

A plan we can all be proud of

He mahere whakahī tā mātou

Message from the Mayor

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.

Ngā mihi nui
Mayor Garry Webber