

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

Proposed rates for 2018/2019

All ratepayers should have received a letter from council with the proposed rates for 2018/2019. That proposed, or indicative, figure is based on an average rate increase of 4.2 percent per property.

It is really important to remember that figure is only an indication and is based on the preferred options set out in council's 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan.

Council's activities are rated in a variety of ways and with a large number of differentials. Therefore, individual ratepayers will be

affected differently depending on the value, location and type of property they own.

I need to stress again this is an average rate increase, it is not a blanket 4.2 percent proposed increase. There will be people who have rates higher and lower than the 4.2 Percent.

This is why earlier this year we looked at different rating options as part of the finance rates and revenue policy review. Council was trying to get a model without all the complications that we presently have but in the end, status quo prevailed.

The 2018-28 Long-Term Plan provides an opportunity for our community to become involved with council's direction, priorities, work programme and budgets for the next 10 years.

Consultation with our community is key as the results of public feedback will affect the Long-Term Plan which will affect the amount people pay in rates over the next year.

The whole reason for the Long-Term Plan is for people to talk about it, we want all the feedback, whether people agree or not, so we can represent our people in our decision making.

Nothing is set in stone until our community has engaged with council around the preferred options in this consultation document Please don't forget to have your say.

Visit Council's website www.wairoadc.govt.nz and search for #ltp2018.

Submission forms and consultation documents are also available at council's Queen St office, the Wairoa i-SITE, the Wairoa library, Osler's Bakery, New World, BJ's Dairy in Frasertown and the Mahia Beach Store.

The 10 big ticket items

Economic development remains a key priority for council while maintaining our levels of services and infrastructure is our core business.

It is important council invests in infrastructure now, and into the future, to provide a foundation for strong and resilient communities.

In the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan we have identified 10 areas that we would really like to discuss with the people of our district.

These items are based on previous public feedback as well as ensuring council is providing the best facilities it can for our district while meeting the environmental needs of now and into the future.

- Wastewater consent and pipe network rehabilitation
- Bridge strengthening programme
- Piping open drains and new footpaths
- Affco's water supply agreement
- CBD (town centre) enhancement project
- Mahia greenwaste and recycling centre
- Wairoa landfill and recycling centre
- Disposal of trucked effluent charge
- Development of Wairoa i-Site
- Library enhancement

It's really important to remember your councillors are ratepayers too so they understand the impact rates have on a community. We understand the impact rates have on the community because we are part of the community too.

Our aim is to try to make rates as fair as possible for everyone in our district.

We would love to be like the Hawkes Bay Regional Council with a 10 percent increase last year followed by a 19 percent increase this

year including work on special projects. However, we don't believe that is fair for our ratepayers and it is important we work within our means.

We also have to be careful we don't become stagnant as we need to be progressive for the good of our district.

The Long-Term Plan we are presenting to the public represents our vision for the future delivered in a way that is as efficient as possible. We have trimmed back where we think we can possible and I believe have offered a well-balanced journey for Wairoa's future.

Don't forget, this is a plan for all of us and it is important everyone has their say. Tell us what you think by Tuesday June 26 at 4.30pm when submissions close.

Wastewater

Wastewater is a big-ticket item, both financially and environmentally. Council believes it is important that costs are fair to everybody.

Under the current system waste water disposal is not charged equitably, in fact the urban ratepayers are picking up the cost for the disposal of rural waste.

Council currently charges \$35 to dispose of a load of trucked effluent, which could have come from around three privately owned septic tanks.

It actually costs council \$250 to dispose of that waste. The \$35 does not represent the real effect trucked effluent is having on the main pumping station at Fitzroy Road, the Pilot Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant and the oxidation ponds.

Wairoa Township households that don't have septic tanks are already being charged up to \$250 to have their waste matter processed and filtered at the wastewater treatment plant. In our Long-Term Plan we are recommending the disposal of trucked effluent charge be increased from \$35 to \$250.

This increase, I am sure, will be passed on to those who need a waste water service, but at least it is a user pays method rather than thousands of people paying for something that is nothing to do with them.

Septic tanks are usually cleaned every five to 10 years so this is not an annual increase and will be minimal. So, if the average septic tank is cleaned out every seven years the cost that will be on-charged is around \$10 a year.

FOR YOUR DIARY

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 June: 12.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 June: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 June: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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LONG TERM PLAN
2018-2028

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Hauora Building (old school), Raupunga

MONDAY, 18TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Community Hall, Tuai

TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Erepeti Marae, Ruakituri

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
Mokotahi Hall, Mahia

THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE - 5.30PM TO 7.30PM
War Memorial Hall, Wairoa

MAKING A SUBMISSION

🌐 **Online:** submit using our online submission portal

✉ **Email:** Complete the submission form, scan it and send it to charlotte@wairoadc.govt.nz

🏠 **Drop it off:** Complete the submission form on the back of the Consultation Document and drop it off at the Wairoa District Council office.
Coronation Square, Queen Street, Wairoa

📬 **Post it:** Complete the submission form and send it to Wairoa District Council.
P.O. Box 54, Wairoa 4160