

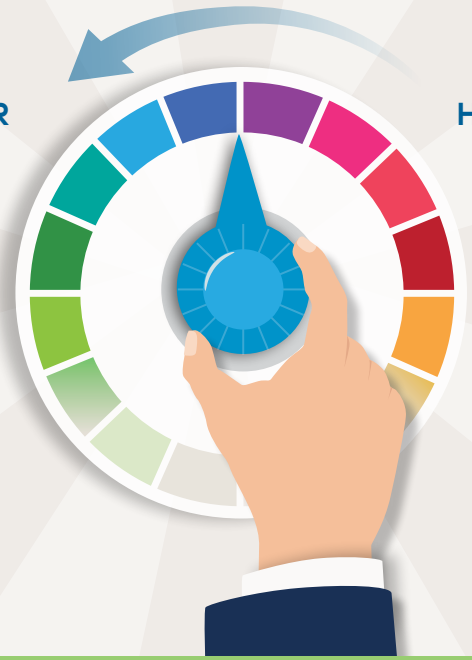
Tough choices for lower rates.

He kōwhiringa uaua hei
whakaiti i ngā reiti

This is a consultation document on our
2026/27 Annual Plan, including changes to
fees and our Rates Remission Policy.

LOWER
RATES

HIGHER
RATES



PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM BY 28 APRIL

We're setting our budget for the next year. Without any changes, the average rates increase for 2026/27 would be around 13%. We know that would be a big jump for many households and businesses. That's why we've set a clear goal: keep rates as low as we reasonably can, while still delivering the essential services our communities rely on.

To achieve this, we're proposing a number of trade offs. These involve doing less in some areas, delaying or simplifying some work, and increasing some fees so that users pay a fairer share of the cost.

We want to know whether these trade offs are acceptable to you.

Through this consultation, we're asking for your feedback on four proposals:

- **Reducing mowing and garden maintenance** in some parks, reserves, and public spaces
- **Reducing opening hours** at the Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations
- **Increasing a range of fees and introducing new charges**, such as for boat ramps and cemeteries
- **Reducing some rates remissions and subsidies**, including changes to excess water use and late payment penalty remissions

These changes, along with others already made, could reduce the projected rates increase from **13.4% down to 3.77%**.

You're invited to read about our proposals **before sharing your feedback**.

This feedback form will be open until the end of Tuesday 28 April, and we'll consider all feedback will be considered before final decisions are made.

About you

Your full name
(required)

Your e-mail
address

If you live in the Thames-Coromandel District, what is the name of the town you live in? *(Otherwise leave blank)*

If you live elsewhere, but own property in the Thames-Coromandel District, what is the name of the town where you own property in our district? *(Otherwise leave blank)*

While we have you

We would love to get your general feedback on our services. Councils do more than most people realise:

As well as roads and rubbish, we are responsible for essential services like drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and flood protection; maintaining roads, footpaths and public spaces; and providing facilities such as parks, playgrounds, public toilets, libraries and pools.

We also carry out regulatory roles like building and resource consents, food safety, animal control and other public health and safety licensing.

Councils plan for future growth, manage infrastructure over decades, support local economic development, and coordinate emergency management in times of crisis.

While we do collect user fees and charges, most of these services and responsibilities are funded primarily through rates.

With this in mind, where would you place yourself on the scale below?

0 = Keep rates as low as possible, even if it means reduced services, slower maintenance, and fewer upgrades

5 = Maintain current service levels with moderate rate increases to keep up with costs

10 = Accept higher rates to improve services, infrastructure, and community facilities

Please tick one:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

If you'd like to tell us more, feel free to provide it here



Reducing mowing and garden maintenance

OPTION 1 – Keep the current gardens and mowing schedule

Garden beds, flower displays and landscaped areas will continue to be maintained as is and grass in parks, reserves, berms and other public spaces will continue to be mown as often as it is now. Your rates wouldn't change (except to be adjusted for inflation).

OPTION 2 – Reduce service levels (our preferred option)

We'd mow our selected parks, reserves and berms less, especially during winter when grass grows more slowly and the ground is wetter. Some garden beds would be 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.

This would reduce rates on average by \$17.94 (-0.38%) compared to this year*

Let us know what you think



Reducing opening hours of Rubbish and Recycling Transfer Stations at Coromandel township, Matarangi and Pāuanui

OPTION 1 – Status quo

We'd keep the RTS opening hours in Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui the same. Your rates wouldn't change (except to be adjusted for inflation).

OPTION 2 – Reduce the days we're open (our preferred option)

We'd reduce the RTS sites' opening days in Coromandel, Matarangi, and Pāuanui from 7 days per week to 4 days per week (Fri, Sat, Sun, and Mon). This would reduce your rates on average by \$4.19 (-0.09%) compared to 2025/26.

OPTION 3 – Reduce opening hours

We'd reduce the RTS sites' opening hours from current to 10am – 3pm but we'd stay open 7 days. This would reduce your rates on average by \$3.27 on average (-0.07%) compared to 2025/26.

Let us know your thoughts



Changes to the fees we charge

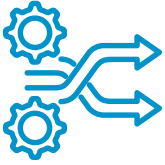
OPTION 1 – Our fees would increase to match inflation and we'd introduce new fees

We'd increase all the fees we charge by the rate of inflation (2.5%) and we'd introduce new fees in some services. This would reduce your rates on average by \$12.00 on average (0.25%) compared to 2025/26.

OPTION 2 – Increase our fees by an average of 13% and introduce new fees (our preferred option)

We'd increase all the fees that we can and introduce some new ones. The average increase would be 13%. This would reduce your rates on average by \$62.59 on average (1.33%) compared to 2025/26.

Let us know your thoughts



Reducing rates remissions and subsidies

Let us know your thoughts

OPTION 1 – **Status quo**

We wouldn't make any changes to the remissions we offer. Your rates wouldn't change (except to be adjusted for inflation).

OPTION 2 – **Reduction (our preferred option)**

We'd reduce remissions for excess water consumption and late-payment penalties by \$150,000.

This would reduce your rates on average by \$5.98 on average (-0.13%) compared to 2025/26.

Privacy disclaimer

The information you provide is used for the purpose of obtaining feedback on Tough Choices for Lower Rates: consultation on our 2026/27 Annual Plan, including fees and rates remissions.

We must act in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020 and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

When you provide feedback to us, your name, general township location, and feedback will be publicly available. Personal details such as your address, phone number and email will be kept private and used only for internal purposes such as keeping you informed unless we are required to disclose it elsewhere.

For more information on how we handle personal information, see our Council's Privacy Statement 2020 online.

Please let us know if the information contains any sensitive information which you consider should not be publicly disclosed.