

What Matters Manawatū?



Getting to the heart of what
makes this place home

Draft Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document



Introduction

He Kupu Whakataki

In July 2024, Manawātū District Council will publish its 2024-2034 Long-term Plan. It's an important plan that explains the key projects that we will work on and the services that we will provide, and explains how we will pay for them.

Now, we are asking you for your feedback on our plan. We want to know what you think about the plan generally, and we have some specific questions on issues and projects that we are considering.

You have until 27 April 2024 to provide your feedback by completing the form on page 79 or online

at www.mdc.govt.nz/whatmatters. You can also come and talk to councillors about your feedback in May – just let us know if you'd like to do this on the form and we will be in touch with details about when and how.

You are playing an important role in shaping our district when you read and provide feedback on this plan. This document will help you consider the challenges the district faces, our finances, and the key projects that we are planning to do. You can have your say on key issues and projects – we look forward to reading and hearing your feedback.



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Message from the Mayor

Nā te Kahika



I am proud to present Manawatū District Council's proposed plans for the next 10 years. This plan is about doing the basics well, sustainably investing in core infrastructure and critical assets while keeping costs down, in our no-nonsense, proudly provincial way.

During 2023, we spent a lot of time talking with communities across the district about what matters most to Manawatū. We heard loud and clear that Manawatū District Council should focus on core infrastructure, such as roads and water. We also heard that many in our community are doing things tough, with high inflation, high interest rates and for some, the costs of recovering from Cyclone Gabrielle, all putting pressure on our wallets.

Many councils are proposing double-digit rates increases alongside service cuts, mostly due to the need to invest in basic infrastructure. In comparison, we propose keeping our levels of service where they currently are and a 7.09% rates increase for existing ratepayers in 2024/2025.

Over my time as Mayor, we've focused on maintaining our robust infrastructure that forms the backbone of our District. Our critical assets are of good quality, allowing us to build a realistic and achievable plan of sustained investment that is affordable over the long term.

The next 10 years will see the delivery of a number of key projects. These include:

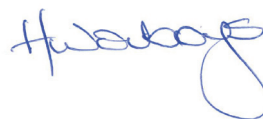
- Completing the extension of **Turners Road** in our industrial precinct to encourage economic growth
- refreshing **Feilding's town centre** to make it more attractive, safer and vibrant
- continuing to centralise our **wastewater treatment**, protecting our environment and providing a more efficient service
- strengthening the resilience of **Feilding's drinking water supply** to safeguard the dependable supply of drinking water
- upgrading **stormwater networks** to more effectively cope with storm events
- developing the **Ōroua River Walkway** providing another way for us to enjoy our District's beautiful natural environment
- opening the new **Community Hub Library** in Feilding, an exciting new community facility offering a wide range of community services.

Before we finalise our plan in June 2024, we would love to hear your thoughts about our proposals. You can provide your feedback using the form on page 79 (or by visiting the website www.mdc.govt.nz/whatmatters) and speak to councillors about it in May 2024 if you wish.

We have four proposals that we need specific feedback on:

- removing the **rates differential for roading**, over a period of time, sharing the cost of building, renewing and maintaining roads more evenly across ratepayers (page 58);
- either closing or rebuilding the **bird aviaries in Kōwhai Park** (page 62);
- sharing the costs of enforcing **time-limited parking** in the Feilding town centre (page 66) fairly across ratepayers; and
- changes to the ways we fund the cost of various activities using rates and user charges (page 70).

Please read this document and we would love to hear if our proposed plan reflects what matters most to you and the Manawatū District.



Mayor Helen Worboys

The Consultation Process

Te ara ka whāia ā muri ake nei

Council's engagement on our draft Long-term Plan for the 2024-2034 period will focus on working alongside you and our diverse communities, where we ask what matters in the Manawatū?

The public consultation period will run from 27 March to 27 April 2024.

We are very keen to hear what matters to you while we plan for the future of our district. Please get in touch during March and April to share your thoughts on the proposals in this consultation document or any other matters you think are important to the Long-term Plan.



27 March
to 27 April
2024

Public Consultation

Please get in touch during March and April to share your thoughts on the proposals in this consultation document or any other matters you think are important to the Long-term Plan.

2, 3 and 6
May 2024

Hearings

If you provide us with your feedback and you would like to come to speak to Elected Members at a Council meeting, we will be in touch to confirm a time slot during one of the meetings.

23 May
2024

Deliberations

After all the feedback (written and in-person) has been received, Elected Members then discuss the proposals. Your feedback helps them make decisions. Elected Members then decide what changes they are going to go ahead with for the final Long-term Plan.

20 June
2024

Adoption

The final of the Long-term Plan 2024-34 is formally adopted at a Council meeting.

Please note: hearings, deliberations and adoption meetings are open to the public (as are all Council meetings). You are invited to attend. The details will be advertised closer to the time.

There are a number of ways you can let us know:



Online

Visit www.mdc.govt.nz/whatmatters and complete the online form.



Over the phone

If writing is not your thing, we can help you get your thoughts down. To find out more about this call us on **06 323 0000**.



Email us

Send us an email at submissions@mdc.govt.nz



Feedback form

Fill in the feedback form on page 79 and send it to: Council at Private Bag 10 001, Feilding 4743.

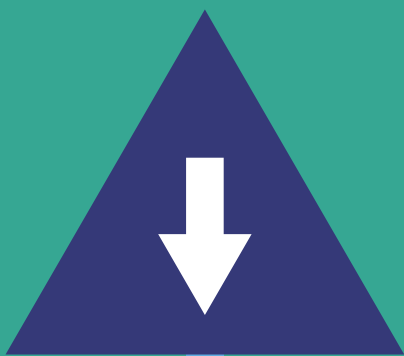
Or drop your form into Council reception at: 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.



Setting the scene

Ngā Tātai Kōrero

- 10 Council priorities
- 11 Our achievements over the past three years
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- 21 Issues and opportunities affecting Manawatū



Council Priorities

Ngā Whāinga Matua

Below you'll see our priorities for the next 10 years. Have a look at how we plan to make the Manawatū District a productive and vibrant place to live, work, visit and invest.

Kei konei ngā matawhānui, ngā whāinga me ngā kaupapa matura hei whakatutuki, haere ake nei.



A place to belong and grow
He kāinga e ora pai ai te katoa

We provide leisure and sports facilities and support community activities to encourage social and cultural wellbeing for everyone.



A future planned together
He kāinga ka whakamaherea tahitia tōna anamata e te hāpori tonu

We work with all parts of our community to plan for a future everyone can enjoy.



An environment to be proud of
He kāinga ka rauhitia tōna taiao

We protect and care for Manawatū District's natural and physical resources.



Infrastructure fit for future
He kāinga ka tūwhenua tonu ōna pūnahanga, haere ake nei te wā

We ensure the Manawatū District has infrastructure (water, roads, etc.) that meets the needs of the community now and into the future.



A prosperous, resilient economy
He kāinga ka tōnui tōna ōhanga

We aim to make the Manawatū District a great place to live, to visit and to do business.



Value for money and excellent in local government
He kāinga ka eke tōna kāwanatanga ā-rohe ki ngā taumata o te kairangi

We take pride in serving our communities. We focus on doing the best for the district.

Achievements over the past three years

Ngā whakatutukinga i ngā tau e toru

Before we look forward, it's also good to have a look at some of the great work that has been done as part of the previous Long-term Plan. Here's a sample of some of the work, some of the projects are big, some small, but they've all helped Manawātū to remain a great place to live and do business.

Manawātū Community Hub Library



It will be a great place to hang out.

Mid-year 2024, our new Community Hub Library will open, providing a modern, safe, non-judgemental and flexible community space. It will allow your creative juices to flow in the digital world and innovative ideas to become a reality in the Makerspace area. Learn and experience new things with programmes and opportunities and of course you can satisfy your inner bookworm.

It will be the heart of social and community connections, with lots of spaces for community groups to meet, and interesting spaces for all of us to hang out, including a cafe. And it will also provide space for social services providers so they can operate from the hub too.



Community Hub Library Development, Feilding





Ōhakea Rural Water Supply



Achieving results together.

In 2017 we discovered that the groundwater in Ōhakea was contaminated with PFAS – nasty substances that can make you really sick.

We worked closely with Ngāti Parewahawaha and Horizons Regional Council. The Ministry for the Environment and the New Zealand Defence Force both contributed funding to the Ōhakea Rural Water Scheme. It opened in 2022, providing a reliable and safe supply of drinking water.



Wastewater Treatment Plant wetland area and Wastewater Centralisation



Better environment, better tomorrow.

We're working hard to improve the quality of the water in the Ōroua River, and that includes efforts to minimise the impact our wastewater has on the river. We are creating large wetlands at the Manawātū Treatment Plant that treated wastewater can flow through. The first phase of developing the wetlands has seen us plant 80,000 native plants. Eventually the Wastewater Centralisation project will transport wastewater from villages across the district to the Manawātū Wastewater Plant in Feilding through a network of pipes and pump stations. This will enable us to treat that wastewater to a higher quality than could be done in smaller wastewater treatment plants around the district.



Mount Lees and Pohangina Domain



Family fun, education and community pride.

We work hard to work with communities to develop places that can be enjoyed by all.

Mt. Lees is one of the gems in the Manawātū – people of all ages, families and visitors can learn about nature and relax. We have worked to transform Mt. Lees from a farm into a reserve, developing a unique natural play space, installing Manawātū's first StoryWalk® featuring the award-winning story 'The Grizzled Grist Does Not Exist' by New Zealand Author Juliette MacIver and developing bush walks.

The Pohangina community has banded together and have developed a plan to bring the Pohangina Domain back to its previous glory demonstrating community pride and empowerment. Manawātū District Council has funded work that will transform areas of the domain from grazing fields into areas with native plants, where people can walk and have picnics. The domain has a cricket pitch, and the annual cricket match is a key event on Pohangina residents' calendars.



Pohangina Domain



Mount Lees



Kowhai Park

Kōwhai Park

**A playground like no other,
for children like no other.**

Kōwhai Park has been enjoyed by generations of Manawatū locals. Recently, we have been working on revitalising the park to make it a great place for families and kids. Bush walks incorporate a bi-lingual StoryWalk® featuring 'That's Not a Hippopotamus' in English and te reo Māori by New Zealand author Juliette MacIver, playgrounds provide a fun way for our children to connect with nature, and a repaired carpark makes getting the children out of the car much easier. Even the cricket block has had an upgrade.



Kowhai Park



Himatangi Beach

Families at Himatangi Beach are enjoying an upgraded play area with a range of play equipment, flying foxes, a pump track, skate park, and covered BBQ areas.

Some of the play equipment has been 'upcycled' – where play equipment that was not being used elsewhere was refurbished and installed at Himatangi Beach, meaning that we could do more with less money.

A special part of this project is the Himatangi StoryWalk® which showcases the award-winning story 'Tama and the Taniwha' by New Zealand author Melanie Koster.



StoryWalk® - Himatangi Beach



Mangaweka Bridge

'Bridging' history with current and future needs.

The construction of the new Mangaweka Bridge symbolises fruitful collaboration of our Council with Rangitīkei District Council, iwi and the New Zealand Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi. The new bridge ensures people stay connected and is important for the economy of northern Manawatū. The old bridge has been retained for historic and recreational purposes.



Mangaweka Bridge



Feilding to Palmerston North Cycleway

Active transport (walking, running and cycling) is great for community and social wellbeing.

Manawatū District Council completed our part of a shared cycleway that, when completed by our friends in Palmy, will connect Palmerston North and Feilding. The shared walk/cycle way will also bolster Te Araroa walking route usage.



Taonui Stream pedestrian bridge



Resource Recovery Centre

Resource Recovery Centre



We don't inherit Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

Our new resource recovery centre helps all of us to minimise waste going to landfill, and to recycle as much material as possible. Over the next few years, more services will be offered that will help more people to minimise waste and will also create more revenue opportunities for the Council.

Community Advocacy



'Bridging' history with current and future needs.

Making submissions to promote and safeguard the interests of our community at national level is central to the work Council does. In the past few years, we have made submissions to Central Government on a wide range of policy initiatives such as Three Waters, Highly Productive Land and Lowering the Voting Age to name just a few.

Covid-19 response and Disaster Recovery

"When the going gets tough..."

Covid-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle were key events that tested both the council's and communities' resolve. While Cyclone Gabrielle did not hit our district as hard as other regions in the North Island, some of our communities experienced significant disruptions and damage. During the Cyclone we provided regular updates on possible evacuations, and after the Cyclone our roading team was busy restoring access to those that were cut off.

We also responded in many ways to the impact of Covid-19. These ranged from providing welfare teams that helped vulnerable residents, through to Council's decision to have a 0% average rates rise for the 2020/21 Annual Plan to help people who were facing tough times caused by Covid-19.



Covid-19 Response

What Matters Manawatū?



Results from our early engagement

He rau whakaaro e eke kairangi ai te whakamāherehere

A council's Long-term Plan belongs to the community. As the first step in developing our plan, it was natural for Councillors and staff to head out to all corners of the district, to hear from our different communities about what matters most to them.

Between June and August 2023, over 2,000 people gave us their views across 27 events that we held, as well as online. During the events, we used different activities to hear what matters most - including group discussions, token drops and journey

walls. We went to where residents are - village halls, playgroups, and the Farmers Market - and incorporated movie nights and family days to make things fun.

Councillors were impressed by the energy and high engagement that people showed at these events. It demonstrates that rural spirit that defines our district - of getting involved, being upfront and working together. Councillors took into account what they had heard over extensive discussions about what should, and what shouldn't, go into the plan.

Who did we talk to?



A look at the numbers



27

events held across
the district



Over

1500

tokens dropped



Almost

500

comments left about
'what matters'



Over

1000

people visited our
Make Your Mark on
Manawatū page

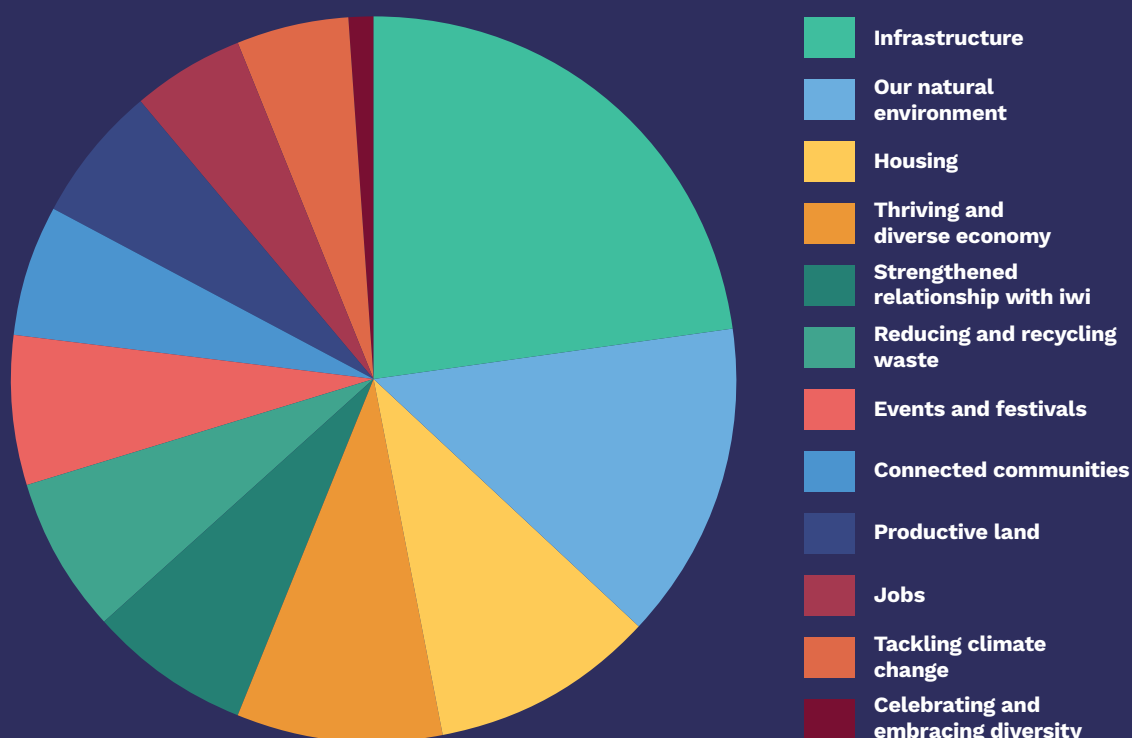
So, what matters most?

Building and maintaining robust infrastructure came out as the top issue that matters – particularly our roads and our water systems. Roothing was a particular concern for rural residents.

We heard safeguarding our natural environment was important,

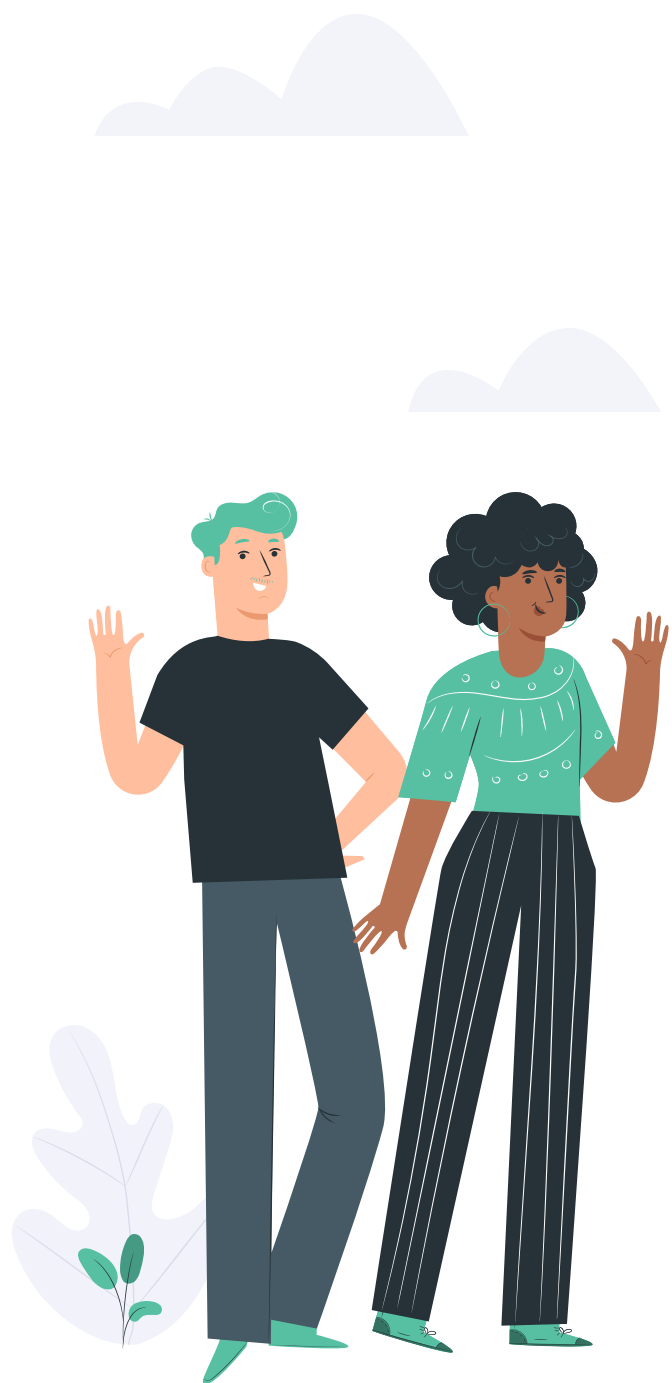
particularly how we mitigate our impacts on the environment through initiatives such as waste management. Affordable housing was another key issue, with residents keen for the council to consider this when planning for growth in Manawatū.

What Matters Manawatu? token drop results - 1st Priority



Other themes that emerged included the need for:

- a range of sports and recreational facilities, such as cycling and walking tracks, the development of the Makino Aquatic Facility, playgrounds and sporting facilities.
- a vibrant Feilding Town Centre, which supported face-to-face services and weekend trading.
- well-planned growth and development, balancing residential growth with the protection of highly productive rural land.
- support for culture, arts and heritage, promoting events across the district to celebrate our multi-cultural population, and increased understanding of te ao Māori.
- good community services, including spaces for youth, safety initiatives, rural connectivity and the management of village halls.
- strong economic development, attracting new businesses, enhancing tourism and maximising benefits from Manfeild.



Issues and opportunities affecting Manawatū

Ngā take me ōna pānga

What we have kept in mind...

Supporting a district is complicated work, and we have kept a number of trends in mind as we put our plan together.

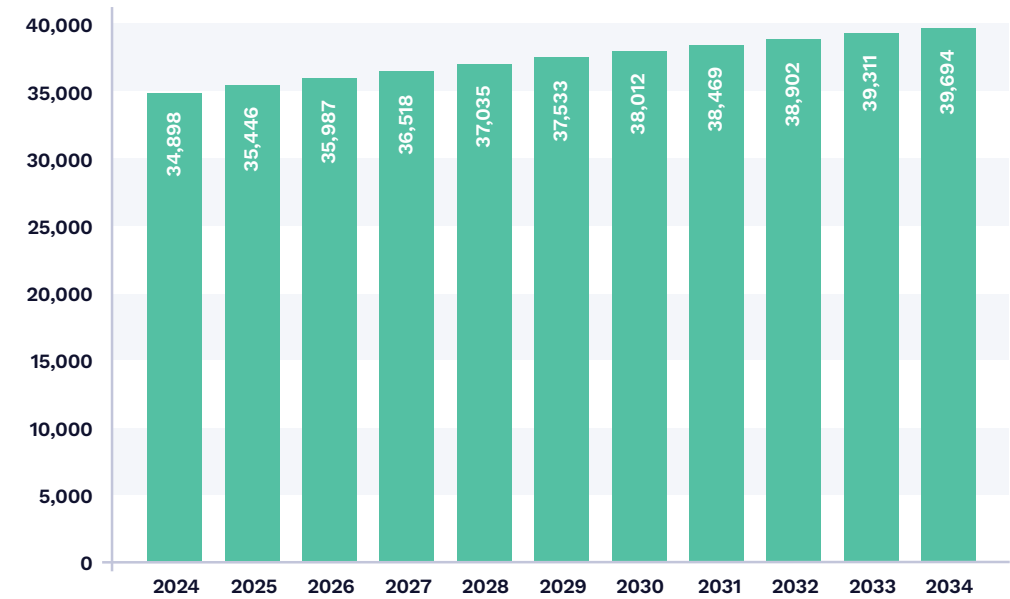
Our population is forecast to be almost
40,000 people
by 2034



Our population is growing.

It’s forecast to be almost 40,000 people by 2034. More people living and working here can share the cost of supporting the wider district. But it also means that we need to build more assets like water pipes and roads. More people will use our assets and services like libraries and community halls, wearing them out faster and requiring them to be fixed more often.

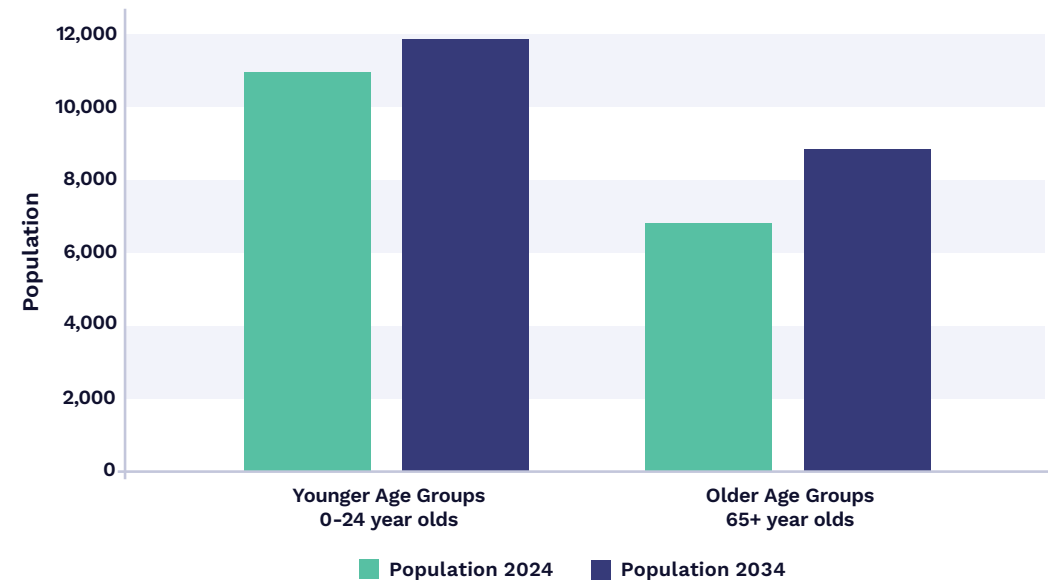
Population projection for the Manawatū District from 2024 -2034



We will have more older people, and more younger people too.

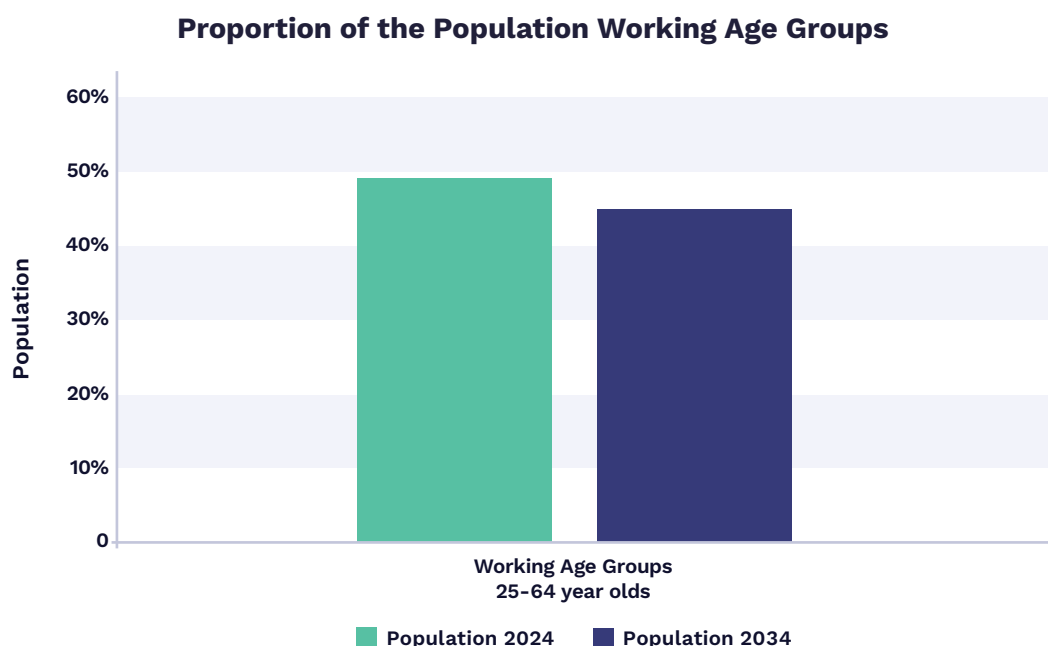
This will affect the types of services we will provide. We’ll need more aqua fitness classes for our older residents, but also more swimming lessons for the youngsters. Our libraries, events, and even the way that we tell our district’s stories will need to adapt to the changing make-up of our population.

The rise in the younger and older population 2024 / 2034



However, the proportion of people in the working-age population will decline.

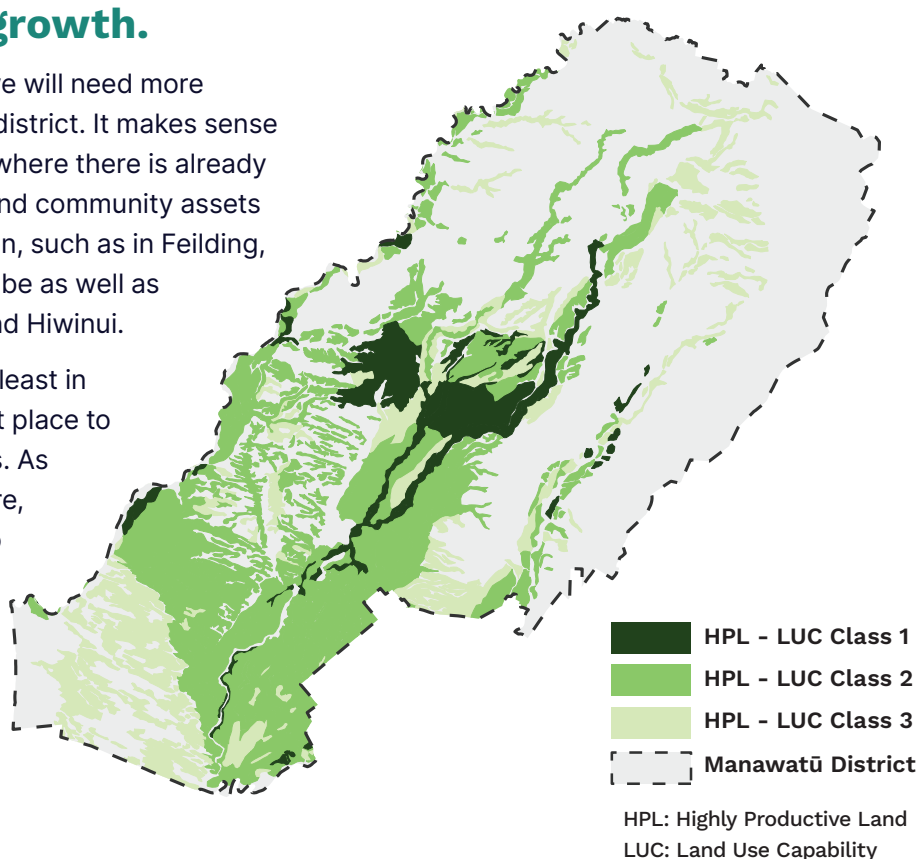
The proportion of people who are of working age will decline. In particular, we are expecting the proportion of people aged between 30-34 and 55-59 to decline relative to other age groups. This will impact the way that council funds activities, with greater pressure to keep rates low for people who aren't earning regular incomes.



We need to manage land well to allow for growth.

A growing population means we will need more houses and businesses in the district. It makes sense to encourage growth in areas where there is already enough roading, water pipes and community assets to support a growing population, such as in Feilding, Sanson, Rongotea and Halcombe as well as emerging areas like Colyton and Hiwinui.

Manawātū is world famous (at least in New Zealand) for being a great place to grow food, animals and forests. As more people choose to live here, we need to protect our soils so that we can continue to be a great place to grow.



We are preparing for a warmer climate.

Some are forecasting an increase in average temperatures and more frequent and intense storms.



We are designing new roads, pipes and community assets to be able to cope with more severe weather. We will encourage housing and business growth in areas that are not prone to flooding. And we will work with local communities to help them develop their own climate adaptation plans.

In the future we may see more flooding, slips and high winds, and we have to prepare to recover well when storms affect our regions. We continue to build our 'resilience fund' and have included a \$5 million buffer under our debt cap in case we need to borrow money to fund recovery works.

Climate change would pose significant financial risk to councils, and we are very aware that only a couple of natural disasters, timed closely together could put us into serious financial pressure. We are also acutely aware of rising insurance costs facing property owners, and that in some cases it may be more difficult for property owners to secure insurance at all. This may impact the council's approach to the resilience of our infrastructure.

We all have tighter budgets.

The impacts of inflation and higher interest rates are affecting us all. We are very conscious that life is less affordable for most of us, and therefore we need to strive to do more for less money, and minimise the rates increases year-on-year.

Manawatū District Council's budget is also becoming more stretched as we, like you, are experiencing increased costs. A lot of this is due to higher interest rates and higher construction, insurance and depreciation costs. Higher valued assets also means that we have to put more money away to fund the future cost of replacing assets.



Government reforms and regulations impact on what we do.

Government reforms and regulations often impact on what we do, and how much things costs. In recent years we have had to respond to proposed reforms of water management, increased water standards, land management and planning changes, and climate policies to name but a few. These all come at a cost - whether reforms are introduced or not.

The repeal of the previous Government's Three Waters Legislation gave Council the assurance of continued ownership and control of three waters services (water supply, wastewater and stormwater). We understand that Government will replace the Resource Management Act with new legislation that is based on the enjoyment of property rights. However, it is too early to know what the impact will be for Council.

We keep up to date with the progress of Government reforms, assessing their impact and advocating for what's best for our district.

We support approaches to plan more as a region. We already work closely with neighbouring councils on many issues, like economic development, climate change, and planning. We also share services, including Animal Control services with Rangitīkei District Council and building inspectors from Palmerston North City Council. Moving forward, we will keep an eye out for more opportunities to connect at a regional level.





Our Finances

Te Taha Pūtea

28 Managing our finances

39 Investing in infrastructure

Managing our finances

Te whakahaere pūtea

Our council is complex, and balancing the books is tricky. We need to make lots of decisions such as how we fund things via rates and user fees, how much money to borrow, how to invest prudently, and how to allocate rates.

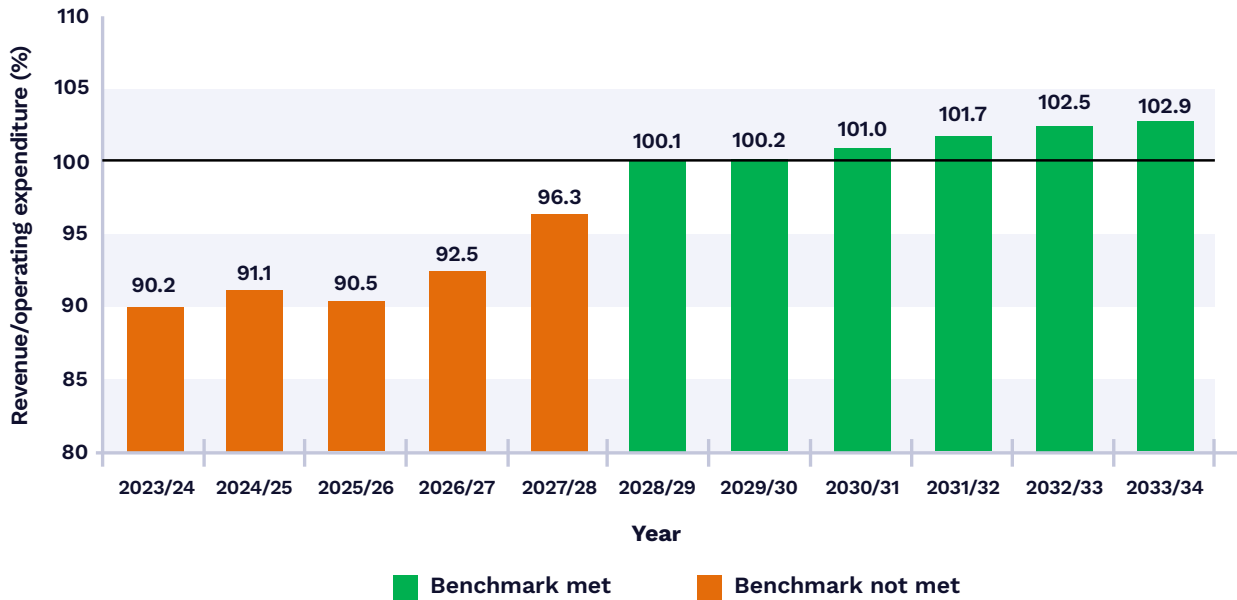
When making these decisions, we are guided by six principles:

- Financial stability - being prudent and ensuring long-term financial viability and resilience
- Investing in infrastructure - ensuring our assets continue to provide services, now and into the future
- Affordability - maximising value for every dollar
- Intergenerational equity - considering future generation's needs when making decisions
- Economic development - supporting sustainable growth
- Environmental sustainability - ensuring that the services we deliver enable environmental sustainability within the Manawatū district.

The council recognises that the balanced budget benchmark is not met for the 10 years of the LTP for reasons allowed under the Local Government Act 2002, which include:

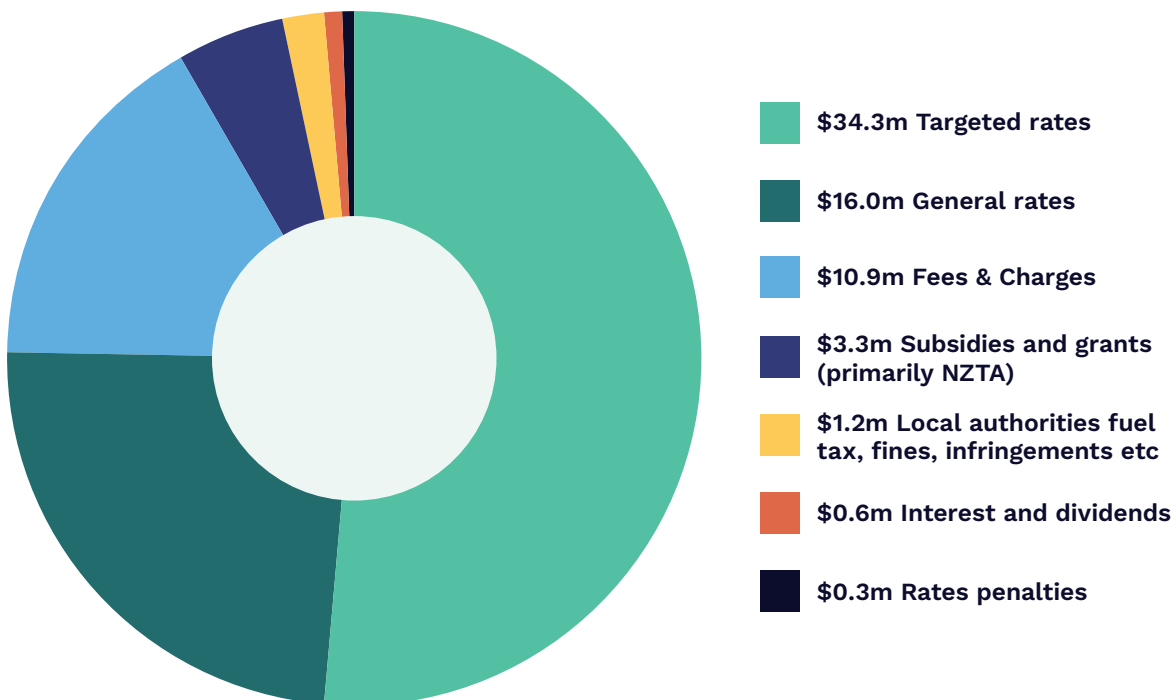
- Partially funding depreciation on a range of assets, for example roading due to the NZTA subsidy; combined with,
- Not funding interest on loans taken out for growth purposes, which will be funded from future development contributions.

Balanced Budget Benchmark



Funding our activities

We use a range of funding sources for the delivery of our activities.



Rates

Like it or not, taxes are one of the great certainties of life – and rates is the local version of a tax. We charge rates to fund activities and services that provide general benefits to the community – things like rubbish collection, community facilities, and road and pipe maintenance. The chart on page 37 summarises how much an example Feilding and rural ratepayer would spend on each type of council activity per week.

Councils across New Zealand face rapidly increasing costs and worn-down infrastructure, and many are proposing double-digit rates increases to fund this. Manawātū District Council has invested prudently in infrastructure which means that going forward our investment required is less than some of our neighbouring Councils. This means that we have been able to keep our rates increases comparatively lower than other councils.

Rates Limits and Planned Increases 2024–34



We aim to limit annual rates increases within a cap. The cap is worked out using a formula (last year's rates revenue, multiplied by the Local Government Cost Index, plus 5%). The rates cap excludes increases resulting from new levels of service, growth in the number of households, new central government policies, and rates levied on water consumption (through water meters).

Changes to rates and debt levels

Ngā piki me ngā heke o ngā rēti me ngā nama

The following table explains the movement in rates for each of the first three years of the Long-term Plan, and then the average rates increase for years four to ten. It shows the impact of population growth. The council is not adding any new levels of service.

Rates requirement	Year 1 2024/25 (%)	Year 2 2025/26 (%)	Year 3 2026/27 (%)	Years 4-10 2027-34 (%)
Baseline Total rates requirements based on the previous year's levels of service and number of rating units. Comparing against the previous year shows the true increase in operating expenditure without the impact of population growth.	7.09%	6.03%	7.27%	4.33% Average
Add Growth The district's population growth is factored into annual rates. Although an increased population means more ratepayers to share the cost of rates, it also means an increase in the cost of some services.	1.61%	1.57%	1.53%	1.27%
Total rate	8.70%	7.61%	8.80%	5.60%

There are two categories of rates - General and Targeted.

General Rates

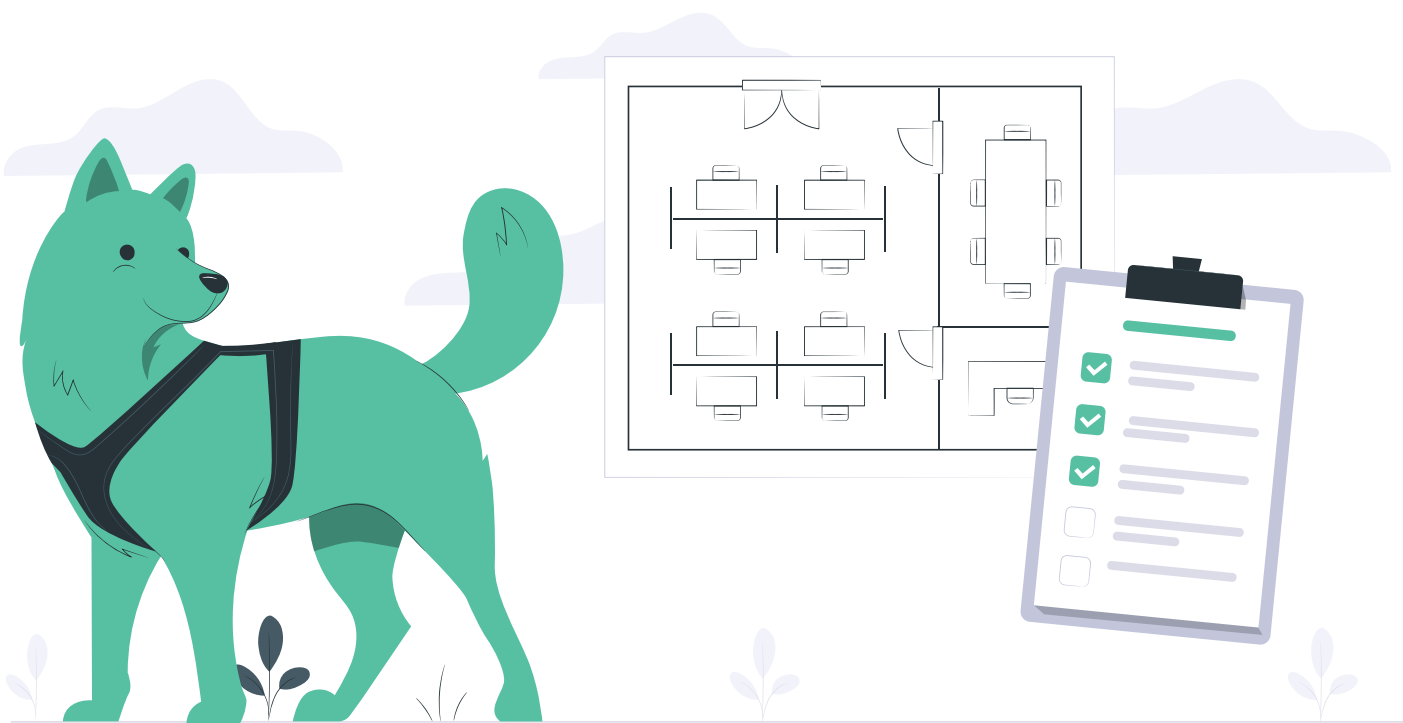
General rates fund activities which benefit the district as a whole, which the community should therefore contribute to the cost. General rates are set based on capital value, and a differential is applied depending on the use, location and zoning of a rating unit (property). The Council also sets Uniform Annual General Charges as amounts per separately used or inhabited parts of rating units.

Targeted Rates

Targeted rates - which pay for specific activities and may be paid for by specific groups of ratepayers. Target rates can be calculated based on different factors, including rateable value, location, number of connections to the rating unit, and the extent of provision of service to the rating unit.

User fees

We charge fees to users of our services when they receive a personal benefit from a service. We charge fees for things such as rubbish bags, dog licences, food inspections and building consents.



Our funding mixes

Our activities are funded by a mixture of rates, user fees and other funding sources. To be fair to all, those who benefit most from activities pay for them.

We are proposing changes to the funding mix of rates and user fees for the Building Control, Consent Planning, Animal Control and Solid Waste activities and we are seeking your views on what the best mix is. You can read more about the proposed changes on pages 70 - 76.

We are also making some other changes to our funding mixes which do not impact rates but are more administrative in nature. They are:

Community Hub Libraries

The Community Hub Libraries will bring an exciting new community facility to our district from July 2024. This wider range of services means that we will have some additional sources of income, such as the lease for the café, room hireage fees, small Makerspace fees and external grants for the provision of social services.

Currently 95-98% of the cost of Libraries is funded through a targeted rate with User Fees and Charges funding 2-5% of the cost. However with the additional services providing new sources of income, we are proposing to change this mix - with a targeted rate funding 90-98% of the cost, and User Fees and Charges funding 2-10% of the cost.

Overall, there will be no rating impacts, as the User Fees and Charges will fund new services.

Splitting the Compliance and Monitoring Activity into two Activities - Alcohol Licensing and Environmental Health

Currently, the Compliance and Monitoring Activity is made up of Alcohol Licensing and Environmental Health (covering things like the food safety ratings in restaurants). The current funding split for this activity is 90% rates (General Rate 24% and Uniform Annual General Charge 76%) and 10% User Fees and Charges. However, this mix does not reflect Alcohol Licensing, where we currently collect 30% of the cost of the service through User Fees and Charges.

So our proposal is to split the Compliance and Monitoring Activity in two - creating the Alcohol Licensing Activity and the Environmental Health Activity.

Alcohol Licensing

We are proposing a funding mix of 70% rates (General Rate 24%, Uniform Annual General Charge 76%) and 30% User Charges and Fees (application fees and annual fees)

Environmental Health

We are proposing a funding mix of 90% rates (General Rate 24%, Uniform Annual General Charge 76%) and 10% User Charges and Fees (registration, licenses, permits, certificates).

There is no rating impact for this proposal, as we are not proposing to spend more in these activities than we have currently budgeted for.

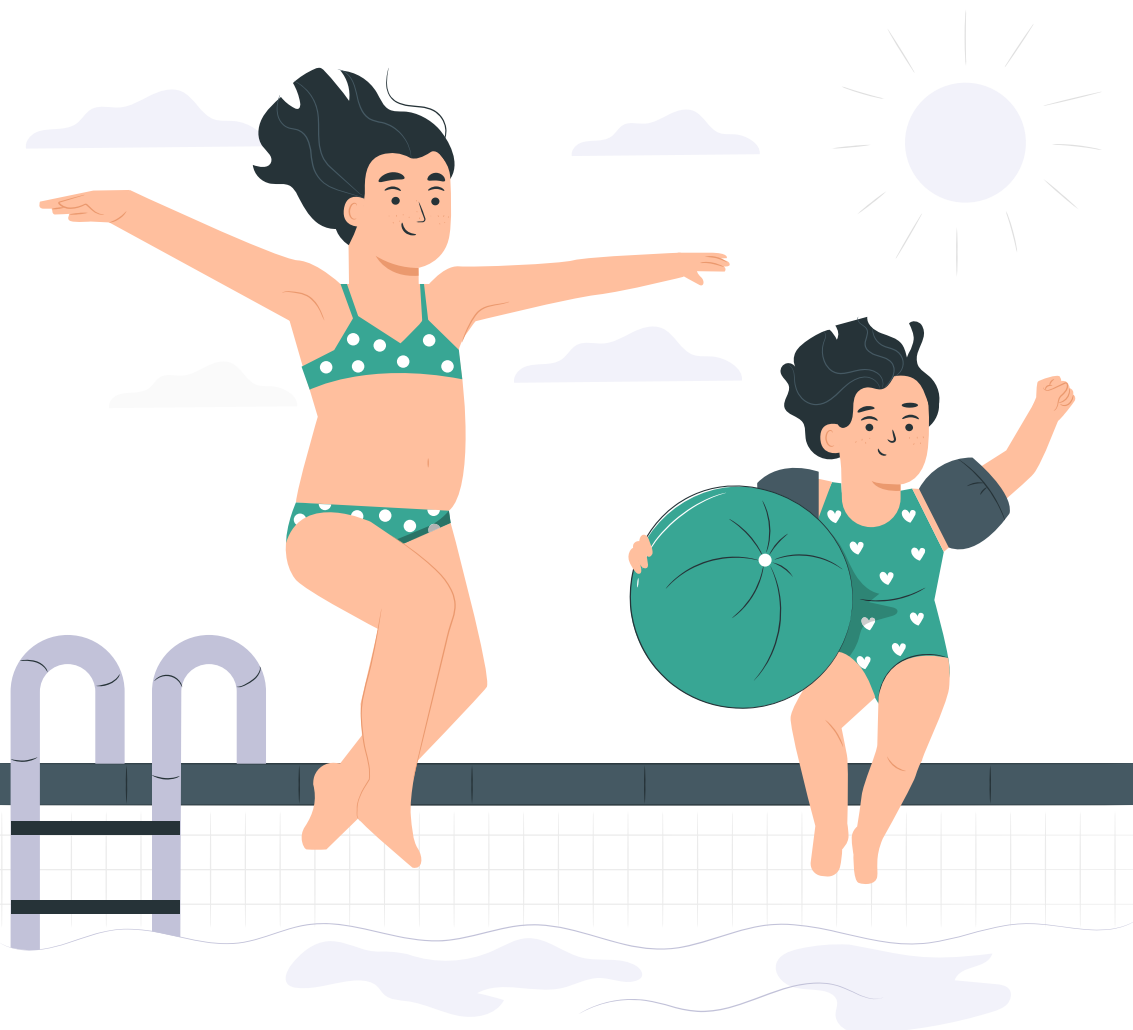
Makino Aquatic Centre

The Makino Aquatic Centre provides swimming pools, programmes and lessons to many in our community. We want to make the aquatic centre as accessible as possible, and also competitive compared to other aquatic facilities in the region.

With increasing costs, we have to change the funding mix so that a greater proportion of the cost is covered from rates. Currently 70-75% the cost of the Aquatic Centre is funded through a Uniform Targeted Rate, with User Fees and Charges funding 25%-30% of the cost. We are proposing to change this mix, with the Uniform Targeted Rate funding 80-85% of the cost, and User Fees and Charges funding 15-20%. This will allow us to retain the current level of services at the Aquatic Centre.

Kerbside Recycling

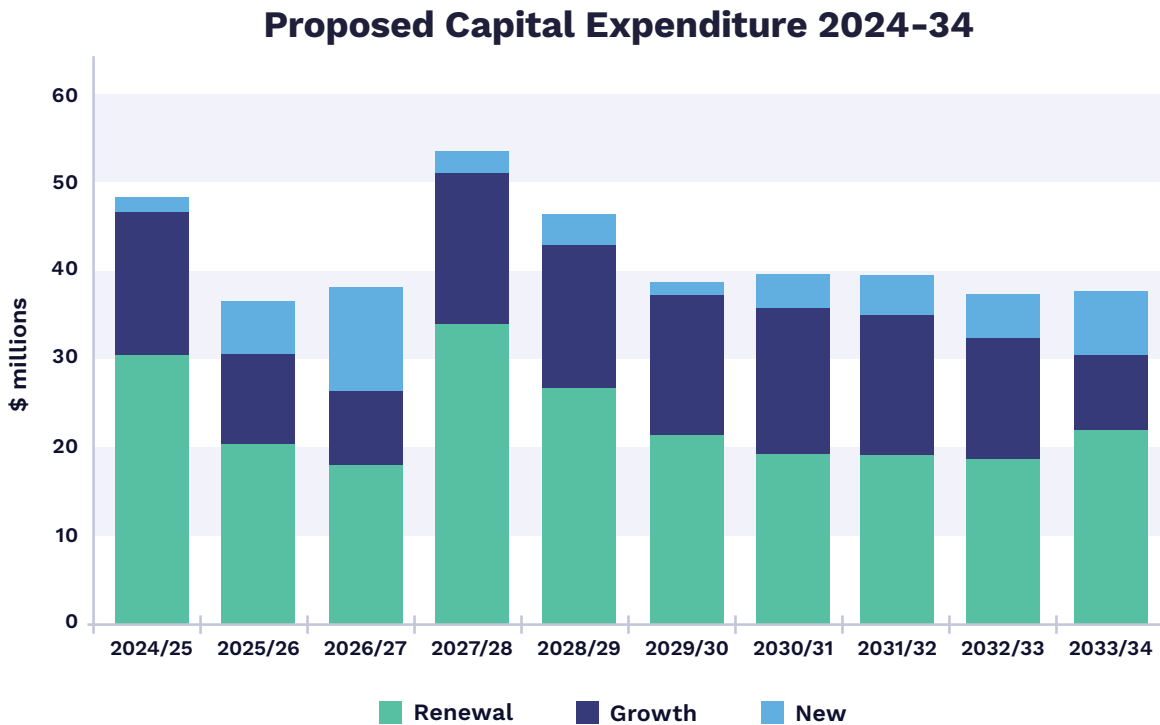
The kerbside recycling collection provides an easy way for Feilding residents to dispose of recyclable materials. Currently 100% of the cost is funded through Uniform Targeted Rates. However, experience from the previous years is that we will receive revenue from recycling recoverables, and we are proposing that 90-95% of the cost of kerbside recycling is from Uniform Targeted Rates, and 5-10% is from User Fees and Charges.



Funding our assets - our capital expenditure

We use a number of funding sources to invest in our assets - things like buildings, roads, and pipes. Typically we use depreciation funds for renewing assets that have reached the end of their useful life. New assets are predominantly funded via debt, subsidies and third-party funding where possible.

The following graph outlines our proposed capital expenditure.



Depreciation

Depreciation is the drop in the value of assets over time. We put aside funds each year (funded by rates) to account for the depreciation of most of our assets. We use depreciation funds to repay existing debt associated with previous asset purchases along with funding the renewal of assets as required.

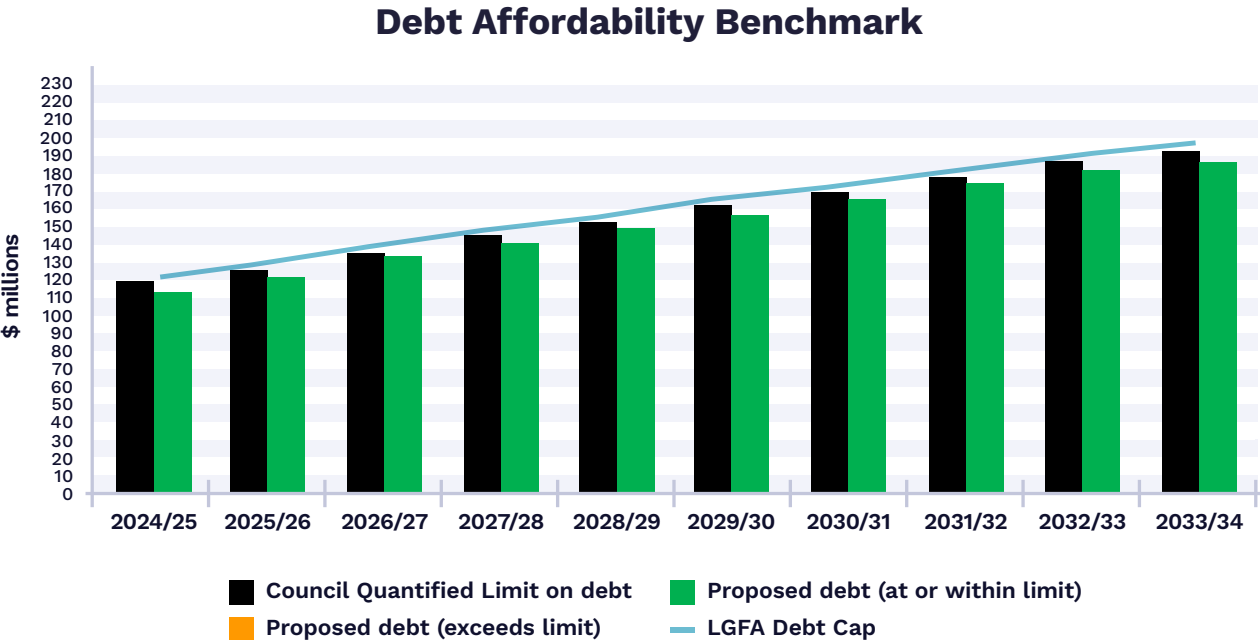
There are some assets for which we do not put aside depreciation funds (or we only partly fund the depreciation). These include roading, the Makino Aquatic Centre, Community Hub and Libraries, community halls and parks. We do this because we do not intend to replace these assets at the end of their useful life, or we anticipate that we will receive alternative funding to replace the assets (for example, through third-party funding).

Borrowing

Whenever we build or buy a new asset that results in a new/higher level of service, we predominantly use debt or third-party funding to fund it. Debt allows us to spread the cost of new assets across the generations who will benefit from the assets - this is called intergenerational equity.

We have to be careful how much money we borrow to make sure interest costs remain affordable into the future. We monitor a number of debt benchmarks to ensure our debt is within affordable limits - the key one being that the percentage of debt:revenue remains below 175%. We use this as our debt cap, less \$5 million that we keep as a buffer to fund emergency works in the case of a natural disaster.

The following graph shows the council’s proposed debt over the next 10 years, together with the maximum planned debt allowed according to the Financial Strategy. The maximum debt allowed in the Financial Strategy is based on whichever limit in the Liability Management Policy yields the lowest debt, less a \$5 million emergency buffer - and in this case the lowest debt limit is not exceeding 175% of revenue.



Subsidies and grants

We receive funding through subsidies and grants to renew or to build new assets.


The largest subsidies we receive are for roading. The NZ Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi subsidises 51% of the cost to maintain our roads up to a certain standard (we fund the whole cost of any new roads above that standard).

We have assumed that we will continue to receive the same level of funding from NZ Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi for the maintenance and renewal of roads for the next 10 years. If there was a reduction in the amount of funding available, or significant delays in securing funding, this would impact on Council’s ability to meet current levels of service. Council would then have to increase rates or reprioritise projects to fit within funding constraints.



How will my rates be used?

Proposed 2024/25 Rates

	Feilding Resident	Rural Resident
Property Value	\$580,000	\$800,000
Rates (annual total)	\$4,228.00	\$2,070.00
	Per week	Per week
Rates total	\$81.31	\$39.81
 Wastewater	\$18.56	N/A
 Water Supply	\$9.42	N/A
 Stormwater	\$2.85	N/A
 Feilding Kerbside	\$2.23	N/A
 Roothing	\$11.96	\$12.54
 General	\$11.60	\$8.00
 Parks and Reserves	\$5.61	\$2.63
 Environmental & Regulatory Management	\$3.67	\$3.67
 MAC Targeted Rate	\$4.21	\$2.90
 Library Targeted Rate	\$3.69	\$2.56
 Governance & Strategy (Democracy)	\$3.19	\$3.19
 Solid Waste	\$1.77	\$1.77
 Local Halls and Complexes	\$1.50	\$1.56
 Public Conveniences District Wide	\$0.75	\$0.75
 Animal Control	\$0.23	\$0.23

How will my rates change?

Ka pēwhea ngā rēti

This table provides examples of different rating categories as they may apply to properties of various capital values. It shows the annual change in rates as a dollar figure and percentage. Actual changes, as they apply to specific properties, will depend on the capital value of the property, services provided and location.

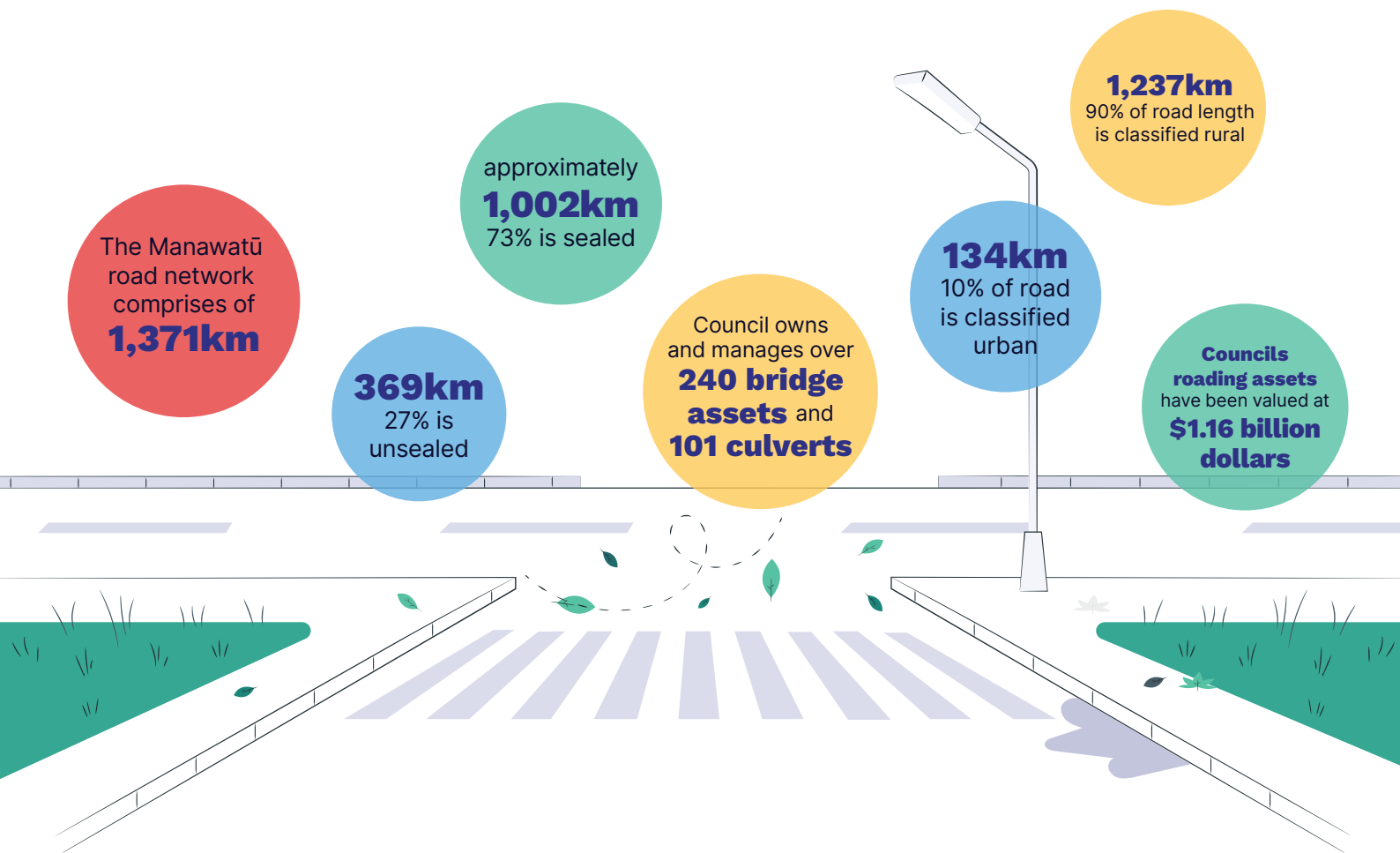
	Report Description	2022 Capital Value	2023/24 Total GST Incl	2024/25 Total GST Incl	% Rates Movement	Annual \$ Rates Movement	Weekly Movement
1	Rural - no services	\$480,000	1,482	1,587	7.1%	105	2.03
3	Rural - water, wastewater, stormwater services	\$495,000	3,052	3,209	5.1%	157	3.02
6	Rural - Wastewater, stormwater, rural water scheme	\$640,000	2,958	3,146	6.4%	188	3.62
8	Rural - Farming as one remission	\$1,650,000	1,667	2,046	22.8%	380	7.30
9	Rural - no services	\$1,330,000	2,340	2,641	12.9%	301	5.79
12	Rural - drainage scheme - 2 dwellings, 25 units Ohakea rural water scheme	\$8,170,000	20,266	22,577	11.4%	2,311	44.44
13	Rural - no service, 3 dwellings	\$9,190,000	12,273	14,372	17.1%	2,099	40.36
14	Rural - 20 units Waituna West water scheme, 2 dwellings	\$5,145,000	16,900	17,624	4.3%	724	13.92
16	Feilding - Residential full services	\$675,000	4,258	4,458	4.7%	200	3.85
20	Feilding - Residential full services	\$1,400,000	5,853	6,198	5.9%	345	6.63
22	Feilding - Residential (Multi-unit)	\$700,000	12,078	12,340	2.2%	262	5.04
23	Feilding Rural - restricted services	\$1,230,000	3,866	4,208	8.8%	341	6.56
26	Feilding Rural - no water or wastewater	\$1,200,000	2,749	3,003	9.2%	254	4.88
28	Feilding Rural - no water or wastewater	\$6,800,000	10,183	11,798	15.9%	1,615	31.06
29	Industrial/Commercial - no water	\$650,000	4,495	4,649	3.4%	154	2.96
31	Industrial/Commercial - full services	\$915,000	5,884	6,077	3.3%	193	3.71
34	Feilding CBD - full services	\$246,000	4,693	4,508	-4.0%	-185	-3.57
36	Feilding CBD - 2 wastewater units	\$620,000	8,011	7,545	-5.8%	-466	-8.97
37	Feilding CBD - 4 wastewater - water by meter	\$11,250,000	78,886	67,875	-14.0%	-11,011	-211.74

*Includes: 35% small dwelling & 50% charitable org remission. Volumetric water charging not included

Investing in infrastructure

Ngā haumi hanganga

Our Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2054 explains how Manawātū District Council will manage its roading and three waters (water supply, wastewater and stormwater) assets. Our goal is to provide the Manawātū community with resilient infrastructure in a cost-effective way, both meeting current needs and future growth and demand.



Roading

Currently our roading network performs at an acceptable level. The Manawātū District is ranked 15th out of 67 local road controlling authorities in New Zealand for road smoothness. However, we know that our roads are beginning to deteriorate as a result of growth in freight movements, ongoing forestry harvest and a growing population. Our roads are getting busier, and heavier vehicles are using them more often.

We are working hard to strengthen the resilience of the roading network to cope with more frequent and intense severe weather events and to retain a focus on safety. But this comes at a cost, and we are acutely aware of the need to balance investment in maintenance and renewals whilst keeping rates affordable.

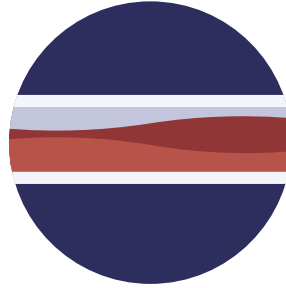
Three Waters



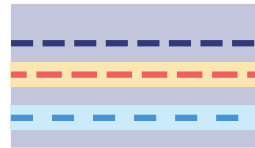
Water Supply



Stormwater



Wastewater



Water supply

The Council has five urban drinking water schemes to meet residential and industrial/commercial needs in Feilding, Himatangi Beach, Sanson, Rongotea and Ōhakea. The plant at Ōhakea was commissioned in late-July 2022. We provide rural water schemes in Stanway-Halcombe and Waituna West to meet residential and agricultural needs. We also administer two rural water supply schemes that are community operated (Kiwitea and Ōroua No. 1).

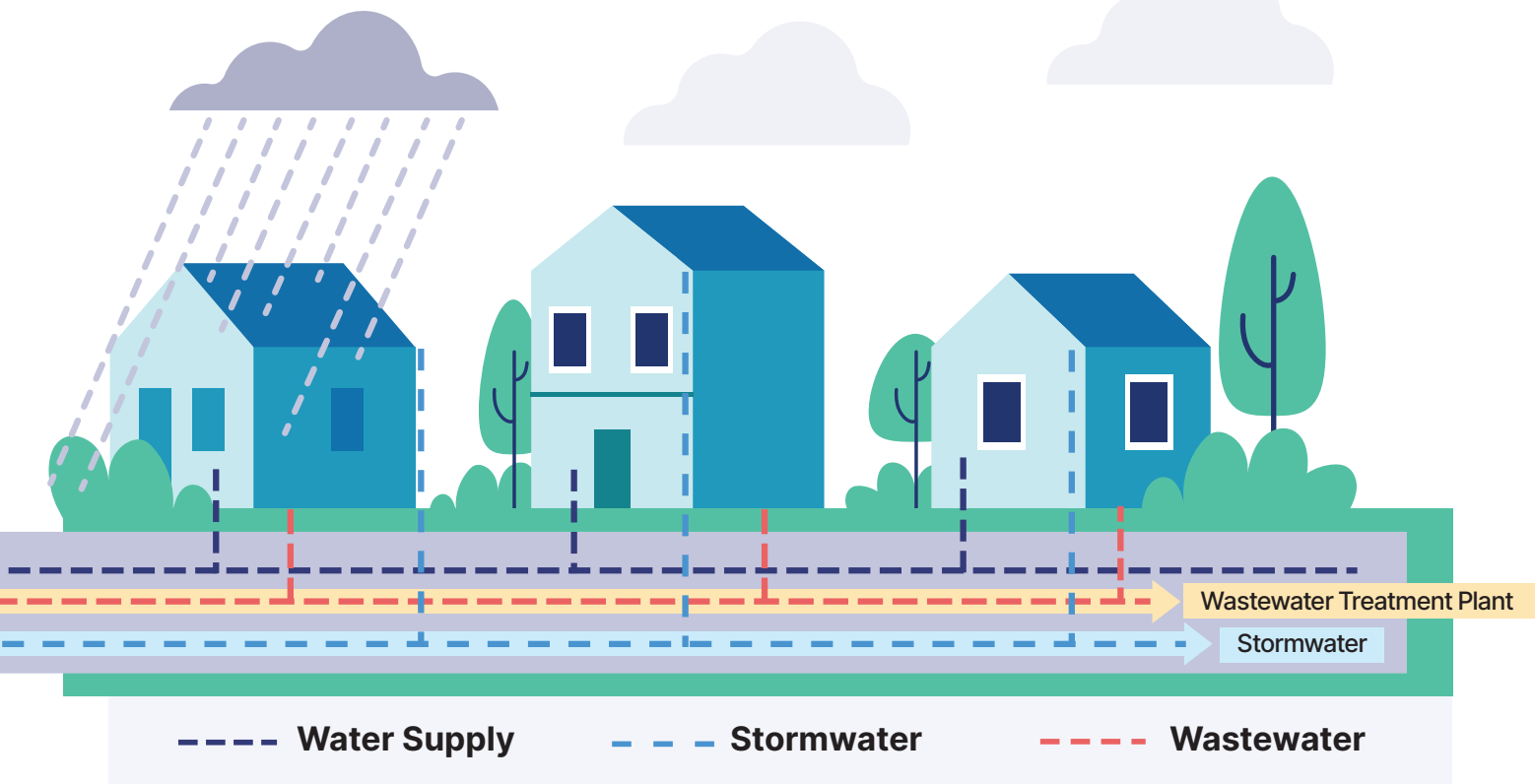
All drinking water supplies are required to comply with the Drinking Water Standards of New Zealand (DWSNZv2022), the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (DWQAR 2022) and Drinking Water Aesthetic Values (2022). The Council will achieve compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules 2022 by constructing a new water treatment plant and reservoir to provide for chlorination, fluoridation and storage at Campbell Road (in 2028/29). Upgrades to Stanway-Halcombe rural water scheme (2024/25) will ensure compliance with the NZ drinking water standards for protozoa.

We are also strengthening the resilience of Feilding's water supply, and reducing our reliance on the Ōroua River, through constructing a new bore for Feilding's water supply.

Wastewater

We collect, treat and dispose of wastewater, including domestic, commercial and industrial waste. We maintain reticulated wastewater systems in Feilding, Awahuri, Cheltenham, Halcombe, Kimbolton, Rongotea, Sanson and Himatangi Beach.

The Council has already invested substantially in the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Feilding and we are leveraging off this investment through the Wastewater Centralisation Project. This project involves the piping of wastewater from Sanson, Rongotea and



Halcombe to the Manawātū WWTP for treatment and discharge. This project also allows wastewater to be piped from RNZAFB Ōhakea to the Manawātū Wastewater Treatment Plant via the Sanson pipeline. The Council has made the decision not to proceed with piping wastewater from Kimbolton and Cheltenham to the Manawātū WWTP in the term of this Long-term Plan because it would have been too expensive to do so. Provision has been made in years 6 and 7 of the Long-term Plan 2024-34 to renew the existing discharge consents for the Kimbolton and Cheltenham WWTP's and for the management of these as standalone WWTPs.

We must apply for a new resource consent from Horizons Regional Council for discharges from the Manawātū WWTP by May 2026. Funding has been allocated in years 1 and 2 of the Long-term Plan for this re-consenting. This re-consenting includes a second stage wetland with the goal of removing all direct discharge to the Ōroua River, with the exception of emergency weather events.

Stormwater

The Council maintains stormwater systems in Feilding, Rongotea and Sanson, including inlets, pipes, open drains and outlets. We maintain shared stormwater assets in Himatangi Beach, Halcombe, Āpiti, Kimbolton, Pōhangina, Rangiwahia and Cheltenham. We also carry out maintenance on the rural drainage schemes in Bainesse, Maire, Makowhai and Ōroua.

Despite general compliance with stormwater targets, floods in November and December 2022 highlighted deficiencies with the urban stormwater network across Feilding. There is a plan to address these issues over a number of years, with detailed design and consenting in years 1 to 3, and capital works starting in year 6. We are also aware of ongoing stormwater overland flow and ponding issues in many of the rural villages. A village stormwater upgrade programme has been in place since the 2018-28 Long-term Plan. The Council is increasing the level of investment to this upgrade programme through this Long-term Plan with an expectation of substantial improvement in stormwater services across the villages.

Challenges affecting our infrastructure

You can see many of the challenges outlined on pages 21-25 affecting the way that we are managing our assets. Our approach is affected by:

- affordability
- climate events
- growth and demand
- a changing and uncertain regulatory environment
- central government direction on land-use change.

To keep rates as low as possible we have developed a capital works programme that is both realistic and affordable. To do this we have had to delay some significant capital projects (such as Stage 2 of the Turners Road project and upgrades to Feilding's stormwater network) longer than originally intended. The Council has also not included any new growth work in the budget for 2024/25 to ensure that current works are completed before starting anything new.

Some are forecasting a warmer climate with more intense and frequent storms, and to prepare we are strengthening the resilience of our assets, particularly critical infrastructure. We are improving roadside drainage to reduce the risk of washouts, locating critical infrastructure away from high-risk areas, increasing the capacity of our pipelines and replacing old pipes with more resilient materials.

We have assumed that our depreciation reserves will be sufficient to fund the replacement of our significant assets. However, if there is considerable damage caused to our assets, such as from an extreme weather event, we may need to supplement our reserves, and any capital subsidies we receive, by borrowing or seeking third-party funding. If we are unable to borrow enough, we would reprioritise our budget, defer capital works, reduce levels of service, increase rates or increase other operational funding (fees and charges, grants etc).

We note that in an extreme weather event and enhanced subsidy from NZ Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi will further off-set the cost of repairing the roading network.



The Council is also increasing its financial resilience including having a resilience reserve to offset some of the costs for recovery from emergency events, having a self-insurance reserve that we are building over time and having a self-imposed \$5 million buffer under our debt cap to ensure we have capacity to borrow if required.

A growing population means that the cost of providing new infrastructure is spread across more households. However, it is critical that we invest in new infrastructure in the right place and at the right time. Our new growth infrastructure investment is focused in Maewa (residential growth precinct) and the Kawakawa Industrial Park (industrial growth precinct). There is already enough residential land available in Feilding through a combination of infill and greenfield development (Maewa) for the next 15 years of growth. There is also vacant land available for development in rural villages such as Rongotea. The Kawakawa Industrial Park will provide for industrial growth in the short to medium term.

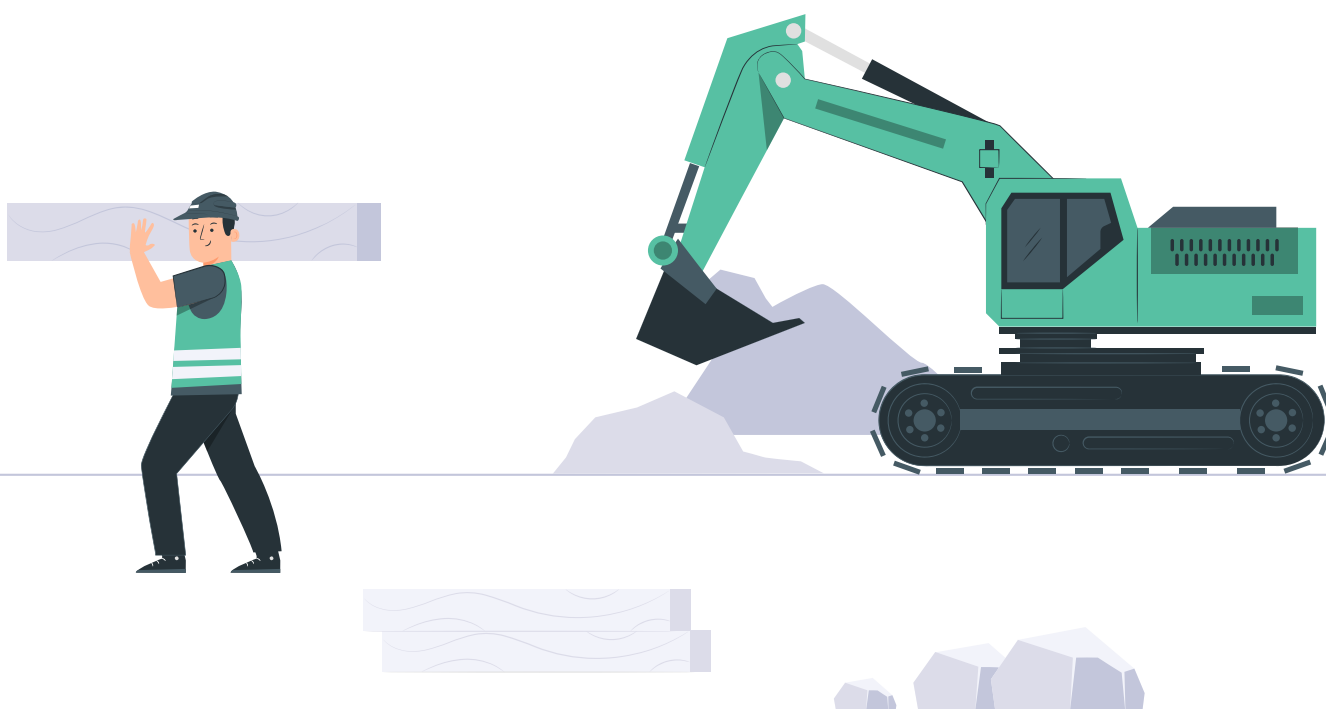
Provision for residential growth in years 15 to 30 will be informed by the Manawātū Growth Strategy, which will plan out new infrastructure that is both fit for purpose and affordable at a pace that enables growth. We are working with developers in these growth areas to ensure that we are aligned in our timing.

Growth in the Manawātū District is influenced by a number of factors, including growth in neighbouring areas such as Palmerston North, and by regional initiatives and investments including the Central New Zealand Distribution Hub - Te Utanganui, and the Royal New Zealand Airforce Base Ōhakea expansion. These investments make the District more attractive for development but also increase demand on both our roading and waters infrastructure.

The repeal of the previous Government's Three Waters legislation on 14 February 2024 gave assurances of continued council ownership and control of water services. Therefore, our Infrastructure Strategy includes information on Three Waters services, as well as Roding and Footpaths.

There is uncertainty around changes to national direction in relation to freshwater management. National direction such as the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land, National Policy Statement for Plantation Forestry and farming regulations to improve water quality are driving land use change. We have already seen a reduction in rural residential subdivision on highly productive land and are expecting changes such as land conversions from agriculture to forestry.

A copy of the full Infrastructure Strategy is available on our website www.mdc.govt.nz/whatmatters.





What we are working on Ngā Mahi Matua

46 Key Projects



Key projects

Ngā mahi matua

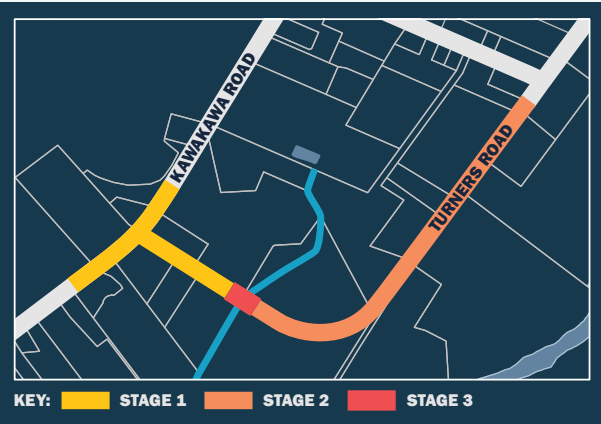
Our Long-term Plan is our plan for the next 10 years, but of course we are already working on lots of projects that continue from our previous plan. This section summarises some of the larger projects that we are delivering.

Turners Road Extension stages 2 and 3

The Turners Road development will drive economic growth in the district. It will open up 24 hectares of high-quality industrial-zoned land and will also provide a trade waste line to the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant. As Turners Road is developed, new businesses will come to Feilding, providing jobs and economic benefits to the district.

The project has been staged so that industrial and commercial developments can offset some of the infrastructure costs, ensuring that we stay within our debt caps.

Construction of Stage 1 started in 2023. Work on Stages 2 and 3 will begin in 2025.



The total cost of completing the project will be \$12.47 million.

Financial Year	Roading	Stormwater	Water Supply	Wastewater	Total Budgeted Expenditure (Inflated \$)
2025/2026	1,230,982	1,873,532	438,291	332,852	3,875,657
2026/2027	3,916,751	2,288,728	726,738	1,300,877	8,233,094

Maewa infrastructure

Maewa is a large, 136 hectare residential development on the northern edge of Feilding. Eventually, it will see up to 1,700 new houses built. We are working with the developer to ensure we deliver infrastructure to support Maewa as its needed, investing only when needed to reduce the burden on our debt levels.



Financial Year	Roading	Water Supply	Wastewater	Stormwater	Total Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
Year 1 2024/25	-	520,000	-	-	520,000
Year 2 2025/26	185,951	231,891	337,330	827,882	1,583,054
Year 3 2026/27	1,602,042	311,823	367,497	468,903	2,750,265
Year 4 2027/28	1,096,945	178,856	253,752	370,724	1,900,277
Year 5 2028/29	2,519,709	-	-	-	2,519,709
Year 6 2029/30	-	189,658	380,689	715,689	1,286,036
Year 7 2030/31	2,276,115	198,888	587,737	615,357	3,678,097
Year 8 2031/32	2,321,639	203,662	1,003,095	630,126	4,158,522
Year 9 2032/33	2,721,249	240,657	1,267,814	600,562	4,830,282
Year 10 2033/34	2,958,634	226,804	363,930	3,493,606	7,042,974
Grand Total Years 1 – 10 (Inflated \$)					30,269,216

As Council's inflation adjuster assumptions are only valid for years 1 – 10 of the Long-term Plan, Council's 30 year budget beyond year 10 is uninflated.

Uninflated Budgeted Expenditure Beyond year 10:

Financial Year	Roading	Water Supply	Wastewater	Stormwater	Total Budgeted Expenditure (not including inflation)
Years 11 – 15	6,824,399	631,815	2,917,036	4,652,920	15,026,170
Years 16 – 20	240,099	192,081	192,081	192,081	816,342
Years 20 – 25	12,455,030	9,022,287	4,512,336	2,321,674	28,311,327
				Grand Total	44,153,839



Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant Re-consenting

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant is fundamental to our district - treating wastewater from households and businesses so that our environment is safeguarded.

Our 10-year resource consent to manage the discharge from the treatment plant to the Ōroua River is expiring and we must apply to Horizons Regional Council for a new one by May 2026.

Over the past 10 years, we have greatly improved the quality of treated wastewater to comply with our consent conditions. We have

invested in land and assets to use treated wastewater to irrigate land. We have also worked alongside Ngāti Kauwhata to develop a native wetland, which will improve the quality of water that eventually makes its way into the Ōroua River when the first stage of the wetland is completed in June 2024.

Our long-term goal is to remove all direct discharges to the river (except for during emergency weather events) and we will include a second-stage wetland in our consent application to help achieve this goal.

We also need to re-consent Wastewater Treatment Plants in Kimbolton and Cheltenham.

Key stakeholders during this process are Ngāti Kauwhata, other local iwi groups, neighbours of the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant, environmental interest groups, and the wider Manawatū community. The Council's direction on wastewater management is guided by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, the Horizons Regional Council One Plan, the overarching concept of Te Mana o Te Wai, the Ōroua Declaration which was co-signed by Ngāti Kauwhata and the Council in December 2015, as well as critical success factors such as affordability and achievability.

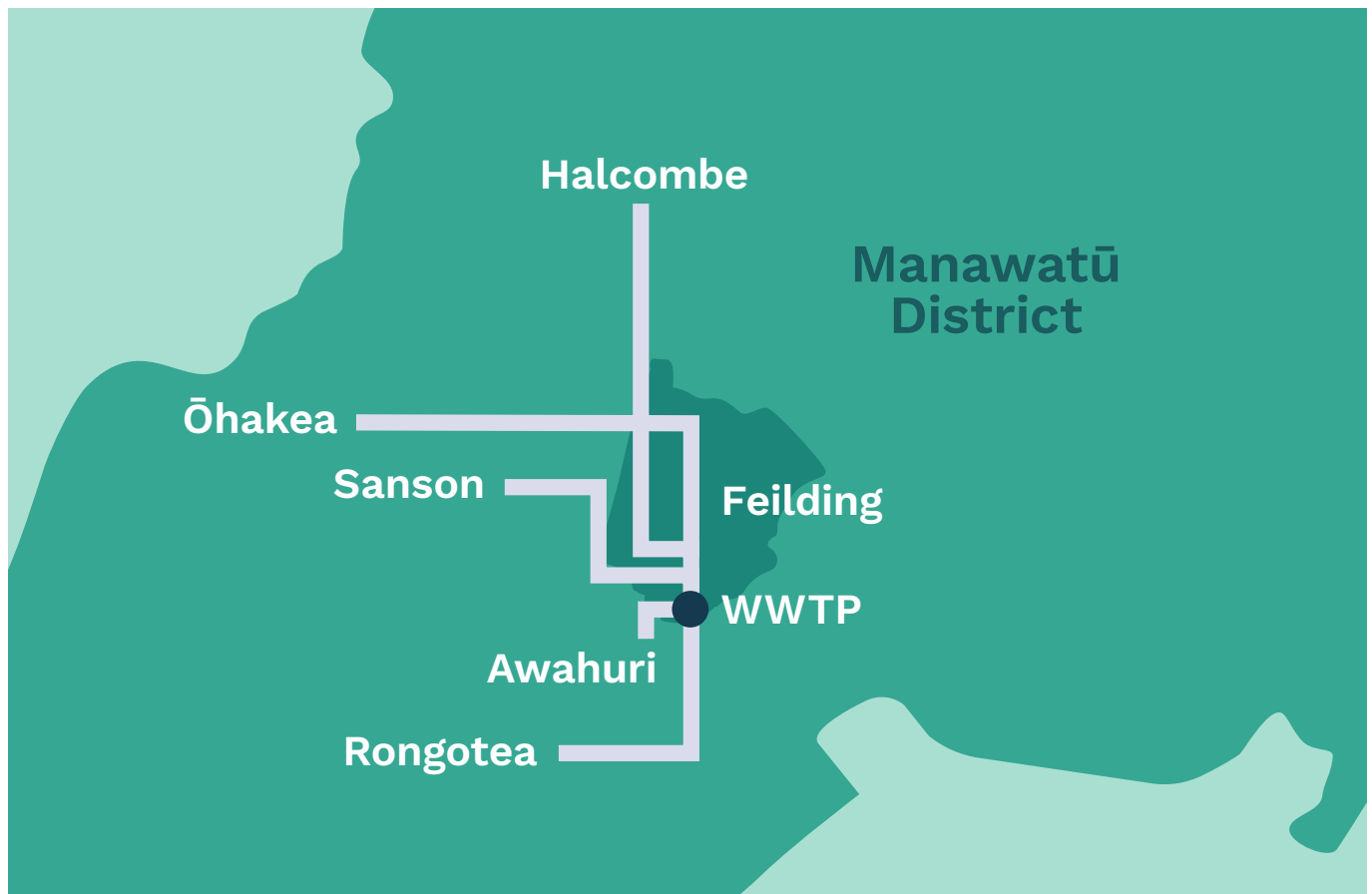
Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)		
	Re-consenting	Pivot irrigation	Land purchase for application of treated wastewater
2024/25	2,107,799		
2025/26	1,282,944		
2026/27	1,101,194		
2027/28	0		
2028/29	0		
2029/30	0		
2030/31	0		3,053,600
2031/32	0	938,068	3,126,893
2032/33	0	959,644	
2033/34	0		

Wastewater Centralisation

We want to improve the water quality in the Ōroua River by reducing the amount of treated wastewater that we put into the river. To do this, we need to separate trade waste from domestic wastewater, use more treated wastewater to irrigate land, and construct a further wetlands where we can treat and discharge wastewater into the environment.

The Wastewater Centralisation project will transport wastewater from villages across the district to the Manawātū Wastewater Treatment Plant in Feilding through a network of pipes and pump stations. This will enable us to treat that wastewater to a higher quality than could be done in smaller wastewater treatment plants around the district. Construction of the wastewater pipelines and pump stations will continue over the first five years of the Long-term Plan.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	4,418,600
2025/2026	5,216,712
2026/2027	2,040,156
2027/2028	2,118,357
2028/2029	2,417,856
2029/2030	2,213,157
2030/2031	242,258
2031/2032	86,035
2032/2033	88,013
2033/2034	90,038



Villages' stormwater upgrades

As part of the 2018-2028 Long-term Plan, it was recognised that not enough had been invested in stormwater networks in villages across the district. \$500,000 a year was put aside to invest in stormwater upgrades, and many projects have been completed.

For this Long-term Plan, we are doubling our investment to \$1 million a year to provide stormwater networks that are more resilient to the increasing frequency of storms.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	1,040,000
2025/2026	1,069,120
2026/2027	1,101,194
2027/2028	1,133,128
2028/2029	1,163,722
2029/2030	1,192,815
2030/2031	1,221,440
2031/2032	1,250,757
2032/2033	1,279,525
2033/2034	1,308,954



Feilding stormwater upgrades

With increasing frequency of storms, we will be upgrading the stormwater network across Feilding, with over \$20 million to be invested over the period of the Long-term Plan. Detailed designs and consenting will be done over the first three years of the plan, with construction beginning from year six.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	894,108
2025/2026	651,601
2026/2027	671,149
2027/2028	690,707
2028/2029	2,804,056
2029/2030	4,901,942
2030/2031	4,983,873
2031/2032	3,352,437
2032/2033	3,301,592
2033/2034	105,143



Feilding Drinking Water Supply Resilience

Feilding has, for many years enjoyed, a dependable supply of drinking (potable) water, due to considerable historic investment in this infrastructure. In the face of population and economic growth in the town, and with more frequent storm events, we are focusing on improving the resilience of our water supply and ensuring we comply with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (2022).

A key part of this is reducing our reliance on the Ōroua River as a water source. We have already built and strengthened water reservoirs in Fraser Drive. We are developing a new water bore in Root Street which will be completed in 2024/2025, and the water supply from the Campbell Road and Newbury Line bores will be upgraded with a new water treatment plant at Campbell Road to ensure we meet new water regulations (including the chlorination and fluoridation of water). We will also consider the future of the Almadale Water Treatment Plant.

We will also make improvements across the water supply network to improve resilience.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	2,613,160
2025/2026	534,560
2026/2027	-
2027/2028	5,014,091
2028/2029	5,149,470

Stanway-Halcombe Rural Water Scheme Upgrade - Te whakapai i te ratonga wai māori o Stanway-Halcombe

Upgrades on the Stanway-Halcombe Rural Water Scheme were started in 2021. Upgrades are planned in 2024/25 that will ensure protozoa compliance (protozoa are single-cell organisms that can make people sick).

Since Cyclone Gabrielle hit the district in February 2023, the water supply has been cloudy (turbid) when the river flows high. This means that we have had to invest more in the water scheme to control the cloudiness of the water. We will also make improvements across the water supply network to improve resilience.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	3,180,513



Stanway-Halcombe containerised water treatment plant

Himatangi Beach Hall Earthquake Strengthening

In 2017 a seismic assessment found that the Himatangi Beach Hall was earthquake prone, and failed to meet the necessary building standards, due to a lack of bracing in the roof. This project will strengthen the hall to allow it to be used safely by the community.

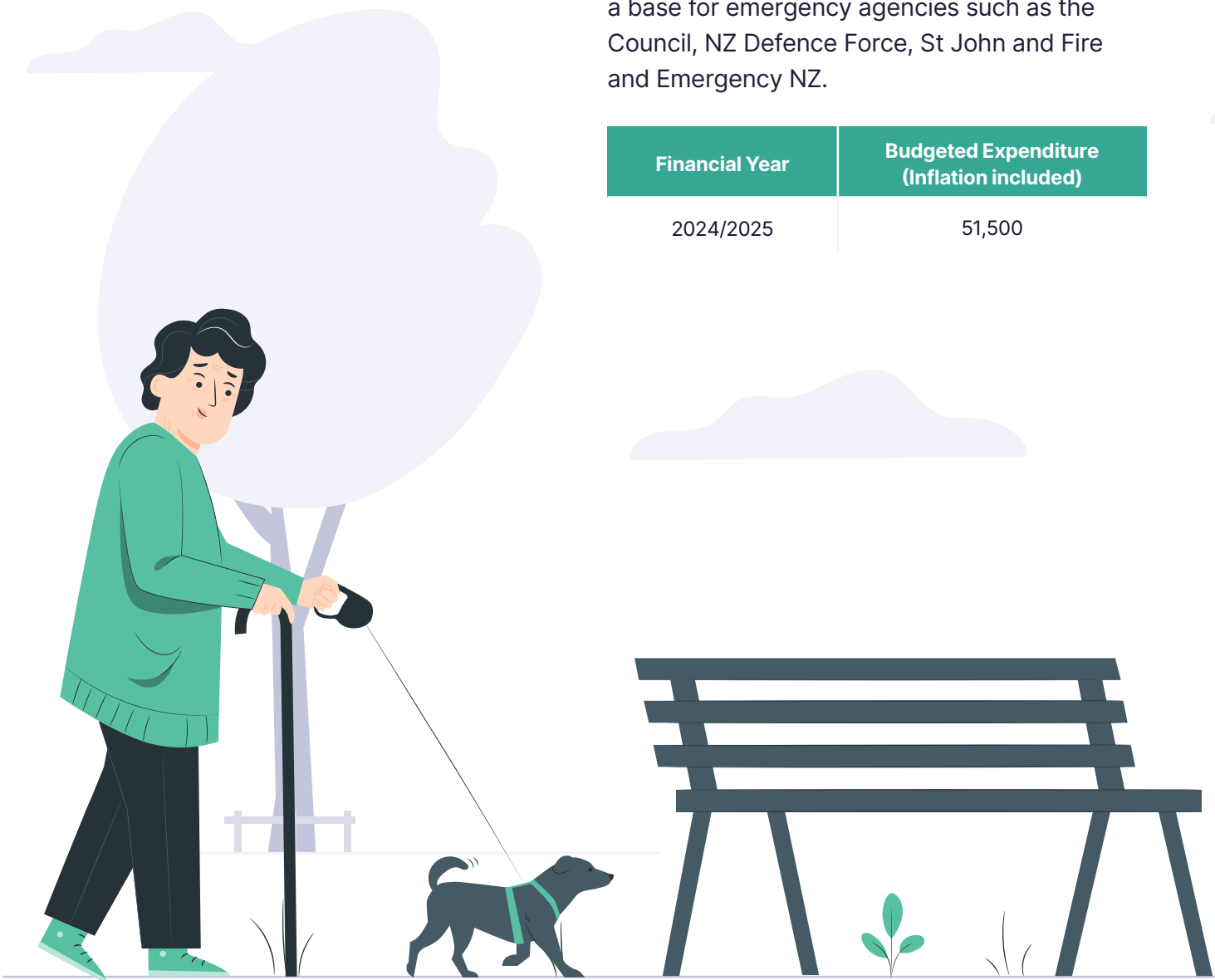
Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	71,890

Rapid Deployment Emergency Response Centre

Having our staff in the right place, at the right time in an emergency can be the difference between life and death. We already have an emergency operations trailer and communication devices that use Starlink connections, which means that we can deploy staff out across our district.

To further improve our emergency responsiveness, we will purchase a rapid deployment shelter and generator. The shelter is a self-sufficient and inflatable shelter that can be set in different locations to provide a base for emergency agencies such as the Council, NZ Defence Force, St John and Fire and Emergency NZ.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	51,500



Ōroua River Walkway

We want to encourage people of all abilities to get out and about on our walkways. The Ōroua River Walkway will connect existing pathways to provide a continuous walkway alongside the river.

Financial Year	Amount (\$) Inflated
2026/2027	214,116
2028/2029	335,135
2031/2032	591,584

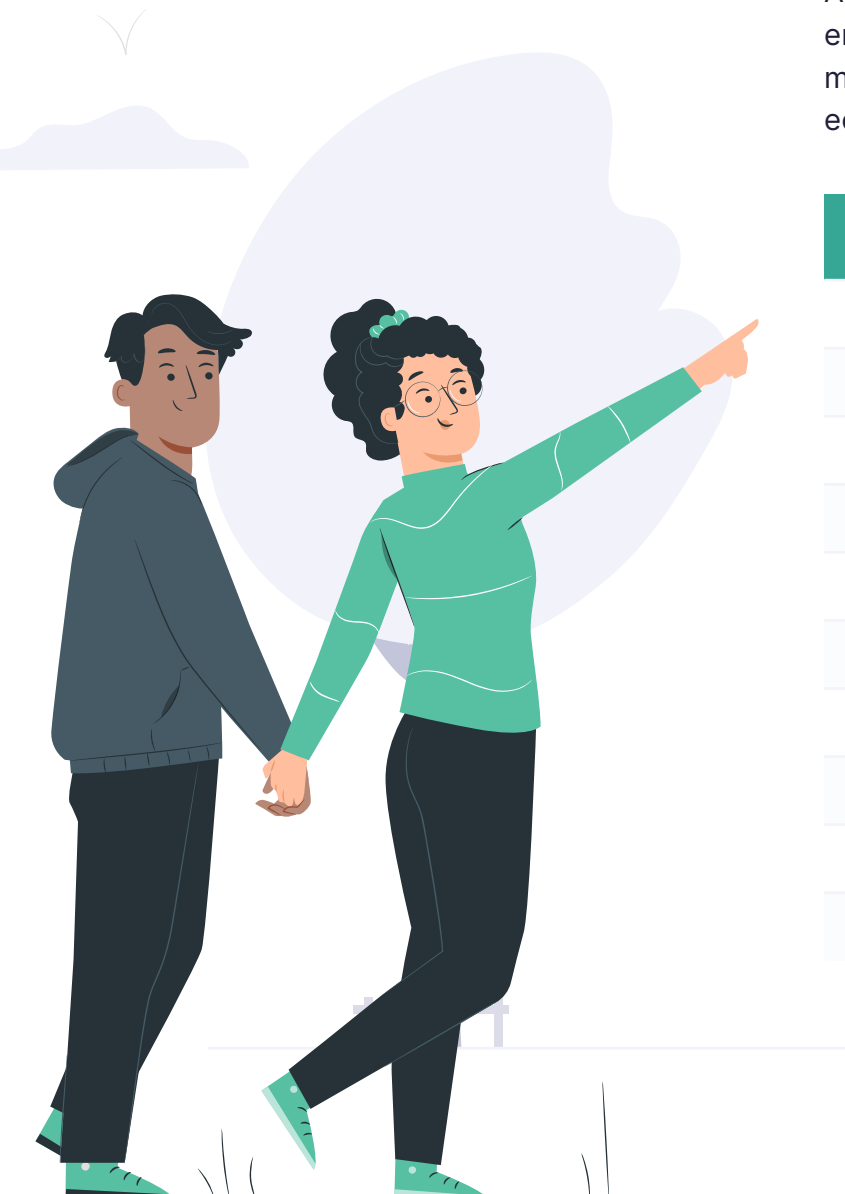
Feilding Town Centre Refresh

A vibrant, safe and attractive Feilding Town Centre provides a heart for shopping and events for our district, attracting visitors and locals and supporting thriving businesses.

As part of the last Long-term Plan, we completed a concept plan to refresh the Town Centre, and now it's time to deliver that plan.

Over the next 10 years, carefully thought-out projects that don't cost the earth will be delivered that will beautify and revitalise the Square. More street art, trees, and better street flows will be introduced. A safer and more vibrant town centre will encourage more businesses to open, attract more visitors to shop in Feilding, helping economic growth.

Financial Year	Budgeted Expenditure (Inflation included)
2024/2025	514,500
2025/2026	524,790
2026/2027	536,860
2027/2028	549,208
2028/2029	561,291
2029/2030	573,078
2030/2031	584,539
2031/2032	596,230
2032/2033	608,155
2033/2034	619,710





Feedback sought

Ngā Take

Whakawhiti Kōrero

- 56 Council decisions for your feedback
- 78 Supporting information
- 79 Feedback form

Council decisions – options we need your feedback on Ngā take whakawhiti kōrero

Manawatū District Councillors make decisions about services and activities, and how we fund these, when putting together the Long-term Plan. When doing this, they balance each decision's benefits to the community against the costs. To do this well, Councillors listen to the views of people throughout the district. The public consultation period will run from 27 March to 27 April 2024.

There are four specific issues that we are seeking your feedback on:

- Removing roading rates differentials to spread the cost of roading infrastructure equitably across ratepayers
- Rebuilding or removing the exotic bird aviaries at Kōwhai Park
- Sharing the cost of the Feilding town centre parking limit enforcement fairly across ratepayers
- Adjusting the revenue and financing funding mixes, shifting more responsibility onto users of services to pay a greater share of the cost of those services.

We have outlined options for each issue, and we have indicated which is our preferred option at this stage. We explain how each option affects each ratepayer category. To provide an 'apples for apples' comparison, in the tables within this section we use the median property Capital Value across all ratepayer categories (excluding Defence properties) - this value is \$660,000. We exclude Defence properties because they pay rates based on Land Value, rather than Capital Value. You can look up the impact on rates for specific properties at this link: www.mdc.govt.nz/residents/rates/rates-property-search

The ultimate decision on which option Councillors choose for each issue will be informed by the feedback that we receive - so it's really important that you let us know what you think!



Issue 1

Roading rates differentials

Should we remove the differential to spread the cost of roading infrastructure more equitably across ratepayers?

Maintaining our roads is one of the top issues that matters to Manawatū, particularly to our rural residents. It comes at a big cost to ratepayers and we want to ensure that cost is spread equitably across ratepayers.

The NZ Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi provides a 51% subsidy for the cost of building and maintaining the roading infrastructure in our district - although there are some roads which we maintain to a higher standard for which the Council pays the full cost.

For roading, we spread the costs that the Council funds across different categories of ratepayers, with some ratepayers paying a greater share than others. Usually rating differentials reflect who benefits from the services (those who benefit more, pay for more). This difference in who pays how much is referred to as a 'differential'.

We are concerned that the current roading differentials are putting too much of the cost of maintaining roads onto Feilding

based ratepayers. The differentials that are currently applied to the roading rates are:

Differential Category	Basis	Differential
1. Feilding Residential	CV	1.00
2. Feilding Rural	CV	0.65
3. Feilding CBD	CV	2.75
4. Rural	CV	0.65
5. Industrial and Commercial	CV	1.50
6. Utilities	CV	1.75
7. Defence	LV	0.65

In addition to the Roding General Rate (which is determined based on Capital Value and the differential), all properties in the district pay a Roding Uniform Targeted Rate of \$100 per year.

Feilding residents' rates cover 33% of the Council's costs for maintaining roading infrastructure, and rural residents' rates cover 53% (the remainder is covered by other ratepayer categories). However, rural roads account for 89% of our roading

infrastructure cost - and this means that Feilding residents are paying to maintain rural roads that they infrequently use.

Given the importance of roads to our communities, and to continue to afford high quality roads across our district (particularly in rural areas), we are proposing to remove the differentials. This will mean that the cost of roading would spread evenly across all categories of ratepayers based on a properties capital value. If implemented, this would see rural ratepayers paying more towards the roading costs, and Feilding residential ratepayers would pay less.

There would be no impact on levels of services or debt with any of the options.

We are seeking your feedback on the following options:

Option A	Status quo – no change to roading rates differentials
Option B	Roading differentials are removed in Year 1 of the LTP
Option C	Roading differentials are removed gradually over a three-year period

Council's preferred option

Issue 1

Roading rates differentials options:

Option A

Status quo - no change to roading rates differentials

Under this option, roading rates would continue to be funded with current differentials applied.

This option benefits rural ratepayers, who would continue to pay roading rates at a proportionally lower level than other ratepayer categories. However other ratepayer categories, such as Feilding residents and businesses, would continue paying roading rates at a disproportionately higher rate.

An example of the impact of this option on different ratepayers is demonstrated in the following table:

Ratepayer category	Rating differential	Targeted rate
Feilding Residential	1.00	\$640
Feilding Rural	0.65	\$416
Feilding CBD	2.75	\$1,769
Industrial and Commercial	1.50	\$964
Rural	0.65	\$416
Utilities	1.75	\$1,122
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	0.65	\$1,229

Option B

The roading rates differential is removed in Year 1

The rural roading differential would be removed. The effect of this change would be that the general rate portion of roading rates for rural ratepayers would be calculated based solely on properties' capital values.

This option means that the amount of rates that rural ratepayers pay for roading would more closely reflect how the roading maintenance budget is actually spent. It would benefit Feilding residents and businesses, who would pay less roading rates, but it would mean that rural ratepayers would pay more roading rates.

An example of the impact of this option on different ratepayers is demonstrated in the following table:

Ratepayer category	Targeted rate	Difference to Option A - status quo
Feilding Residential	\$508	\$132 reduction
Feilding Rural	\$508	\$92 increase
Feilding CBD	\$508	\$1,261 reduction
Industrial and Commercial	\$508	\$456 reduction
Rural	\$508	\$92 increase
Utilities	\$508	\$714 reduction
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	\$1,502	\$273 increase

Option C

Council's
preferred
option

Phased removal of the roading rates differential over a three-year period

The impacts of this option are the same as Option B from year three of the Long-term Plan, however the roading rates differential is phased out over three years. This will mean the amount that rural ratepayers pay will increase gradually, rather than jumping up in a single year, providing more time to rural ratepayers to plan for higher roading rates.

An example of the impact of this option on different ratepayers is demonstrated in the following table:

Ratepayer category	Targeted rate Year 1	Targeted rate Year 2	Targeted rate Year 3
Feilding Residential	\$594	\$587	\$574
Feilding Rural	\$455	\$521	\$574
Feilding CBD	\$1,280	\$931	\$574
Industrial and Commercial	\$785	\$686	\$574
Rural	\$455	\$521	\$574
Utilities	\$884	\$739	\$574
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	\$1,346	\$1,541	\$1,697

Do you support

Option A

The status quo

Option B

Where the roading differential is removed, and rural ratepayers will pay proportionally more and Feilding ratepayers proportionally less for the costs of roading, or

Option C

Where the roading differential is gradually removed over the first three years of the Long-term Plan?

Issue 2

Kōwhai Park aviaries

Should we build new exotic bird aviaries, or re-home the birds, demolish the existing aviaries and replace them with display gardens?

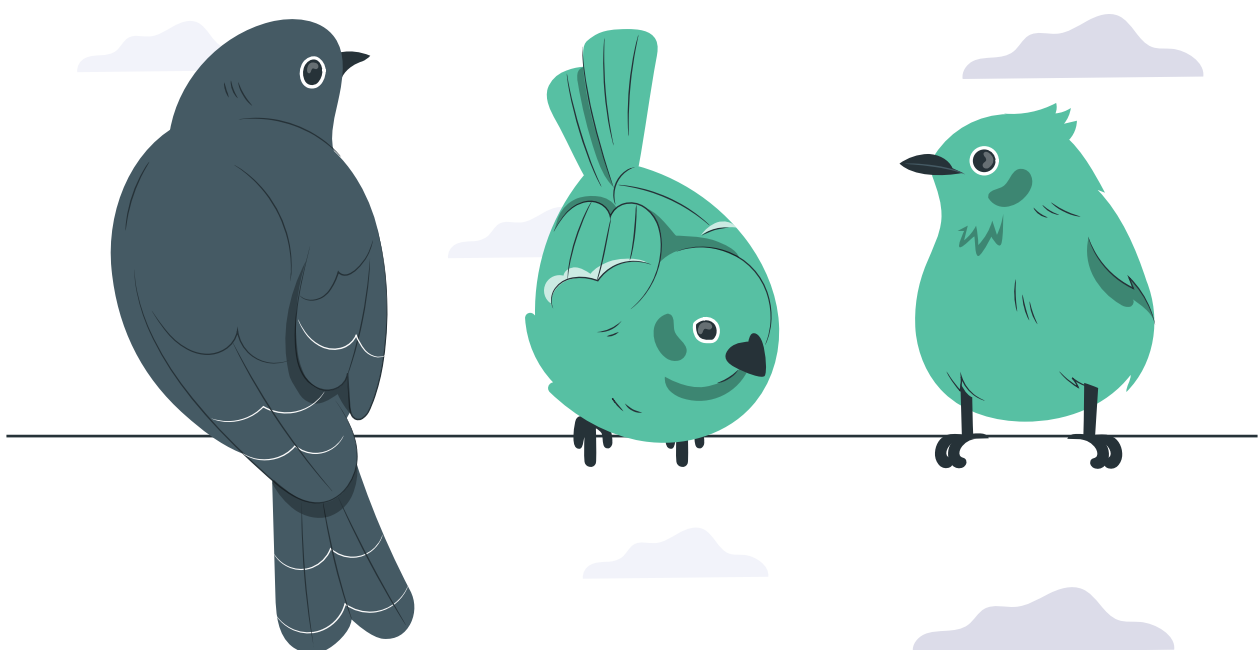
Since 1964, when the Feilding Jaycees donated the aviaries at Kōwhai Park, Manawātū residents have enjoyed seeing the birds on display there.

Native birds were displayed there until 2018, when they were rehomed because the aviaries did not meet the minimum Department of Conservation standards to house native birds. We now face a similar issue for exotic birds, with the aviaries requiring substantial upgrades and increased levels of service to comply with welfare standards under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

The current aviaries have a number of structural issues, and contain asbestos particle boards, which would make any renovation expensive. In addition, we would need to cut down mature trees to increase sunlight to the aviaries. Therefore, if it is decided we should retain the aviaries, then we would have to build new aviaries.

Whatever decision is made, we do need to demolish the current aviaries, and we will replace them with new display gardens. The status quo is not an option.

If we built new aviaries, the daily care and support required would need to be more



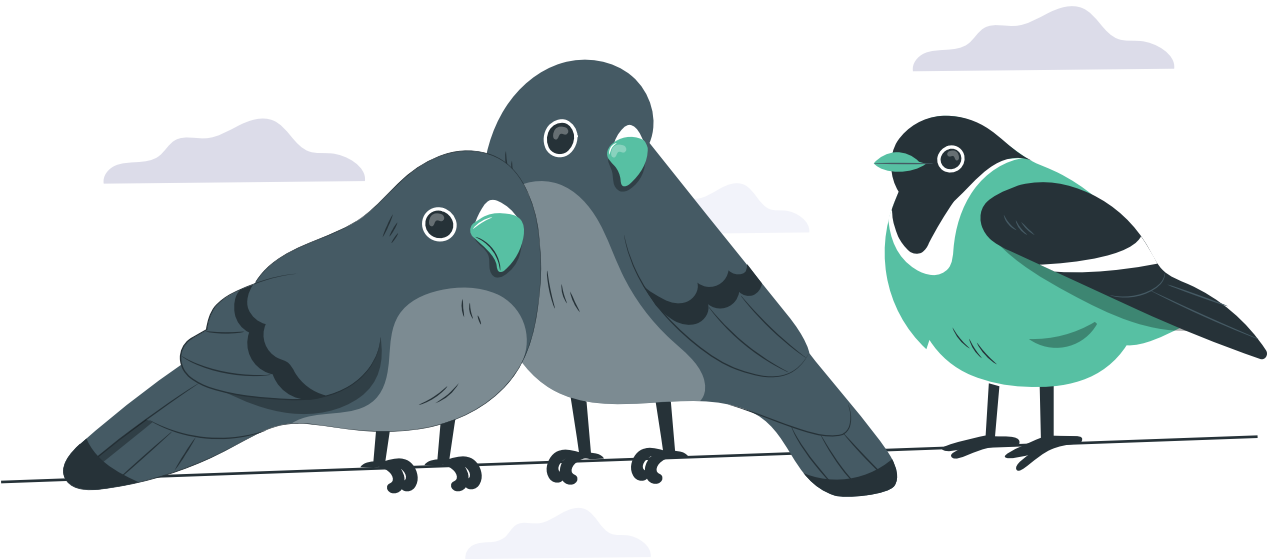
than is provided now which increases the cost of maintaining the birds to an appropriate standard.

In 2017 we received 60 submissions in support of retaining the exotic bird aviaries, and Councillors decided to put aside funding for rebuilding the aviaries in the 2018-28 Long-term Plan.

With the tougher financial times we are in, and with more people having concerns about the welfare of captive animals, we think we should reconsider whether we

continue to have aviaries. We are seeking feedback on whether to:

Option A	Close the existing aviaries at Kōwhai Park and replace them with display gardens	Council's preferred option
Option B	In addition to option A, build new aviaries in Kōwhai Park to replace the old aviaries.	



Issue 2

Kōwhai Park aviaries options:

Option A

Council's preferred option

Close the aviaries at Kōwhai Park

Under this option, we would re-home the exotic birds, demolish the aviaries, and develop the areas into display gardens, complementing the existing rose gardens and duck pond.

The benefits of this option would be that the welfare needs of the existing birds would be met elsewhere (where they are re-homed) and the display gardens at Kōwhai Park would be expanded. We would not have to pay for the rebuilding of aviaries (which would cost over \$800,000), and the increased cost of maintaining the birds (an estimated increase of \$100,000 per annum on top of the current cost).

However, people who have enjoyed viewing birds in the existing aviaries would not have local aviaries to visit as the nearest aviaries are in Palmerston North, Mt Bruce and Whanganui.

This option would require \$40,000 of costs to dispose of the aviaries, re-home the birds and to landscape the new display garden that would replace the aviaries. It would result in operational savings of \$10,000 in Year 1, and ongoing savings

of \$50,000 per annum from Year 2 onwards. It would also avoid the need to increase our debt by approximately \$800,000 to pay for the construction of new aviaries.

The following table outlines what the Targeted Rate for parks that relate to the aviaries would be:

Ratepayer category	Targeted rate - Parks
Feilding Residential	\$6.60
Feilding Rural	-
Feilding CBD	\$6.60
Industrial and Commercial	\$6.60
Rural	-
Utilities	\$6.60
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	-

Option B

Construct new aviaries to replace the current aviaries

The current exotic bird aviaries would be demolished and replaced by display gardens. New aviaries would be constructed at a new site within Kōwhai Park. The new aviaries would be designed and constructed to meet current animal welfare standards and to complement the heritage of the park, and would be easier to maintain. The position of the new aviaries still needs to be identified, but it will be away from mature trees. Operational costs would significantly increase to ensure the new aviaries maintain a high standard of care and animal welfare.

The exotic birds currently housed at Kōwhai Park would remain in the existing aviaries throughout construction, with immediate and short-term improvements implemented to improve their welfare. Once the new aviary is operational, the existing aviary would be demolished and the site developed as a display garden.

This option would require \$40,000 of costs to dispose of the existing aviaries and to landscape the new display gardens that replace them, and \$810,000 to construct a new aviary building.

It would result in ongoing operational costs of \$151,000 per annum. The \$810,000 cost of the new aviary would be funded using debt, and this would result in depreciation and interest costs of \$132,000 from Year 2.

An example of the impact of this option on different ratepayers is demonstrated in the following table:

Ratepayer category	Targeted rate	Difference to Option A
Feilding Residential	\$26.40	\$19.80 increase
Feilding Rural	\$6.60	\$6.60 increase
Feilding CBD	\$72.60	\$66.00 increase
Industrial and Commercial	\$39.60	\$33 increase
Rural	\$6.60	\$6.60 increase
Utilities	\$46.20	\$39.60 increase
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	\$19.50	\$19.50 increase

Do you support

Option A
Closing down the aviaries, or

Option B
Building new aviaries at
Kōwhai Park?

Issue 3

Feilding town centre parking limit enforcement

How should we fairly share the cost of enforcing time-limited parking in Feilding's town centre?

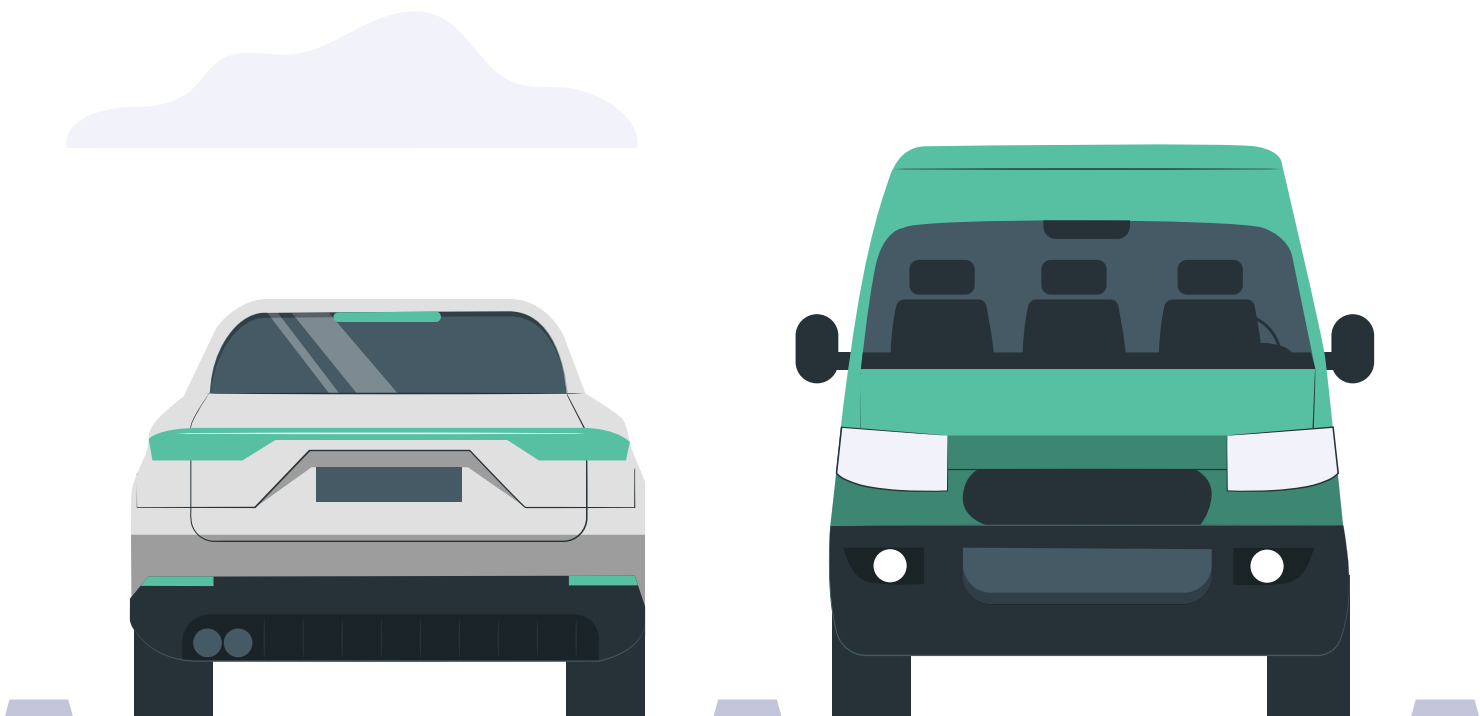
In November 2023 Councillors decided to introduce time limits for parking within the Feilding Central Business District. This would see time limits for parking between 9am and 3pm during weekdays. The reason for the time limits is to encourage more frequent turn-over of parking spaces, to free up more parks for shoppers within the town centre. We are not consulting on if we should have time-limited parking - that decision has been made. We are consulting on how to fairly pay for the enforcement of time-limited parking.

From July 2024 we will actively enforce the parking time limits. To do this, we are

employing a parking warden to monitor the parking time limits and to issue parking fines. We are buying handheld computer systems, a portable ticket printer, and a body camera and working alone device (with licensing costs) to keep our warden safe.

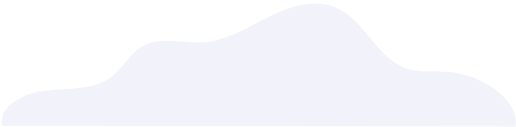
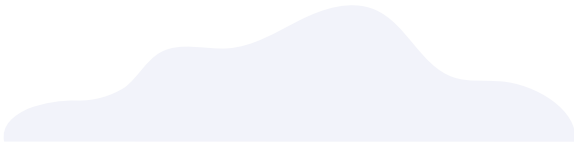
The overall annual cost of this will be \$125,000.

We are seeking your views how to fairly share that cost across ratepayer categories. The option you support will depend on who you think primarily benefits from the enforcement of parking time limits.



There is no overall impact on debt. We are seeking feedback on whether we should fund enforcement of parking time limits in the Feilding CBD by:

Option A	through 100% General Rates	Council's preferred option
Option B	through a funding split of 25% CBD Targeted Rates, and 75% General Rates	
Option C	through 100% CBD Targeted Rates.	



Issue 3

Feilding town centre parking limit enforcement options:

Option A

Council's preferred option

Fund enforcement through 100% General Rates

This would see the entire cost of enforcing parking times limits being paid for through General Rates. This option is premised on the view that all ratepayers receive a benefit from time-limited parking, and therefore the cost should be spread across all ratepayers. The benefit is this spreads the cost of enforcement across all ratepayers, meaning the cost per ratepayer is lower compared to the other options.

An example of the impact of this option on different ratepayers is demonstrated in the following table:

Ratepayer category	General Rate
Feilding Residential	\$13.20
Feilding Rural	\$6.60
Feilding CBD	\$19.80
Industrial and Commercial	\$13.20
Rural	\$6.60
Utilities	\$13.20
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	\$19.50

Option B

Fund enforcement through a funding split of 25% CBD Targeted Rates, and 75% General Rates

This option is based on there being a significant general benefit to all Manawātū ratepayers, who will enjoy greater availability of parking when shopping in Feilding's Town Centre, due to the increased turnover of parking spaces because of time limits. Therefore, this would see 75% of the cost of enforcement being paid by General Rates.

However, it also acknowledges that CBD business owners may have an additional benefit, which is increased turnover in their businesses, resulting in increased revenue. Therefore, 25% of the cost would be funded from a CBD Targeted Rate.

An example of the impact of this option on different ratepayers is demonstrated in the following table:

Ratepayer category	General Rate	Targeted Rate	Difference to Option A
Feilding Residential	\$6.60	\$0	\$6.60 decrease
Feilding Rural	\$6.60	\$0	No difference
Feilding CBD	\$19.80	\$112.20	\$112.20 increase
Industrial and Commercial	\$13.20	\$0	No difference
Rural	-	\$0	\$6.60 decrease
Utilities	\$13.20	\$0	No difference
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	-	\$0	\$19.50 decrease

Option C

Fund enforcement through 100% CBD Targeted Rates

This would see the entire cost of enforcing parking time limits being paid for by those in the CBD through CBD Targeted Rates. This option would be premised on the view that the major beneficiaries of time-limited parking are the businesses in the CBD, who would see increased turnover and revenue due to the greater availability of parking for shoppers in the town centre.

Ratepayer category	General Rate	Targeted Rate	Difference to Option A
Feilding Residential	-	\$0	\$13.20 decrease
Feilding Rural	-	\$0	\$6.60 decrease
Feilding CBD	-	\$422	\$422.40 increase
Industrial and Commercial	-	\$0	\$13.20 decrease
Rural	-	\$0	\$6.60 decrease
Utilities	-	\$0	\$13.20 decrease
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	-	\$0	\$19.50 decrease

Which option do you prefer for funding Feilding CBD parking time limit enforcement?

Option A

100% General Rates,

Option B

75% General Rates, 25% CBD Targeted Rates, or

Option C

100% CBD Targeted Rates?

Issue 4

Revenue and financing funding mixes

Which changes should we make to the way that we fund our activities and services?

Funding our activities and services – how we spread the costs

When we make decisions about the activities and services we provide, we consider how they contribute to our district's Strategic Priorities (see page 10). Another important decision is how to pay for them.

Of course, we try our best to minimise costs to residents. For example, we receive large subsidies from the NZ Transport Agency for our local roads, and we also receive grants for some projects. However, inevitably the majority of cost of council's services falls on our residents, and we must decide the fairest way to spread that cost.

The first question we ask when deciding how to spread the cost is **who benefits from a service or activity**. This means that:

- if an individual benefits then we would tend towards a **User Fee or Charge**. An example of this is user fees for rubbish bags - where we know the household using the rubbish bag benefits directly from the use of it.

- if the general community benefits we would tend towards a **General Rate** which is calculated using Council Valuation, or a **Uniform Annual General Charge** where the cost is spread uniformly across all ratepayers – an example is parks, where everyone in the community can benefit from using the park
- if a specific community benefits we would tend towards a **Targeted Rate** - an example is water schemes for a specific village.

You will see below that we are proposing to change the funding mixes for Animal Control, Building Control, Consent Planning, and Solid Waste so that more of the cost of those activities is paid for by the users of the services (who benefit individually from that service), and less of the cost is paid for by rates.

The second question we consider is what is the **impact on the residents who will pay**. Sometimes, if the cost of the service is spread across too few ratepayers, it

can put an excessive burden on them. You will see this thinking below in our proposal to change the funding mix for CBD Redevelopment so that the costs are spread through General Rates, rather than by a few business through the CBD Targeted Rates.

Across most of our services, we use a mix of General Rates, Targeted Rates and User Charges in a combination that we think most fairly shares the cost. These combinations (also known as our 'funding mixes') are outlined in the Revenue and Financing Policy that can be found in the Supporting Information. There would be no impact on levels of services or debt with any of the options under each of the revenue and financing funding mixes.

Proposed changes to our revenue and financing funding mixes

From time to time, we look at how things are going and change some of the funding mixes we use. We are seeking your feedback on these changes, and this will inform changes to our Revenue and Financing Policy (you'll see we have already inserted our preferred option into the draft Revenue and Financing Policy that is part of the Supporting Information).

The following pages outline the changes we are proposing and the reasons why.



Issue 4

Revenue and financing funding mixes

CBD Redevelopment

This activity repays and services the debt required to develop and beautify Feilding’s town centre. The total rates required is around \$197,000 per annum. Currently 85% of this cost is spread over 209 CBD ratepayers, placing a considerable burden on them. However, the general community benefits from a

vibrant, safe and attractive Feilding town centre. Therefore we are proposing that we change this to be fully funded from General Rates, spreading the cost across all ratepayers.

The funding mix proposals are:

	General Rate	Targeted rate	General Rate	Targeted rate	Difference to Option A
	Option A - Status quo CBD Targeted Rates 85% General Rate 15%		Option B CBD Targeted Rates 0% General Rate 100% <div>Council's preferred option</div>		
Feilding Residential	-	\$0	\$13.20	\$0	\$13.20 increase
Feilding Rural	-	\$0	\$6.60	\$0	\$6.60 increase
Feilding CBD	\$6.60	\$594.00	\$33.00	\$0	\$567.60 decrease
Industrial and Commercial	\$6.60	\$0	\$26.40	\$0	\$19.80 increase
Rural	-	\$0	\$6.60	\$0	\$6.60 increase
Utilities	\$6.60	\$0	\$26.40	\$0	\$19.80 increase
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	-	\$0	\$19.50	\$0	\$19.50 increase

Which funding mix option for CBD Redevelopment do you prefer
Option A or Option B?

Animal Control

Manawatū District Council's dog registration fees are among the cheapest in our region. The general community benefits from the safety that Animal Control provides – taking menacing, dangerous animals off our streets and removing wandering stock from our roads.

However we feel that too much of the cost burden falls on general ratepayers, and more responsibility should be placed on dog owners for the costs of dog control. We are therefore proposing that 80% of the Animal Control costs be covered by dog registration fees, and 20% from General Rates.

The funding mix proposals are:

	Impact per rating unit	Impact on user fees
Option A - Status quo		
40% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge)	\$26.00	Dog registration fee \$116 (discounted fee if paid by 1 August)
60% user fees		Dog registration fee \$174 (if paid after 1 August)
Option B		
20% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge)	\$13.05 (a reduction of \$13)	Dog registration fee \$120 (discounted fee if paid by 1 August)
80% user fees		Dog registration \$180 (if paid after 1 August)



Which funding mix option for Animal Control do you prefer
Option A or Option B?

Issue 4

Revenue and financing funding mixes

Building Control

Building Control covers things such as building consents, Codes of Compliance, and the associated building inspections. There is a benefit to the general community through ensuring our district has safe buildings and they meet relevant building standards, and through ensuring the costs of building control activities are reasonable for individual property owners so as not to discourage development.

However, we feel that the current funding mix does not recognise the individual benefits property owners receive from Building Control services enough. We are proposing that 80% of the cost of Building Control is funded through User Fees (building consents, warrants, infringements).

The funding mix proposals are:

	General Rate (plus Uniform Annual General Charge of \$100)	General Rate (plus Uniform Annual General Charge of \$50)	Difference to Option A (includes Annual General Rate and Uniform Annual General Charge)
	Option A - Status quo Rates 40% Fees 60%	Option B Rates 20% User Fees 80%	Council's preferred option
Uniform Annual General Charge	\$100	\$50	\$50 decrease
Impact on building fees	Minimal changes	Approximate increase of 20%	
Feilding Residential	\$33.00	\$13.20	\$19.80 decrease
Feilding Rural	\$13.20	\$6.60	\$6.60 decrease
Feilding CBD	\$72.60	\$33.00	\$39.60 decrease
Industrial and Commercial	\$52.80	\$26.40	\$26.40 decrease
Rural	\$13.20	\$6.60	\$6.60 decrease
Utilities	\$52.80	\$26.40	\$26.40 decrease
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	\$39.00	\$19.50	\$19.50 decrease

Which funding mix option for Building Control do you prefer Option A or Option B?

Consent Planning

Consent Planning is the resource consent guidance and consenting we do to protect our natural environment. There is a benefit to the general community from the economic activity that flows from having sufficient land with suitable zoning, infrastructure and services.

Currently Manawātū District Council's consenting fees are low compared to other local authorities

in New Zealand. We feel that the current funding mix does not recognise the individual benefits landowners receive from Consent Planning services enough. We are proposing that 80% of the cost of Consent Planning is funded through User Fees (resource consents, infringements).

The funding mix proposals are:

	General Rate (plus Uniform Annual General Charge of \$84)	General Rate (plus Uniform Annual General Charge of \$60)	Difference to Option A (includes Annual General Rate and Uniform Annual General Charge \$24)
	Option A - Status quo Rates 40% Fees 60%	Option B Rates 20% User Fees 80%	Council's preferred option
Uniform Annual General Charge	\$84	\$60	\$24 decrease
Impact on building fees	Minimal changes	Approximate increase of 20%	
Feilding Residential	\$26.40	\$19.80	\$6.60 decrease
Feilding Rural	\$13.20	\$6.60	\$6.60 decrease
Feilding CBD	\$59.40	\$46.20	\$13.20 decrease
Industrial and Commercial	\$46.20	\$33.00	\$13.20 decrease
Rural	\$13.20	\$6.60	\$6.60 decrease
Utilities	\$46.20	\$33.00	\$13.20 decrease
Defence (based on Land Value of \$1.95 million)	\$39.00	\$19.50	\$19.50 decrease

**Which funding mix option for
Consent Planning do you prefer
Option A or Option B?**

Issue 4
Revenue and financing funding mixes

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste activity includes the collection and disposal of household rubbish, the sale of blue rubbish bags, and the transfer stations. The community benefits because having centralised solid waste disposal safeguards public health. Individual householders benefit from the disposal of their household’s waste.

We feel that more of the cost of providing this service should be paid for by individuals rather than from rates. We are proposing that 60-70% of the cost of this activity should be covered by User Charges and Fees (blue rubbish bag sales, gate fees for the Transfer Station).

The funding mix proposals are:

	Impact on rates	Cost per blue bag	Gate fee for a medium load (ute or trailer load up to 350kg)	Gate fee for trucks and loads over 500kg (per tonne)
Option A - Status quo				
Collection and disposal 35-45% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge)	\$83	\$2.50	\$102.00	\$282.20
55-65% user fees				
Option B				
Collection and disposal 30-40% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge)	\$69	\$2.90 (16% increase)	\$132.00 (29% increase)	\$366.00 (30% increase)
60-70% user fees				

Council's preferred option

Which funding mix option for Solid Waste do you prefer Option A or Option B?

Policies also open for consultation

In addition to the issues highlighted in this document, Council is also consulting on the following draft policies:

Rates Remissions and Postponement Policy

Revenue and Financing Policy

Recommended changes to these policies are outlined below:

Rates Remissions and Postponement Policy

In 2021 Council consulted on a draft Development Contributions Rebate Policy and the draft Social and Affordable Rental Housing Residential Unit Rebate Scheme Criteria 2021 in parallel with consultation on the draft 10 Year Plan 2021-31. Council decided not to adopt these documents and thought that having an annual rates remission for eligible social and affordable housing providers gives a greater incentive than a one-off development contribution rebate.

Feedback is now sought on a proposed community housing remission within the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy that would provide a rates discount for housing providers.

Revenue and Financing Policy

Issue 4 describes changes that Council is proposing to make to the funding mixes that sit within the Revenue and Financing Policy. In addition to these changes, Council is proposing to make the following administrative changes:

- Changing the name of the “Manawatū District Libraries” to “Community Hub Libraries” and changing the funding mix to recognise the increase in revenue expected from user fees at the new Community Hub Library.
- Splitting the “Compliance and Monitoring” funding mix into “Alcohol Licensing” and “Environmental Health” with separate funding mixes that reflect the actual revenue from user fees and charges.

Supporting information

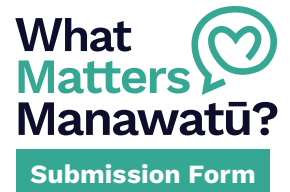
He puka taunaki

The Long-term Plan and this consultation document are the result of a lot of background research and planning. A lot of information is prepared as part of the process that supports the detail of these documents. You are encouraged to refer to any of this information if you would like to understand more of the detail.

- Environmental Scan
- Funding and Financial Policies:
 - Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy*
 - Draft Revenue and Financing Policy*
 - Liability Management Policy
 - Investment Policy
 - Development and Financial Contributions Policy 2023
- Significance and Engagement Policy 2020
- Te Kīwai (o te kete) 2020
- Forecasting Assumptions
- Draft Financial Strategy 2024-34
- Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54
- Activity Statements
- Draft Community Facilities Asset Management Plan
- Draft Three Waters Asset Management Plan
- Draft Roding Activity Management Plan
- Community Development Strategy 2019
- Community Facilities Strategy
- Cemeteries Management Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Halls Policy 2009
- Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020
- Reserve Management Plans
- 10 Year Plan 2021-31
- 2022/23 Annual Plan
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022-2028
- Road Sealing Policy

*Policies that are being consulting on as part of this Long-term Plan.

Supporting documents for this consultation document can be found on the Long-term Plan part of our “Make Your Mark” website and in hard copy at Council reception (Manchester Street Office) and the Feilding Library.



Manawātū District Council

Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Feedback Form

Te Puka whakahoki Kōrero mai

Please provide your feedback by 27 April 2024

Submitter Details Please fill in all fields with *

*Full name of submitter: _____

Postal Address: _____

Postcode: _____

*Phone (day): _____ Mobile: _____

*Email: _____

*Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If yes, this confirms you have the authority to submit on the organisations' behalf)

*Name of Organisation: _____

I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please tick a day/time you are available

	Thursday 2 May	Friday 3 May	Monday 6 May
Morning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like to present in my own language, which is: _____

If you would like to present in NZ Sign Language, please let us know so that we can make translation arrangements with you.

Privacy Statement: All submissions are treated as public information and are included in papers available to the public and media, and on our website. You may request that your contact details (but not your name) be withheld by ticking this box. ☐

Issue One: Roding rates differential

Should we remove the differential to spread the cost of roding infrastructure more equitably across ratepayers?

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ Option A
Status Quo - No change to roding differentials
Under this option, roding rates would continue to be funded with current differentials applied.

☐ Option B
Roding differentials are removed in Year 1 of the LTP
The rural roding differential would be removed. The effect of this change would be that the general rate portion of roding rates for rural ratepayers would be calculated based solely on properties' capital values.

☐ Option C
Roding differentials are removed gradually over a three-year period
Under this option, roding rates would continue to be funded with current differentials applied but phased out over three years.

Council's preferred option

Issue one comments:

Issue Two: Kōwhai Park aviaries

Should we build new exotic bird aviaries, or re-home the birds, demolish the existing aviaries and replace them with display gardens?

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ Option A
Close the existing aviaries at Kōwhai Park and replace them with display gardens
Under this option, we would rehome the exotic birds, demolish the aviaries and develop the areas into display gardens to complement the rose gardens and duck ponds.

☐ Option B
In addition to option A, build new aviaries in Kōwhai Park to replace the old aviaries.
This option will require the construction of new aviaries to meet the current animal welfare standards while complementing the Park's heritage.

Council's preferred option

Issue two comments:

Issue Three: Feilding Town Centre Parking Limit Enforcement

How should we fairly share the cost of enforcing time-limited parking in Feilding's town centre?

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ **Option A**

Fund parking limit enforcement through 100% General Rates.

Under this option, the entire cost of enforcing parking time limits would be spread across all ratepayers.

Council's preferred option

☐ **Option B**

Fund parking limit enforcement through 75% General Rates and 25% CBD Targeted Rates.

This option will see 75% of the cost of parking limit enforcement paid by General Rates and the remaining 25% from a CBD Targeted Rate.

☐ **Option C**

Fund parking limit enforcement through 100% CBD Targeted Rates.

This option will see 100% of the cost of parking limit enforcement paid through the CBD Targeted Rate.

Issue three comments:

Issue Four: Revenue and financing funding mixes

Which changes should we make to the way we fund our activities and services?

CBD Redevelopment

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ **Option A**

Maintain the status quo of 85% CBD Targeted Rates and 15% General Rates.

This option maintains the current status quo of spreading 85% of the cost across CBD ratepayers and the remaining 15% from general rates.

☐ **Option B**

Fully fund the CBD Redevelopment from General Rates.

We will change the funding split for the CBD redevelopment from 85% CBD Targeted Rate and 15% General Rates to 100% General rates spread across all ratepayers.

Council's preferred option

Issue Four: Revenue and financing funding mixes - Continued

Revenue and financing funding mixes:

Which changes should we make to the way we fund our activities and services?

Animal Control

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ Option A

Maintain the status quo of 40% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge) and 60% user fees.

This option maintains the status quo where more of the cost burden of animal control is borne by general ratepayers.

☐ Option B

Animal control costs are covered by 80% user fees and 20% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge).

This option will reduce the burden placed on general ratepayers spreading majority of animal control costs through user fees.

Council's preferred option

Building Control

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ Option A

Maintain Status Quo with a split of 40% rates and 60% User Fees.

This option places more burden on general rate payers where building control services cost are split at 40% rates (General Rate 24%, Uniform Annual General Charge 76%) and 60% user fees.

☐ Option B

Building control costs will be split 20% rates (General Rate 24%, Uniform Annual General Charge 76%) and 80% User Fees.

This option proposes that 80% of Building Control Service costs are funded through User Fees (building consents, warrants and infringements) recognising the benefits individual property owners gain from the service.

Council's preferred option

Consent Planning

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

☐ Option A

Maintain status quo by splitting consent planning costs 70% rates (General Rate 24%, Uniform Annual General Charge 76%), 30% user fees.

Under this option users of this service pay a lower cost while majority of the cost is spread through General rates.

☐ Option B

Consent Planning costs will be split 50% rates (General Rate 24%, Uniform Annual General Charge 76%) and 50% User Fees.

This option proposes that 50% of Consent Planning costs are funded through user fees and 50% rates (24% General Rates and 76% Uniform Annual General Charge).

Council's preferred option

Issue Four: Revenue and financing funding mixes - Continued

Which changes should we make to the way we fund our activities and services?

Solid Waste

The options we are seeking feedback from you on are:

Council's preferred option

☐

Option A

Maintain the status quo of 35-45% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge) and 55-65% user fees.

This option maintains the status quo of splitting collection and disposal costs at 35-45% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge) and 55-65% user fees.

☐

Option B

Solid waste collection and disposal costs are split 30-40% rates (Uniform Annual General Charge) and 60-70% user fees.

This option will reduce the burden placed on general ratepayers spreading majority of solid waste costs across users of the service.

Issue four comments:

If you would like to make any **general comments** you can do so on the last page of this form.

As well as the Long-term Plan Consultation Document, Manawatū District Council is consulting on several other important draft policies at the same time. We would love to hear what you think about them:

Rates, Remissions and Postponements Policy - This policy aims to ensure the fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community. It addresses financial assistance and support for ratepayers, anomalies and other schemes.

Revenue and Financing Policy - This policy sets out all the potential sources of income available to Council and how it intends to use each of those sources when it comes to capital and operational expenditure.

Consultation dates are **27 March to 27 April 2024**. Find out about each of the policies above and how you can give your feedback at www.mdc.govt.nz/whatmatters.

General comments

Any other comments you may have:

Audit Arotake

86 Independent Auditor's Report



Independent Auditor's Report

Te Pūrongo a Te Kaiarotake

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

To the reader

Independent auditor's report on Manawatu District Council's consultation document for its proposed 2024-34 Long-Term Plan

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Manawatu District Council (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its long-term plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and the Council requested me to audit the consultation document. I have carried out this audit using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our audit on 21 March 2024.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2024-34 long-term plan, because it:
 - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long-term plan; and
 - identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and district, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long-term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long-term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

Independence and quality management

We have complied with the Auditor-General's independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 1 is founded on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour.

We have also complied with the Auditor-General's quality management requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (PES 3) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

In addition to this audit and our report on the Council's 2022-23 Annual Report, we have carried out engagements in the areas of a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's debenture trust deed, which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with or interests in the Council or any of its subsidiaries.



Debbie Perera

Audit New Zealand

On behalf of the Auditor-General, Palmerston North, New Zealand



www.mdc.govt.nz/whatmatters