

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

May 2020

Council is committed to working collaboratively to rebuild the Western Bay of Plenty economy as fast as possible – through immediate relief and medium to long term support.



Economic recovery

Our collaborative business community has strong foundations to thrive in a 'new normal'. Local and central governments, business and Māori entities will all play a major role, along with other community stakeholders.

What is Council doing?

- Providing stimulus through investment, and with central government's assistance, fast-tracking 'shovel-ready' infrastructure projects
- Sixteen applications totalling \$515m to central government's infrastructure fund, for 'shovel ready' projects that can start within six months
- Promoting and assisting the local business sector - through funding and support mechanisms - with a focus on Priority One and organisations like Te Puke Economic Development Group and Katch Katikati
- Work with local economic development organisations and government agencies on projects that aim to:
 - Keep as many businesses in operation as possible
 - Maximise local employment opportunities and help people back into jobs or training
 - Minimise secondary effects of the economic shock (insolvencies, redundancies).
- Advocating to central government for funding and other support to ensure regional resilience and sustainability
- Encourage Western Bay residents to buy from, and support, local businesses.



Council financial support and provision of services

Some businesses and households will continue to face significant hardship during the pandemic recovery. Central government and banks will continue to provide the main support mechanisms, but Council can also assist.

What is Council doing?

- Promoting Council's targeted rates postponement policies, which can provide rates relief for households
- Reducing the timeframes for payments to suppliers who provide goods and service to Council from 20 days to seven days to help with cash flow
- Providing full or pro-rated refunds of consent fees to customers unable to complete projects as a result of the pandemic
- Assist with cash flow for resource consent applicants by deferring requirement to pay lodgement fee
- Ensuring local contractors and service providers are used as much as possible to support Council work
- Provide financial relief to organisations, businesses, and clubs that use Council facilities:
 - Waiving rent for 12 months for sport clubs and community organisations
 - 3-6 months of rental relief for campgrounds.
- Distribution of one-off grants to community groups/ organisations severely affected by COVID-19 through consolidating existing Community Matching and Facilities in the Community funds
- Freeze Council fees for cemeteries and greenwaste disposal for the 2020/2021 financial year.



Community heart

The Western Bay has always had a strong sense of community. Residents value community connections, looking out for their neighbours and supporting everything local. Continuing to look out for one another is more important than ever.

What is Council doing?

- Helping vulnerable people to access central and local government assistance through specialist staff at the Emergency Operations Centre and, when COVID alert levels allow, at Council libraries and service centres
- Community outreach - coordinate with groups/volunteers to assist in looking after vulnerable people in the Western Bay
- Get people active and engaged - with the support of Sport Bay of Plenty provide programmes and events that encourage residents to come together, share information, stay healthy and engaged
- Continue to promote and encourage pride in the Western Bay, foster a sense of community heart and find new ways to support each other.



Māori relationships

Council will use its existing relationships with key Māori leaders in the District to support existing relief work and build on stimulus to the Māori economy provided by central government.

What is Council doing?

- Advocating to central government for infrastructure funding to support marae and papakāinga across the Western Bay
- Direct specific funds to Maori organisations that provide support to communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the immediate response and ongoing support during the recovery phase).