

MAYORAL COLUMN

LONG-TERM PLAN

On Tuesday Council adopted the 2018-28 Long-Term Plan.

This year's projected average rates increase is 4% and an indicative average of 3.4% over the 10 years of the plan.

We are excited about our district's future and we have tagged some really important issues that will strengthen our community while trying our best to minimise rates increases and deliver the best services possible both now and into the future.



Mayor Craig Little

The adoption of the Long-Term Plan means we have now been able to set the rates.

Rates invoices are being prepared and will be sent out as soon possible.

The due dates for the first and second rates instalments have been amended with the first instalment due on October 26 and the second instalment due on December 4.

Penalties for rates have also been modified with no penalties for instalment 1 and 2 being applied. More information about rates instalment dates and penalty changes can be found on the Wairoa District Council website - search for #ratesdates.

Developing this 10-year vision for our district is a huge task and I congratulate Council staff who put in so much effort to get the job completed.

THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF WAIROA FOR YOUR PATIENCE AROUND THIS PROCESS.

LOW RATE CONFIRMATION

I was stoked to read the Wairoa District Council rates were one of the lowest in the country.

The 2018 ratepayers' report was released by the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union, an independent organisation which holds councils to account by championing value for money from every tax dollar as well as advocating for lower taxes, less waste and more transparency.

Wairoa has many challenges, including its vast size and low population, so to have the rates confirmed as the fourth lowest in the country is a great achievement and a tribute to council staff and my fellow councillors.

The figures showed our average rates were the second lowest rural council rates in New Zealand and the lowest overall average rates in the North Island.

THE REPORT REVEALED THIS COUNCIL HAS BELOW AVERAGE OPERATIONAL STAFF COST AND DEBT LEVEL.

Wairoa's total operating expenses per ratepayer are \$3,408, well below the rural council average of \$3,750 and national average \$3,776.

Wairoa Council's staff costs per ratepayer are \$569 compared with the average for rural councils of \$728 and national average \$815

Wairoa's average rates are \$1,779 with only three South Island councils having lower average rates.

The report states the average rural council rates are \$2,161 which is \$382 above Wairoa, and the national average \$2,304.

Regionally Wairoa's average rates of \$1,779 compare to Central Hawke's Bay \$2,555, Napier \$1,947 and Hastings \$2,153.

Wairoa has bucked the nationwide trend of increasing borrowings and out of the country's 66 councils has the 14th lowest debt loading.

Our goal has always been to keep our spending, and therefore our rates, as low as possible while still trying to grow the potential of our district.

Keeping our rates as low as possible has always been this council's aim. It is a careful balance and based on decisions made by

councillors who are rate payers too, so they are also living the reality.

It is more than just low rates, it is also about prudent operational spending and wages and controlling debt levels in a spiralling environment.

THE REPORT CONFIRMS WE HAVE OUTPERFORMED ACROSS A RANGE OF DIFFERENT MEASURES. IT VALIDATES WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

For the full report visit taxpayers.org.nz

MUSEUM

I caught up with museum director Mike Spedding at the Wairoa Museum recently and was reminded how lucky we are to have a resource like this.

It is often described as one of the best rural museums in the region and a big part of its success is that most of its collection is on display with less than 10 percent in storage. This is the opposite to many museums which often only have 10 percent of their collections on display.

The library recently gifted a significant taonga of a large preserved Northern Giant Petrel bird in a glass case to the museum collection.

The bird was believed to have been rescued from a dog attack by a family at Mahia in the 1960s. They looked after the bird but unfortunately it passed away and so the family had the bird preserved and donated it to the library.

It had been sitting upstairs in the library and is now on display in the museum.

The library was where the museum was originally based many years ago. When the museum shifted some of the collection was lost. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of that missing collection, please contact the museum as they would love to have more of it on display.

AGAIN, A BIG THUMBS UP TO MIKE, HIS ASSISTANT NIGEL HOW, THE WAIROA MUSEUM TRUST AND FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM FOR THE GREAT WORK THEY DO.

FOR YOUR DIARY

MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 October: 12.30pm

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 16 October: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 October: 1.30pm

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30 October: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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GREAT THINGS GROW HERE™
HAWKE'S BAY NEW ZEALAND

WAIROA

Big SPRING CLEAN-UP

SUNDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

MEET AT 10 AM AT

Crarer Memorial - Carroll St
for Carroll St, Ruataniwha Rd clean-up

or

Beach at Rangi-houa (Pilot Hill) - Kopu Rd
for Rangi-houa beach, Kopu Rd to lighthouse clean-up

