contract costs incurred to date plus recognised profits less recognised losses and progress billings. If there are contracts where progress billings exceed the aggregate costs incurred plus profits less losses, the net amounts are presented under other liabilities.

Finance costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the financial year in which they are incurred.

Grant expenditure

The Council's grants awarded have no substantive conditions attached. Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets the specified criteria and are recognised as an expense when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received. Discretionary grants are those grants where the Council has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as an expense when approved by the Council and the approval has been communicated to the applicant.

Foreign currency transactions

Foreign currency transactions (including those subject to forward foreign exchange contracts) are translated into New Zealand Dollars (the functional currency) using the spot exchange rate at the date of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Tax

Council does not pay income tax as Section CW39 of the Income Tax Act 2007 specifically exempts income that is derived by a local authority from income tax, unless that income is derived from a Council Controlled Organisation, a port related undertaking, or as a trustee.

Leases

Finance leases

A finance lease is a lease that transfers to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset, whether or not title is eventually transferred.

At the commencement of the lease term, finance leases are recognised as assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position at the lower of the fair value of the leased item and the present value of the minimum lease payments.

The finance charge is charged to the surplus or deficit over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

The amount recognised as an asset is depreciated over its useful life. If there is no certainty as to whether Council will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term, the asset is fully depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and its useful life.

Council does not currently have any finance leases trustee.

Operating leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset.

Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Lease incentives received are recognised in the surplus or deficit as a reduction of rental expense of the term of the lease.

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Receivables

Receivables are recorded at their face value, less any provision for impairment.

Derivative financial instruments and hedge accounting

Derivative financial instruments are used to manage exposure to foreign exchange arising from Council's operational activities and interest rate risk arising from Council's financing activities. In accordance with its treasury policy, Council does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured to their fair value at each balance date.

The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and, if so, the nature of the item being hedged.

Council has elected not to hedge account.

The associated gains or losses on derivatives that are not hedge accounted are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Other financial assets

Other financial assets (other than shares in subsidiaries) are initially recognised at fair value. They are then classified as, and subsequently measured under, the following categories;

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense (FVTOCRE); and
- Fair value through surplus and deficit (FVTSD)

Transaction costs are included in the value of the financial asset at initial recognition unless it has been designated at FVTSD, in which case it is recognised in surplus or deficit.

The classification of a financial asset depends on its cash flow characteristics and the Council's model for managing them.

A financial asset is classified and subsequently measured at amortised cost if it gives rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding and is held within a management model managing them.

A financial asset is classified as subsequently measured at FVTOCRE if it gives rise to cash flows that are SPPI and held within a management model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets.

Financial assets that do not meet the criteria to be measured at amortised cost or FVTOCRE are subsequently measured at FVTSD. However, Council may elect at initial recognition to designate an equity investment not held for trading as subsequently measured at FVTOCRE.

Subsequent measure of financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets classified at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest method, less any expected credit losses (ECL). Where applicable, interest accrued is added to the investment balance. Instruments in this category include term deposits, community loans and loans to subsidiaries and associates.

Subsequent measure of financial assets at FVTOCRE

Financial assets in this category that are debt instruments are subsequently measured at fair value with fair value gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense, except ECL and foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in surplus or deficit. When sold, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense is reclassified to surplus or deficit. Instruments in this category include Council listed bonds.

Financial assets in this category that are equity instruments designated as FVTOCRE are subsequently measured at fair value with fair value gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense. There is no assessment for impairment when fair value falls below the cost of the investment. When sold, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense is transferred to accumulated funds within equity. The Council designate into this category all equity investments that are not held for trading as they are strategic investments that are intended to be held for the medium to long-term.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets at FVTSD

Financial assets in this category are subsequently measured at fair value with fair value gains and losses recognised in surplus or deficit. Interest revenue and dividends recognised from these financial assets are separately presented within revenue.

Other than derivatives, the Council has no instruments in this category.

Investment in associate

An associate is an entity over which Council has significant influence and that is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint arrangement.

The Council's associate investment is accounted for using the equity method. The investment in an associate is initially recognised at cost and the carrying amount in the group financial statements is increased or decreased to recognise the group's share of the surplus or deficit of the associate after the date of acquisition.

Distributions received from an associate reduce the carrying amount of the investment in the group financial statements.

If the share of deficits of an associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, the group discontinues recognising its share of further deficits.

After the group's interest is reduced to zero, additional deficits are provided for, and a liability is recognised, only to the extent that Council has incurred legal or constructive obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate. If the associate subsequently reports surpluses, the group will resume recognising its share of those surpluses only after its share of the surpluses equals the share of deficits not recognised.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment consist of:

Operational assets

These include land, buildings, landfill post-closure, library books, plant and equipment, and motor vehicles.

Restricted assets

These are mainly parks and reserves owned by the Council that provide a benefit or service to the community and cannot be disposed of because of legal and other restrictions.

Infrastructure assets

These are the fixed utility systems owned by Council. Each asset class includes all items that are required for the network to function. For example, sewer reticulation includes reticulation piping and sewer pump stations.

Land (operational and restricted)

Is measured at fair value, and buildings (operational and restricted), library books, and infrastructural assets (except land under roads) are measured at fair value, less accumulated depreciation, and impairment losses.

All other asset classes are measured at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all property, plant and equipment other than land, at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the asset to their estimated residual values over their useful lives.

The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as noted overleaf.

Buildings		
Buildings	2 - 100 years	Straight line
Land	-	Not depreciated
Plant and equipment	4 - 10 years	Diminishing value
Office equipment and furnishings	4 - 10 years	Diminishing value
Computer systems	2 - 5 years	Diminishing value
Motor vehicles	4 - 5 years	Diminishing value
Library books	10 - 15 years	Straight line
Infrastructure Assets		
Roothing network		
Top surface (seal)	5 - 60 years	Straight line
Pavements (base course)		
• Sealed	5 - 60 years	Straight line
• Unsealed	3 - 5 years	Straight line
Other	5 - 70 years	Straight line
Formation	-	Not depreciated
Bridges		
Bridges	50 - 100 years	Straight line
Reticulation		
Water	15 - 80 years	Straight line
Sewerage	40 - 100 years	Straight line
Stormwater	70 - 120 years	Straight line
Treatment plant and equipment	15 - 80 years	Straight line
Other structures		
Reservoirs	80 - 100 years	Straight line
Dams	100 years	Straight line
Bores	100 years	Straight line
Coastal structures	5 - 75 years	Straight line

The residual value and useful life of an asset is reviewed, and adjusted if applicable, at each balance date.

Revaluation

Land and buildings (operational and restricted) library books, and infrastructural assets (with the exception of land under roads) are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that their carrying amount does not differ materially from fair value and at least every three years.

Revaluation movements are accounted for on a class-of-asset basis.

The net revaluation results are credited or debited to other comprehensive revenue and expense and are accumulated to an asset revaluation reserve in equity for that class-of-asset. Where this would result in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is not recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense but is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Any subsequent increase on revaluation that reverses a previous decrease in value recognised in surplus or deficit will be recognised first in surplus or deficit up to the amount previously expensed, and then recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expenses.

Additions

The cost of an items of property, plant, and equipment is recognised as an asset only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Work in progress is recognised at cost less impairment and is not depreciated.

In most instances, an item of property, plant, and equipment is initially recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, it is recognised at its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

The costs of day-to-day servicing of property, plant, and equipment are recognised in surplus or deficit as they are incurred.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the disposal proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are reported net in surplus or deficit. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to accumulated funds.

Impairment of property, plant and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment that have a finite useful life are reviewed for impairment at each balance date and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

If an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is regarded as impaired and the carrying amount is written down to the recoverable amount. For revalued assets, the impairment loss is recognised against the revaluation reserve for that class of asset. Where that results in a debit balance in the revaluation reserve, the balance is recognised in surplus or deficit.

For assets not carrying a revalued amount, the total impairment loss is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

The reversal of an impairment loss on a revalued asset is credited to other comprehensive revenue and expense and increases the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset. However, to the extent that an impairment loss for that class of asset was previously recognised in surplus or deficit, a reversal of the impairment loss is also recognised in the surplus or deficit.

For assets not carried at revalued amount, the reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Intangible assets

Initial recognition and subsequent measurement

Purchased intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For internally generated intangible assets, the cost includes direct employee costs, a reasonable portion of overhead and other direct costs that are incurred in the development phase of the asset.

Intangible assets acquired at no cost are initially recognised at fair value where they can be reliably measured. After initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses, if any.

Easements

Easements are recognised at cost, being the costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to its intended use. Easements have an indefinite life and are not amortised but are instead tested for impairment annually.

Carbon credits

Purchased carbon credits are recognised at cost on acquisition. Free carbon credits received from the Crown are recognised at fair value on receipt. They are not amortised but are instead tested for impairment annually. They are derecognised when they are used to satisfy carbon emission obligations.

Amortisation

The carrying value of an intangible asset with a finite life is amortised based the Diminishing Value method over its useful life. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use and ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised. The amortisation charge for each financial year is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

The useful lives and associated amortisation rates of major classes of intangible assets have been estimated as follow:

Computer software	3 to 5 years	20% to 33.3%
Resource consents	Life of the asset	5%
Property subdivision rights	19 years	3% to 5%

Impairment of intangible assets

Intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life, or are not yet available for use, are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment.

For further details, refer to the policy for impairment of property, plant, and equipment. The same approach applies to the impairment of intangible assets.

Forestry assets

Standing forestry assets are independently revalued annually at fair value less estimated costs to sell for one growth cycle. Gains or losses arising on initial recognition of forestry assets at fair value less costs to sell and from a change in fair value less costs to sell are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Forestry maintenance costs are recognised in surplus or deficit when incurred.

Payables and deferred revenue

Short-term creditors and other payables are measured at the amount payable.

Borrowings and other financial liabilities

Borrowings on normal terms are initially recognised at the amount borrowed plus transaction costs. After initial recognition, all borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Council has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after balance date.

Employee entitlements***Short-term employee entitlements***

Employee benefits that are expected to be settled wholly within twelve months after end of the year in which the employee provides the related service are measured and based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date, annual leave earned to, but not yet taken at balance date, and sick leave.

A liability and an expense are recognised for bonuses where the Council or group has a contractual obligation or where there is a past practice that has created a constructive obligation and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made.

Long-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period in which the employee provides the related service, such as retirement and long service leave, have been calculated on an actuarial basis. The calculations are based on:

- Likely future entitlements accruing to employees, based on years of service, years to entitlement, the likelihood that employees will reach the point of entitlement, and contractual entitlement information; and
- The present value of the estimated future cash flows.

Presentation of employee entitlements

Sick leave, annual leave, and vested long service leave are classified as a current liability. Non-vested retirement and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date are also classified as a current liability. All other employee entitlements are classified as a non-current liability.

Provisions

A provision is recognised for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when:

- There is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
- It is probably that an outflow of future economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and
- A reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation and discounted using market yields on government bonds at balance date with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash flows. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense and is included in “finance costs”.

Equity

Equity is the community’s interest in the Council and is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into the following components.

- Accumulated funds
- Restricted reserves
- Property revaluation reserve
- Fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense reserve.

Restricted reserves

Restricted reserves are a component of equity generally representing a particular use to which various parts of equity have been assigned. Reserves may be legally restricted or created by the Council.

Restricted reserves include those subjects to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without reference to the Courts or a third party. Transfers from these reserves may be made only for certain specified purposes or when certain specified conditions are met.

Also included in restricted reserves are reserves restricted by Council decision. The Council may alter them without reference to any third party or the Courts. Transfers to and from these reserves are at the discretion of the Council.

Property revaluation reserve

This reserve relates to the revaluation of property, plant, and equipment to fair value.

Fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense reserve

This reserve comprises the cumulative net change in the fair value of assets classified as fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense.

Goods and services tax

Items in the financial statements are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST), except for receivables and payables, which are presented on a GST- inclusive basis.

Where GST is not recoverable as input tax, it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

The net amount of GST recoverable from the IRD, including the GST relating to investing and financing activities, is classified as operating cashflow in the statement of cashflows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Cost allocation

The cost of service for each significant activity of Council has been derived using the cost allocation system outlined below.

Direct costs are those costs directly attributable to a significant activity. Indirect costs are those costs that cannot be identified in an economically feasible manner with a specific significant activity.

Direct costs are charged to significant activities. Indirect costs are charged to significant activities using appropriate cost drivers such as actual usage, staff numbers and floor area.



Photo by Quintin Murray of Pudding Basin Falls while on a hike in Whakamarama.

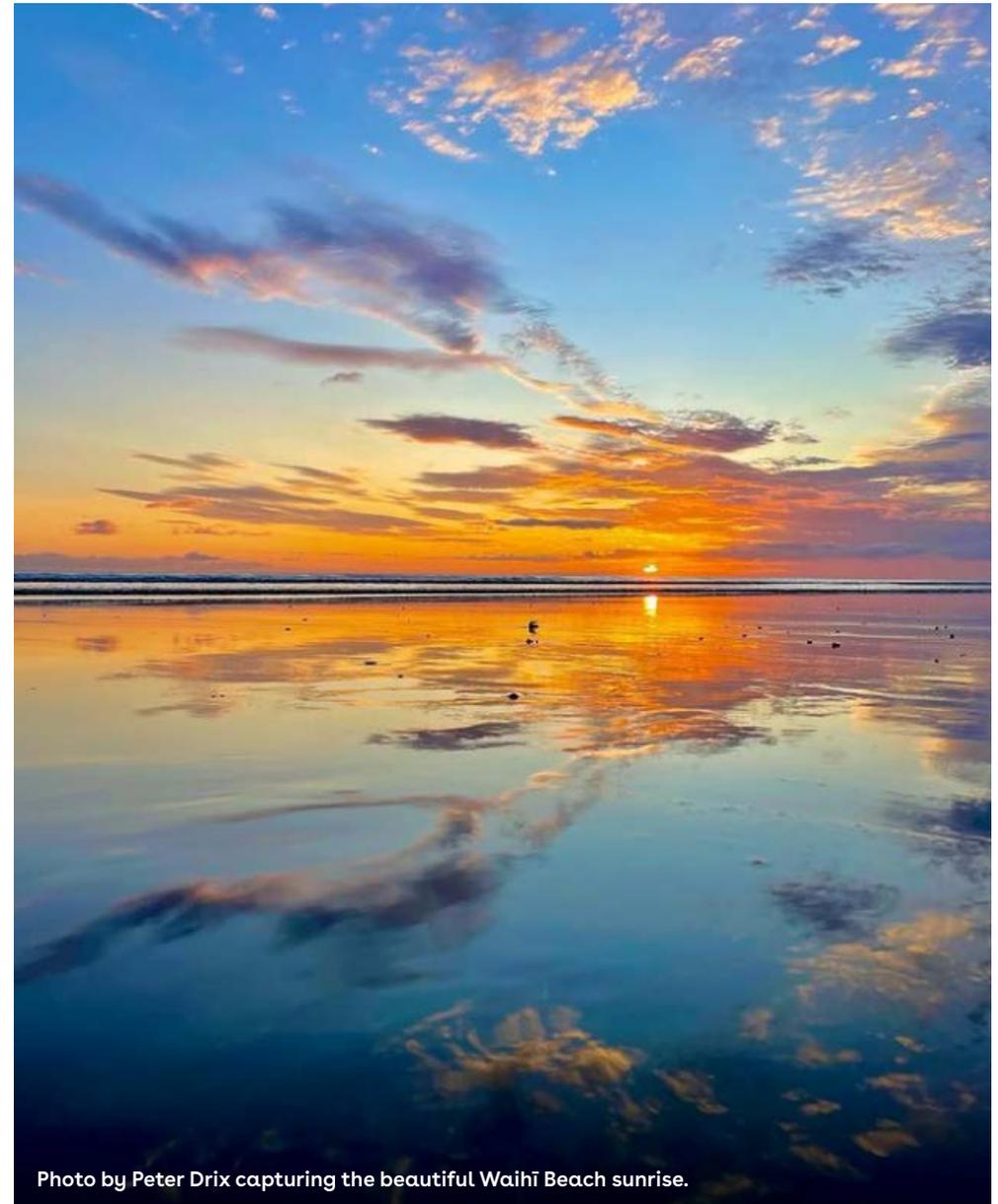


Photo by Peter Drix capturing the beautiful Waihi Beach sunrise.