

Community Consultation March 2025

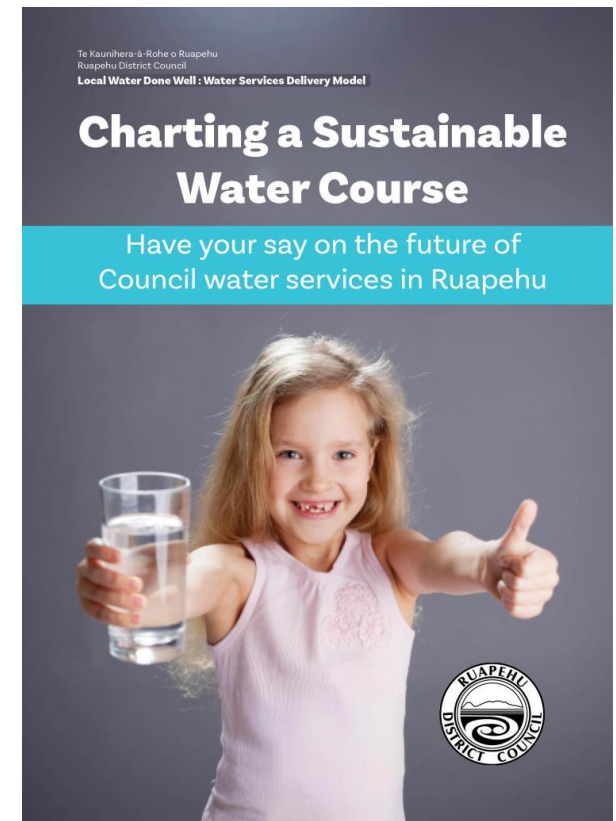


Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Ruapehu

The Ruapehu District ... we are proud of the place we call home

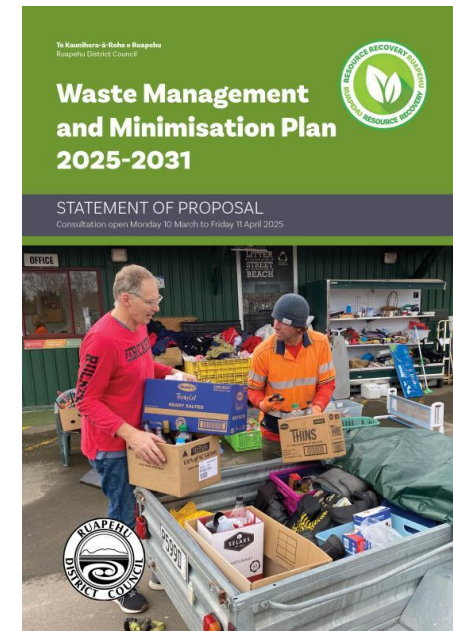
Local Water Done Well

- ▶ The Government is requiring councils to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan outlining how it intends to manage water services:
 - Councils must demonstrate that they can meet increasing standards for water and wastewater, and be financial sustainable
- ▶ The Council's preferred option is to establish a Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) with Whanganui and Rangitīkei District Councils
 - We would look to transfer debt, assets and responsibility for Drinking Water and Wastewater to this CCO, while retaining Stormwater.
 - The entity would stand up and be ready to take over delivery of services by 1 July 2027
 - The CCO would have an independent board, appointed by the councils collectively. This Board would be responsible for appointing a Chief Executive and overseeing the operations of the business.
- ▶ Prices are proposed to be “harmonised” (split evenly) between councils
 - This would see savings for Ruapehu households, which increase over time up to approximately \$500 per annum in 2034/35.
- ▶ This proposed three-council model is the cheapest, costing households approximately \$1,400 less than Council retaining control, while still meeting new and higher central government standards.
 - There are additional benefits, such as being able to plan work at a catchment level, attract and retain specialist staff, and have more financial flexibility (e.g. to purchase and store critical spare equipment)



Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

- ▶ The Ruapehu District is doing well when it comes to Waste Management and Minimisation:
 - a) Introduced kerbside recycling and food scraps collection in all urban areas ahead of Government direction (which has since been stopped)
 - b) Waste to landfill of 255kg per person is less than half of the national average (608kg per person)
 - c) We continue to see positive trends in waste; less waste to landfill, increases in recycling
- ▶ Despite that, we have significant room for improvement, with approximately 30% waste we send to landfill being able to be diverted
- ▶ The draft WMMP continues the work from the previous WMMP (2018-2024), making sensible improvements and highlighting areas for improvement if funding becomes available.
- ▶ The Plan aligns with the 2023 New Zealand Waste Strategy
 - On 7 March 2025 the Government replaced the 2023 Waste Strategy with its own Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy.
 - The draft WMMP still aligns with the new Strategy, which sets outcomes (right) which are in line with what we want to achieve



Reduction of waste disposal per person



Increasing reuse and recycling of materials and products so that we retain valuable resources in the economy



Minimising emissions and environmental harm from waste and litter¹



Ensuring resource recovery and disposal facilities are managed to minimise their environmental impacts



Limiting the environmental harm caused by contaminated sites including legacy sites

2025/26 Annual Plan

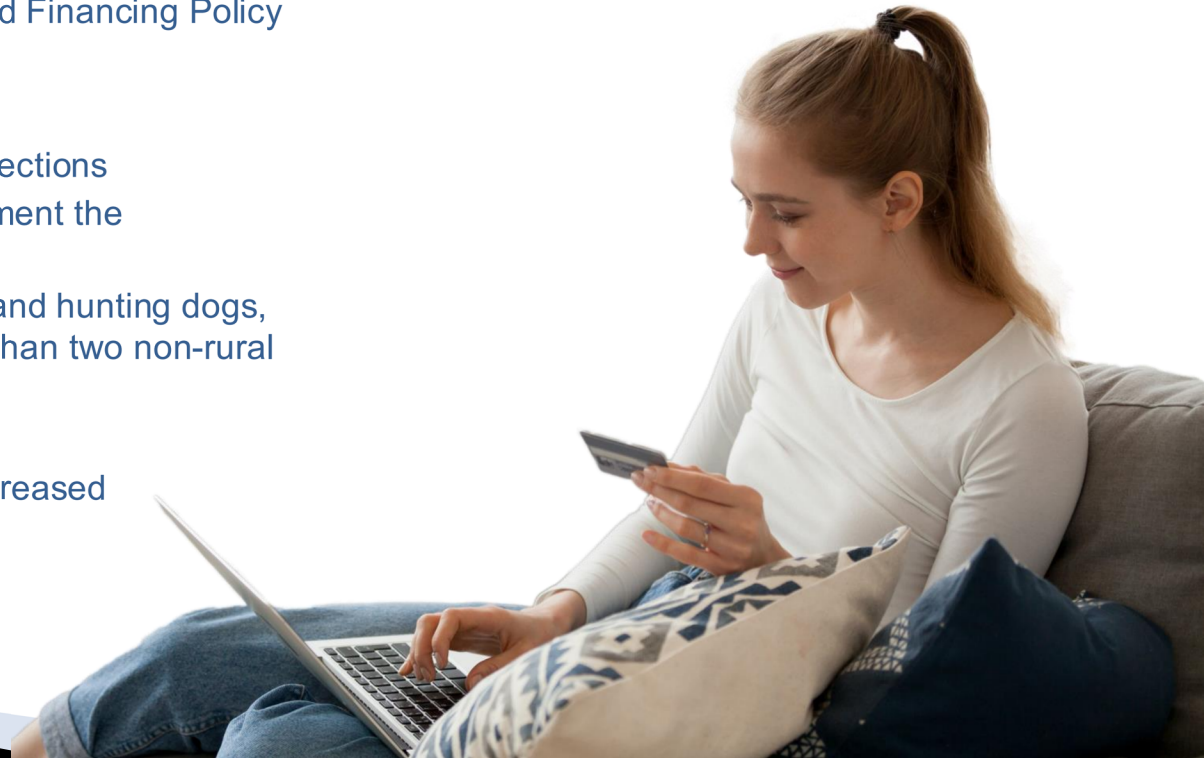
- ▶ Average rates lift of 9% (+0.7% lift in Target Forestry Transport).
- ▶ This average lift in rates is consistent with the Long-Term Plan, with an average rating increase of approximately 9%
- ▶ The Council intends to use some levers to ensure that the rates increases are close to the average for most households
- ▶ Council finances remain remains in line with expectations from the Long-Term Plan
- ▶ Key Projects for delivery in FY26 include:
 - District wide road surface, metaling, pavement rehab, bridge renewals (\$6.8m)
 - Hikumutu and Ohakune waters maintenance (\$1.6m)
 - Waiōuru Playground (\$0.4m)
 - Rangataua WWTP Wetlands Upgrade (\$0.3m)
 - Tātai Tāngata ki Raetihi -Town Revitalisation Raetihi service hub design (\$0.1m)



2025/26 Fees & Charges

- ▶ We are consulting on some changes to our Fees and Charges for 2025/26
 - Changes to Fees and Charges are to ensure that we capture the costs of the activity in line with our Revenue and Financing Policy

- ▶ Key changes include:
 - Changes to fees for building consents and inspections
 - Changes to costs for food businesses to implement the Government's domestic food business levy
 - Increased some fees and charges for working and hunting dogs, surrender fees and costs for licensing of more than two non-rural dogs (or four cats)
 - Increase to the aerodrome visitor landing fee
 - Increases to costs at cemeteries in line with increased maintenance costs



Speed Management

- ▶ The Government has set new rules around speed limits outside schools, with it now being mandatory to set variable speed limits.
- ▶ Speed limits must be “set” (Council decision made) by 1 May 2025 for schools on local roads. This does not require consultation. Must be 30 kph.
- ▶ For rural schools, Council must make every endeavour to have variable speed limits in place by 1 July 2026. Enabling this work will require the development of a Speed Management Plan and community consultation.
- ▶ Costs and funding are being worked through in detail, though high-level estimates are approximately \$130,000

