

Waitomo Way

Waitomo District Council to join Waikato Waters Ltd

Waitomo District Council (WDC) has formally confirmed it will join other councils within the Waikato region to establish a joint Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) to deliver its water and wastewater services.

The decision means WDC will become a founding shareholder of what will become one of the largest companies in the region - Waikato Waters Ltd (WWL).

The CCO will be created in July 2025, but it will not be responsible for operations or own assets until 1 July 2026.

WDC will be a Stage 1 shareholder from July 2025, with its water and wastewater assets and liabilities transferring on 1 July 2026.

Read the full media release on our website: www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/news-summary/

Annual Plan and Fees and Charges set for 2025/2026

Waitomo District Council recently adopted its Annual Plan 2025-2026 (AP) which outlines the direction for the Council for the next financial year.

The overall rates requirement for the 2025/26 year is \$26.2 million, a decrease of \$1.2 million compared to the same year forecast in the LTP. This equates to an overall rates increase of 2.91% to cover operating costs and capital expenditure.

The fees and charges for the 2025/26 year have also been set and apply from 1 July 2025. Due to the impact of rising costs Council has increased most fees and charges by 3% to ensure costs are recovered so that Council services are not subsidised further by rates. Council has also adopted the revised Rates Remission Policy, Revenue and Financing Policy, and the Alcohol Fees Bylaw 2025, the Dog Control Bylaw 2025 and Dog Control Policy 2025.

Elections nominations close midday 1 August

If you are passionate about our community and have ideas for how to make it even better, then make your stand for our council.

Candidate nominations are open and close at midday on Friday 1 August 2025. There are a few rules that need to be followed. You can read about them on our website, along with lots of other information about the Local Elections.

Local elections are held every three years, and are an opportunity for residents and ratepayers to vote for a Mayor and Councillors.

The elections are your chance to vote for your local representative to influence the decisions Council makes that affect us all. The next local election



will be held on 11 October 2025. Positions in our district include a Mayor and six Councillors - three for Urban Te Kūiti Ward and three for Waitomo Rural Ward. Delivery of voting papers to electors will be by post from 9-22 September.

Visit our website to learn more and to read our Candidate Handbook. www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/triennial-elections/local-elections-2025/

Rates due dates

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 2025 are payable in four equal instalments.

Instalment 1	29 August 2025
Instalment 2	28 November 2025
Instalment 3	27 February 2026
Instalment 4	29 May 2026

The first instalment of your 2025/2026 rates is due by 4pm, Friday 29 August 2025. Rates payments can be made at the Customer Services and Visitor Hub at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti.



New thresholds for 2025/26 Rates Rebate Scheme

If you have a low income and pay the rates on your home, you could receive up to \$805 through Central Government's Rates Rebate Scheme. The threshold for SuperGold card holders has also significantly increased.

Applications are now open for rates rebates for the 2025/2026 rating year.

The amount you may receive is based on:

- Your income
- Your annual rates
- Number of dependants you have

You must be living at the property at 1 July and be the legal ratepayer. Download an application form from our website or contact our Customer Services team for further assistance.





DC TYNAN

TRUST FUND

NOW OPEN!!!!



For Te Kūiti Urban Ward