



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
FEEDBACK**



SEE INSIDE

For decisions your Council has made on the key issues, priorities and projects for the District in the next 10 years.



SETTING THE PACE FOR
THE NEXT 10 YEARS

your
**DISTRICT
- COUNCIL -**

Long Term Plan 2015-2025



*Western Bay of Plenty
District Council*

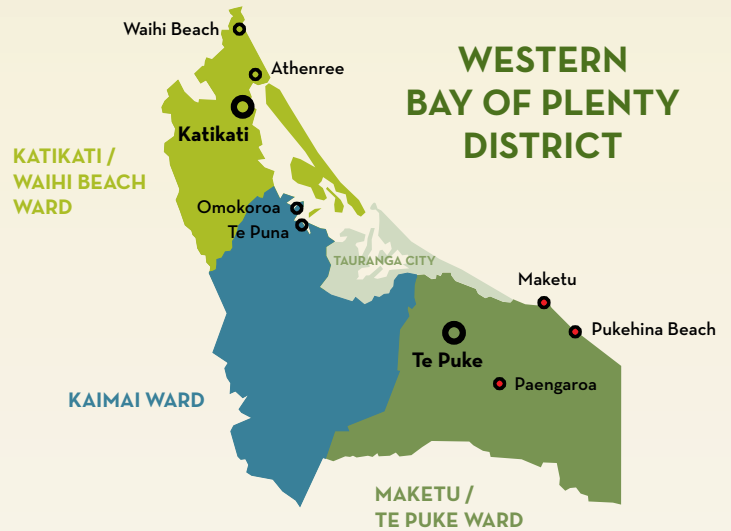
KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

WELCOME

E NGA MANA, E NGA REO
E NGA KARANGATANGA MAHA
TENA KOUTOU

ALL AUTHORITIES, ALL VOICES
ALL THE MANY ALLIANCES
AND AFFILIATIONS
GREETINGS

Welcome to this 2015-25 Long Term Plan (LTP) decision document. In the following pages you will find details of decisions on the key issues, priorities and projects that Council will carry out during the next 10 years.

Council made these decisions after deliberating on more than 1000 submissions to the LTP from property owners and members of the community.

This came after three months of consultation and community engagement, including a District-wide roadshow by Councillors and staff to highlight the issues, a one-month submission period and a week of hearings.

Ratepayers gave us a very strong message that affordability of rates and a reduction of debt were the two issues of greatest concern.

KEEPING RATES AFFORDABLE

We listened to ratepayers' call for a rein-in on rates. This resulted in a rates increase of less than four percent for the 2015/16 year and a four percent cap on total rates rises from 2016 to 2025. Council has managed to shave a further \$500,000 from the draft budget to achieve this. This means the resulting rates increase is slightly higher than the combined forecast growth of 1.3 per cent and inflation of 1.7 per cent.

RATES FREEZE

It's important to acknowledge that Council received a petition signed by approximately 2000 people demanding a rates freeze. The petition, presented by the Western Ward Residents and Ratepayers Association, did not specify which services or projects people wanted cut from the LTP to achieve the rates freeze.

After careful consideration the rates freeze has not been implemented, as Elected Members feel it would have potentially harmful consequences for our District. A freeze would lead to a significant decline in Council's ability to service ratepayers' needs, a reduction in operational and maintenance work and no ability to reduce debt.

MANAGING OUR DEBT

In response to more than 600 submissions calling for Council to trim debt and manage it more prudently, we

have confirmed our commitment to steadily reduce debt over the next 10 years.

To make this happen, Council will increase the funding it puts into growth-related debt interest payments from the \$1m allocated last financial year to \$2.5m. Council will recover the \$2.5m from a mix of the general, uniform and roading rates - an option supported by 421 submitters.

Key issues Council called for feedback on include a rebuild of the Katikati library; retention of the Katikati museum collection; Council's role regarding museums; a change to stormwater; three coastal cycleways and funding for Waihi Beach events and promotions. These have been addressed through the plan and detailed information is included in this document.

We also made a commitment to rural residents seeking relief from dusty and bumpy roads. By applying extra funding and changing our criteria we will be able to increase the amount of rural roads we seal and ensure the roads most in need of upgrading are done first.

Wastewater scheme subsidies for Te Puna West and Ongare Point communities have received approval in principle.

Other important LTP decisions highlighted in this document include a change in the stormwater funding split to a 90 percent targeted rate and 10 percent District-wide rate and budgeted coastal and creek erosion work at Waihi Beach.

I trust you find we have a plan for the District for the next 10 years that strikes the right balance between managing debt, keeping rates affordable and continuing to prudently manage our infrastructure, while delivering levels of service the community has come to expect.



Ross Paterson
Mayor, Western
Bay of Plenty District





COMING TO YOUR PLACE

The decisions highlighted in this document set the pace for the Western Bay of Plenty for the next 10 years.

They've been made following a comprehensive consultation process that involved many opportunities to meet and discuss what's important to us. We enjoyed coming to 'your place' for these conversations, particularly through our

Roadshow (pictured above and below) that visited 10 locations throughout the District. We like to think that this played a part in receiving more than 1000 submissions - more than double received through the previous Long Term Plan.

We heard you tell us that rates affordability and debt reduction are key issues. We believe that our decisions respond to this, while ensuring we continue to prudently manage infrastructure and deliver levels of service you've come to expect.

