



PRE-ELECTION REPORT

2025

Te hanga tahi o tātou Takiwa
Shaping our district together



All about the Waitomo District

9950
District Population

5437
Rateable Properties

354,649ha
Size of District

1014kms
Total Road Network



Welcome to Waitomo District Council's pre-election report for 2025

This report has been compiled to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and aims to inform both the community and prospective electoral candidates about some key aspects of the Council's business.

This report includes information previously published in our Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP), Annual Reports, and Annual Plans. More detail can be found in these documents, which are available on our website www.waitomo.govt.nz

This report also outlines our major projects and expected expenditure programme for this financial year and the three years following the October local body elections. It aims to promote discussion about the issues the council may face, and therefore enable a better informed election debate.

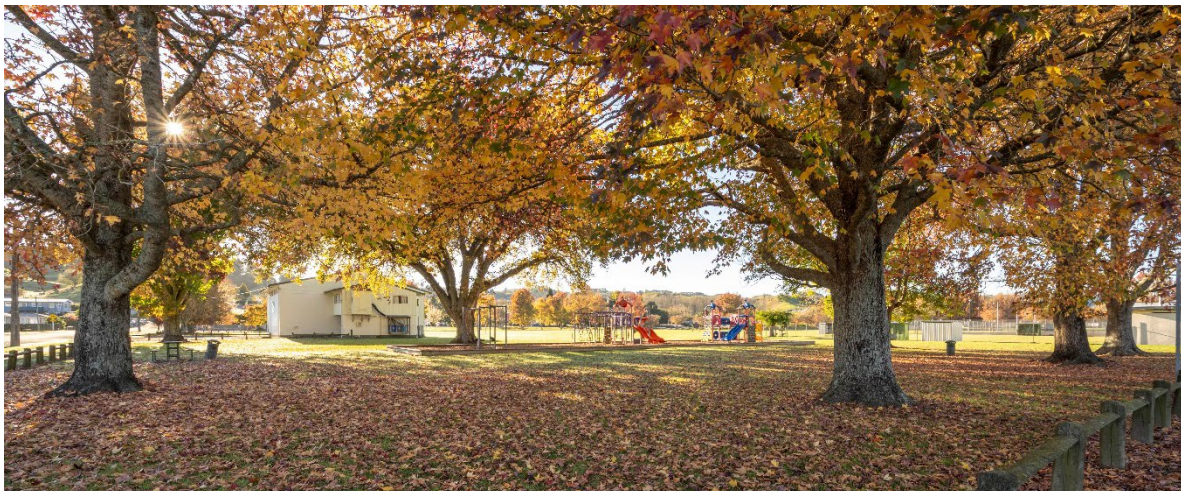


Ben Smit
Chief Executive

Water reforms have occurred at pace over the last few years. At the time of writing the Long Term Plan the Central Government instructions were that Water, Wastewater and Stormwater activities (3 Waters) would continue to be forecasted and accounted for in Council's planning documents. A Long Term Plan Amendment will need to occur to change this in 2026 but in the meantime the Long Term Plan includes 3 Waters.

In conjunction with the 2025/26 Annual Plan process, WDC engaged with the community regarding transferring water and wastewater activities, assets and associated debt to a Council Controlled Organisation (Waikato Waters). The decision was made to transfer these activities to Waikato Waters effective 1 July 2026. These activities and its financials are still in this Pre-Election Report given Central Government's advice at the time of developing the Long Term Plan. Removing the 2 Waters activities from Council will have an impact on operations and on the community. Council is heavily involved with planning for these changes with the Waikato Waters' transition team and other councils. Given water and wastewater are a significant part of Council's operating, it will also have an impact on how the remaining Council activities operate and are supported.

The Resource Management Act, Building Control and fast track consenting reforms will also have a significant impact on the way we operate in the coming years. These reforms will present challenges and opportunities for us as a Council and for the community. These will all have a significant impact on what councils do but our focus will be on continuing to deliver on the levels of service we have committed to and the key projects outlined in this report.



Our services

We deliver a range of services on behalf of the community in 10 groups of activities. These are:

- Leadership
- Community and Partnerships
- Recreation and Property
- Regulatory Services
- Resource Management
- Solid Waste
- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water Supply
- Roads and Footpaths



Major projects

Our major projects currently underway or planned over the next three years are:

Proposed Waitomo District Plan to become new Operative Waitomo District Plan

Transition of Water and Wastewater Services to a Council Controlled Organisation (Waikato Waters)

Te Kuiti Water Supply Resilience project – increased storage and dedicated pipeline to storage

Capping the Waitomo District Landfill and developing the Te Kuiti transfer station, waste minimisation and resource recovery activity

Roading network maintenance

Stormwater modelling and network improvements to reduce the impact of flooding

Renewal of the comprehensive Stormwater consent with Waikato Regional Council

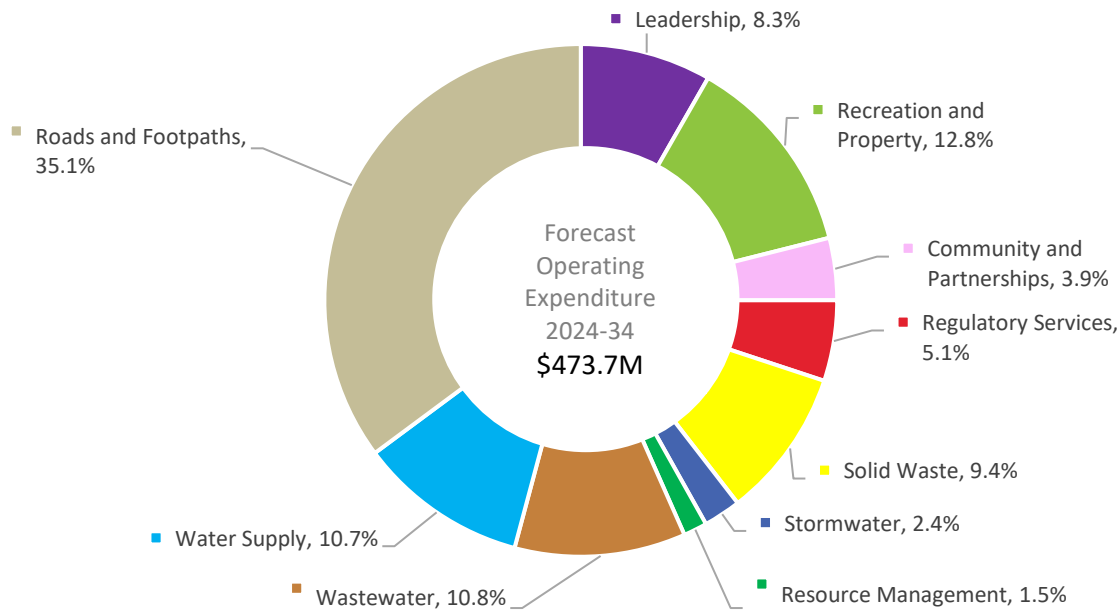
A full list of projects in each activity area can be found in our Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and Annual Plan 2025/26 at www.waitomo.govt.nz



Our Finances

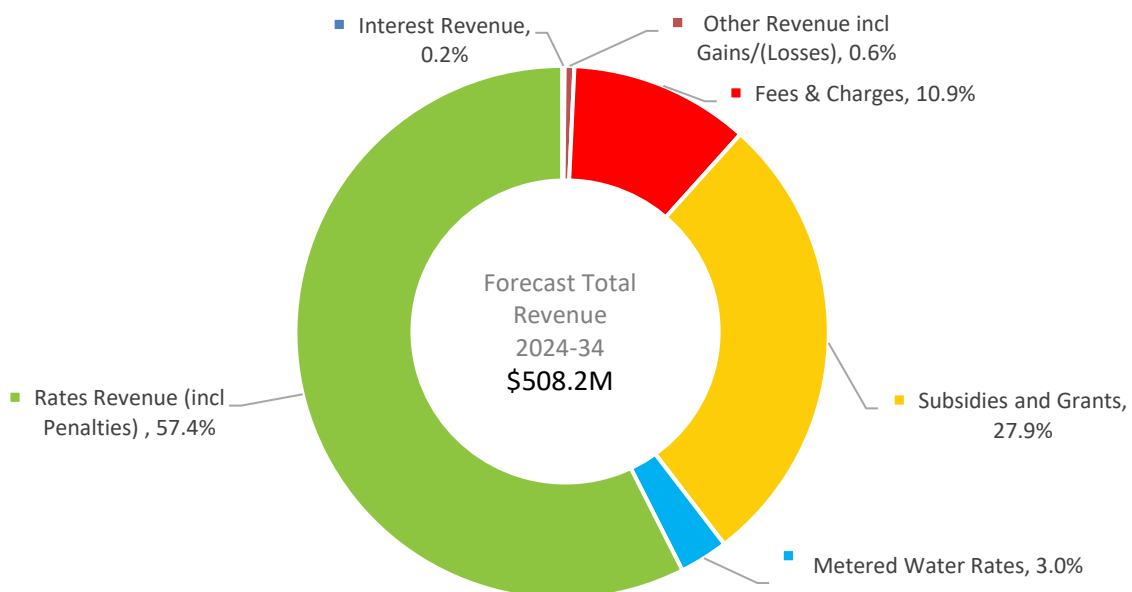
OPERATING EXPENDITURE

The graph below shows the total forecast operating expenditure over the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.



OPERATING REVENUE

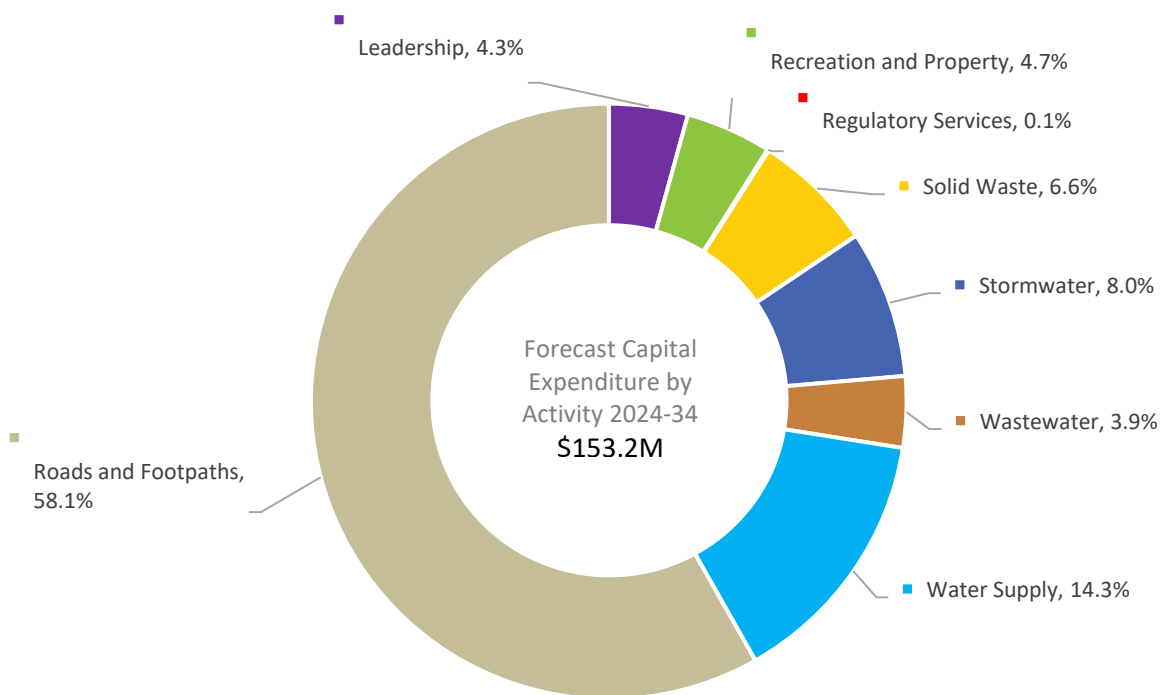
The graph below shows the total forecast operating revenue over the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY

The graph below shows our proposed capital and renewal expenditure for each group of activities over the current Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Forecast Capital Expenditure by Activity 2024-34 \$153.2M



Consolidated Capital Expenditure for 2025/26

Project	\$(000)
Waitomo District Landfill (Te Kuiti) capping and Transfer station	2,507
Stormwater improvements and renewals	1,136
Te Kuiti Water Resilience	7,000
Total Roding Programme	8,007
Other Capital expenditure	3,391
Total Capital Expenditure 2025/26	22,041

Funding Impact Statement

Presented below is the Funding Impact Statement which identifies the sources of funding, the amount from each source and how the funds will be applied. The information has been compiled from 2023/24 Annual Report, Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and 2025/26 Annual Plan.

COUNCIL	Actual 2022/23 (\$'000's)	Actual 2023/24 (\$'000's)	LTP 2024/25 (\$'000's)	AP 2025/26 (\$'000's)	LTP 2026/27 (\$'000's)	LTP 2027/28 (\$'000's)	LTP 2028/29 (\$'000's)
Sources of operating funding							
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	9,749	10,041	11,328	11,026	12,459	12,620	12,873
Targeted rates	11,499	12,467	14,122	15,166	16,424	17,359	18,164
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	8,340	7,816	7,957	6,988	6,972	7,166	7,310
Fees and charges	7,848	4,456	4,895	4,390	5,258	5,365	5,505
Interest and dividends from investments	84	148	66	342	69	74	74
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	253	327	290	282	297	299	305
Total operating funding (A)	37,773	35,255	38,658	38,194	41,479	42,883	44,231
Applications of operating funding							
Payments to staff and suppliers	32,258	29,934	33,022	31,281	32,612	32,699	33,501
Finance costs	1,307	1,633	1,621	1,545	2,390	2,796	2,814
Total applications of operating funding (B)	33,565	31,567	34,643	32,826	35,002	35,495	36,315
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A-B)	4,208	3,688	4,015	5,368	6,477	7,388	7,916
Sources of capital funding							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	8,561	12,338	7,743	6,534	6,516	5,944	6,036
Increase (decrease) in debt	1,307	(269)	8,520	9,325	(152)	1,585	1,395
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	221	66	0	0	0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding (C)	10,089	12,135	16,263	15,859	6,364	7,529	7,431
Applications of capital funding							
Capital expenditure - to improve the level of service	4,508	2,289	7,182	10,889	2,151	3,040	2,247
Capital expenditure - to replace existing assets	11,671	16,928	14,359	11,151	11,613	11,758	12,688
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(1,882)	(3,394)	(1,263)	(813)	(923)	119	412
Total applications of capital funding (D)	14,297	15,823	20,278	21,227	12,841	14,917	15,347
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C-D)	(4,208)	(3,688)	(4,015)	(5,368)	(6,477)	(7,388)	(7,916)
Funding Balance ((A-B)+(C-D))	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary Balance Sheet

The summary balance sheet for Council is presented below. It discloses public debt and financial assets separately. The information has been compiled from 2023/24 Annual Report, Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and 2025/26 Annual Plan.

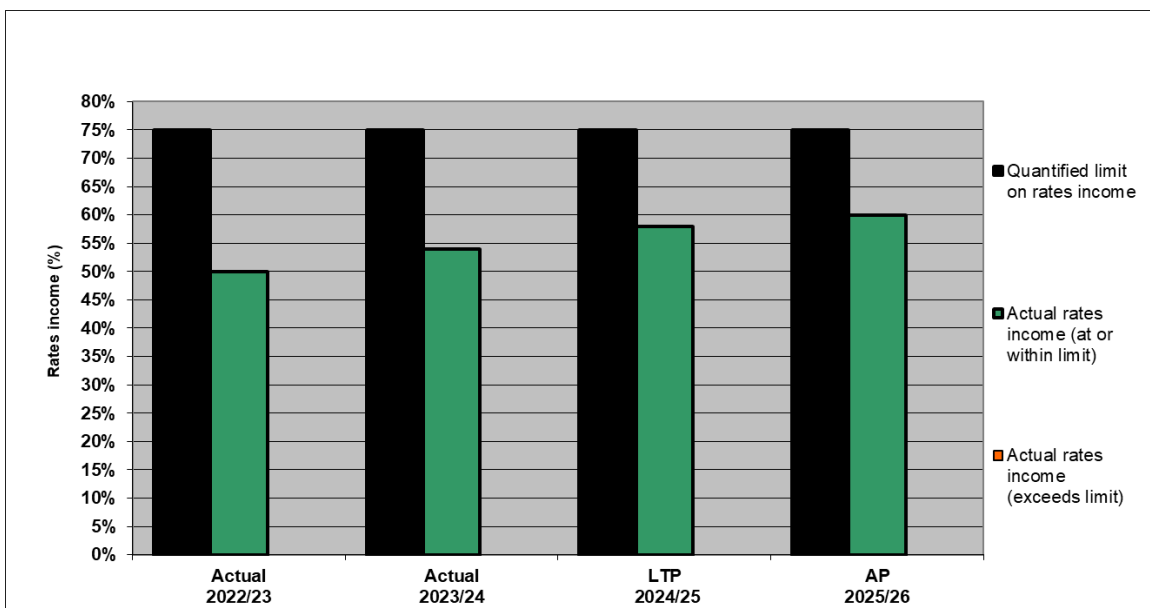
Summary Balance Sheet As at 30 June	Actual 2022/23 (\$'000's)	Actual 2023/24 (\$'000's)	LTP 2024/25 (\$'000's)	AP 2025/26 (\$'000's)	LTP 2026/27 (\$'000's)	LTP 2027/28 (\$'000's)	LTP 2028/29 (\$'000's)
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	1,553	3,093	1,553	1,593	1,553	1,553	1,553
Receivables	5,224	6,998	5,224	6,998	5,454	5,574	5,688
Other current assets	134	120	134	120	140	143	146
Other financial assets	54	298	54	298	54	54	54
Non-current assets	689,589	700,383	746,845	764,183	794,686	798,191	841,495
Derivative financial instruments	557	381	557	0	557	557	557
Total Assets	697,111	711,273	754,367	773,192	802,414	806,072	849,493
LIABILITIES							
Other liabilities	8,020	8,389	8,063	7,860	8,480	8,677	8,897
Total borrowings	28,260	33,333	42,508	44,415	48,332	48,821	48,797
Derivative financial instruments	0	45	0	300	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	36,280	41,767	50,571	52,575	56,812	57,498	57,694
EQUITY	660,831	669,506	703,796	720,617	745,602	748,574	791,799
Total Liabilities and Equity	697,111	711,273	754,367	773,192	802,414	806,072	849,493

Comparison with Financial Strategy

Council has performed well within the quantified limits specified in its Financial Strategy which are contained in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034. The following graphs depict this performance. The information has been compiled from 2023/24 Annual Report, Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and 2025/26 Annual Plan.

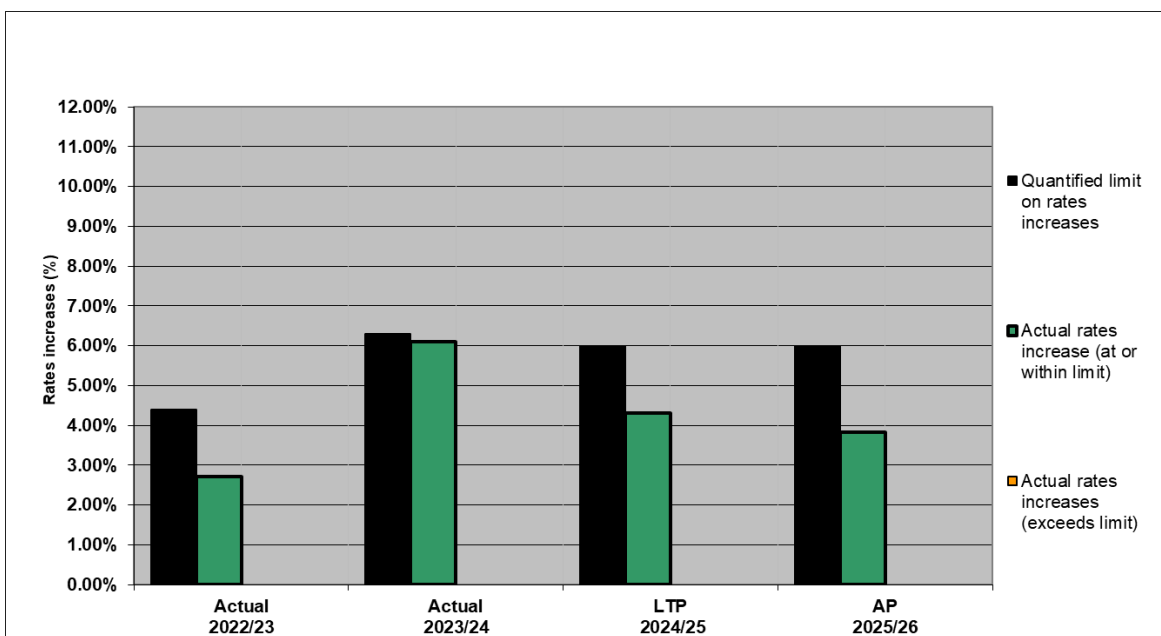
Council's Financial Strategy contains the following limits:

Total rates revenue will be limited to an average of 75% of total operational expenditure.

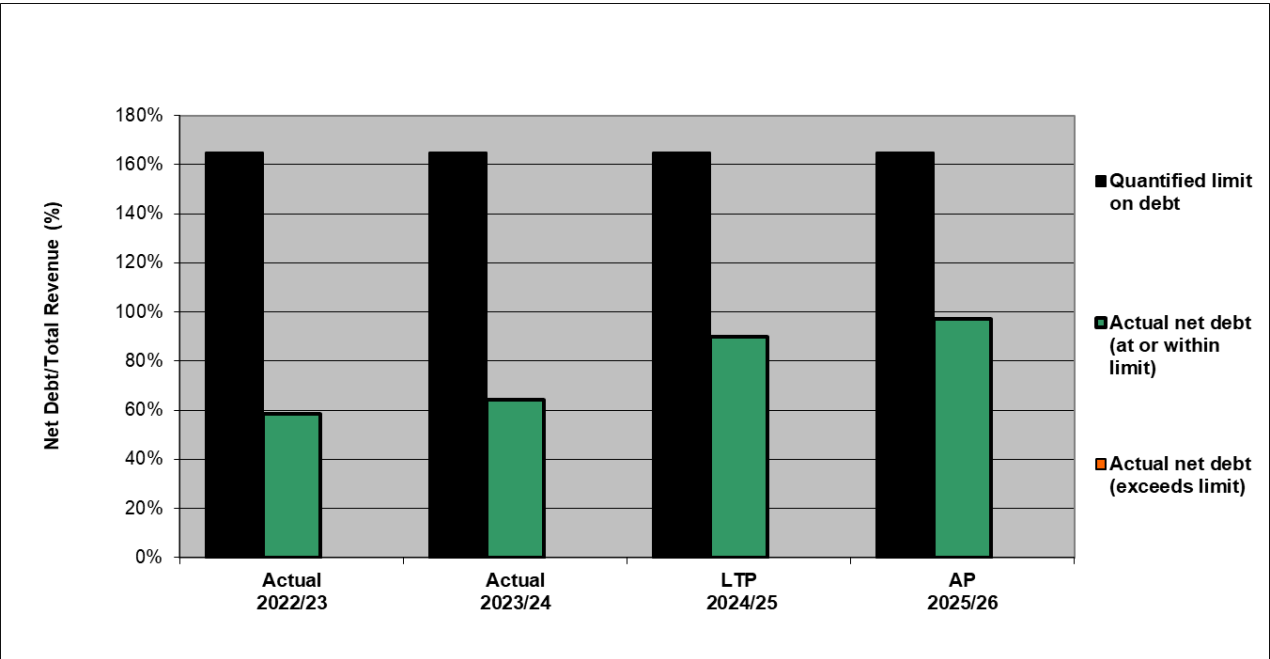


Rates Increases

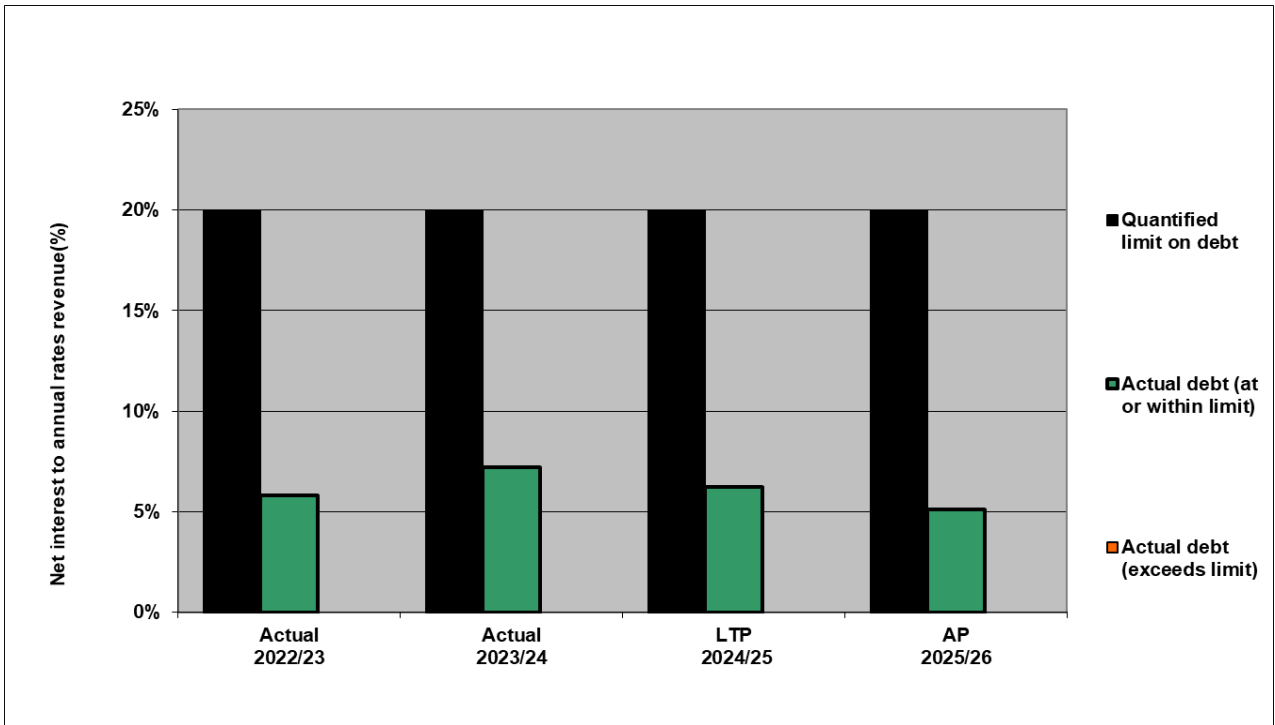
For 2022/23 and 2023/24 the rates increase will be limited to a cap of Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) plus 2%. For 2024/25 and 2025/26 the total rates increases will be limited to an average of rates increase of 6% over the 10 years of the LTP 2024-2034



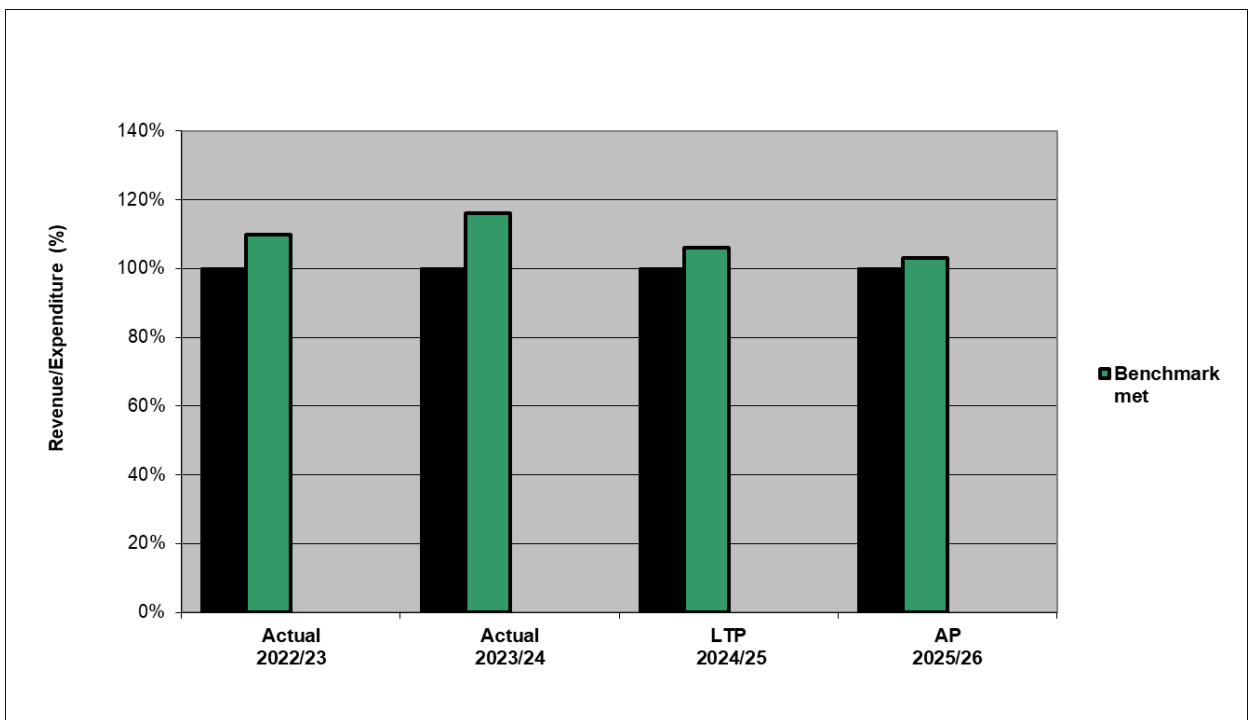
Net debt to total revenue will not exceed 165%.



Net interest will not exceed 20% of annual rates.



Balanced budget –planned revenue is greater than planned operating expenses.



Return on investment

The current Financial Strategy determines there is a nil target rate of return on Council's shareholding investments in Inframax Construction Ltd, Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (WLASS, now renamed Co-Lab) and Civic Financial Services Ltd. The objective of holding these shareholdings is for economic benefit such as job creation thereby furthering community outcome; ensuring Co-Lab remains viable as a provider of shared services within the Waikato region and contributing towards the local government sector.

A dividend of \$200,000 was received from Inframax Construction Ltd during the 2024/25 year.

Key Election Dates

4 July 2025 Candidate nominations open and roll opens for public inspection
1 August 2025 at 12 noon Candidate nominations close and roll closes
6 August 2025 Public notice of candidates' names
9 – 22 September 2025 Voting documents delivered
7 October 2025 Last Day for posting vote by mail. After this date votes must be returned to council's secure ballot boxes.
11 October 2025 Election Day – voting closes midday
11 October 2025 from 12 noon Progress results
16-22 October 2025 Declaration of results
October/November 2025 Elected members' swearing in ceremonies

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