

**OKOTAHI MĀHERE-A-TAU**  
**DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN**  
**2025/2026**

**Consultation Document**

**28 March - 30 April 2025**

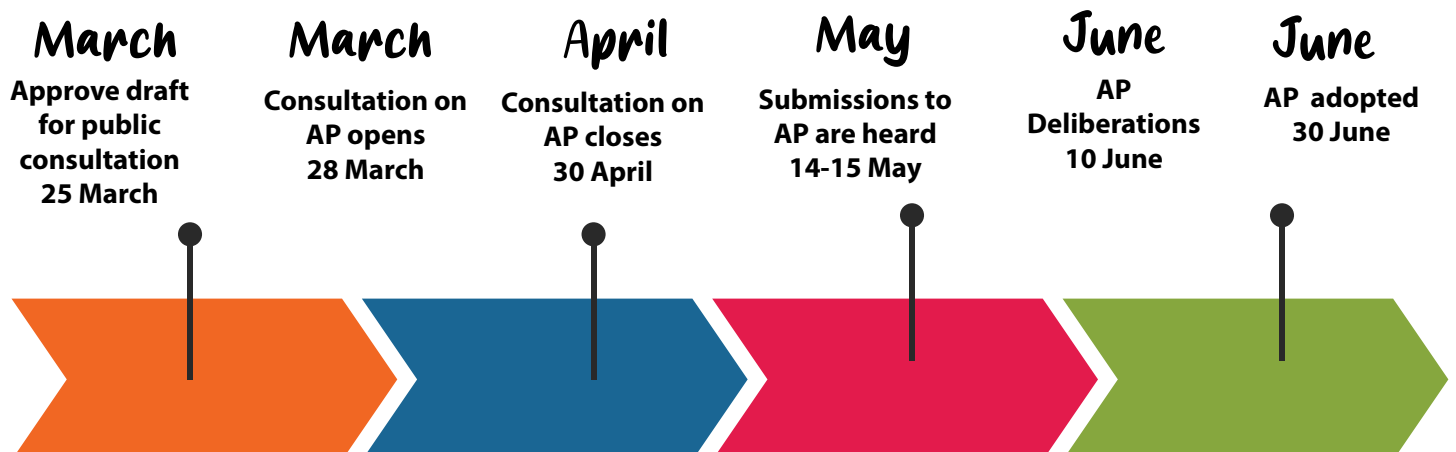


**Waitomo**  
District Council

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## Key Dates



# Share your views

Now is your chance to share your views on what we are proposing for the coming financial year. If we don't hear from you, we won't know what you think.

The Consultation Document (CD) and the supporting information can be accessed online on our website:

[waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay](https://waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay)

**You can also pick up a physical copy of the CD and view the supporting information at any of the following locations:**

- PGG Wrightson, 58 Moa Street, Piopio
- Mokau Museum and Gallery, 33 North Street, Mōkau
- Waitomo Caves Discovery Museum, 15 Waitomo Village Road, Waitomo
- Benneydale Foodmarket Ltd, 34 Ellis Road, Maniaiti/Benneydale
- Marokopa Transfer Station, Marokopa Road (approx. 400m east of village)
- Waitomo District Council Main Office, 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti
- Waitomo District Library, 28 Taupiri Street, Te Kūiti
- Customer Service Centre, 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti

## You can also attend one of our public sessions

### Te Kūiti – Drop-in Session:

Look out for our stall at  
The Great NZ Muster  
Rora Street, Te Kūiti  
Saturday 29 March, 10am -1.30pm

### Mōkau – Public Meeting:

Mōkau Hall  
Saturday 12 April, 1pm–3pm

If you are unable to make these public sessions, please feel free to contact our Elected Members. Details are at the back of this document.

## Sharing your opinion is easy

- Submit online on our website: [waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay](https://waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay)
- Email your submission to: [haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz)
- Drop off your submission form to the Customer Service Centre at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti or at Council's main office at 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti
- Mail to FREEPOST 112498, Waitomo District Council, PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941



Contact us:  
0800 932 4357



[waitomo.govt.nz](https://waitomo.govt.nz)  
[haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz)



Customer Service Centre  
160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti

# From the Mayor and Chief Executive

Tēnā Koutou katoa, greetings

As Council pulls together the Annual Plan for 2025 – 2026, we seek your guidance over several important decisions that are before Council.

The first relates to whether Council continues to provide drinking water and wastewater services on its own, or whether we join a group of other Councils to form an entity to deliver these collectively.

You will find a separate consultation document that specifies the options for water services delivery called *Are We Better Together?*

In the second consultation document, *Draft Annual Plan 2025 – 2026*, there are several matters that we seek your views on.

- The first relates to the Waitomo District Landfill. As volumes of waste decrease due to reduced commercial volumes, and as operating costs increase, the viability of this landfill is increasingly questionable. Few Councils, let alone small Councils, run landfills any longer.
- The second relates to a seawall built by Council in Mōkau in 2015. This seawall is failing, and either needs to be removed or re-built. We seek your views on this. The cost of either option needs to be paid for out of rates, and so whether such costs should be covered by Mōkau, districtwide ratepayers, or a mix of both is a question also.
- The third relates to whether we should begin to remove the District Wide Benefit Rates for water and wastewater first imposed in 2018, under which all properties in the district, whether connected or not to a public water or



John Robertson, QSO  
Mayor



Ben Smit  
Chief Executive

wastewater scheme, are rated equally to cover ten percent of the costs of water and wastewater in urban areas.

If adopted, the *Draft Annual Plan 2025 – 2026* would bring in \$26.2 million of rates, an increase over the current year of 2.93%.

Elected members have been mindful of the affordability of rates for residents. This increase is likely to be one of the lowest in the country and has been delivered after a thorough review of Council operational costs.

We look forward to your feedback on this draft plan, and in particular your thoughts on the questions posed.

# Key Projects 2025/26

## Roading repairs

The final phase of road repairs from severe weather events will be completed in 2025/26. Our rehabilitation programme that will start in 2025/26 has been confirmed including Kopaki and Te Anga Roads as priority.

## Improvements to stormwater

Investment in the Te Kūiti stormwater network will continue with \$271,000 budgeted for improvements, and \$250,000 for design work of the more significant upgrades. Planning for the long-term improvements to alleviate stormwater flows during heavy rain events is progressing well. These costs are being loan funded so have no rate impact this year.

## Te Kūiti water supply capacity

Council is currently working with the preferred tenderer on final design and costings for the construction of a new reservoir and dedicated rising main (pipeline direct from water plant to reservoir). The project creates more water storage capacity for emergency situations and helps ensure Te Kūiti residents have enough water in summer.

## Te Kūiti sludge removal

Council has a backlog of 36,000m<sup>3</sup> of concentrated sludge to remove from the effluent ponds. Every year another 1,000m<sup>3</sup> of treated solids (sludge) accumulates from flushing our toilets and emptying septic tanks and grease traps.

Council is currently installing a system where sludge is filtered through large 'geobags'. The sludge will dry (to about 25% solids) in the bags over 12 – 18 months before it can be transported to a landfill or a facility that accepts biosolids (dried sludge). This is a long-term project because we are only planning to remove up to 8% annually depending on drying rates and disposal costs.

The project will initially be funded from reserves so there is no immediate direct rate impact, however these costs will need to be funded by rates from 1 July 2027.

*\*Geobags act like a filter container, trapping solids inside while allowing water to escape back into the wastewater pond.*

## Water Services delivery

All councils are required to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by 3 September 2025 to the Department of Internal Affairs outlining how they will deliver compliant water services in a financially sustainable manner. WDC has considered how we can meet these new requirements. Council's preferred option is to form a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with neighbouring councils, compared to a 'stand alone' option.

Consultation is open now. See our separate consultation document to have your say.



## Consultation Topic 1

The future of

# Waitomo District Landfill



During the development of our LTP 2024-2034, Council considered the future of the Waitomo District Landfill (WDL).

At that time the best option was to continue with disposing waste at our landfill at Te Kūiti and develop the next part to make space for more waste.

We have reviewed this matter further and now present two options for your input:

- Option 1 - Expansion of and continued disposal, at Waitomo District Landfill
- Option 2 - Waste disposal outside the district (**Preferred Option**)



## What has changed in recent times?

Waste volumes into our landfill have dropped over the past few years. Domestic waste is also reducing but more importantly, more than 60% of the current waste comes from commercial companies or from out of district.

Reduced waste volumes are great for the environment, but these volumes help cover the operational costs of the landfill.

Any costs not recovered by gate fees are recovered from rates. The costs don't really change based on volume, so any reduction actually means ratepayers need to pay more to keep the landfill open.

This means if we lose our commercial waste stream ratepayers would need to contribute approximately \$106 extra annually if we develop the next part of the landfill.

Our landfill is expected to reach its resource consent tonnage limit by June 2026.

We now need to decide to either expand our current landfill now (there is a new resource con-

### What is a Carbon Credit?

Carbon credits are permits that allow the owner to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. Solid waste and rubbish emit these types of gases.

One credit allows the emission of one tonne of carbon dioxide.

Waitomo District Council needs to purchase carbon credits for the Emissions Trading Scheme to offset the gases emitted from the waste at the landfill.

sent in place) or close the landfill after it is full and transport all waste and sludge out of the district.

If we decide on the latter, we can at a later date expand and open the new landfill 'cell', under the new resource consent.

Other major landfill costs are the government's Waste Minimisation Levy (a charge by government on every tonne going into a landfill) and the purchase of Carbon Credits.

Larger landfills such as Hampton Downs are significantly more efficient and emit less emissions per tonne than smaller landfills like ours.



## Option 1

### Expansion of and continued disposal, at Waitomo District Landfill

Major works are required to expand the current landfill. The site is an old quarry so extensive works including highwall stabilisation, gas capture and flaring, and covering up the existing landfill are all required.

The estimated total is \$6.466 million, plus increased ongoing operational costs.

A large amount of this cost is to reduce the risk of rock debris falling into the landfill. Gas capture and flaring may reduce the cost of buying carbon credits.

- If the landfill is expanded, Council has the benefit of retaining control but there are risks to doing this. The development of the new landfill cell is a major civil works project. There is always potential for cost and time overruns.
- Once the landfill is expanded, if waste volumes continue to decline, gate fee revenue would reduce, meaning rate-payers would need to pay a greater share of the landfill costs.
- A recent enquiry from an out of district user could put more volume into our landfill making this option more viable.



## Option 2

### Waste disposal outside the district (preferred option)

This option involves transporting waste and sludge to a landfill or wastewater sludge facility outside the district.

Council would no longer have the significant expense and risks associated with developing and operating an expanded landfill.

However, we could be exposed to increased costs for this service, which we may not be able to control.

To mitigate this risk, we could decide to open the next cell of the landfill if the costs to transport out of town become too high. Costs vary with the amount of waste transported, so less volume will mean less cost.

### What does this mean for the Te Kūiti Transfer Station (recycling and drop off site at the landfill) ?

If it is decided to transport waste out of town, an improved, covered Transfer Station would be constructed where refuse (unsorted waste) would be dropped on a large flat floor. This will allow for more sorting, and the potential to recycle more, so less waste needs to be transported out of town.

The remaining waste would be loaded directly off the floor into transport bins. The area would need to safely accommodate public drop-offs, smaller trucks delivering refuse from around the district and larger trucks transporting the waste out of town.



# What is our preferred option?

**Our preferred option is:**

## **Option 2**

### **Waste disposal outside the district**

This means once the landfill is full, we will start transporting waste and sludge out of the district. We will also construct an improved fit-for-purpose transfer station.

The financials provided are in today's dollars with no inflation applied and the estimated annual charge is based on the average rates requirement over 10 years.

#### **Rate impact:**

Solid waste rate - estimated annual charge per SUIP

2024/2025 current year  
**\$276**

Expansion of landfill  
**\$470** (10 year average)

or:  
Expansion of landfill - reduced commercial waste  
**\$576** (10 year average)

Preferred option – ship out waste  
**\$462** (10 year average)

#### **Debt impact:**

The estimate cost for option 1 is \$6.466 million.

The estimated cost for option 2 is about \$2.5 million for transfer station improvements and final capping.

#### **Level of service impact:**

Option 1: No change

Option 2: Increased recycling and recovery, layout and functioning of transfer station more user friendly.

**What is SUIP?** (Separately Used or Inhabited Part) Any part or parts of a property (rating unit) that is used or occupied by the ratepayer, or someone other than the ratepayer, for more than one single use. Many properties have multiple units or dwellings on the same land title e.g. a block of flats or commercial units. Certain Targeted Fixed Rates apply to each dwelling or each separately used part of a property.



The future of the

# Mōkau Seawall

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## Consultation Topic 2

Waitomo District Council built a rock seawall at the end of Point Road, Mōkau in early 2015 to help slow down the erosion of the end of Point Road and retain beach access.

Over time the rock wall has degraded and is now irreparable, which means the seawall either needs to be renewed or removed.

This topic was discussed at the Mōkau ratepayers' meeting on 4 January 2025 and their preference was that the current seawall was renewed and funded by all Waitomo District ratepayers because of the district-wide benefit the seawall provides to users.

Coastal scientist reports and modelling have been undertaken to consider the type of seawall that is appropriate for the situation considering erosion, sea level rise, wave strength and storm surges.

The type of seawall required is costly, and there is no guarantee the seawall will last.

A large storm/cyclone could significantly damage the seawall and erode more of the Point, or the beach could remain quite stable, and the seawall remain intact for many years.

There may be a lower cost option once more details are known. Council will work with coastal experts to consider alternative designs that provides the most cost effective and beneficial outcomes for the community.

The seawall would be loan funded, repaid over 10 years.

# Proposals

## Option A

### Renew the Council Seawall (preferred option)

**Estimated cost \$900,000 + annual maintenance (1-2%)**

Our investigations so far indicate there are two options for the replacement of the seawall, this may require a resource or building consent which will be known once the design is finalised.

It is likely the seawall will be constructed using rock so we may be able to reuse some of the existing structure.

We have assumed that both approaches will cost approximately \$900,000.

#### Funding of Option A:

Council has considered who should pay for the removal of the current seawall materials and the construction of any potential new Council-owned seawall, three options have been proposed.

As there is no central government funding available for this type of work it would need to be funded by ratepayers.

We would take out a loan over 10 years, and then repay this through rates in one of the following ways:

#### Rate Option 1 (Preferred):

50:50 rating split - \$450,000 General Rate/UAGC District-wide + \$450,000 Targeted Fixed Rate to Mōkau\* charged on the basis of SUIP

- o The approach in this option is that everyone gains some benefit and has access to Mōkau and the beach, which benefits from the seawall. Mōkau ratepayers in the urban area benefit more significantly than the ratepayers outside Mōkau so 50% of the costs are paid by Mōkau urban ratepayers and 50% by all rating units in Waitomo District
- o The new area defined as 'Urban Mōkau' includes the township but excludes properties south of the bridge e.g. Te Mahoe Road. Awakino is also excluded (see map)

#### Rate Option 2:

General Rate/UAGC District Wide

- o The approach in this option is that everyone gains benefit and has access to Mōkau and the beach, which benefits from a seawall
- o The cost is fully distributed across all rating units in the district

#### Rate Option 3:

Targeted Fixed Rate to Mōkau \* – charge on the basis of SUIP

- o The approach for this option is that the people of Mōkau township all benefit directly from the seawall at the end of Point Road, so they equally pay all the costs. This is estimated to be \$826 per SUIP
- o The new area defined as 'Urban Mōkau' will pay for the full cost. The area includes the township but excludes properties south of the bridge such as Te Mahoe Road. Awakino is also excluded. (see map)



## Option B

### Not replace the seawall and remove materials remaining

Cost \$200,000 + quarterly inspections

If Council decides not to replace the seawall structure, the materials will still need to be removed. It is unclear what impact this may have on properties at the southern end of Point Road.

#### Funding of the Option B:

##### Rate Option 4:

General Rate/UAGC District-wide

- o The logic of this option is that all district ratepayers should contribute to the cost of removal given it was a decision by Council to build, and now remove, the seawall
- o The cost is covered by all rating units in the district

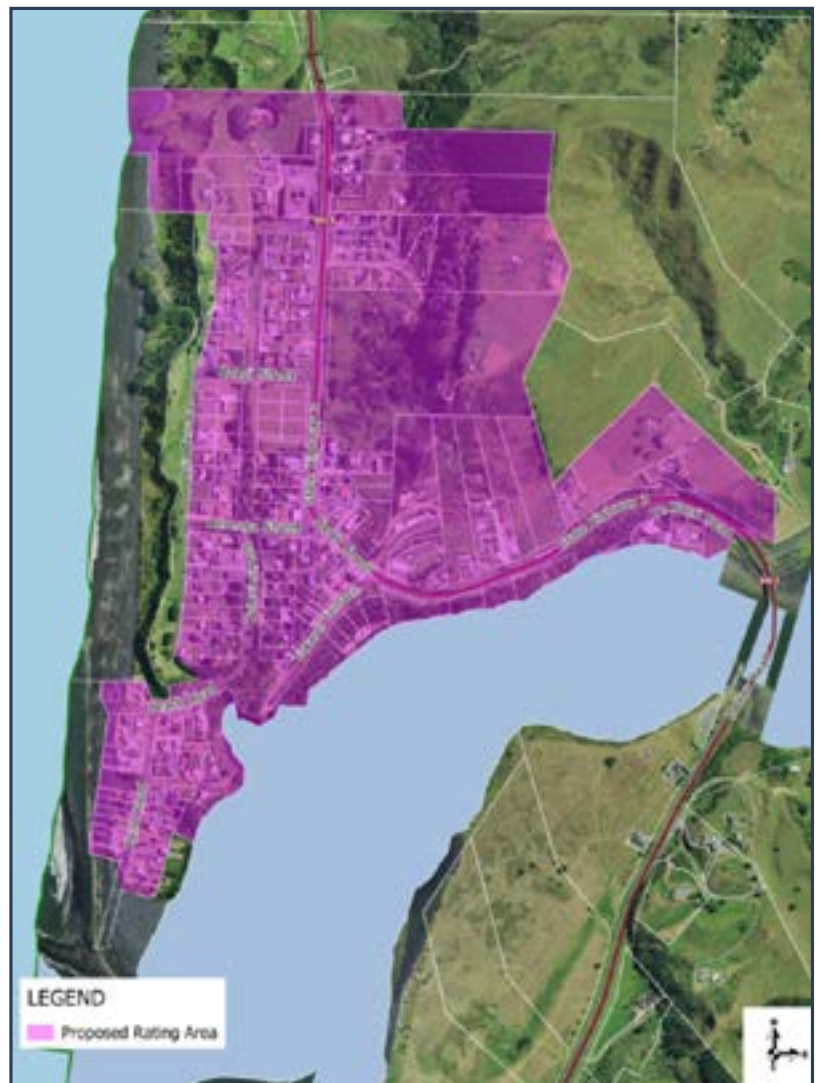
##### Rate Option 5:

Targeted Fixed Rate to Mōkau\* charged on the basis of SUIP

- o The new area defined as 'Urban Mōkau' will pay for the full cost. The area includes Mōkau township but excludes properties south of the bridge such as Te Mahoe Road. Awakino is also excluded. (see map)
- o The thought behind this option is that the people of Mōkau all benefit directly from the removal of the seawall at the end of Point Road, so they equally pay all the costs, which is estimated to be \$183 per SUIP

\*New proposed rating area of 'Urban-Mōkau' area as shown in map

## Map of proposed rating area Mōkau Urban Area below



# What is our preferred option?

**Our preferred option is:**

**Option A - 1**

**Renew using a 50:50 rating split**

## Debt impact:

Capital spend per option

Option A: Rebuild wall \$900,000

Option B: Not rebuild \$200,000

## Level of service impact:

A - Reduced erosion, infrastructure and property protection

B - Possibly accelerated erosion

## Rate impact:

Table showing the various impacts across options for District/Mökau for A and B across the funding options.

Mökau Seawall - Estimated Rates Impact			Te Kūiti Average Residential	Piopio Average Residential	Maniaiti/ Benneydale Average Residential	Mökau Average Residential	Te Waitere Average Residential	Average Value Lifestyle	Average Value Pastoral	Average Value Dairy	Average Value Commercial
Rating Option	Description	Funding Allocation	\$375,000	\$300,000	\$165,000	\$425,000	\$440,000	\$640,000	\$2,620,000	\$3,650,000	\$740,000 (3 parts)
			ANNUAL CHARGE								
1	Remove existing wall and construct new wall	50% General Rate (per \$100 of Capital Value) & 50% Mökau Rating Area (Targeted Fixed Rate per SUIP)	\$5.96	\$4.77	\$2.62	\$419.76	\$7.00	\$10.18	\$41.66	\$58.04	\$11.77
2	Remove existing wall and construct new wall	General Rate (per \$100 of Capital Value)	\$11.93	\$9.54	\$5.25	\$13.52	\$13.99	\$20.35	\$83.32	\$116.07	\$23.53
3	Remove existing wall and construct new wall	Mökau Rating Area (Targeted Fixed Rate per SUIP)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$826.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Remove existing wall only	General Rate (per \$100 of Capital Value)	\$2.66	\$2.13	\$1.17	\$3.02	\$3.12	\$4.54	\$18.60	\$25.92	\$5.25
5	Remove existing wall only	Mökau Rating Area (Targeted Fixed Rate per SUIP)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$183.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

## Consultation Topic 3



Reducing the

# District Wide Benefit Rates for water and wastewater

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Providing drinking water and disposing of wastewater had been considered by Council to benefit everyone and so some of the cost to deliver these services are covered by all ratepayers. It is labelled as "District Wide Benefit" on your rates account.

As decided in the LTP 2024-34, Council will be installing water meters to all connected properties and introducing a 'user pays' model.

The current approach that all ratepayers contribute to these services even though they are not direct users, does not fit with a user pays model. Council is proposing to start reducing the portion of rates for water and wastewater charged to all rating units in the district.

This will give ratepayers time to adjust to the rate changes. Rates will increase for properties connected to Council water and wastewater services and decrease for those not connected.

The estimated rates impact given on the following pages are based on the proposed budget for 2025/26.

## Option 1

### **Reduce the water and wastewater 'District Wide Benefit' rates (preferred option)**

#### **What will this option mean for your rates in 2025/26?**

Note: These figures are based on the draft budget for water supply and wastewater treatment in 2025/26.

If your property is connected to the Council drinking water supply in Te Kūiti you would:

Pay \$27 less for the Districtwide Benefit Rate and pay \$41 more for the Connected Water Rate, so the net increase is \$14.

[cont...](#)

If your property is connected to Council drinking water supply in Piopio, Maniaiti/Benneydale or Mōkau you would:

Pay \$27 less for the District Wide Benefit Rate and pay \$58 more for the Connected Water Rate, so the net increase is \$31.

- Properties not connected to Council drinking water supply would pay \$27 less for the Districtwide Benefit Rate.

If your property is connected to the Council wastewater system you would:

Pay \$28 less for the District Wide Benefit Rate and pay \$55 more for the Connected Wastewater Rate, so the net increase is \$27.

- Properties not connected to the Council wastewater system would pay \$28 less for the District Wide Benefit Rate.

If your property is not connected to either of Council's water or wastewater system you would:

Pay \$55 less for the District Wide Benefit Rates

## Option 2

### Status Quo

This option means:

- The District Wide Benefit rates for water and wastewater will continue, and will also increase slightly each year as costs to deliver services increase

### Debt impact:

No impact to the debt position from these options.

### Level of service impact:

No impact.



# Policies Update

Council is required by LGA 2002 to have a Rates Remission Policy to set the conditions and criteria for rate remits.

The following changes have been proposed to clarify the criteria around retirement properties.

- Amendment to 'Organisation providing care for the elderly' remission to include rates remission on the low-cost rental housing units owned by Hillview on the basis that the units are in place to help fund the rest home operations and are located on or contiguous to the rest home rating unit.
- Amend the remission for Piopio Retirement Trust Board to recognise the additional unit constructed (i.e. remission of ten wastewater charges

and remission of 50% of ten charges for solid waste management, solid waste collection and water supply).

- Minor changes to reflect changes in staff roles, job titles and to ease administration.

[www.waitomo.govt.nz/media/oreeyrig/draft-rates-remission-policy-2025.pdf](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/media/oreeyrig/draft-rates-remission-policy-2025.pdf)

Council is required by LGA 2002 to have a Revenue and Financing Policy that states the funding sources of activities.

- Changes have been proposed relating to the water and wastewater District Wide Benefit Rates (see P14)

[www.waitomo.govt.nz/media/n2xnhxcc/draft-revenue-and-financing-policy-2025.pdf](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/media/n2xnhxcc/draft-revenue-and-financing-policy-2025.pdf)

## General Revaluation

Districtwide property valuations are required by legislation to be completed every three years by an independent valuer.

The new property values are as at September 2024 and will affect your rates from 1 July 2025.

The revaluation can result in a change to the rates charged to individual properties with some increasing and some decreasing.

This is because some rates, such as the general rate and roading rate, are charged on the basis of the capital value of your property.

### Average Capital Value increase for residential townships

Maniaiti/Benneydale Residential	20.2 %
Piopio Residential	5.2 %
Mōkau Residential	14.4 %
Te Kūiti Residential	3.0 %

**The overall increase for the district was 6.9%**

[www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/rating-information/rating-information-database/](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/rating-information/rating-information-database/)



## Rates Affordability

Rates affordability is a key consideration for the Council, and the impact of the proposals and the general revaluation has been thoroughly evaluated during the preparation of this Annual Plan.

To help smooth some of the effects of the revaluation and changes to the District Wide Benefit Rates, we are proposing to lower the UAGC (Uniform Annual General Charge) from \$350 to \$250.

Visit council's website to see the estimated annual rates for your property in 2025/26.

<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/rating-information/rates-calculator/>

## Rates Increase

The total rate requirement for 2025/26 is \$26.2m which is an additional \$745,000 of rates revenue to look after the assets we already have and to provide the services necessary for our district. This results in an average rate increase of 2.93%.

The main drivers for the rate increase are costs associated with waters and solid waste, funding the replacement of assets, and additional funding for Roding renewals, and District Plan development.

**The change in your new property value may also impact the total rates you pay.**

Property	Rate Impact	Valuation	Actual Rates 24/25	Proposed Rates 25/26
Te Kūiti Residential	+3.5%	\$450,000	\$5,010	\$5,185
Benneydale/Maniaiti Residential	+10.0%	\$160,000	\$3,587	\$3,945
Piopio Residential	+11.2%	\$300,000	\$4,160	\$4,624
Mōkau Residential	+12.7%	\$425,000	\$3,337	\$3,762
Te Kūiti Commercial	-6.4%	\$375,000	\$4,499	\$4,212
Dry Stock Farm	-1.4%	\$2,620,000	\$10,157	\$10,017
Forestry Block	+6.6%	\$1,294,000	\$8,062	\$8,594

# Proposed Fees and Charges

For the financial year 2025 - 2026

As part of the annual planning process, fees and charges are reviewed to ensure the costs of providing these Council services are recovered by those who use them. This annual review provides the opportunity to reflect changes in the costs and services.

Due to the increased operating costs most fees and charges are being increased by 3%. We need to ensure costs are recovered so that Council services are not subsidised further by rates.

The fees and charges to provide services are driven by costs such as electricity, insurance and labour which have increased in the last 12 months.

Some fees are proposed to increase or change to actual costs so that costs are fully recovered as much as possible.

## The most significant changes are:

### Changes to water, wastewater and stormwater connection fees

For new water, wastewater and stormwater connections it is becoming more difficult to recover costs through a set fee so in some cases rate-payers end up making up the difference. We are proposing, where appropriate, to charge these fees at actual cost.

It would be a requirement to use a Council approved contractor and they will, in most cases, provide a quote for the connection. Council would need to review the quote for compliance with regulatory standards.

The homeowner or developer can accept the quote and proceed with the work paying the contractor directly.

Council would need to inspect the connection once completed so there would still be an administration and inspection fee to pay to Council.



## Landfill and rubbish bags

There is an increase in landfill charges and the cost of the official WDC rubbish bags due to increasing operating costs and the government's increase in the Emissions Trading Scheme charges and the waste levy.

These costs are incurred for every tonne of waste going to landfill. The tonnage charges will increase by \$15, and the official WDC rubbish bags will increase from \$5.00 to \$5.30.

## Alcohol Licensing

Council is proposing to adopt an Alcohol Bylaw that will allow Alcohol Licensing fees to be set by Council, this will not impact Managers Certificate fees.

[www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/alcohol-fees-bylaw-2025/](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/alcohol-fees-bylaw-2025/)

## Elderly housing

Elderly housing weekly rent will increase by \$40 per week as approved in the LTP 2024-2034. Low income earners are eligible for the Central Government funded Accommodation Supplement (AS).

Most of this increase will be covered by the AS. The new prices would be \$190 for a small single, \$200 for a large single, and \$180 for a bed-sit.



## In General

Some of our fees and charges have required more significant increases often due to increased staff time to complete the service or higher contractor costs.

There are some fees and charges that we have been able to maintain at the 2024/25 level as the cost recovery is being met.

Slight wording changes have also been made throughout to better describe fees and charges.

Council adopted the Dog Fees and Charges on 25 March 2025.

Also some fees are set by legislation such as parking infringements, so are not part of the consultation.



[www.waitomo.govt.nz/media/lotpq1tg/proposed-fees-and-charges-schedule-2025-2026.pdf](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/media/lotpq1tg/proposed-fees-and-charges-schedule-2025-2026.pdf)



# Have your say

Sub no.   
For office use only



## Submission Form

Waitomo District Council  
Draft Annual Plan 2025-2026  
Consultation

Send us your feedback  
by 5pm on 30 April 2025

You can share your views by:

### Completing this submission form and returning it to us by

- **Visiting our main office**  
at 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti
- **Visiting our Customer Service Centre**  
at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti
- **Emailing to**  
[haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz)  
(scan and pdf or take a photo)
- **Posting to**  
FREEPOST 112498  
Waitomo District Council  
PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- **Visiting our website**  
[waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/](http://waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/)  
and completing the online form

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public. Your name and/or organisation will be published with your submission and made available in a report to elected members and to the public. Other personal information supplied (such as address/email addresses) will be removed from the public copy.

I wish to speak to Council about  
my submission

Yes       No

Hearings will be held on 14-15 May 2025. If you tick Yes, Council will contact you to arrange a time. Attendance can be in person or via Zoom.

### Your details

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home/mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Consultation: Amendments to the Rates Remission Policy and Revenue and Financing Policy

Do you have any feedback on the amendments to the Rates Remission Policy and Revenue and Financing Policy?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Consultation: The future of Waitomo District Landfill

We have considered the future of our landfill and whether it is more cost-effective to transport waste outside of the district.

Do you agree with Option 1 - Continued disposal of waste, and expansion of the landfill?

Yes  No

Do you agree with Option 2 - Disposing waste outside the district? **(Council's Preferred Option)**

Yes  No

My comment on the landfill

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## Consultation: Reduce the District Wide Benefit Rates for water and wastewater

Council is proposing to start reducing the district wide rates for water and wastewater charged to all rating units in the district.

**Option 1:** Reduce the District Wide Benefit Rates **(Council's Preferred Option)**

**Option 2:** Status quo - Continue to charge the District Wide Benefit Rates

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## Consultation: The future of the Council-owned seawall at Mōkau

The Council-built rock seawall at the end of Point Road, Mōkau has degraded and is now irreparable, which means the seawall either needs to be renewed or removed.

We have considered two different options with a range of different ways to fund it.

**Option A - Rate Option 1 :** Renew the Mōkau seawall with a 50:50 rating split **(Council's Preferred Option)**

**Option A - Rate Option 2 :** Renew the Mōkau seawall with General Rate /UAGC District Wide

**Option A - Rate Option 3 :** Renew the Mōkau seawall with Targeted Fixed Rate to 'Urban Mōkau'

**Option B - Rate Option 4 :** Not replace the Mōkau seawall with General Rate /UAGC District Wide

**Option B - Rate Option 5 :** Not replace the Mōkau seawall with Targeted Fixed Rate to 'Urban Mōkau'

My comment on this proposal

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# FEES AND CHARGES SUBMISSION FORM



SUB NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submissions close at 5pm on Wednesday 30 April 2025**

You can share your views on our proposed FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26 by:

- Completing this submission form and returning it to us by:
  - o Visiting our Customer Service Centre at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti
  - o Emailing it to: [haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz) (scan and pdf or take a photo)
  - o Posting to: FREEPOST 112498, Waitomo District Council, PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- Visiting our website: [www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/) and fill in an online submission form

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to speak to Council about my submission **Y / N**

Hearings are scheduled for 14-15 May 2025. If you indicate 'YES', we will contact you to arrange a time. Attendance can be in person or via Zoom.

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Do you have any feedback on the overall increase to our fees and charges by 3%?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Do you have feedback on fees and charges that have increased by more than 3%?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any other feedback on the fees and charges?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Your Council

John Robertson

Mayor

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Deputy Mayor / Councillor: Rural

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