



Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council

Long Term Plan 2021-2031  
Decision Document  
Pepa Whakatau  
a Mahere Rae Roa 2021-2031

# Hello Future District

## Here are our decisions

Tēnā Koutou e te rohe o raurangi  
Anei ngā whakataunga matua



# We've engaged with our community... Kua pāheko whānuitia tō tātou hapori...

## Phase One

### Overview, scoping, setting assumptions

(9 March to 1 May 2020)

- Hello Future District website
- Electronic newsletters
- Print and digital advertising
- Notifications to community groups and stakeholders
- Social media

**27,274**

Pieces of feedback across all topics

## Phase Two

### Getting into the detail – testing the key proposals

(September to October 2020)

- Hello Future District Website
- Feedback booths around the District
- Workshops with community groups in each ward
- Seven hui-a-hapū
- Workshop with community board chairs and members
- Workshops at Ward Forums
- Print and digital advertising
- Social media

**13,124**

Individual pieces of online feedback

## Phase Three

### Special Consultative Procedure

(8 March to 9 April 2021)

- Hello Future District website
- Three free community events (one per ward) “Love the Western Bay Fun Days”
- Formal hearing opportunity
- Feedback booths around the District
- Instep Young Leaders breakfast
- Two workshops with iwi/hapū representatives
- More than 1000 notifications/emails to community groups and key stakeholders
- Mail out to 2905 non-resident ratepayers
- Print, digital and radio advertising
- Social media

**3808**

submission points over 836 submissions

Overall we received

**44,206**

individual pieces of feedback  
across the development  
of this plan

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

# and have made key decisions

## ā, kua kōwhiri i ētahi whakatau hirahira



### A new pool

for Te Puke in 2026 at a total cost of \$15 million, and upgrades for Katikati. Land purchase for a future pool in Ōmokoroa.



### More travel choices

for people getting around the District. Our investment in walkways and cycleways will be increased to **\$16.55 million**, over 10 years.



### All properties\*

to contribute funding to the 17 community halls across the District.

\*excludes Matakana Island.



### A safer community

**\$50,000** available for community requests for CCTV cameras for the next three years.



### Continuing to provide elder housing

Rent increases and redevelopments are proposed to meet increased demand for housing and rising costs, to continue the service for years to come.



### Increased funding for our roads

An increasing maintenance programme will be funded, with a total investment of **\$100.54 million** over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan.

## We're working with local communities

to improve overall wellbeing, now and for future generations.

## Extra focus on the risks to infrastructure

such as roads, water pumps and wastewater treatment and community facilities from a changing climate.

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

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# **A plan we can all be proud of** He mahere whakahī tā mātou

*Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Bula Vinaka, Malo e Lelei,  
Fakalofa lahi atu, Nihao, Namaste, Kia Orana  
and greetings to you all.*

*Welcome to Western Bay of Plenty District  
Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.*

*It is my pleasure to present this plan which sets  
the course for the Western Bay of Plenty District  
over the coming 10 years and beyond.*

Amid a flurry of major policy reforms such as: three waters, resource management, climate change, future of Local Government and the health system – we are working hard with clear direction, financial prudence, and careful planning to ensure that our Western Bay district prospers and grows through the coming changes.

While there is still uncertainty about what the future of local government will look like we are committed to ensuring that our service levels are maintained and that the wellbeing of our communities, sometimes in partnership with others, is enhanced where possible. Whether it is maintaining our roads, rubbish and recycling, or complying with drinking water standards, what we do now sets up our communities for the future.

The voices of our community matter to us and shape our decisions for service delivery across the District. We know our communities have different needs, so we have considered local priorities and requests for funding from the community carefully.

Our Long Term Plan 2021-2031 is evidence of this. Engaging with our communities on a record scale, receiving 44,206 pieces of feedback, means this 10-year plan is a good reflection of the community and what we collectively want to achieve.

In the following pages you will find details of the decisions Council has made on key issues our communities raised during the many consultation processes.

As the Western Bay remains one of the country's fastest growing provincial districts in New Zealand, this Long Term Plan we have endeavoured to balance the tension between investment in critical infrastructure while keeping our rates affordable, and services with responding to the many requests from our communities.

Key decisions include allocating \$15 million for a new swimming pool in Te Puke in 2026, a new covered roof (\$2 million) for the Dave Hume Pool in Katikati – followed by a new pool for Katikati post 2040, a \$100.5 million investment

over 10 years for our roading maintenance programme (\$1.1 million increase per annum) and \$16.5 million over 10 years to provide more walking and cycling choices for getting people around the District.

They are critical projects and investments, and as a result, the rates increase for Year One of the Long Term Plan is an average of 11.5% for existing ratepayers followed by a limit of 4% for the following nine years.

That increase in Year One includes the costs of implementing our new kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service (4%) for those properties that receive the service, which will see around 1800 tonnes of rubbish diverted from landfill every year.

It is changes such as this which may be confronting to some, that will make a significant difference in preserving the Western Bay for future generations.

These are interesting times, but I believe with change comes great opportunity. Whatever the future may hold, I can assure you Western Bay of Plenty District Council will be ready.

**Thank you to everyone who joined us on this journey. This is not our story, it is that of our residents and one we can all be proud of.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Garry Webber". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ngā mihi nui  
Mayor Garry Webber



**Key  
proposal  
decisions**  
Whakatau  
hirahira



## Key proposal

# Maintaining our roading network Tiakina ngā huarahi

The District's high population growth has led to a 39% increase in traffic volumes over the last six years, an average of 7% per year. To put that into perspective, from 2008 to 2015 traffic volumes increased by only 10% for the entire period. In addition, the market cost to deliver road maintenance has been increasing nationally due to a range of factors, such as labour rates, the cost and supply of key materials, and traffic management requirements.

## ✔ What we've decided

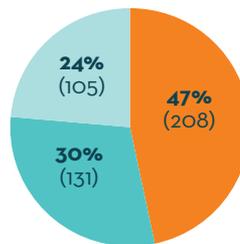
**We decided to fund an increasing maintenance programme. The programme includes pavement rehabilitation, seal widening and pavement surfacing.**

This decision will bring forward \$1.1 million which was allocated for subsequent years of the Long Term Plan.

This means the budget will increase by \$1.1 million per annum gross (\$484,000 is rates funded) from 2022/23.

The total investment is \$100.54 million over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan, of which \$34.80 million is rates funded.

## Your feedback



Three options were presented for feedback

- **Option 1:** That Council continue with the current programme
- ✔ **Option 2 (Preferred):** That Council incrementally increases rates to fund an increasing maintenance programme
- **Option 3:** That Council increase the budgets and include lower risk projects to address levels of service deficiencies

We received several additional comments about our roading network, including the need for more seal extensions, road widening, and encouraging more use of public transport and multi-modal transport opportunities.

✔ Also approved

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## Seal Extensions

**We decided to increase the budget for seal extensions from \$1 million per year to \$2 million per year, for 10 years. For the first three years the additional spending will be funded mainly from loans, and a small proportion of financial contributions. The costs to repay the loan will be spread over 10 years. This will enable more roads to be sealed.**

Council will also review its Seal Extensions Policy to make sure the criteria for prioritising roads is fit-for-purpose.

Several submitters requested seal extensions for rural roads in efforts to reduce dust affecting both homes and health.

Council currently uses its Seal Extensions Policy to decide the priority order for roads to be resealed. The number of roads completed annually depends on the budget available. If more funding is available, more roads can be completed.





## Key proposal

# Walking and cycling Hikoia me te eke paihikara

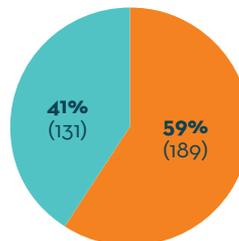
*Council has a Walking and Cycling Action Plan which aims to deliver core urban routes, tourism and recreational routes, plus a network of rural-urban and rural community routes.*

## ✔ What we've decided

**We decided to increase rates to fund an increased walking and cycling development programme.**

Over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan this results in an investment of \$13.85 million from the Roding Rate and \$2.7 million from the Recreation and Open Spaces budget.

## Your feedback



Two options were presented for feedback

- **Option 1:** That Council continue with the current programme
- ✔ **Option 2 (Preferred):** That Council incrementally increases rates to fund an increased programme

## Specific route requests

56 submitters requested specific walking and cycling routes be developed as outlined in the table:

Route development is subject to feasibility studies, community engagement, iwi and hapū engagement and consents. The comments received will inform these projects.

A feasibility study has been prepared for Athenree connections and will be presented to elected members to inform decision making.

Engagement is occurring on the Te Puke/ Waitangi/Rangiuru route and on other local routes.

Staff are working with Pirirākau Hapū and are discussing concerns around routes in the Te Puna area, especially regarding Te Tawa Ki Tahataharoa.

Route	Number of submission points
Athenree	12
Concerns - Te Puna	6
Te Puke - Papamoa	4
Te Puke - urban/immediate surrounds	4
Te Puke - Waitangi/Paengaroa	3
Te Puke - Maketu/Maketu surrounds	3
Te Puke - Welcome Bay	2
Te Puke - Rotorua/Whakatane	1
State Highway 2 (east)	1
Concerns - routes near Kaituna River	3
Pukehina	3
Te Puna	3
Minden	1
State Highway 2 (Whakamarama)	1
Ōmokoroa	1
State Highway 2 (north)	1
Waihi Beach	3





## Key proposal

# Swimming pools Ngā hōpua

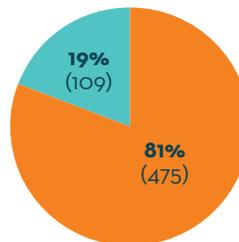
*Our swimming pools in Katikati and Te Puke are old and not available for all-year-round use. We consulted on a plan to upgrade the pools.*

## ✔ What we've decided

**We decided to go with our preferred option, which is:**

- A new pool facility in Te Puke in 2026, at a cost of \$15 million. \$10 million will be funded by Council, from rates and financial contributions. We will also spend \$300,000 in 2022 on upgrades to keep the existing pool functioning. Most of the upgrades will be able to be repurposed into the new pool facility eg. filters.
- An upgrade for Dave Hume Pool in Katikati to cover the facility, at a cost of \$2 million. This will be followed by a new pool being built post-2040.
- Land purchase to secure a site for a new swimming pool facility in Ōmokoroa (new pool to be constructed post-2040).

## Your feedback



Two options were presented for feedback

- **Option 1:** Status quo - Do not invest in the pools and continue to operate them as they currently do
- ✔ **Option 2 (Preferred):** New facilities and pool maintenance

## Feedback on specific swimming pools, design and operations

We received 173 general comments about swimming pools. Most were in support of Council's preferred option, and made requests about the location and operation of new pools, design and timing of the programme.

Te Duke Pool received several suggestions for location.

Dave Hume Pool received 27 comments, with the majority supporting the pool being covered to enable all-year round use.

Eight comments were received about Ōmokoroa Pool, with the majority supporting the development of pool being undertaken sooner than 2040.

There were also some requests for Council to consider building new pools in Waihi Beach and Te Puna. These are not included in Council's investment plan.

Six submitters were supportive of pools being provided and requested any new facility be financially accessible for families to use. This could be done by using family discount and concessions.

Several requests were made for design features such as hydro slides, diving platforms, and play areas/splash pads for children. There

were also suggestions around enabling disabled access to the pools and the provision of special needs programmes not currently available in the District. There were several comments relating to facilities including features such as private changing rooms and any development taking a wider recreation facility approach incorporating a sports centre with courts and other facilities.

Six comments were received relating to support of the development of a 50 metre pool in the District. Submitters commented that this feature would attract swimming competitions due to the District's central location in the Bay of Plenty, attracting people to our District and providing a point of difference for our facilities.

Four comments were received relating to Council working together with stakeholders supporting a network approach to the development of swimming pool facilities in the region. One submitter commented on plans for the development of a large swimming pool complex in the Wairakei-Te Tumu growth area seeking support from Council.

Council will consider this feedback in the next stage of work, the more detailed design phase for the new facilities.



## Key proposal

# Community halls area of benefit Hōro ā hāpori

*Our communities are close-knit, but they don't always have a commercial area or town centre that sits at the heart of the community. Community halls can play this role in rural communities in particular - they are a place for local networking, where local enterprise can grow (through markets etc) and where people can take part in recreation activities in their local area.*

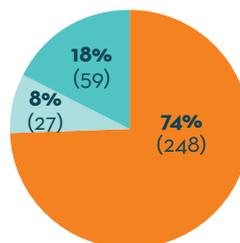
*We consulted on all properties in the District being included in an area of benefit for a community hall. This means that they will pay a targeted rate towards to maintenance of a hall.*

## ✔ What we've decided

**We decided to amend the areas of benefit for community halls so that all properties in the District are included in an area of benefit (excluding Matakana Island).**

For Otamarakau Hall, the Maketu community, Pongakawa Hall and Apata/Pahoia Hall an area of benefit is established with no targeted rate set. The introduction of any targeted rate for community halls for these areas of benefits will be subject to specific community consultation.

## Your feedback



Three options were presented for feedback

*An additional 43 comments were received about this topic.*

- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Change the areas of benefit so that all rateable properties (excluding Matakana Island) are included in an area of benefit for a community hall
- **Option 2:** Status Quo - do not extend the hall areas of benefit
- **Option 3:** Charge a flat targeted rate across all properties in the District, including those in an area of benefit where the targeted rate was currently \$0 (Apata/Pahoia, Pongakawa, Otamarakau and Maketu)

## Feedback opposing changes to the Area of Benefit

Some strong submissions in opposition to the amended area of benefit for Te Puke War Memorial Hall were received. The submitters lived in Waitao Road and Kaitemako Road. They submitted that those roads and surrounding area do not affiliate directly to Te Puke, and therefore they do not receive an equal benefit from that hall being provided.

Council considered an option of removing these areas from the area of benefit for Te Puke War Memorial Hall. Council decided not to remove these areas, and to proceed with the changes to the areas of benefit as set out in the Consultation Document. Council's assessment is that all ratepayers benefit from the provision of community halls in the District, and all should contribute.

 Approved

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### Pukehina Community Hall Remediation

**We decided to proceed with providing a loan of up to \$200,000 for remediation works for the Pukehina Community Hall. The loan will be paid back over a 10 year period via the targeted rate charged over the Pukehina Community Hall area of benefit. This equates to a targeted rate of \$30 per rateable property, per year.**

Alongside the Long Term Plan, we ran a specific consultation process with the Pukehina community about a proposal to loan fund remediation works for the hall.

The loan is for up to \$200,000 and will allow Pukehina Community Hall to be remediated so that it can get a building Warrant of Fitness, and be available for public use again. The Pukehina Residents and Ratepayers Hall Committee will be responsible for the hall.

We received 111 submissions, with 77 in support of the proposal and 21 against. Thirteen general comments were also received which were neither for, nor against the proposal.

 Approved

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### Te Puna Community Centre

**We decided to provide a budget of \$25,000 for a strategic assessment of community facility needs within the Te Puna community in 2022/23. We will carry out this assessment in conjunction with the Te Puna Community Centre committee, Te Puna Memorial Hall Committee and Pīrākāu hapū, and will engage with the wider community in this process.**

We received 10 submissions requesting the Te Puna Community Centre be upgraded to allow wider community use. Pīrākāu hapū is particularly interested in providing a location for arts and cultural expression within the community centre.

The targeted rate for Te Puna Community Centre will allow for some physical upgrade of the facility. Further work needs to be done to understand how wider use of the facility can be addressed, and to understand how the aspirations of Pīrākāu hapū can be achieved.



## Key proposal

# CCTV – Security cameras

## Ngā kāmera haumarū

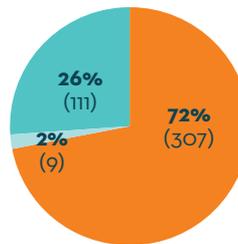
*Our communities have good support networks – many people know their neighbours and look out for one another but crime and anti-social behaviour is a concern, in particular in rural areas. Some people feel isolated and possibly vulnerable to crime or anti-social behaviour and this affects the wellbeing of those communities. They have requested CCTV as a way of improving safety.*

### ✔ What we've decided

**We decided to include a budget of \$50,000 per annum for the next three years, for the purchase of CCTV – security cameras.**

We will also include operational costs to monitor the cameras, and will consider requests for new cameras through our CCTV Management Plan. Council will consider CCTV camera requests annually through an advertised contestable process and prioritise these requests against the criteria in its CCTV Management Plan.

### Your feedback



Three options were presented for feedback

- **Option 1:** Status quo – no additional investment
- ✔ **Option 2 (Preferred):** Increase funding for new CCTV cameras (total funding of \$50,000 per annum, for the next three years)
- **Option 3:** Other responses – increase the budget beyond the proposed \$50,000 per annum for the next three years)



## Key proposal

# Elder housing Whare kaumatua

*The Western Bay is a great place to live and is becoming more popular. But this is continuing to put pressure on housing costs - increasing for both owners and renters. Council provides housing for those over 65 years and with limited means, at an affordable rate. As a result, we predict increased demand for elder housing in the future.*

*We asked the community if we should keep our elder housing, but with a rent increase to cover costs and allow sites to be redeveloped. No rate funding will be required.*

## ✔ What we've decided

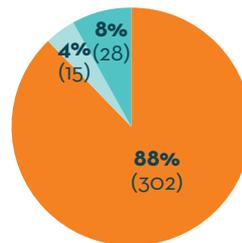
**We decided to retain and continue to operate elder housing, and redevelop our elder housing sites over time to increase the amount of housing available.**

We will also prepare an operational policy for our elder housing activity that includes the criteria for setting rents so they remain affordable to tenants.

**About the feedback:** Most of the comments supporting Option 1 regard elder housing as being a high need in the community and something that Council should provide. Some commented that providing affordable housing for older people enables them to remain in their local community, and is important not only now but also for the future.

Eleven specific comments were received in support of Option 2. Most recognised the importance of elder housing being provided, but felt it was either a central government function or something that a community housing provider was better placed to deliver.

## Your feedback

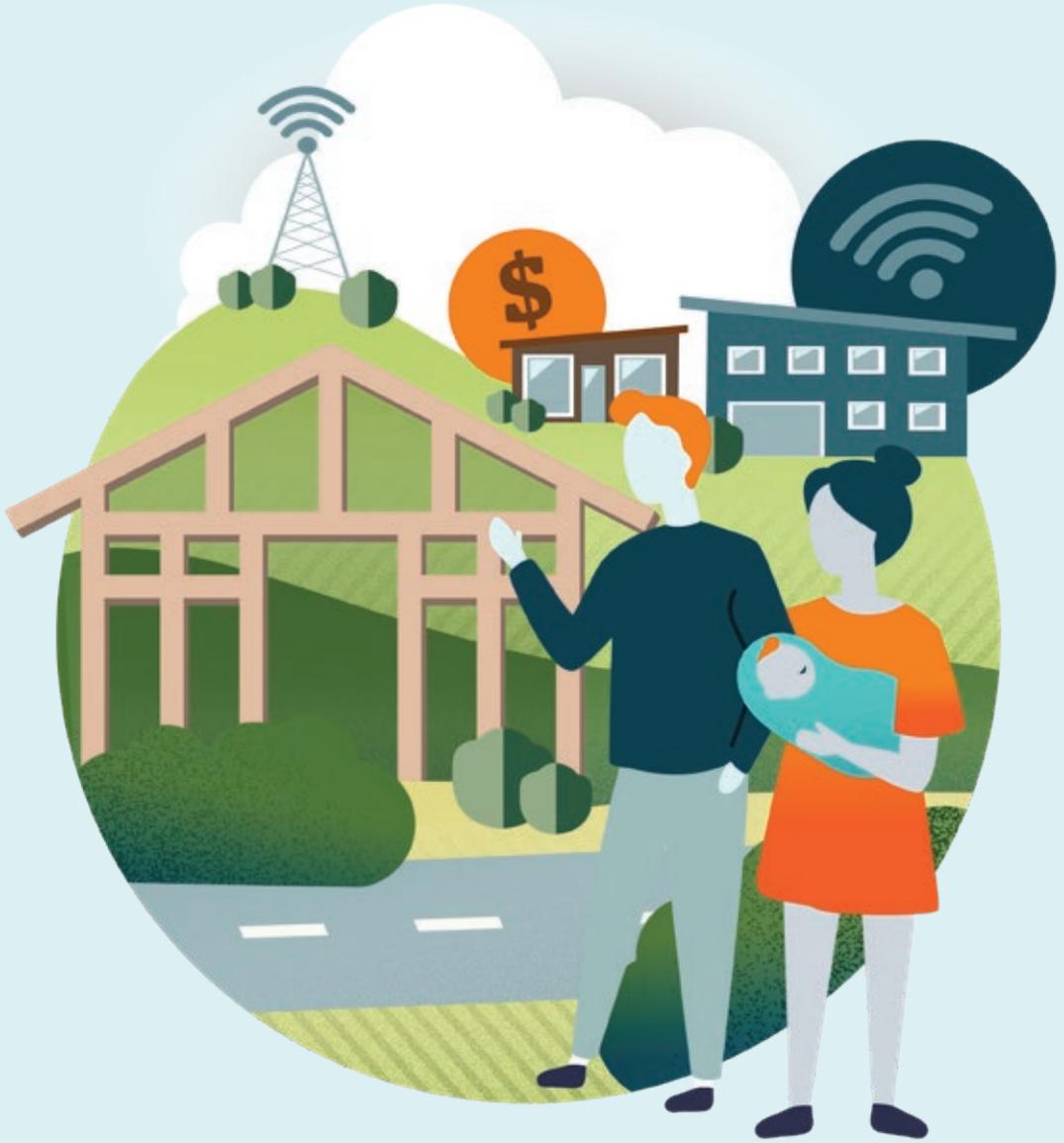


Three options were presented for feedback

- ✔ **Option 1 (Preferred):** Retain and continue to operate elder housing, and redevelop sites to increase the amount of housing available
- **Option 2:** Do not retain the stock. Sell or transfer it to a community housing provider
- **Option 3:** Retain and continue to operate elder housing. Do not redevelop the stock in the short term



**Decisions on  
other topics**  
Whakatau ki  
kaupapa kē



## Decisions on other topics

# Building communities Waihanga hapori

*We received requests from several organisations to support their community-based work in the social, arts and culture, and economic sectors. We also considered when we should build a new library and service centre in Waihi Beach.*

*The topics and decisions are set out here.*

### Approved

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#### Western Bay Museum

**We decided to provide funding of \$70,000 from Year Two of the Long Term Plan (2022/23 onwards) towards a Museum Qualified Collections Curator to support the development of the museum's collection.**

Western Bay Museum requested a continuation of Council support at the level of the last three years, through a Service Delivery Contract, plus additional assistance with employing a Museum Qualified Collections Curator.

In considering this request, Council considered that it currently provides 37% of the total operational costs for the museum, with the remaining 63% coming from sponsorships, donations, activities, and grants raised by the museum.

Having a qualified curator will allow the museum to develop its collection management and provide better training opportunities and good professional support for volunteers. The curator will also assist with plans for securing compliant storage that will enable the return of Taonga currently held in collections in Waikato and Auckland Museums.

### Declined

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#### Taonga Tauranga Heritage Bay of Plenty Charitable Trust

**We decided not to approve funding of \$40,000+GST. We invite the Trust to apply to Council's Community Matching Fund.**

Taonga Tauranga Heritage Bay of Plenty Charitable Trust sought a contribution, toward developing a heritage intent through a framework that unites the heritage sector across Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga City.

This work would contribute to development of a Heritage Strategy for the Western Bay.

At this stage we prefer to fund local heritage initiatives.

### Declined

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#### Museum Visitor Centre (Le Quesnoy)

**We decided to decline the request to support the establishment of a New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust in Le Quesnoy, France. Council supports what the Museum Trust proposes in principle, but is not in a position to provide funding to this initiative at this time.**

The New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust requested funding to support the development of a museum in Le Quesnoy, France. The amount suggested is \$1 per resident, or approximately \$56,500.

 No change

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## The Incubator

**We decided not to approve funding of \$50,000 but will retain the \$20,000 per year that is currently funded.**

The Incubator requested an increase in funding support from Council from \$20,000 per year to \$50,000, to assist with operational costs.

The Incubator provides a destination where audience, creatives, and community arts groups meet to practise, celebrate, showcase and experience art and culture. The Incubator generates opportunities for participation, knowledge and education while demonstrating the importance of arts practice in everyday life.

Whilst the Incubator is based at the Historic Village in Tauranga, we note that it hosts many residents (artists and performers) from the Western Bay of Plenty, and as such we are comfortable with our ongoing funding support.

 Approved

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## Tauranga Art Gallery

**We decided to increase our funding to the Tauranga Art Gallery to \$40,000 per year, recognising the increasing costs to provide the Art Bus.**

Tauranga Art Gallery requested an increase in the funding they receive from Council, from \$34,917 per annum to \$65,000 per annum. The increase would be used to fund operating costs of the art gallery's 'Art Bus', an initiative which brings Western Bay schools into the Tauranga Art Gallery to experience exciting workshops and unique experiences.

The costs to provide the Art Bus, such as bus hire and fuel costs, have increased over the past 10 years, while funding from Council has remained the same. Additional funding would enable the art gallery to develop out-reach engagement beyond the walls of the gallery to reach wider audiences including schools, community groups and iwi within the Western Bay of Plenty.

 Approved

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## Te Ranga Reserve/ Historic Park

**We decided to make a contribution of \$150,000 towards the overall cost of the project, from existing budgets. Council will also become a partner in progressing the development plan and working to secure further funding.**

**Council's contribution is conditional on the parties securing funding for the balance of the cost of the project. Council funding will come from the existing fund for supporting iwi/hapū initiatives. The contribution will be spread over a period of three years to allow time to seek funding for the balance of the cost of the project.**

Te Ranga Reserve/Historic Park is the site of the battle in June 1864 that brought to an end the fighting between local iwi and British troops in Tauranga. The reserve is a significant historical site in the history of Tauranga and is nationally important in the context of what we now refer to as the New Zealand Land Wars.

The Pukehinahina Charitable Trust in association with Ngai Tamarāwaho and Tauranga City Council are progressing a plan to develop the reserve at Te Ranga which is a logical extension of the future development work being done to develop the Pukehinahina - Gate Pa Reserve. The Trust has requested funding support for the development of the reserve.

The opportunity to do something special with Te Ranga Reserve offers a chance to add significantly to the city's historic legacy through the development of such a historic site. Not only will it be a valued add-on attraction to the city's historical landmarks, it will be a valuable addition to the teaching of history as demonstrated by the keen interest shown by secondary schools to visit the site.

**✘ Declined**

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## Te Puke Economic Development Group

**We decided not to approve funding of \$50,000, for Te Puke Economic Development Group to manage a localised Tourism Promotional and Development fund. Council will undertake a review of its economic activity as part of preparing its LTP 2024-2034. The approach to funding tourism activities will be considered through this review.**

Te Puke Economic Development Group requested additional funding of between \$40,000 and \$50,000, to establish a Tourism Promotional and Development Fund. The fund would be solely for the purpose of marketing and activity that attracts more international and domestic visitors to Te Puke.

Seventy per cent of the fund would be managed via a contestable application, whereby operators make submissions for specific activity funding. Each and every submission would be assessed by a Te Puke Economic Development Group tourism committee. The remaining 30% would be tagged for local and international promotions.

Te Puke Economic Development Group also suggested development of an overarching strategic plan for Te Puke, and advised they could lead this work if funding was provided.

**✘ Declined**

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## Social Wellbeing Audit

**We decided not to provide funding of \$20,000 for SocialLink to undertake a social wellbeing audit of Council's policies, plans and activities.**

SocialLink requested Council consider how its policies contribute to social wellbeing across the District, and requested \$20,000 so that SocialLink could undertake this work by working with the sector to carry out an audit of Council's policies, plans and activities. The audit would determine the extent to which Council is contributing to social wellbeing, and to identify areas where Council could better achieve social wellbeing outcomes.

We assessed our contribution to social wellbeing through the development of the Wellbeing Plan. We will undertake further analysis as part of the review of the Wellbeing Plan for the next Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

**✘ Declined**

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## Sport New Zealand

**We decided not to provide additional funding of \$50,000 in the 2022/23 year towards supporting the priority projects identified in the Bay of Plenty Spaces and Places Strategy. We will continue with our current level of support to the strategy implementation, and will contribute to feasibility studies on a case-by-case basis.**

This strategy provides a high-level strategic framework for regional sport and recreation spaces and places (facility) planning in the Bay of Plenty region. Sport New Zealand advocated for Council to consider the priority projects identified in the Bay of Plenty Spaces and Places Strategy as outlined below:

- Bay of Plenty Water Sports Facility and Water Access Strategy
- Develop an 'Opportunities Paper' which overlays the existing and proposed cycle and walking tracks across the region to identify network connection opportunities
- Develop and implement a Regional Indoor Court Facility Plan
- Develop a Regional Squash Facility Plan.

Council has previously directly funded feasibility studies identified in the Spaces and Places Strategy, such as the feasibility study for Te Puke Gymsport. We will continue to provide support on a case-by-case basis.



## Decisions on other topics

# Recreation and open space

## Rēhia me papa wātea

*Recreation and open space includes parks and reserves, and facilities such as walking trails, playgrounds, courts and skateparks, and sportsfields.*

*We received several submissions requesting funding for parks, reserves upgrades and for new facilities.*

✓ Approved

### Moore Park public toilet upgrades, Katikati

**We decided to increase the budget for the new public toilets from \$122,000 to \$350,000 and move the funding to the 2023/24 financial year to align with the proposed new facility.**

The Katikati Cricket Club, Katikati Football Club and the Katikati Community Board requested an increase in funding identified for a new public toilet in the 2022/23 financial year. They requested an increase in the budget from \$122,000 to \$350,000.

The recently formed Katikati Sport and Recreation Group has been working on a feasibility study for a new facility for clubrooms and community groups. Staff expect the feasibility study to be presented to Council when the group seeks an area of land to lease for construction of the facility. The new public toilet would be provided either within the new building (externally accessible), or for new standalone toilets.

✓ Approved

### Opureora Marae Coastal Protection Works

**We decided that as an adjoining land owner, we would support any future resource consent application for erosion protection works along the coastal boundary of the Opureora Marae. This includes the waiving of any Council resource consent application fees. We will also provide Council funding of up to \$200,000 towards the total construction costs from Council's transportation budget, to provide erosion prevention to the adjoining section of public road.**

The Opureora Marae Committee submitted a proposal for coastal protection works along the embankment in front of Opureora Marae. The protection works (likely to be a seawall/rock revetment design) would include protection of some of Opureora Road Reserve and Opureora Esplanade Reserve (eastern end).

Council undertook an assessment of the proposal against the criteria included in Council's Coastal Erosion Responses Policy. The assessment has informed our decision.



✓ Approved

## New sports facilities for Maketu School

**We decided to approve a contribution of \$26,000 towards the upgrade of the hardcourts at the school, funded from the Facilities in the Community Fund.**

**This is subject to an ongoing public access agreement being agreed between the school and Council, and the school raising the balance of the funding needed. It is noted this is an early commitment to the next round of the Facilities in the Community Fund.**

**We decided not to fund the playground replacement.**

Further discussion is needed with the Maketu community on the best location for a new playground.

Maketu School requested a funding contribution towards the upgrade of the hardcourts at the school with a synthetic grass surface (\$52,000 approximately) and funding for a new playground to replace the old playground (\$65,000).

The hardcourts are the only ones available in Maketu, and have been used by the community over the years.

✓ Approved

## Pukehina Surf Club

**We decided to increase our funding contribution towards the public toilets, changing rooms and external showers in the new Pukehina Surf Club building from \$250,000 to \$450,000 in the 2021/22 year. This decision is consistent with the contributions Council has made to other facilities across the District and will enable the building development to proceed, which will have positive benefits for the community.**

Pukehina Surf Club is upgrading its building to meet community needs and provide a modern surf lifesaving facility. Council has public toilets within the existing building, and agreed to provide funding towards the new public toilets, changing rooms and external showers in the new facility.

Prior to the design of the new building being finalised, funding of \$250,000 was included in the 2021/22 financial year. The design and quantity surveying are now complete and the cost for the public toilets and external showers component is \$450,000.

✓ Approved

## Wilson Park development, Waihi Beach

**We decided to approve \$25,000 of funding to be brought forward from 2022/23 to 2021/22, to undertake a Wilson Park concept plan review.**

The Waihi Beach Community Board requested increased funding be brought forward to make Wilson Park the major events space for the Waihi Beach community.

A concept plan for Wilson Park, adopted by Council in 2006, included development of amphitheatre seating and steps, a drinking fountain, lighting and a retaining wall.

The concept plan is considered to be fit-for-purpose, however given it was developed 15 years ago the current community may have different ideas for the park development. A review of the concept plan would enable community input and provide a good basis for funding park development.

✔ Approved

## Te Puna Quarry Park

**We decided to provide funding of \$90,000 in 2022/23, for the kerb and channeling and sealing of the Te Puna Quarry Park carpark. There will also be an increase of \$3000 per annum to the operational budget, for the upkeep of the carpark.**

The Te Puna Quarry Park Society requested funding to seal the public carpark at the park. The existing metal carpark is dusty, and can be hazardous due to its uneven surface. Providing a sealed carpark with kerbing and channeling will also help with managing stormwater. It will also mean the carpark can be marked out, delivering a more efficient use of space.

✘ Declined

## Funding for four interpretive panels depicting Tangata Whenua history, in Waihi Beach

**We decided not to provide additional funding of \$20,000 for four interpretive panels, noting the Waihi Beach Community Board can fund the interpretive panels from their reserve account.**

The Waihi Beach Community Board requested that Council provide funding in the 2021/22 financial year of the Long Term Plan for the provision of four interpretive panels in the Waihi Beach Ward, which is in keeping with the Waihi Beach Community Plan.

The panels will require input from Tangata Whenua whose history would be depicted.

✘ Declined

## Te Puke Gymsport

**We decided not to approve any funding as a capital contribution towards the construction of the proposed Te Puke Gymsport facility but will provide a letter of support for funding applications prepared by Te Puke Gymsport.**

Te Puke Gymsport requested Council continue to support them in moving forward with their project for a new purpose-built facility on Centennial Park.

Council provided \$18,000 towards the feasibility study for the purpose-built facility. We have also granted a lease for 2000m<sup>2</sup> of land on Centennial Park. The next step for Te Puke Gymsport is fundraising.



 Declined

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## Ōmokoroa Bike Park

**We decided not to provide funding for the development of a bike park in Ōmokoroa. Council will work with the submitters to identify a number of potential sites in Ōmokoroa for a bike park and analyse each site before reporting back to Council with some costed options for consideration in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.**

We received a request for land and some funding to be provided for development of a new bike park in Ōmokoroa.

The submitters requested to work with Council to identify a suitable site, and for \$125,000 to be provided as funding towards the capital costs to develop the park.

 Approved

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## Midway Park, Pukehina

**We decided to bring forward the funding of \$65,000 for Midway Park development, from the 2024/25 year to the 2023/24 year. Consultation on the development will be done through the review of the Maketu/Te Puke Ward Reserve Management Plan in 2021/22.**

The Pukehina Beach Residents and Ratepayers Association requested that the current funding of \$65,000 for Midway Park in the 2024/25 financial year be brought forward to the 2021/22 financial year.

The original budget was provided to improve the turf at the park. It has been some years since this was approved. There is the opportunity to revisit the development of the park through the Maketu/Te Puke Ward Reserve Management Plan review. The review is happening in 2021/22.

 Approved

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## Te Tawa Ki Tahataharoa

**We decided to increase Council's contribution to Te Tawa ki Tahataharoa, from \$20,000 per year to \$30,000 per year. The project is a joint management process, and this funding is in line with Council's original intention of the project.**

Pirirākau hapū requested an increase to Council's operational project funding for Te Tawa ki Tahataharoa, from \$20,000 per year to \$30,000 for the first three years of the Long Term Plan. The funding would support the cost to control plant pests, add new plantings for wetland restoration and maintain new infrastructure.

 Approved

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## Thompsons Track Recreational Development

**We decided to provide \$15,000 in 2023/24 for a feasibility report to consider the issues and options and cost estimates to achieve a cycleway/walkway link via Thompsons Track over to the Waikato side of the Kaimai Ranges funded from general rates.**

Katch Katikati requested that a feasibility report be undertaken on the upgrading of Thompsons Track where it crosses through the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board would also like to explore future opportunities for the area.





## Decisions on other topics

# Protecting and improving the environment

## Te arai me te whakarauora i te taiao

*Many Council activities have a connection with the environment, and can have positive or negative impacts on the environment depending on how those activities are carried out.*

*Council has a specific funding programme for activities that aim to protect and enhance the natural environment and support sustainable living. The programme aims to support mainly community based activities that are achieving good environmental outcome.*

*We received several requests for funding projects that have environmental benefits.*

### Approved

#### Highfields Pond, Katikati

**We decided to allocate \$130,000 in the 2022/23 financial year to undertake improvements at the Highfields Pond.**

Council received a submission requesting funding of \$130,000 to convert Highfields Pond in Katikati into a permanent body of water. The submitter believes it will enhance the beauty of the Haiku Park and would continue to be a sanctuary for the abundant birdlife that presently exists and provide an area of water that can be used for recreational use.

A trial has been carried out to assess the impacts of the pond being converted to a permanent body of water, with successful results.

The funding will be used to enhance the pond, as well as make the temporary arrangement more permanent.

### No change

#### Stormwater Control, Waihi Beach

**We decided to continue with the Waihi Beach stormwater projects that are set out in the Long Term Plan (total value of \$9.25 million). The main project is the Two Mile Creek improvement work. The current programme does not include a second pipe for Walnut Avenue, as this will not resolve flooding issues. We will review the stormwater works programme if the work at Two Mile Creek does not proceed.**

Two submitters requested Council look at improving stormwater at Waihi Beach. In particular, one submitter has requested the following:

- a. Council install a second pipe in Walnut Ave drain or;
- b. Council undertake measures to improve stormwater retention from the Maranui subdivision.

This catchment is complex. Properties in this area are very low lying and therefore the catchment cannot be drained effectively, even by installing a second pipe as requested by the submitter.

The Long Term Plan includes several projects aimed at improving stormwater management in Waihi Beach. These projects have a total value of \$9.25 million.

**✘ Declined**

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## Wednesday Challenge Initiative

**We decided not to contribute funding towards the Wednesday Challenge Initiative.**

The Wednesday Challenge is a transport initiative aiming to facilitate a step change reduction in car dependency in the Western Bay of Plenty sub region (Tauranga/Western Bay). The initiative would encourage travel by bike, scooter, bus, carpool, encourage work from home and encourage paying an 'offset' for any travel by car on a Wednesday.

The group requested funding support of \$58,500 from Council to support its set up phase and first year of operations.

Council continues to support multi-modal travel and recreational walking and cycling by providing and maintaining the "hard" infrastructure such as footpaths, cycleways, urban bus stops and shelters, the roading network and its ongoing incremental improvements each year.

**✔ Approved**

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## Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust

**We decided to provide funding support for the Trust's toxin/trapping programme (\$30,000 per annum). This is to support the ongoing successful programme that takes a balanced approach to pest control. We also agreed to contribute \$50,000 a year for two years to support construction of a Kiwi inclusion fence. The funding is from existing budgets.**

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust requested funding support for their toxin/trapping programme, part time general manager, and Kiwi inclusion fence.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust's programme of work is the largest podocarp/broadleaf forest restoration programme in the Western Bay. The Trust have over 100 active volunteers, and source their funding from many different places including sponsors.

Council has a Natural Environment and Sustainable Living Programme. This project aligns with that programme and can be funded from existing project budgets.

**✘ Declined**

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## Waiariki Park Region

**We decided not to provide funding support for Waiariki Park Region. We will continue to provide support for people to engage in activities that will enhance the environment through our Natural Environment Work Programme.**

Waiariki Park Region requested funding support from Council of \$20,000 per annum for three years.

Waiariki Park Region is a new initiative that aims to connect people with nature and environmental activities across the Bay of Plenty. Its aim is to increase the percentage of people who engage in activities that will enhance the environment.

The purpose is that if people are connected with the natural environment and are engaged in local activities, they are more likely to care about what's happening in the environment, and to take their own steps and actions to improve their local environment. This has benefits for the environment itself, and for our communities and people.

The funding support was for initial set up and operating costs.

We will continue to provide support for people to engage in activities that will enhance the environment through our Natural Environment and Sustainable Living work programme.

**✔ Approved**

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## Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society Funding

**We decided to increase funding for Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society from \$27,430 per year to \$35,000 per year.**

Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society requested an increase in their existing contract from \$27,430 per year to \$35,000 per year excluding GST. The contract delivers a successful environmental education programme to schools in the eastern part of the District. An extension of funding will enable Rangiuru School to join the programme.

## Ōmokoroa Greenwaste Facility

**We decided to remove recycling staff costs from the calculations of the Ōmokoroa Greenwaste Targeted Rates.**

**We have revised the proposed targeted rate for the Ōmokoroa Greenwaste facility. The rate has changed from \$98.34 per rateable property to \$54.88 in 2021 and \$56.53 in 2022 per rateable property.**

**We agreed to fund \$400,000 of the current account deficit for the Ōmokoroa Greenwaste facility from the Environment Protection Rate Reserve.**

The Ōmokoroa Residents and Ratepayers Association requested Council review the proposed costs for operating the Ōmokoroa Greenwaste facility.

The original greenwaste site is now part of the Ōmokoroa Special Housing Area. A temporary site has been established adjacent to the Ōmokoroa Wastewater Station.

Over time, the operating costs of the greenwaste facility have been higher than the targeted rates collected for the service.





## Decisions on other topics

# Managing our finances Tiakina o mātou pūtea

 No change

## Rates affordability

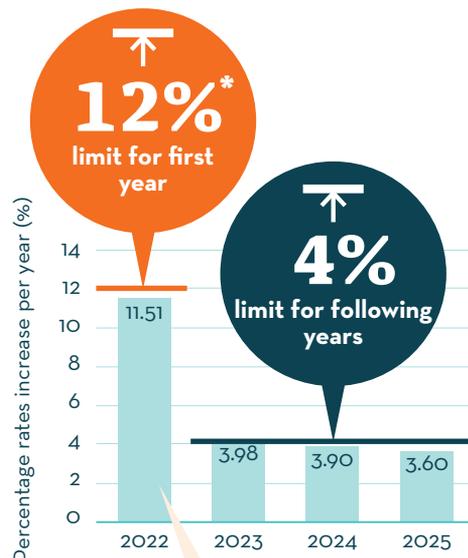
We decided to continue with our proposed limits for rates increases of no more than 12% for year one of the Long Term Plan, and no more than 4% for subsequent years of the Long Term Plan. These rate limits apply to existing ratepayers and are set out in our Financial Strategy.

We received 81 submissions about rates affordability. The key theme was that the proposed rates increase in Year One of the Long Term Plan was too high.

Twelve submissions specifically asked Council to be mindful of ratepayers on low or fixed incomes who may not have options to increase their revenue to cover rates increases in their household budgets. Council has a range of rates remission and postponement policies that may assist those on low or fixed incomes.

Nine submissions recommended that Council should reduce the number of services it offers, in order to lower the rates burden across the District. Alternatively, Council should defer all significant projects in order to smooth the impact across the Long Term Plan.

We consulted on keeping rates increases to below 12% in Year One of the Long Term Plan (this is including an average of 4% for the introduction of the kerbside waste collection service), and below 4% for subsequent years of the Long Term Plan. This enables Council to deliver the work programme required to meet our agreed levels of service and meet community needs.



**11.51%**

**Year One average rates increase per property.**

\*4% of the Year One 11.51% increase is the introduction of the rates funded kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service, which we consulted with the community on back in 2018-2019.

## The way Council activities are funded

**We have adopted the Revenue and Financing Policy without further amendments. Council has assessed that rates are allocated fairly and equitably across sectors and groups.**

The way Council activities are funded is set out in the Revenue and Financing Policy.

The Local Government (Rating) Act places a 30% cap on the proportion of rates that may be set on a uniform annual basis in order to promote issues of fairness and equity in the setting of local government rates.

We received 11 submissions about the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Three submissions asserted rural ratepayers were paying more than their fair share of total rates, as they did not draw as heavily on a

number of Council services and recommended that Council structure its rates burden to recognise the perceived imbalance.

One submission recommended moving to a user-pays philosophy towards roading re-seal extensions as opposed to rating across the District.

One submission recommended that Council should introduce a steeper commercial differential in order to shift a greater share of the rates burden onto the commercial ratepayers in the District.

A number of submissions raised alternative methods of rating for certain Council activities across the District.



✓ Approved

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## Multiple Pan Wastewater Remissions Policy

**We decided to approve the proposed changes to the Multiple Pan Wastewater Remissions Policy, with a further change to remove the requirement to apply annually for a remission. The revised Policy will come into effect on 1 July 2021.**

We consulted on changes to the Multiple Pan Wastewater Remissions Policy. Along with some minor changes, we proposed to include a new section that community halls and Marae will be fully remitted for the multiple pan wastewater rate. They will still be required to pay the standard rate for wastewater connections. The proposed change recognised the important

contribution to community wellbeing of community halls and Marae. It also encourages connection to Council's wastewater network, thus delivering better environmental outcomes.

We received 11 submissions on the policy review and proposed changes. Seven submitters supported the proposed changes and two did not support the changes.

A submission was received requesting that the requirement to apply annually for the remission be removed, and that instead the remission be automatically applied.

✓ Approved

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## Water Rates Remission Policy

**We decided to approve the proposed changes to the Water Rates Remission Policy. The revised Policy will come into effect on 1 July 2021.**

We consulted on changes to the Water Rates Remission Policy. The proposed changes did not change Council's approach, but provided more clarity on property owners' and Council's responsibilities, what is expected in a remission application, and removal of duplication with Council's Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Water.

We received nine submissions on the proposed changes. Five submitters supported the changes, and three did not support the changes. One submitter provided a comment only.

We also received four comments on the proposed changes.

One submitter suggested further changes to allow for greater discretion to remit up to 90% of a charge where a homeowner clearly could not identify a major leak. However this could significantly increase costs to Council and ratepayers.

Two submitters raised concerns about the waste of water by Council contractors, and that water meters have been used to increase rates.



## User fees and charges

✓ Approved

### Schedule of Fees and Charges 2021/22

**We decided to approve the draft Schedule of Fees and Charges, with amendments to the bin 'put back' service and bin delivery fee for new properties.**

The 2021 review of the fees and charges identified some increases to existing fees and charges.

We received 20 submissions on the schedule. Seventeen did not agree with the proposed changes, and three agreed with the changes. However only two responses provided details for why they agreed or did not agree with the changes.

One submitter stated that fees and charges should be linked to the cost of living index. However fees and charges are set based on a 'user pays' methodology. If the increase was linked to a cost of living index, under recovery would need to be covered by rates.

One submitter stated that library fees were increasing, but opening hours were being reduced.

To clarify, there is no change to library fees and charges in the 2021/22 year. They are the same as for 2020/21. While the opening times at Waihi Beach library have changed, the number of hours the library is open has increased.

✓ Approved

### Bin 'Put Back' Service

**We decided to approve a bin 'put back' service for the Waihi Beach/Athenree/Bowentown area. This is an 'opt in' service that home owners can request, at a cost of \$200 a year. It is included in Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2021/22.**

We recognised that in the Waihi Beach/Athenree/Bowentown area, a high percentage of homes are holiday homes and do not have permanent residents. This could create an issue with returning bins to properties once they have been emptied as part of our kerbside rubbish and recycling collection service. An additional service could be offered by our service provider to put back the bins to within the property boundary, once emptied.

The cost of \$200 a year means the service is fully funded by users.

✗ Declined

### Bin Delivery Fee for new properties

**We decided to remove this charge. The Schedule of Fees and Charges has been amended to remove the charge.**

In the draft Schedule of Fees and Charges a fee of \$75 was included for newly built properties to have their bins delivered.

✓ Approved

## Pukehina Development Fund

**We decided that we will consult with the Pukehina Beach community during the 2021/22 financial year, on:**

- a. **Continuing or ceasing the rate**
- b. **Repurposing the rate and reserve balance**

**The outcome of the consultation will be implemented in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.**

The Pukehina Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association requested Council carry out specific consultation on changing the purpose of the Pukehina Development Reserve.

The Pukehina Development Rate has been charged for the past 20 years. This is a charge of \$20 per targeted ratepayer for the purpose of funding future infrastructure for sewerage in the Pukehina area. The current balance in the fund is \$455,331.

There is currently no plan for providing reticulated sewerage for Pukehina. It is therefore timely to consider the future use of this balance of this fund, and the ongoing purpose of the Pukehina Development Rate. This will include whether there is a need to continue collecting funds for a reticulated wastewater scheme.

## Reductions of Financial Contributions

✓ Approved

### Te Puke Baptist Church Social Housing Project

**We decided to apply the policy exception currently applicable to Papakainga developments. The financial contributions payable would therefore be reduced from \$127,000 (approx.), to \$61,500 (approx.). The exact amount of the reduction will be dependent on the assessment of the resource consent application that the church submits.**

The Te Puke Baptist Church is planning to build housing for people over the age of 65 years, on land it owns at George Street, Te Puke.

The church applied for a reduction in the financial contributions assessed as being payable on the development, to support the project to proceed.

✓ Approved

### Supporting development of Papakainga and social/affordable housing

**We decided to continue with the current 50% reduction in financial contributions for Papakainga developments that have been through the Papakainga Toolkit process, and the abatement fund for application fees for Papakainga.**

**We have included a review of the Financial Contributions Policy and Fees and Charges Policies in the 2021/22 year, to explore an alternative approach for Papakainga and social/community housing projects.**

We received a submission requesting Council review its regulatory framework and fees schedule to specifically encourage and support development of community housing or Papakainga, to enable more affordable housing supply.



# **Rates**

## **overview**

### Tirohanga rēti



# What it means for your rates

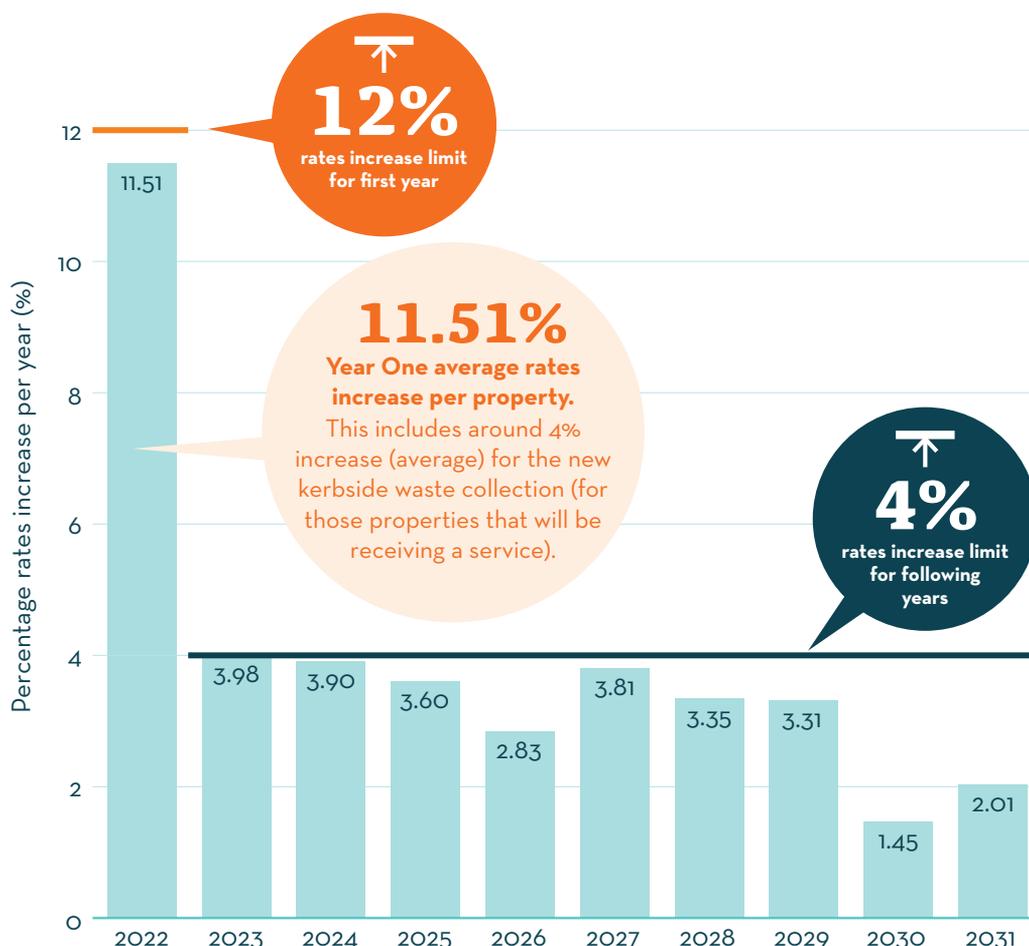
## Me pēhea ō reiti

**The rates increase for Year One of the Long Term Plan is an average of 11.51% per property.**

This enables us to deliver the key proposals, maintain our current levels of service, and include funding for requested projects that are important to the community.

We received several requests for funding for a variety of projects. We have prioritised the requests and refined our work programme and included funding for some projects where they aligned with Council's direction and could add value.

*Here's our final rates increases for years 1 to 10 of the Long Term Plan.*



# Your Mayor and Councillors

## Tōu Koromatua me Ngā Kaikauniwhera a Rohe



### Your Mayor



**Garry Webber**

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### Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Councillors



**James Denyer**

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**Anne Henry**

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**Allan Sole\***

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*\*Allan was sworn in as Councillor on 12 May 2021 following the resignation of Christina Humphreys in January 2021.*

## Kaimai Ward Councillors



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**Don Thwaites**  
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## Te Puke-Maketu Ward Councillors



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**Kevin Marsh**  
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*Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council*

Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i nga  
Kuri-a-Whareki Otamarakau ki te Uru

# Thank you for helping us shape the next 10 years.

Ka mihi ake mō tō āwhina  
i tēnei mahi whai huarahi

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