

Rates Newsletter

July 2026

Annual Plan 2026/27

On 30 June, Waitomo District Council (WDC) adopted its Annual Plan 2026/27 following months of planning and four weeks of public consultation.

The Plan outlines Council's direction for the coming financial year. In developing it, Council carefully considered the district's infrastructure challenges, community priorities, the impact of the water services transition, and the need to minimise rate increases.

Our water and wastewater services are now delivered by Waikato Waters Limited (WWL). While these services have transitioned to WWL, WDC will continue to collect the rates, which will be passed on to WWL to support the delivery of these services.

The main consultation topic was the proposed relocation of the Awakino Transfer Station to Mōkau. Feedback received through submissions and the public meeting in Mōkau made it clear that most of the community did not support the move. As a result, Council resolved that the transfer station will remain in Awakino.

The Waitomo District Landfill is now being capped, with all refuse to be disposed of at facilities outside the district. The Te Kūiti Transfer Station will continue to operate much as it does now, so customers should notice little change.

Council also resolved to remove the remaining District Wide Benefit rates for water and wastewater. This means properties connected to these services will pay more, while those not connected will pay less.

Rates affordability remains a key consideration for Council. The overall increase to the rates revenue requirement has been kept as low as possible while continuing to provide essential services.

Individual property rates will vary depending on how specific activities are funded and the services received by each property.

You can view your property's rating information through the Rating Information Database on our website.

In this issue:

- **Check out the due dates for Rates for 2026/27.**
- **Read about the Rates Rebate Scheme. New thresholds have been applied so it's worth checking if you qualify. Find out how to apply, you could be eligible for up to \$830.**
- **Welcome from Waikato Waters Ltd and how your rates are impacted by this new council controlled water services organisation**
- **The fees and charges for the 2026/27 year have been set. Read more about them in this issue.**

Rates Requirement

The overall rates requirement for the 2026/27 year is \$27.2 million, a decrease of \$1.7 million compared to the same year forecast in the LTP. This equates to an overall rates revenue increase of 2.88% (excluding water and wastewater) to cover operating costs including asset replacement.

Council also confirmed the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) will be set at \$100, a decrease compared to the current \$250. This was to moderate the impact of removing the District Wide Benefit Rates.

Additionally, Council adopted the revised Revenue and Financing Policy, Significance and Engagement Policy, and Fees and Charges 2026/27. The Solid Waste Bylaw 2026 was also adopted regulating kerbside collections and our transfer stations.

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 2026 are payable in four equal instalments.

Instalment 1	31 August 2026
Instalment 2	30 November 2026
Instalment 3	26 February 2027
Instalment 4	31 May 2027



New thresholds for 2026/27 Rates Rebate scheme

If you have a low income and pay the rates on your home, you could receive up to **\$830** through Central Government's Rates Rebate Scheme.

The threshold for SuperGold card holders has also increased. Applications are now open for rates rebates for the 2026/2027 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.

If you are granted a rates rebate through the DIA you could be eligible for a remission for financial hardship for your Waikato Regional rates as well.



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 you are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay your rates in full by the due date, please contact us on 0800 932 4357 to check out possible options available to you.

A 10% penalty will be charged on the unpaid amount after the due date. However, late payment penalties will not apply if a suitable payment arrangement has been agreed prior.

Fees and Charges 2026/27

At the Council meeting on 30 June 2026, Council adopted the fees and charges for 2026/27. These fees and charges apply from 1 July 2026.

The dog registration fees were adopted by Council on 24 March 2026 and apply from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

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.

The three most significant changes are:

1. Refuse and Rubbish bags

There is an increase in refuse charges and the cost of the official WDC rubbish bags due to increasing operating costs and the waste levy. These costs are incurred for every tonne of waste going to landfill. The general waste tonnage charges have increased by \$14, and the official WDC rubbish bags are now \$5.50 each.

2. Consents

Most building consent fees have increased by 5% to reflect external cost increases. A new fee has also been introduced for issuing Project Information Memoranda (PIMs) for granny flats to recover administration costs.

3. Alcohol Licensing

On 30 June 2025, Council adopted the Alcohol Fees Bylaw 2025 that allows Alcohol Licensing fees to be set by Council. The second phase of fee increases will apply from 1 July 2026. This will not impact Manager's Certificate fees.

We are now offering the Supper Room at the Les Munro Centre as a cheaper space to hire for events.

The schedule of Fees and Charges for 2026/27 is available on our website.

You can request a hardcopy of the fees and charges by contacting our Customer Services team on **0800 932 4357** or email **info@waitomo.govt.nz**

Introducing



Waikato Waters

Kia ora and welcome to Waikato Waters! Your council is one of six district councils across the region who have joined forces to create a new organisation to deliver future-fit water and wastewater services to Waikato communities.

As your council was among the first to transfer their water and wastewater services to us, you

may have already noticed our staff working in your neighbourhood. For the most part, the people haven't changed – they're simply wearing different uniforms and have our branding on their vehicles.

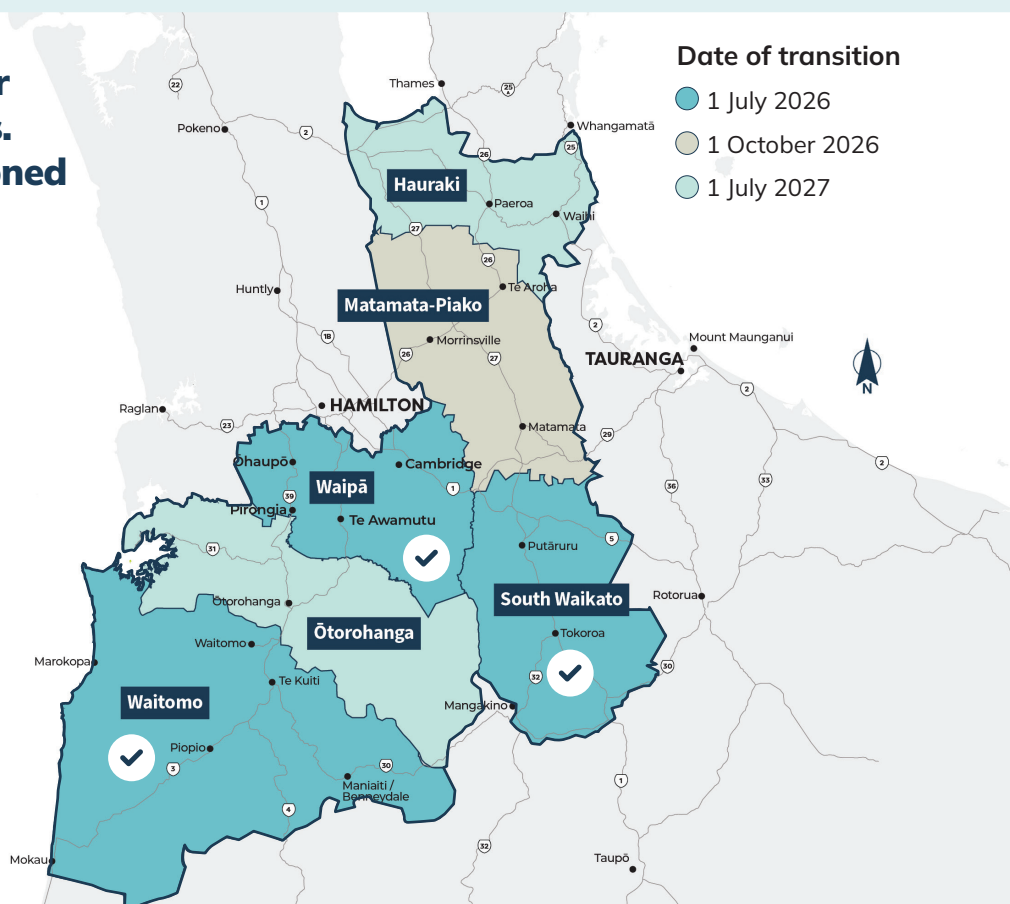
Read on to learn more about what the change means, and what our focus is in our first year.

Councils will transfer their operations to us in stages. When they've all transitioned we'll look after...

170,000
people

50,000+
connected properties

and
\$1.4B
of treatment plants,
pipes and other assets



We're responsible for:



Drinking
water



Wastewater

Your council is responsible for:



Stormwater

We're keeping things simple in year one

In our first year, day-to-day services will feel the same. You will keep paying your council for your water and wastewater services. Current water and wastewater charges were set by your council. We will set charges from 1 July 2027.



Got a billing query?

Call your council



Want to report a fault?

Call your council



Have a question about a new connection?

Call your council



You can follow us on Facebook - @WaikatoWaters

This is one of the ways we'll share updates about our work in your community.

Our relationship with you

When you become a customer of Waikato Waters, you are automatically covered by our customer contract. It outlines what you can expect from us, and what we need from you as a customer.

You can find our customer contract on our website [waikatowaters.co.nz](https://www.waikatowaters.co.nz) by searching 'customer contract'.

Our focus for the first year

- ✓ Set strong foundations
- ✓ Build trusted relationships
- ✓ Ensure a smooth transition
- ✓ Take stock of our performance, and asset condition
- ✓ Understand first, act second

By taking the time to get this right, we'll be in a better position to invest wisely, manage costs responsibly and deliver better outcomes for our communities.

Our role in the water cycle

Our water comes from rivers, streams, springs and aquifers

Treated wastewater is safely returned to the environment

