

# Tough choices for lower rates.

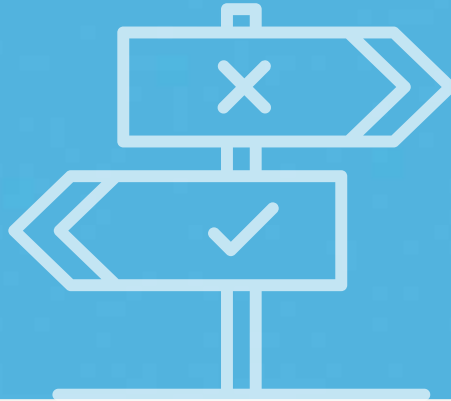
He kōwhiringa uaua hei  
whakaiti i ngā reiti

Help us decide how to  
**keep rates down** in 2026/27

**LOWER  
RATES**

**HIGHER  
RATES**





## We're making hard choices to reduce next year's rates increase.

Some of the changes won't be popular, but we've heard that affordability clearly matters.

Rates will still increase in 2026/27. We don't have the financial levers available to deliver a 0% increase next year. But we can reduce the increase from what was forecast.

Now we need to know –  
**are these trade-offs worth it to you?**



# Message from the Mayor

## He kupu nā te Koromatua



This document reflects the first five months of work by this council to address the front-of-mind issue of unsustainable rate increases. I am very pleased that a key commitment made to our communities during last year's local body elections - an average rates increase of no more than 3.8% - is now before you.

Reaching this point has required careful work and difficult decisions. During the election campaign we consistently heard from residents and ratepayers that council needed to change direction. This Annual Plan is our first response to that message.

To get to a proposed increase below 3.8%, we have reviewed council work programmes, reconsidered the timing of some projects, and looked closely at the cost of running the organisation itself. We have also chosen not to use council savings simply to lower this year's rates figure. Instead, those retained earnings are proposed to be invested in ways that improves delivering priority projects earlier and to strengthen the district's financial resilience in the long term.

Our final decision on this plan is critical for next year's rates. But it will also lay a foundation in many areas for the years ahead. Let's get it right.

So I am asking for your honest feedback on what is contained in this document. Please read it and tell us what you think. If we have the balance right, or if you believe something needs to change, we want to hear from you.

Your feedback will be genuinely considered.

**Yours sincerely,  
Peter**

# The choice in front of us

## Ngā kōwhiringa

We're refining our plan for the 2026/27 year (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027). We're all seeing prices going up and ours have too. Delivering what we planned to in our Long Term Plan would mean a rates increase of 13% for next year.

We know that would be tough for many households and businesses.

Since being elected, we've set a clear target to limit rates increases as low as possible. This does not mean rates will stay the same. It means we are working to reduce the increase as much as we reasonably can next year.

To do that we cannot continue delivering everything at the same level or funding things the same way. We must make trade-offs.

For 2026/27 however, our options are limited to the proposals outlined in this document.

To reduce the amount that rates will increase, we need to:

- reduce some services
- increase most fees and put more of the cost onto direct service users
- remove or tighten some subsidies
- delay projects
- cut back internally
- change some of our financial settings.

There are no other meaningful financial levers available to us right now but over the next year we will look at our options for changing services, funding tools and financial settings to see what else is possible.

For now we are asking you whether the proposed trade-offs are acceptable to reduce the rates increase to a level we believe is more affordable.

While we're here, we also want to update you on the impact of the January storm event on our finances.

**We're proposing four changes to help keep rates increases lower. Want to go straight to the details?**



# What's driving costs up

## Ngā take pikinga utu

### Where we are right now

For local councils, much like the general population, our costs can't and won't go down. Even when we reduce our spending, some costs continue to rise for a number of reasons we can't control.



**Inflation on contracts**, materials, insurance and energy continues to go up.



**Lower-than-forecast revenue** means the bills have to be funded from somewhere else.



**Older infrastructure** means we must put more money aside to renew and replace it.



**The storms** we are familiar with all come at a huge cost.



**Government changes** put more costs on us, including the new three-waters delivery structure.



**Decisions made to defer projects** in the past are now falling into the 2026/27 year.

These costs mean that, even after internal savings, a rates increase remains unavoidable next year.

# What we've already done to reduce costs

## Ngā mahi whakapāpaku utu

We've already decided to make savings by:

### reducing consultancy budgets,

generally provided for undertaking investigation or pre work assessments ahead of projects. This is mainly in the transport, three waters and solid waste activities.

### reducing the Mayor's fund (a

discretionary fund generally set aside to enable the Mayor to fund small projects, pieces of work or to recognise groups and citizens for work and services undertaken in our district).

### reducing our budget for cross-Council efficiency initiatives via

Co-Lab which is a council-controlled organisation owned by councils across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty).

**shifting our IT focus** towards developing a comprehensive IT strategy that identifies future improvement programs. This initiative will be funded through retained earnings, helping to reduce the impact on rates.

### toughening up on issuing fines

when people don't follow the rules set in bylaws and other regulations.

### pausing our top up of our disaster

**reserve.** This doesn't mean we're no longer providing for the costs arising from unexpected weather events. Instead we'll use different tools.

### spreading some borrowing over

a longer period to match the life expectancy of our assets. This reduces short-term pressure on rates, but means loans are repaid over more years.

### changing how we account for new assets

that improve service levels. This reduces the amount we set aside each year for their future replacement.

### reducing the amount we collect each year for asset replacement

(depreciation). This lowers next year's rates requirement, but means less money is set aside annually for long-term renewals.

### increasing fees for many of our

**services,** including swimming pools, halls, libraries, parks and reserves, legal services, animal control, building control, and solid waste.

These decisions help reduce the projected increase. Reducing rates any further will require service cuts and funding changes and we've got some proposals to put to you.

# What are the trade-offs?

## He aha ngā whakataurite o ēnei kōwhiringa

Here's what we're proposing.

We've made a start, but now we need to consider changes that affect the services you receive and how they're funded more directly.

### These are our tools we're proposing to use



#### Tightening our budgets

Tightening the belt means making some tough decisions about which services matter most – and where we may need to do less.

**This approach reduces costs, but it can mean visible changes to the services people use.**



#### Increasing 'user pays' charges

Some services are used more by certain people than others. We often split the bill of our services between ratepayers in general and direct users through fees.

**A user pays approach means that people who directly use a service pay a greater share of its cost.**



#### Reducing some rates subsidies (remissions)

Rates remissions are discounts on rates provided in certain situations.

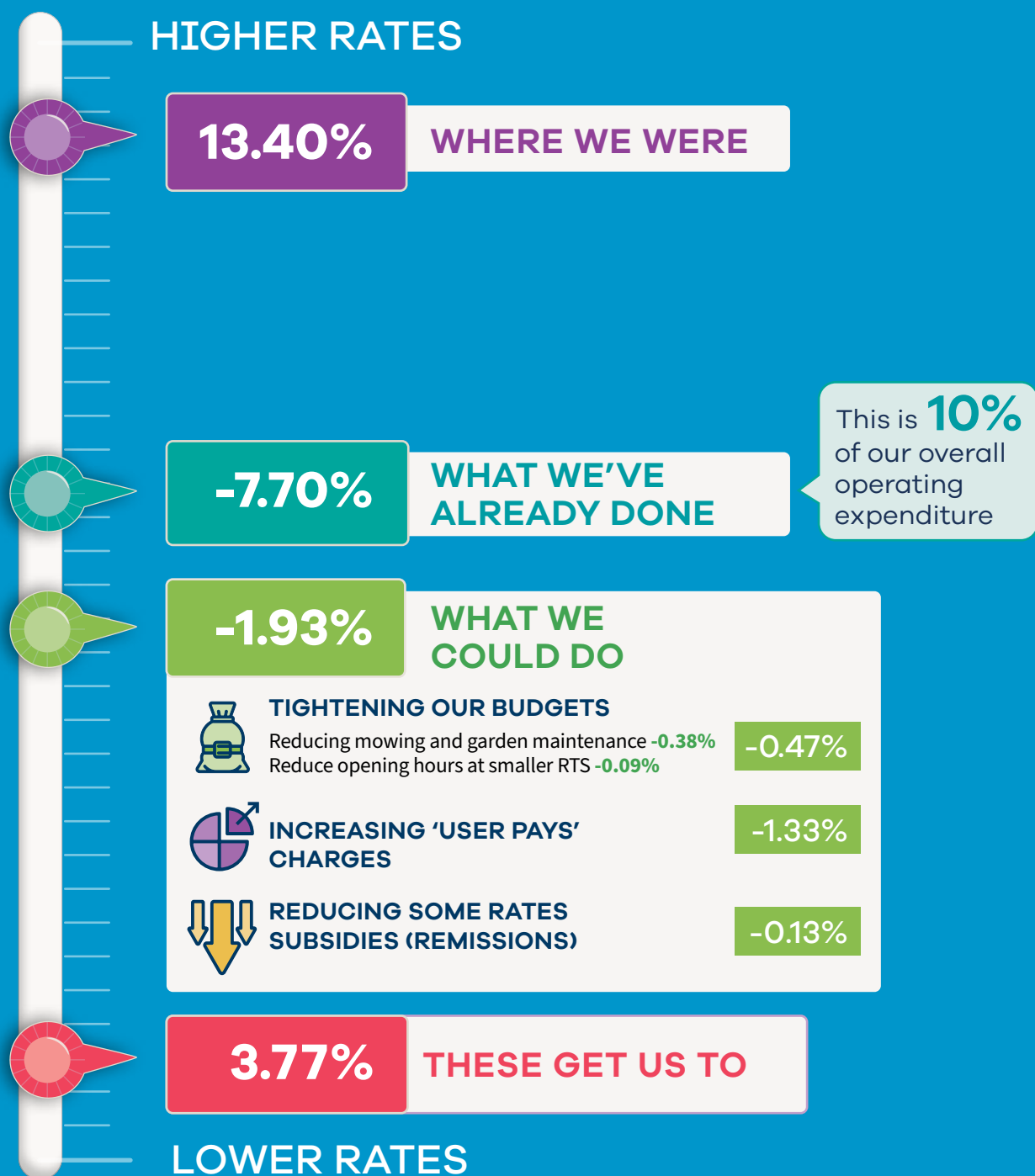
While helpful to individuals who receive them, the cost of those remissions is shared by other ratepayers. We are proposing to remove selected remissions.

**This reduces the burden on other ratepayers but removes some forms of financial relief.**

The proposals that follow use one or more of our three approaches to reduce the overall rates increase. None of them eliminate next year's rates increase entirely. Together, they reduce the projected rates increase from 13.4% to 3.77%. We're asking whether these trade-offs are acceptable to you.

We recognise that, in light of the January storm, some of the changes proposed here may appear modest compared to the scale of recovery required (more on that later).

The proposals in this document focus on what we can reasonably adjust now to reduce the 2026/27 rates increase, while larger recovery decisions are being assessed separately.



LOWER  
RATES



HIGHER  
RATES

# PROPOSAL 1: Reducing mowing and garden maintenance

OPTION 1 –  
Keep the current gardens  
and mowing schedule

OPTION 2 –  
Reduce service levels

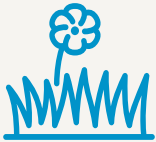
Have your  
**say!**





## Why we're proposing this

Across our district, parks, reserves, berms and gardens are maintained at different levels. Some areas receive more frequent mowing and have higher maintenance gardens. Other areas are maintained less often. This means we have a mix of premium, standard and basic maintenance levels across the District which could be reduced to help limit next year's rates increases.



## What would change

We're proposing to reduce some mowing and garden maintenance across the district. **These changes could save up to \$450,000 per year.** These changes would mean some areas look less manicured, with grass growing longer between mowing and fewer gardens.

### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DELIVER



Seasonal flower beds



Frequent mowing of parks, road berms, cemeteries and road median strips



Shrub garden maintenance



Annual Onehunga weed spraying

### WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING



Simpler planting with no seasonal flowers



Replacement of shrub beds with grass or hard surfaces



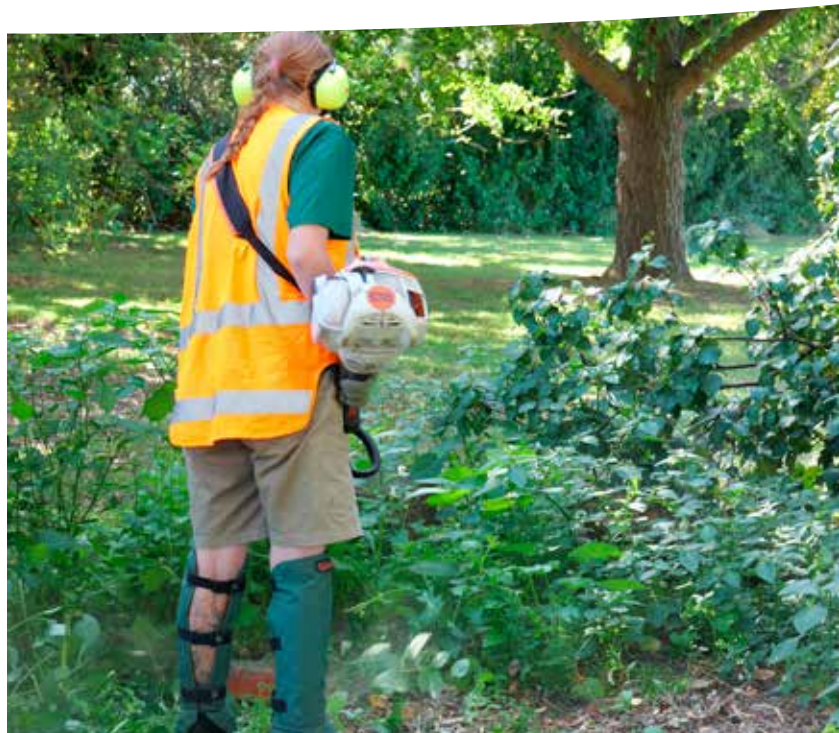
Reduced garden maintenance



Less frequent mowing of parks, median strips, cemeteries and other public spaces. No mowing of most berms



Cancel Onehunga weed spraying



## Here's what it looks like in more detail



### Seasonal flower beds

We currently maintain over 200 m2 of garden beds in high-profile locations that require replacing annually (including flowers beds). These are expensive to maintain. We're proposing to replace these beds with lower-maintenance options such as shrubs, grass or in some cases, hard surfaces.



### Onehunga weed spraying

We currently spray Onehunga weed to avoid those pesky prickles. This programme is costly and has limited long-term effectiveness, as weeds often return from nearby untreated areas. We're proposing to stop this spraying programme and not replace it with any other targeted weed control programme. This change may affect our coastal protection work as current spraying helps control other dune weeds.



### Shrub bed maintenance

We're proposing to reduce shrub maintenance at some sites. This might result in:

- removing some shrub beds altogether
- maintaining some shrub beds less often
- carrying out maintenance only when issues arise.

Most shrub beds in high-profile or busy locations would continue to be maintained as they are now. Sites selected for change are generally in less-visited areas or contain mature planting that doesn't need as frequent care.



### Mowing our reserves

We are proposing to reduce how often we mow some of our reserves. Not all will be affected. Changes would mainly occur in:

- areas that are used less often, particularly in winter
- sites that are low-lying, wet or steep, where mowing can be difficult or unsafe
- locations where maintenance costs are relatively high compared to levels of use.

In some cases mowing would be reduced during winter or extended wet periods. In other locations, mowing frequency may be reduced year-round.

Changes may apply to part of a reserve or the whole site.



### Road berm mowing

We currently mow berms along a number of roads identified as tourist routes. We're proposing to review and reduce the number of roads on this list, meaning berm mowing would no longer occur in those locations.

We'd continue to mow some areas, but less often:

- traffic islands and median strips
- berms next to Council-managed sites (because we're the landowner)
- berms at locations near private properties where we already have formal agreements in place.

We'd keep maintaining higher-use areas such as sports fields and key public spaces at current levels.



## Which areas would be impacted?

This proposal would be implemented district wide. You can see affected areas at a glance in the maps below. Find out more on [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27).

### WHANGAPOUA

#### ● Garden changes

We'll maintain garden shrubs in Whangapoua township gardens less often

#### ● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing (June – August) on Hamiora Esplanade Reserve, Whangapoua South End Reserve

#### ● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Mangakahia Drive, Tangiora Avenue

### MATARANGI

#### ● Garden changes

Shrub maintenance less often on Kenwood Drive, Puka Crescent, Totara Place, Kauri Crescent, Kowhai Avenue, Ocean Close, Matarangi Drive and Kelly Jade & surrounding reserves

#### ● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing on Matarangi Entrance (May to October) and The Pines, Village Green, Bluff Road Reserves (June to August)

#### ● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Matarangi Drive, Harbour Drive

### WHITIANGA

#### ● Garden changes

- Whitianga Council Office gardens (replacing seasonal beds with grass)
- Hei Esplanade (maintaining shrubs less often)
- Lyon Park (removing shrubs)
- Moewai Sports Park (removing seasonal beds; maintaining shrubs less often)

#### ● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing (June – August) at Hilton Park Recreation Reserve, Tom True Reserve, Cholmondley Street Reserve, Impala / Springbok Reserve, Moewai Park Reserves

#### ● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Buffalo Beach Road, Joan Gaskell Drive, Campbell Street, Cook Drive, Lee Street, Monk Street, Park Lane, Racecourse Road (outside residential private property), Wharekaho Road, Discovery Drive

### KUAOTUNU

#### ● Garden changes

We'll maintain Kuaotunu Village shrubs less often but we'll remove Kuaotunu Reserve shrubs

#### ● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing (June – August) on parts of Kuaotunu Reserves including Kuaotunu Recreational Reserve

### COOKS BEACH

#### ● Garden changes

We'll remove Cooks Beach Hall shrubs

#### ● Reserve mowing changes

No longer mow parts of River View Road Reserve, Marine Parade Reserve, Long Reach Purangi Estuary Reserve

#### ● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Purangi Road, Rees Avenue, Captain Cook Road & Service Lane, Resolution Rise

### FERRY LANDING

#### ● Reserve mowing changes

We'll no longer mow the lower portion of the Ferry Landing Cemetery and other wet areas in winter (May to October)

### DISTRICT-WIDE CHANGE

#### ● Onehunga weed spraying

We'll no longer spray for Onehunga weeds

#### ● Traffic island and median strips

We'll mow grassed traffic island and median strips less frequently while maintaining minimum road safety standards).

### KEY

● Garden change

● Reserve mowing change

● Grassed road edges (berm) mowing change

(NB: Council-owned berms and berms with a previously entered arrangement will continue to be mown).

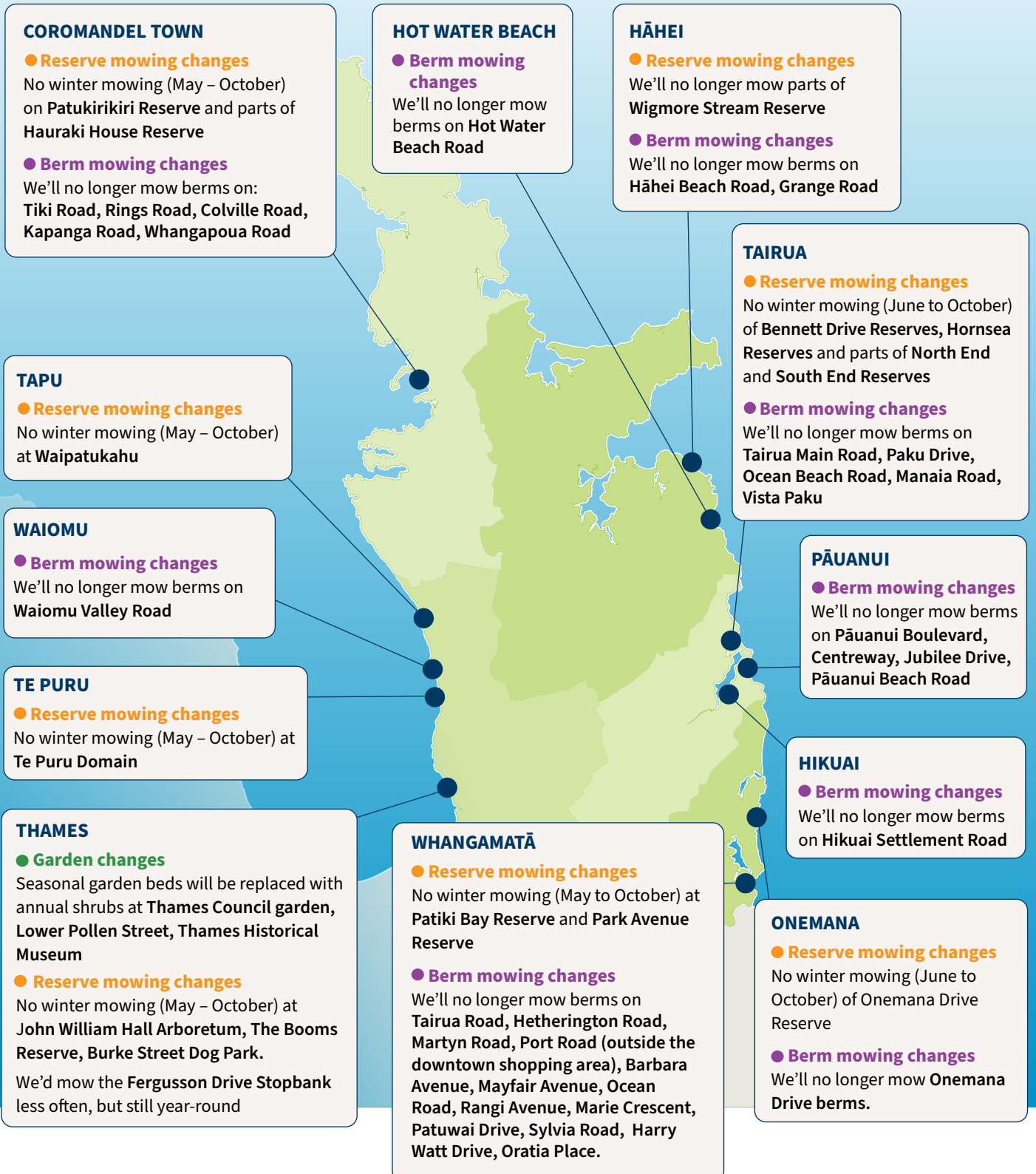
## KEY

● **Garden change**

● **Reserve mowing change**

● **Grassed road edges (berm) mowing change**

(NB: Council-owned berms and berms with a previously entered arrangement will continue to be mown).





## Who pays for this service?

Ratepayers in each ward fund the service in their area through their property rates. Rates are based on property value and will differ between wards.



# WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

### OPTION 1 –

#### Keep the current gardens and mowing schedule

Grass in parks, reserves, berms and other public spaces will continue to be mown as often as it is now throughout the year.

Garden beds, flower displays and landscaped areas will continue to be maintained at their current level.

#### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Public spaces stay tidy and well looked after throughout the year
- ✓ Weeds and pest plants are managed through regular upkeep
- ✓ Parks and open spaces continue to look good
- ✗ Costs more in the short term

#### Impact on your rates\*

No change to this year aside from inflationary movements

### OPTION 2 –

#### Reduce service levels

#### *This is our preferred option*

Mowing would be reduced in selected parks, reserves and berms, especially during winter when grass grows more slowly and the ground is wetter.

Some garden beds would be removed, simplified, or replaced with lower-maintenance planting such as shrubs, grass or natural areas.

Higher-use areas, such as sports fields and key public spaces, would continue to be maintained as they are now.

#### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Costs ratepayers less in the short term.
- ✗ Spaces may look less tidy
- ✗ Weed growth may increase
- ✗ Parks may feel less well cared for
- ✗ Issues may take longer to fix
- ✗ Costs could increase later if maintenance is delayed too long

#### Impact on your rates\*

A reduction of \$17.94 on average (-0.38%) compared to this year

### Neither option will impact our debt levels

\*Rates figures provide an indication of the impact on an average residential property, but they will vary for each property.

*These items are being consulted on under sections 95, 82, and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

LOWER  
RATES



HIGHER  
RATES

# PROPOSAL 2:

## Reduce opening hours at Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations

OPTION 1 –  
Status quo

OPTION 2 –  
Reduce days

OPTION 3 –  
Reduce hours

Have your  
**say!**



**PAUANUI**   
REFUSE & RECYCLING TRANSFER STATION

**OPERATING HOURS**

**Daylight Savings Hours**  
Monday - Sunday 8.30am - 5.30pm

**Non-Daylight Savings Hours**  
Monday - Sunday 8.30am - 4.30pm

All RTS's CLOSED on Christmas Day, New Years Day  
Good Friday and until 1.00pm Anzac Day

**CHARGES**

Uncompacted Waste	\$93.00 / cubic metre
Compacted Waste	\$270.00 / cubic metre
Green Waste	\$59.00 / cubic metre
60L Rubbish Bag	\$5.00 / each
20L Rubbish Bag	\$2.00 / each
Designated Recyclables	FREE
Official Blue Bags	FREE

www.tcdic.govt.nz



### Why we're proposing this

To reduce operating costs while still maintaining waste disposal options. The proposed options are based on data showing when these RTS sites are most and least used. You can find our data analysis on [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27).



### What would change

Currently, our RTS sites are open 7 days a week, 8.30am - 4.30pm (outside of daylight saving) / 5.30pm (during daylight saving). We're proposing to reduce the opening times at Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui RTS sites to either:

**4 DAYS PER WEEK**  
*(Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday)*  
and keep the same hours

OR

**7 DAYS PER WEEK**  
10am – 3pm opening hours



### Which areas would be impacted?

This change would impact the communities in and around Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui. This is a population of approximately 3,500 (according to the 2023 Census).

After-hours drop off facilities at Matarangi and Pāuanui will continue to operate the same as now.



### Who pays for this service?

From 1 July 2026, all ratepayers across the district will pay for the RTS service through a fixed charge on each rating unit (property).





# WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

## OPTION 1 – Status quo

Keep the RTS opening hours in Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui the same.

### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Most convenient for residents and visitors
- ✓ Fewer barriers to good waste disposal behaviour
- ✗ Costs ratepayers more
- ✗ Doesn't reduce costs on days when few people use the station.
- ✗ Keeps the station open even on very quiet days and misses an opportunity to save money

### Impact on your rates\*

No change to 2025/26 (outside of inflationary movements)

## OPTION 2 – Reduce days

### *This is our preferred option*

Reduce the RTS sites' opening days in Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui from 7 days per week to 4 days per week (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday).

### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Costs ratepayers less
- ✓ Focuses service on the days when most people use the station, according to our data
- ✓ Allows site maintenance to happen on closed day, with less disruption to customers
- ✗ Reduced days may be less convenient for users
- ✗ May result in illegal rubbish dumping if there isn't an alternative drop-off option

### Impact on your rates\*

A reduction of \$4.19 on average (-0.09%) compared to 2025/26

## OPTION 3 – Reduce hours

Reduce the RTS sites' opening hours from current to 10am – 3pm.

### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Costs less
- ✓ 7 opening days per week may be more convenient than option 2
- ✗ Reduced hours may be less convenient for users
- ✗ May result in illegal rubbish dumping if there isn't an alternative drop-off option

### Impact on your rates\*

A reduction of \$3.27 on average (-0.07%) compared to 2025/26

**None of these options will impact our debt levels**

\*Rates figures provide an indication of the impact on an average residential property, but they will vary for each property.

LOWER  
RATES



HIGHER  
RATES

# PROPOSAL 3: Increase fees and introduce new charges

OPTION 1 –  
Fees would increase to  
match inflation and we'd  
introduce new fees

OPTION 2 –  
Increase by average of 13%  
and introduce new fees

Have your  
**say!**





## Why we're proposing this

Our Council reviews its fees and charges annually to ensure they are up to date and reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing services.



## What would change

Our general approach is to increase fees by inflation. This time we are proposing to increase them more across the board to better recover the costs of delivering the service. Under this proposal users would pay a greater proportion of the bill. That offsets the amount funded through rates.

Overall, we're proposing to increase our fees by an average of 13% from this year. However, the increase varies by service, and some fees increase by more than 13%. In most cases, this reflects the application of standard price points. We have also proposed to increase fees above 13% in the following areas:

**Airfields:** Landing fees to offset the costs associated with running our airfields.

**Harbours:** Increases vary across the Wards and we have taken the opportunity to have a consistent fee for these services across all harbours within the district.

**Water Usage:** The standard water usage fee is also increasing to balance the proportionality between funding sources, in line with previous years' submissions and to support funding fairness and equity for this activity.

We're also introducing new fees for boat ramps, wharves, and cemeteries.

For full details of all the proposed changes, head to [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27) for the proposed fees and charges, and our summary of changes.





## WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

### OPTION 1 –

**Fees would increase to match inflation and we'd introduce new fees**

We'd increase all the fees we charge by the rate of inflation (2.5%) and we'd introduce new fees in some services.

#### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Keeps fee increases modest
- ✓ Introduces new fees where it makes sense for users to cover the cost of service
- ✗ Ratepayers continue to cover a larger share of the cost than some may think is fair
- ✗ Fees may not keep up with rising costs
- ✗ The balance between what users pay and what is funded by rates would stay the same

#### Impact on your rates\*

A reduction of \$12.00 on average (0.25%) compared to 2025/26

#### Impact on user fees

+ 2.5% average increase compared to 2025/26

### OPTION 2 –

**Increase by average of 13% and introduce new fees**

#### *This is our preferred option*

We'd increase all the fees that we can and introduce some new ones. The average increase would be 13%.

#### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Creates a fairer split between people who use services directly and those who don't
- ✓ Reduces pressure on rates by more of the cost directly through fees
- ✓ Helps services remain financially sustainable long-term
- ✗ Higher fees may be difficult for some people to afford
- ✗ Some people may choose not to use certain services if fees increase

#### Impact on your rates\*

A reduction of \$62.59 on average (1.33%) compared to 2025/26

#### Impact on user fees

+ 13% average increase compared to 2025/26

\*Rates figures provide an indication of the impact on an average residential property, but they will vary for each property.

*These fee proposals are being consulted on under sections 95, 82, 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, section 46 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008, and section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*



LOWER  
RATES

HIGHER  
RATES

# PROPOSAL 4:

## Reduce some rates remissions

OPTION 1 –  
**Status quo**

OPTION 2 –  
**Reduction**

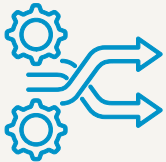
Have your  
**say!**





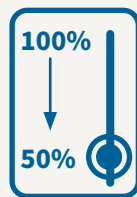
## Why we're proposing this

Remissions are a bit like discounts in very specific circumstances. Remissions will reduce the rates bill for eligible individuals but are funded by other ratepayers. Removing selected remissions contributes to lowering the overall increase next year.



## What's changing

### As part of this review, we're proposing to change two existing rates remissions:



#### Remissions for excess water use.

Currently, people can apply for a reduction in their water charges if they receive a high bill due to a leak or accidental overuse. We're proposing to reduce the remission from 100% and 50% to 50% in any two consecutive affected billing periods.



#### Remissions for late-payment penalties.

Currently, we automatically remit instalment penalties if payment is received within 14 days of the penalty charge applying. We're proposing to discontinue this.

To read our full draft Rates Remission Policy check out [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27)



# WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

## Option 1 – Status quo

No changes are made to the remissions we offer.

### The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Continues financial support for eligible ratepayers, reducing stress
- ✓ Remissions remain predictable and familiar
- ✗ Ongoing cost is carried by all other ratepayers
- ✗ Costs more
- ✗ Does not encourage prompt payment or water-use monitoring

### Impact on your rates\*

No changes to the average rates bill

## Option 2 – Reduction

### *This is our preferred option*

Reduce remissions for excess water consumption and late-payment penalties by \$150,000.

### The pros and cons of reducing remissions for excess water consumption

- ✓ Reduces cost overall for ratepayers
- ✓ Still provides some relief for eligible ratepayers
- ✗ Higher out-of-pocket costs for households affected by leaks or other situations
- ✗ May be financially challenging for some ratepayers
- ✗ May be perceived as unfair where unmetered ratepayers aren't charged for ongoing leaks and metered ratepayers may end up paying 50% for excess water consumption on top of paying to replace their aging pipes

### The pros and cons of reducing remissions for late-payment penalties

- ✓ Reduces cost overall for ratepayers
- ✓ Creates simpler and more consistent system
- ✓ Encourages timely payment
- ✗ May be financially challenging for some ratepayers
- ✗ Less flexible in cases of genuine hardship

### Impact on your rates\*

A reduction of \$5.98 on average (-0.13%) compared to 2025/26.

Removing the excess water consumption remission will save an estimated \$70,000 per annum, with a reduction of \$2.79 or 0.06% per ratepayer.

Removing the late-payment penalties remission will save an estimated \$80,000, with a reduction of \$3.19 or 0.07% per ratepayer

**Neither option will impact our debt levels**

\*Rates figures provide an indication of the impact on an average residential property, but they will vary for each property.

# Our operating environment

## Tō tātou tikanga

### If we do nothing

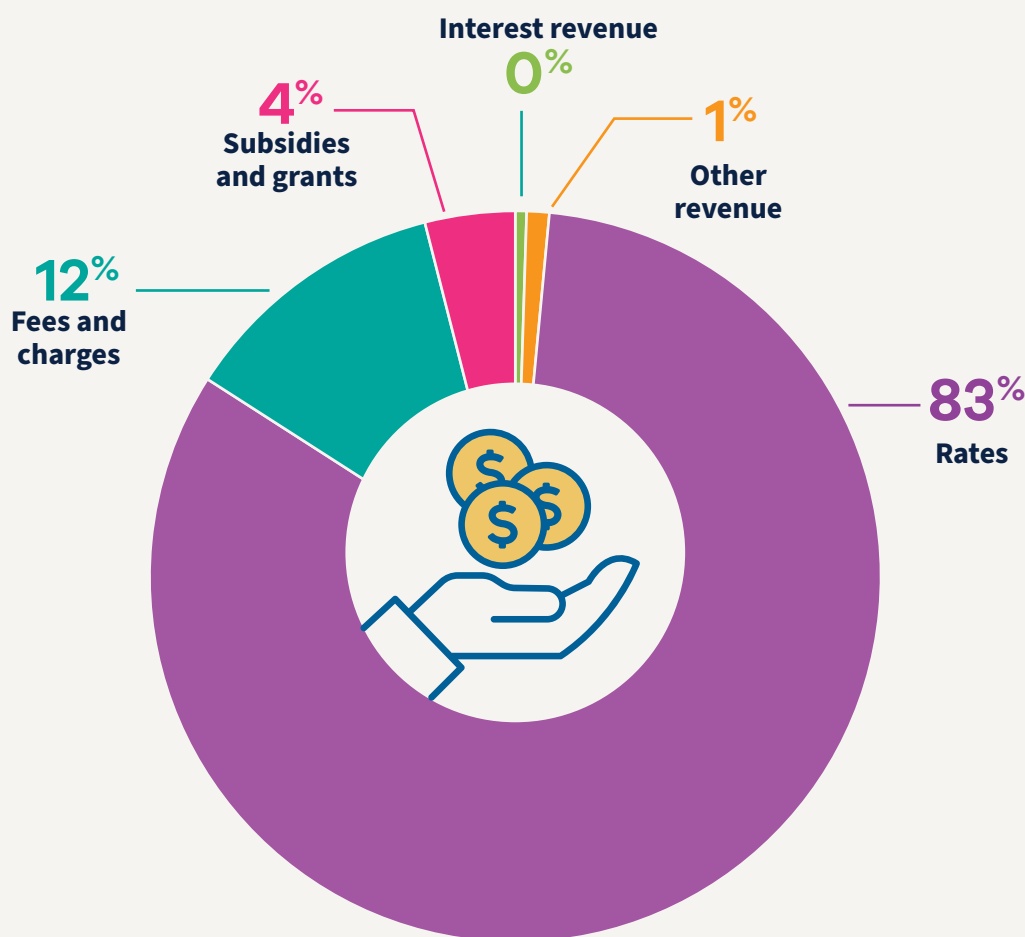
The average district rate will increase by **13.4%**.

### If ALL our proposals are adopted

The average district rate will increase by **3.77%**.

*The storm recovery costs are not yet included in these figures. See page 26 for more information*

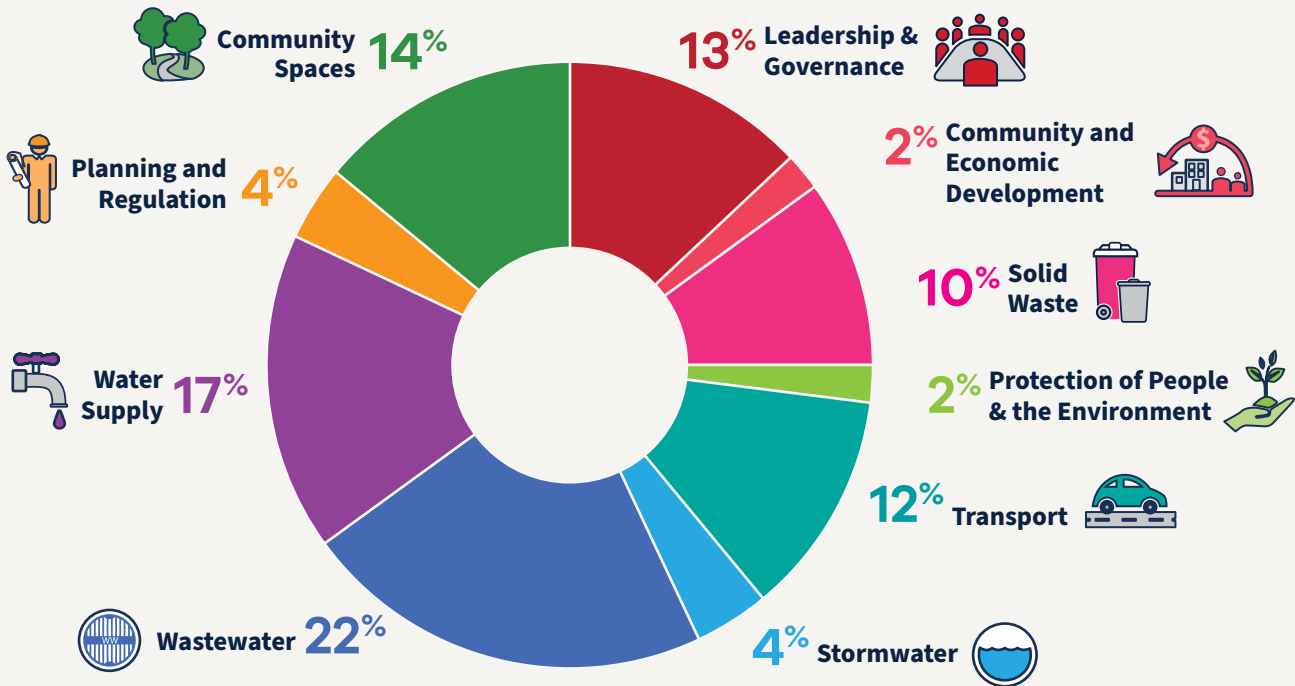
## What our income looks like



If we stick with our proposals, here's where our income would come from.

## Where your rates will be spent

If we stick with our proposals, here's what services your rates will be paying for:



### Our 2026/27 year at a glance

AVERAGE rates increase

**3.77%**

OUR BORROWING

to fund projects will increase by **\$11,000,000**

To deliver a

**'CAPITAL WORKS'**

(physical projects involving assets) program of **\$43,000,000**

### Breakdown of our capital works program

REPLACE NEW and existing assets

**\$25,000,000**

**BUILD** new things

**\$14,000,000**

BUILD TO CATER for increased people and usage

**\$4,000,000**

See our website for the capital works projects we're planning to deliver in 2026/27.

## What do the changes mean to our financial management?

The proposals and other changes in this document allow the Council to address the cost pressures impacting our finances at this time.

# THE JANUARY 2026 STORM

## Over Auckland Anniversary weekend in early 2026, our district experienced another severe weather event.

The damage was significant and widely felt across our communities, particularly Tairua and Whitianga on the eastern side of the Peninsula.

Aside from the residential and business properties that experienced damage (with 96 properties placarded at the time of writing), our own

infrastructure and facilities have been damaged and require major repairs. We are still assessing the full cost of recovery to council services, but we expect it to be about **\$25 million**. About 80% of this bill is for repairing our local roads, but a number of our other assets need fixing.

## THE LATEST REPAIR COST ESTIMATES.



### Roading

**\$18 million** for:

- clearing approx. 15,000m<sup>3</sup> of overslip debris
- repairing 7,000m of scours
- repairing 43 underslips
- clearing and unblocking of drains



### Parks

**Over \$2 million** for repairing:

- parks, trees, tracks and debris across the Peninsula
- tracks, bridges and boardwalks in Mercury Bay, Tairua-Pāuanui, Whangamatā and Coromandel wards
- Paku Hill exposed sites of cultural significance
- carpark drainage



### Water supply

**\$1.6 million** for repairing our water treatment plants



### Wastewater

**\$1.3 million** for repairs to pump stations and treatment plants and dealing with overflow issues



### Stormwater

**\$560,000** for repairs to stormwater network/drains



### Solid waste

**\$98,000** for repairing damage at Refuse Transfer Stations and providing free disposal of storm damaged items for non-insured residents



### Harbours

**\$692,000** for repairs to boat ramps, pontoons and other harbour facilities



### Cemeteries

**\$29,000** for repairs at Mercury Bay and Thames cemeteries

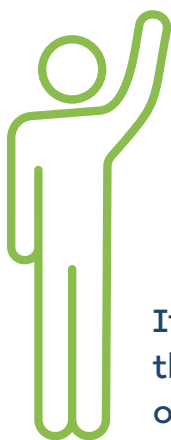
We expect to confirm the full cost of storm recovery over the coming months and will then decide how those costs will be funded. Financial support from Waka Kotahi | New Zealand Transport Agency is likely to help cover some local road repairs, which will reduce the impact on rates. Based on current estimates, the storm could mean costs of the equivalent of a 2.5% rates increase in 2026/27, with a smaller increase in the following year. We are also looking at other ways to fund recovery including

possible support from central government and use of our retained earnings. Reducing the impact on our ratepayers is front of mind.

Other evolving financial issues including the global fuel supply situation will also put pressure on the cost of delivering our services. Because costs and funding are still being confirmed, there is some financial uncertainty beyond the proposals outlined in this document.



# Want more detail? He kōrero anō?



If you want further information on any of the proposals in this consultation document, you can read more online at our website: [tcde.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://tcde.govt.nz/annualplan26-27)

## Online you'll find:

1. A full list of the user fees and charges we propose
2. The policy that sets out the rates subsidies we give
3. More on the change to hours at our RTS sites in Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui
4. More on our proposals for mowing and gardening
5. Our list of projects to replace old things and build necessary new things
6. Examples of what rates would look like.
7. How to chat to our staff and elected members.





# Let us know what you think

## Kōrero Mai



### When?

We're asking for your feedback now.

Please share it with us by **Tuesday 28 April 2026**.



### How?

You can share your views in whichever way suits you:

- [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27) through our feedback form
- By email, letter or a physical copy of our feedback form
- In person at a drop-in session
- By speaking at the feedback forum

**All** feedback -whether written or verbal - will be recorded and considered by the Council before final decisions are made.

You don't need to provide written feedback to be heard. If you speak at a session or forum, your comments will be documented.



### Want to talk it through?

You can meet with staff and elected members at any of our face-to-face sessions:

- Thames Market – **Saturday 4 April**
- Coromandel Market – **Saturday 11 April**
- Whitianga Market – **Saturday 18 April**
- Whangamatā Market – **Sunday 19 April**
- Whitianga Kai and Kōrero drop-in – **Wednesday 8 April**
- Whangamatā Kai and Kōrero drop-in – **Thursday 9 April**
- Coromandel town Kai and Kōrero drop-in – **Tuesday 14 April**
- Thames Kai and Kōrero drop-in – **Thursday 16 April**
- Tairua and Pāuanui Kai and Kōrero drop-ins – **Tuesday 21 April**

Online drop-in (virtual 'town hall') – **Thursday 23 April**.

A final feedback forum will be held with the full Council on **Thursday 7 May 2026**. You can attend:

- In person in Te Kāuaeranga | Thames
- Online from home

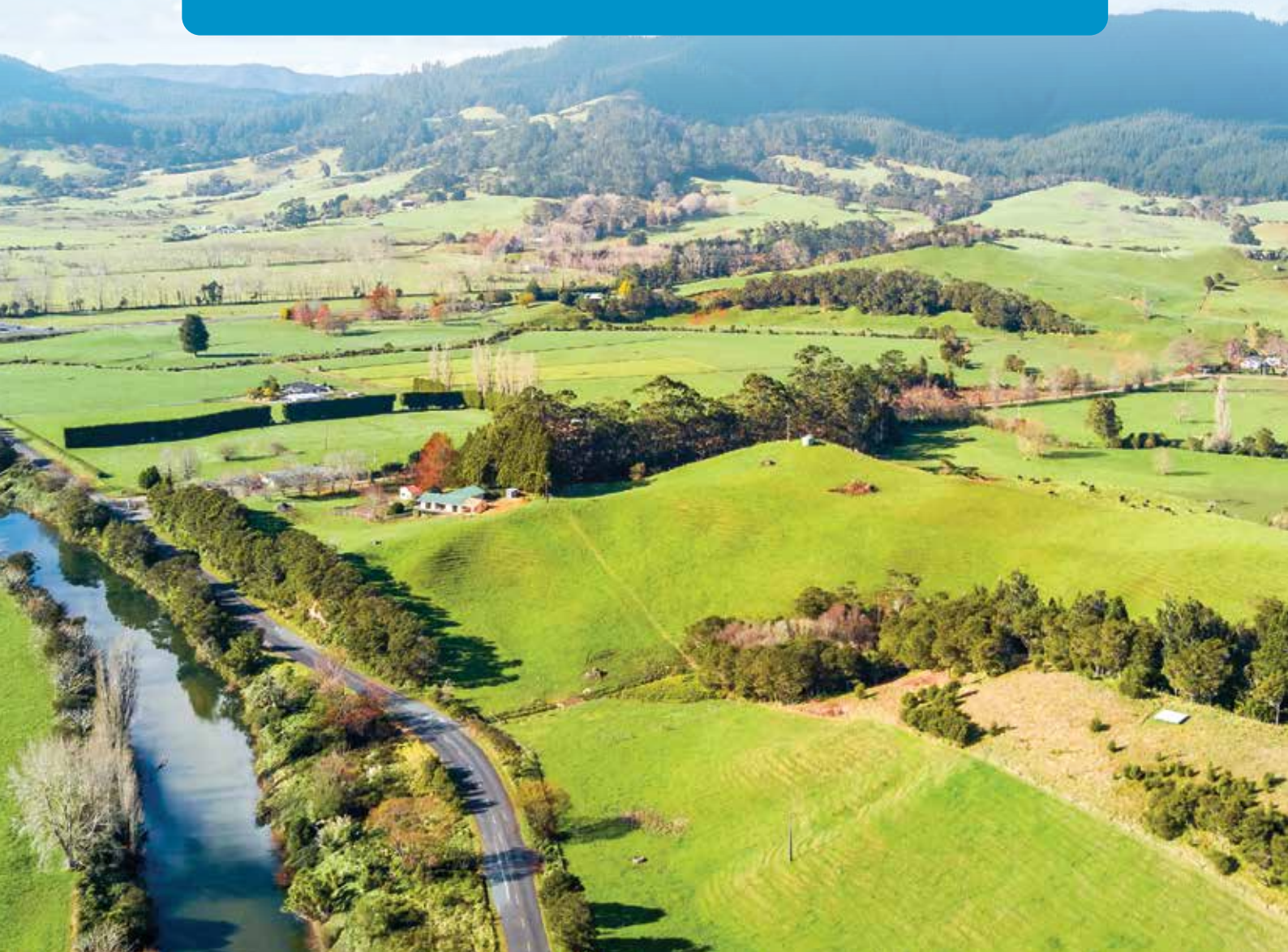
## Feedback is public information

Please be aware your feedback is public information. Your feedback, including your name, will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to elected members, which are publicly available, including to media.

# Legal information

## Pārongo Ture

- We're consulting on a few things to help us keep rates down.
- We've prepared this consultation document under sections 82, 83 and 95A of the Local Government Act 2002. It includes proposals for our 2026/27 Annual Plan, to amend our Rates Remissions Policy (made under section 102 of the Local Government Act) and to set or amend fees under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 36 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- This document explains the issues, the options (including the Council's preferred options) and the likely impacts. All feedback will be considered before final decisions are made.





# Our council

## Te kaunihera



- 1 Councillor**  
Te Tara o Te Ika Māori Ward  
**Michael Barlow**
- 2 Councillor**  
South-Eastern Ward  
**John Freer**
- 3 Councillor**  
Coromandel-Colville Ward  
**Robert Ashman**
- 4 Councillor**  
Thames Ward  
**Robyn Sinclair**
- 5 Councillor**  
Mercury Bay Ward  
**Tony Brljevič**
- 6 District Mayor**  
**Peter Revell**

- 7 Councillor**  
Mercury Bay Ward  
**Flemming Rasmussen**
- 8 Councillor / Deputy Mayor**  
Mercury Bay Ward  
**John Grant**
- 9 Councillor**  
Thames Ward  
**Martin Rodley**
- 10 Councillor**  
South-Eastern Ward  
**Alison Smith**
- 11 Councillor**  
Thames Ward  
**Greg Hampton**

## Contact us | Whakapā mai



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**Phone:** 07 868 0200

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515 Mackay Street, Thames  
355 Kapanga Road, Coromandel Town  
10 Monk Street, Whitianga  
620 Port Road, Whangamatā  
2 Manaia Road, Tairua (Tairua Library)

**Post:** Thames-Coromandel District Council  
Private Bag 1001, Thames, 3540