

YOUR RATES NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

Welcome to your rates newsletter for 2018, which provides information about the Long Term Plan 2018-2028, and the rates revenue required to provide services to our community.



Council adopted its Long Term Plan on Tuesday 26th June 2018.

The total rate revenue required for the 2018/19 financial year is \$20,056,000 (excluding GST) which is an average overall **2.48% increase** over the current year's total rate requirement. This is substantially lower than the 3.9% increase forecast in the LTP 2015-25 for the 2018/19 year. We achieved this reduction by prioritizing key projects, obtaining favourable interest rates, and **having less public debt** than forecast in the LTP.

We continue to make excellent progress in our focus areas; Community Connectivity and Development, Economic Development and Good Asset Stewardship, and we remain on target to achieve the forecast debt reduction of **\$23 million by the end of 2028**. The public debt forecast at the end of this financial year is **\$4.5 million less** than the forecast for the corresponding year in the LTP 2015-25.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LTP

- **\$522,000** of investment in facilitating and supporting the Waitomo District **Safe communities** programme.
- **\$76.01 million** investment in Capital Expenditure over the next ten years.
- **\$211,000** investment in Regional and Sub Regional Economic Initiatives over the ten year period.
- **\$5.4 million** investment over the next ten years to renew and improve our **Footpaths**, including some new footpaths near schools and retirement villages.
- **\$7.8 million** investment in emergency work to reinstate the parts of our **roading network** that are damaged as a result of **severe weather events**.
- To ensure that we provide good public amenities, we are investing **\$320,000** in upgrading the **Mokau public toilets**, and **\$326,000** in a new toilet facility in **Waitomo Village** (subject to funding from Tourism Infrastructure Fund).

RATING INFORMATION DATABASE

As a property owner your details (your name and postal address) are made public on Council's rating information database. You have the right to request that this information is treated as confidential and withheld. To do this you must give notice in writing and your details will be withheld.

The Rating Information Database also contains details about your property that Council uses to set and levy rates. Information such as the number of separately used or inhabited parts of each property influences the rates levied. It is important that this information is correct.

If you believe that the information we have about your property is incorrect it is important to notify us so it can be investigated. There is a 'Request to amend rating information database' form available on our website for this purpose.

PROPERTY INFORMATION ONLINE

Your property and rating information is available on Council's website as well as access to our online GIS mapping system. Here you will be able to see information such as your annual rates, the property valuation, aerial photography and much more.

Look for the Property Information link under Rating Information on our website and search for property information using your valuation number or address location.

CONTACT

Our office hours are Monday - Tuesday 8am to 5pm. Wednesday 9am to 5pm. Thursday - Friday 8am to 5pm.
Address: Queen Street, PO Box 404 Te Kuiti 3941
Phone: (07) 878 0800, **Freephone:** 0800 932 4357
Fax: (07) 878 7771, **Email:** info@waitomo.govt.nz
Receive our newsletter: waitomoway.buzzit.co.nz/subscribe
Follow us on: facebook.com/waitomodistrict



Creating a better future with vibrant communities and thriving business.

www.waitomo.govt.nz

RATES PAYMENTS

To assist ratepayers in the payment of their rates, the Council operates a system of payment by quarterly instalments. Rates for the financial year commencing 1 July 2018 are payable in four equal instalments.

INSTALMENT 1 » DUE 31 AUGUST 2018

INSTALMENT 2 » DUE 30 NOVEMBER 2018

INSTALMENT 3 » DUE 28 FEBRUARY 2019

INSTALMENT 4 » DUE 31 MAY 2019

PENALTY FOR OVERDUE RATES

A penalty charge of 10% will be added on any part of an instalment which remains unpaid after 5pm on the due date for payment of that instalment. A further penalty charge of 10% will be added on any part of any rates assessed before 1 July 2018 that remains unpaid on 3 July 2018, to be added on 5 July 2018.

RATES PAYMENT OPTIONS

You can pay your rates in the following ways:

- Easy Pay Direct Debit
- Direct Credit
- Automatic Payment
- Cash or Cheque (can be post-dated)
- Eftpos or Credit Card

Rates payments will be allocated to the oldest debt first.

Our recommended payment method

Direct Debit ensures that no penalties will be charged, and that means there are no due dates to remember during the rating year. If you are not currently on Direct Debit, Direct Credit or Automatic Payment, you can post your payment cheque or alternatively, come in to Council Office, Queen Street, Te Kuiti.

Rates invoices by email

You now have the option to receive your rates invoice by email. Please complete the form available on the website or contact Customer Services for a form to be sent to you.

Are you having difficulty paying your rates invoice?

There are a variety of payment options available for customers to help them pay their rates and pay off rates arrears if they are having difficulty meeting payments. Please contact our customer services team to find out how we can help.

RATES REBATE SCHEME

Applications are now open for rates rebates for the 2018/19 rating year. The Rates Rebate Scheme available from Central Government benefits ratepayers who are on lower incomes and pay rates for the home in which they live. The amount of rates rebate depends on a combination of your income, the amount of rates you are charged and the number of dependants you have. For example, the income abatement threshold for 2018/19 is \$25,180.

The threshold is increased by \$500 for each dependant living with the ratepayer. This is not an absolute cut-off point but the point at which the rebate value is reduced in proportion to excess income.

What this means is that although a person's income might be greater than the income threshold, a rebate could still be available depending on the rates amount and the number of dependants living with the ratepayer. Ultimately, the ratepayer's rebate must be calculated to determine the amount of any rebate to which they will be entitled.

The maximum rates rebate available to a legal ratepayer for the property that was their home on 1 July 2018 is \$630.

If you are not sure if you qualify for a rates rebate please contact our Customer Services Team to discuss.

RATES REMISSION POLICY

Council has a Policy for the Remission of Rates which outlines the circumstances where it may remit rates. The following remission categories are available:

- **Remission of Rates for Properties Used Jointly as a Single Unit.**

Available where two or more separately rateable properties are used jointly as a single rating unit.

- **Remissions for Community Organisations, Clubs and Societies, Organisations providing Care for the Elderly.**

Community Halls, Art Galleries, Museums, Pre-Schools, Marae, Churches and not for profit organisations which exist principally for the provision of emergency services, not for profit sports/recreation clubs or societies and charitable organisations that provide Rest home/hospital level care are eligible for 100% remission of rates excluding one targeted rate charge set for water, sewerage and solid waste collection services.

The Policy provides for other remission categories such as:

- Remission of Rates on Maori Freehold Land.
- Remission of Penalties
- Remission of Rates for New Residential Subdivisions
- Remission of Rates in Cases of Financial Hardship
- Remission of Rates in Cases of Land Affected by Natural Calamity
- Remission of Rates for New Businesses

For a copy of the Rates Remission Policy, application forms and due dates for applications visit www.waitomo.govt.nz or contact our Customer Services Team for a copy to be sent. Please be aware that all rates must be paid by the due date regardless of the status of your rates remission application.