



Mahere ā tau 2023-24 -
Pukapuka whakataunga

**Annual Plan 2023-24 -
Decision document**



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Ngā rārangi upoko

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He karere nō te Koromatua **Message from the Mayor**

Getting the balance right

Tēnā koutou,

At Council, we look to make every decision in the best interest of our people – making sure we invest in the important things now and into the future to improve community wellbeing.

This Annual Plan is no different and why we have taken a prudent approach despite a number of factors outside our control – weather events and the current economic climate.

Here you'll find the key decisions and mahi we're planning to undertake in your community over the next 12 months (1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024), and the dollars required to achieve this.

A big thank you to the more than 300 people who shared their views during this process. Whether online, in person at one of our drop-in information sessions or in Council chambers, it was great to see and hear from such a range of people from right across our rohe.

Connecting regularly with our community is important because without hearing people's views – the good and the bad – we would lack the insights to make the best decisions on their behalf.

As a Council we've taken these views, plus this year's weather events (including the Waihi Beach flooding) and the current difficult economic climate into account when striking an average rate increase of 7.04 percent.

We've brought it down from the 7.41 percent we initially proposed and consulted on earlier this year by finding further savings and reducing project funding by \$343,359, and using \$1.6m of the General Rate Reserve.

This reserve is an accumulation from surpluses arising from underspends in previous years.

While we can never hope to please everyone, we do try to do our best for our community now and for the long-term.

Here's some of the key projects we have decided to progress in the 2023/24 year:

- The prioritisation of stormwater projects as part of Council's capital programme in light of recent weather events
- \$1.9 million to install a roof, bulkhead and liner at Katikati's Dave Hume Pool
- The loan funding of \$300,000 towards repairs for the Te Puke War Memorial Hall
- Re-starting the concept planning for the Beach Road Boat Ramp, Katikati, and
- \$434,920 for the design through to building consent of a new Waihi Beach Library and Community Hub, subject to further review of the design.

We know this rate increase may place further financial pressure on some households. So, if you need to, I encourage you to reach out and see how we can help you with one of our rates rebate and postponement options. Visit westernbay.govt.nz/rates for more information.

If you wish to read the full Annual Plan head to - westernbay.govt.nz/annualplan2023-24

We are working hard to support our District, while ensuring we can continue to do the mahi that matters to you.



James Denyer
Western Bay of Plenty Mayor

Nga take matua

Key matters

The key proposal for the Annual Plan sought feedback on the average rates increase.

The current economic environment is very different to what was expected when we prepared our Long Term Plan 2021-31. The inflation and interest rates are significantly higher than were projected by industry experts at the time, and these changes have significant impacts on Council's budgets.

Council decided on an average rate increase of 7.04%, bringing it down from the 7.41% consulted on in March-April this year. This rate increase is achieved by finding further savings and reducing project funding by \$343,359 and dipping into the General Rate Reserve - using \$1.6 million. The reserve is an accumulation from surpluses arising from underspends in previous years.

This is above the 3.90% planned in the Long Term Plan, and above our Financial Strategy limit of 4% increase (this sets the approach Council takes to balance affordability with delivery including limits on rates and debt). We are reviewing the Financial Strategy through the Long Term Plan for the 2024-2034 process, over the next year.

We sought feedback and have decided to progress with the following projects in the Annual Plan:

- Funding \$1.9 million towards a roof, liner and bulkhead for the Dave Hume Pool
- Reserve projects:
 - Upgrading the existing facilities at Midway Park, Pukehina (\$130,000)
 - A neighbourhood park upgrade at Spencer Avenue, Maketu (\$50,000)
 - Build a local playground at Arawa Road, Pongakawa (\$55,000)
 - Deliver on the agreed concept plan for Wilson Park, Waihi Beach (\$415,000)
- Funding \$434,920 towards developing a new Library and Community Hub at Waihi Beach. This funding would enable us to complete the design, engineering and prepare for a building consent in advance.
- To proceed with building a new Te Puke Wastewater Treatment plant in one stage.

Many of these projects are funded by the General Rate Reserve. To see the breakdown of which projects are receiving General Rate Reserve funding, see page 36 of the Annual Plan westernbay.govt.nz/annualplan2023-24

We heard from over 300 submitters during our consultation.

In response to submissions, there are some projects which we have decided to progress in the 2023/24 year these are:

- Loan funding \$300,000 towards repairs for the Te Puke War Memorial Hall
- Concept planning for the Katikati Beach Road Boat Ramp
- Prioritise stormwater projects as part of the Council's capital programme

- Increase the funding for the Te Puna Memorial Hall
- Funding arrangements for Ranguru Business Park and Katikati Industrial Park

Some of the items raised by submitters are better considered through other Council processes. They may have long term implications or are bigger than this annual plan, and will be considered through the development of our Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

If you would like to read more about these individual changes and all the items considered, please see the agenda and minutes from Council's Annual Plan/Long Term Plan Committee meeting from June 14 2023 – available online at: westernbay.govt.nz/agendas-and-minutes



Rārangi o ngā utu 2023/24

Schedule of fees, charges and financial contributions 2023/24

Council sets the fees and charges for its services annually - considering any public feedback as part of the process.

In this year's review, Council needed to address rising costs caused by inflation. With the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) ranging between 8.7% and 12.4%.

LGCI measures the changing price of materials and services for local government activity - in other words it tells us how much more is needed to pay for our own basket of goods for things like pipes and bitumen. Given these rising costs Council decided to increase many of the fees and charges by around 10%.

Council, in response to feedback, introduced a new fee for retrofitting wall insulation.

We also undertook further consultation on the financial contributions in July with deliberations on all feedback received in August.

Council approved the schedule of Ranguru Business Park financial contributions from Quayside Holdings Limited, and committed to do further work to understand the effects of increasing the amount that Council may act as financier for.

This would also include consideration of transfer of any financier commitment to any new Water Services Entity.

In relation to the feedback received on financial contributions for 2023/24, Council decided to:

- Include all projects as released for further consultation in the financial contribution models for 2023/24, with the exception of the Northern Harbour boat ramp. This project was deferred beyond the 2021/21 Long Term Plan period and will be reconsidered through the Long Term Plan process for 2024-34,
- Decline the requests to reduce financial contributions for 2023/24 with a ratepayer subsidy, but will consider this through the Long Term plan process for 2024-34, and
- Acknowledge a range of feedback received that was considered outside of scope for setting the financial contributions for 2023/24.

Do you want to know more?

For more information see westernbay.govt.nz/agendas-and-minutes

14 June 2023

Council's Annual Plan/Long Term Plan Committee meeting

Read more about all of the individual changes to the 2023/24 Schedule of fees and charges.

10 August 2023

Council's Annual Plan/Long Term Plan Committee meeting

Read about the deliberations on financial contributions 2023/24.

17 August 2023

Strategy and Policy Committee meeting

Council decided to progress further investigations of the options available for funding growth-related infrastructure.

Ngā mihi mō ōu whakaaro

Thank you for your feedback

Thank you to everyone that participated and provided feedback on the Annual Plan and/or Schedule of fees and charges 2023/24 and financial contributions.

If you require further information or have any questions please phone our Customer Services Team on 0800 926 732, email us at info@westernbay.govt.nz or visit your nearest library and service centre:

- Waihī Beach Library and Service Centre, 106 Beach Road, Waihī Beach
- The Centre - Pātuki Manawa Katikati Library, Service Centre and Community Hub, 21 Main Road, Katikati
- Ōmokoroa Library and Service Centre, 28 Western Avenue, Ōmokoroa

- Te Puke Library and Visitor Information Centre, 130 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke
- Barkes Corner head office, 1484 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga

View the following 2023/24 documents here:

- Annual Plan 2023/24: westernbay.govt.nz/annualplan2023-24
- Schedule of fees and charges: westernbay.govt.nz/fees-charges
- Financial contributions: westernbay.govt.nz/fincos23-24
- Disclosure tables: westernbay.govt.nz/disclosure-tables23-24



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

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

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