

Annual Plan 2016/2017

JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nā ngā pakihwi o ō tātou tīpuna, ka taea e tātou te titiro whakamua

'From the shoulders of our ancestors, we are able to see the future'

Kia ora tātou and welcome to the Wairoa District Council Annual Plan for 2016/17. This is year two of our current 10-year plan and we are on track to delivering our plans as signaled in the LTP.

Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2015-2025, which was strongly informed by submissions from the Wairoa community, lays out a plan for maintaining sound infrastructure and core services as well as looking for new and creative solutions to see Wairoa prosper. During consultation on the LTP we heard from over 100 people and community groups who gave us valuable feedback. We want to thank those who got involved in helping us to shape our district's future. The course of action set down ensures that ratepayers and the community have an affordable strategy now and for future growth.


We are not proposing any major changes to our existing LTP. We have however been working hard to increase efficiencies within Council's operations, and the Annual Plan for 2016/17 now proposes a general rates increase for this year of 1.59%, a pleasing 67.84% reduction in the previously anticipated rates increase for the 2016/17 year.

As agreed through the LTP and in consultation with the community, Council agreed to use reserves to reduce the costs of specific projects like the District Plan Review. Additionally, other factors including a reduction in the forecasted inflation rate, improved investments and an increase in efficiencies within council's operations have resulted in the reduction in the expected rate increase.

Key focus areas noted in the LTP include an emphasis on economic development and our goal will be to partner with others to further develop a Council environment which assists businesses and innovative individuals to bring about real change for Te Wairoa. An Orbital Launch Site and a movie post-production industry are just the beginning. While encouraging novel and sustainable new businesses into our district, our infrastructure strategies are also set to move our district forward, continuing to work within our means and focuses on maintaining current assets and service levels.

The future of our district starts now.




Fergus Power
CEO
Wairoa District Council


Craig Little, JP
Mayor
Wairoa