

PŌTITANGA KAWANATANGA Ā ROHE  
2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

PŪRONGO I MUA I TE PŌTITANGA

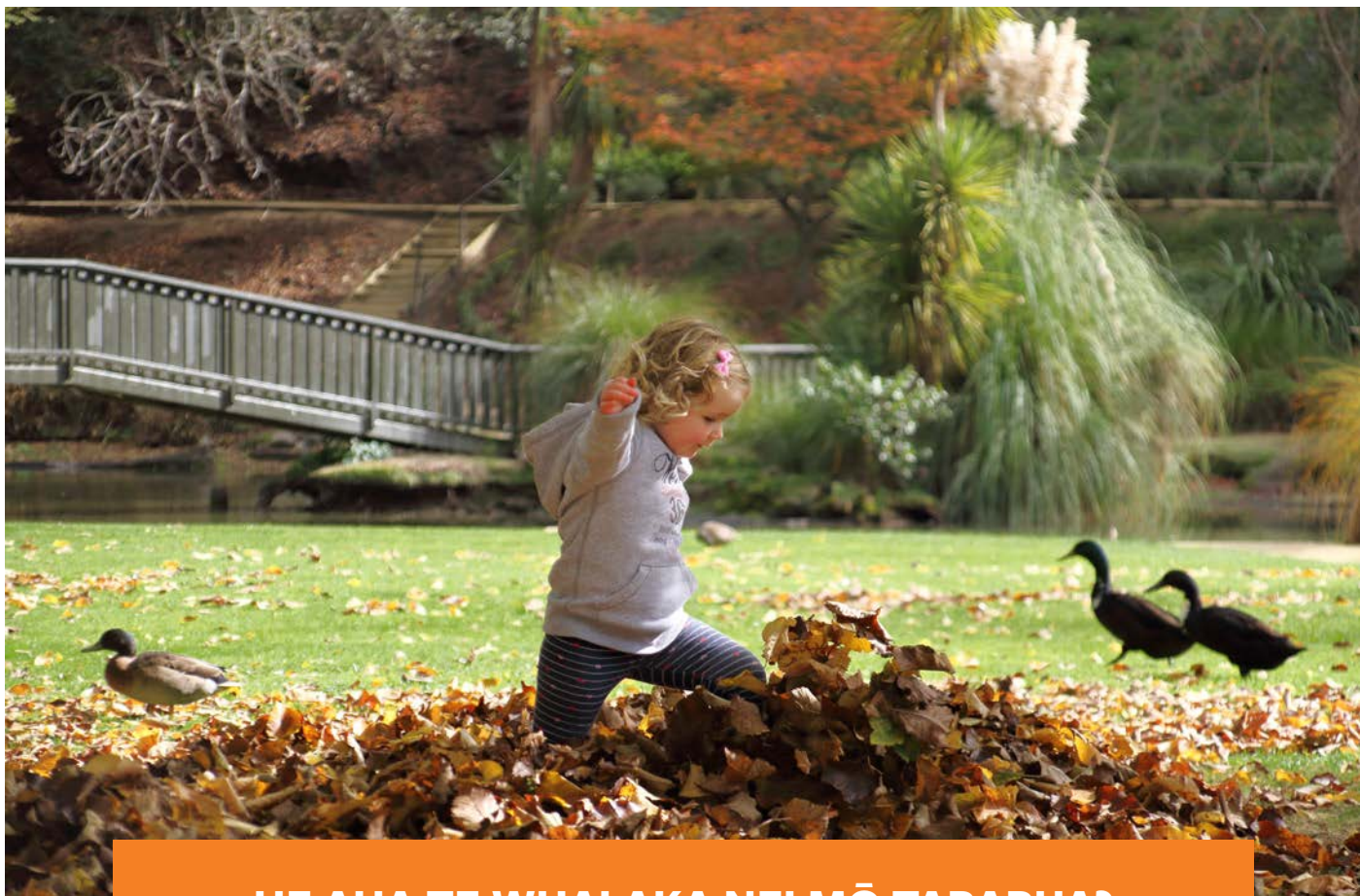
# PRE-ELECTION REPORT

[www.tararua-dc.govt.nz/elections](http://www.tararua-dc.govt.nz/elections)



TARARUA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL





## HE AHA TE WHAI AKA NEI MŌ TARARUA? **WHAT'S NEXT, TARARUA?**

The next local government elections are being held later this year, closing on Saturday 11 October.

Elections are when you vote for the Mayor and Councillors who best represent you and your community. These are the people who will make decisions about the Tararua District – on your behalf.

It's also your opportunity to vote whether to keep the Māori Ward that was introduced in 2021.

**By voting or by standing for election, you'll help shape the future of our district!**

# NGĀ IHIRANGI

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## HE KUPU TAKAMUA NĀ TE TOIHAU INTRODUCTION

This report is a straight-forward guide for anyone thinking about standing for council.

It lays out the main priorities, tough spots, and chances for growth across Tararua so potential candidates know exactly what they're stepping into.

It's designed to help future leaders understand what's ahead, prepare for the realities of rural governance, and hit the ground running with clear priorities and purpose — setting the tone for a term of effective, community-driven leadership in Tararua.

This report is prepared by the Chief Executive, independently from the Mayor and Councillors and is a legislative requirement of the Local Government Act 2002.

This report is not required to be audited and includes information from audited reports and unaudited information.

### **Want to know more?**

The Annual Plan, Annual Report and Long Term Plan can all be found on our website: **[www.tararua.govt.nz](http://www.tararua.govt.nz)**



# HE AHA TE WHAI AKA NEI MŌ TARARUA?

## WHAT'S NEXT, TARARUA?

Local elections give us a moment to pause, reflect, and think about the kind of future we want for our communities.

I enjoy this opportunity to look back at what's been achieved, be honest about what's still to come, and help you make informed choices about our district's direction. This report provides information to promote public discussion about issues facing Council.

Tararua has been through a lot in recent years. We've faced challenges that tested our resilience—from ongoing weather events to rising living costs, new regulatory rules, and nationwide changes affecting councils. It can feel tough for many whānau and businesses, but I'm proud of how we've worked together to focus on what matters most.

We've completed our Annual Plan (2025/2026) with only one item requiring consultation—a significant achievement showing how closely we've stayed on track. We've managed rising costs, delivering an average rates increase of 7.29%, down from the 11.79% forecasted in our Long Term Plan and a lower increase than many other councils. This was achieved by adjusting, delaying, and reducing some activities to ease pressure on ratepayers while maintaining essential services.

Affordability remains a key focus, and we know rising living costs will continue to affect our community and projects. Many of our cost increases are due to an ongoing capital works programme, new regulatory changes, and inflation interest costs. There are also unavoidable costs like government levies and rising infrastructure expenses. Despite this, we continue to seek ways to deliver services effectively and provide the best value for ratepayer dollars.

One example is bringing kerbside recycling services in-house, which reduced average rates for recycling by 19.63%. We've also undertaken Section 17A

reviews of campgrounds, pools, and solid waste services every six years to ensure services remain cost-effective, resilient, and future-focused.

Since Cyclone Gabrielle, we have had \$90.2 million of central government funding approved for the cyclone roading rebuild, at an average subsidy rate of 98.3%. There is an estimated \$10 million of emergency works to be completed in the 2025-26 year that will close out the Cyclone Gabrielle roading recovery for the district.

For general road maintenance, \$42.4 million has been granted from NZTA at a subsidy rate of 73% to manage and maintain our roading network to June 2027. This funding supports our rural and urban road infrastructure, as well as improving the resilience of our road network through low-cost interventions designed to reduce the impact of future storm events.

Looking ahead, the pace of change isn't slowing. Our population is shifting, expectations are growing, and the world is changing fast. But so are the opportunities to shape a thriving, connected, and sustainable Tararua for everyone.

I hope this report sparks conversations across the district—at your kitchen table, on the sidelines of a sports game, or over a cuppa at your local café. I encourage you to read it, share it, and most importantly, take part in this year's local election.

If you're ready to stand for your people and lead the change you want to see, *kia mahi tahi tātou* — let's work together.



**Bryan Nicholson**  
Chief Executive



# PŪRONGO KŌWHIRINGA TŌMUA: HE KETE WHAKAMŌHIOHIO MĀ NGĀ KAITONO **PRE-ELECTION REPORT: A TOOLBOX FOR CANDIDATES**

The Pre-Election Report is a practical toolbox for anyone considering standing for Council.

Think of it as your guide to elections—filled with the information, insights, and context you'll need to step confidently into candidacy.

This report provides a snapshot of where the Council stands today and where it's headed.

By offering a clear picture of the Council's priorities and pressures, the report helps potential candidates make informed decisions about their campaigns, their commitments, and the communities they hope to serve.

**Whether you're new to local politics or returning with experience, this document equips you with the facts and forecasts that matter—so you can focus on what really counts: making a difference.**

**Want to talk to  
someone about  
the 2025 local  
elections?**

**Warwick Lampp**  
Electoral Officer  
elections@tararua.govt.nz  
0800 666 048

**Allie Dunn**  
Deputy Electoral Officer  
elections@tararua.govt.nz  
06 374 4080 or 06 376 0110

Or, you can visit [www.tararua.govt.nz](http://www.tararua.govt.nz) or [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz)

## What you will find in this document:



### **YOUR COUNCIL AND DISTRICT**

Learn about council roles and structures, and key statistics for the Tararua District.



### **MAJOR PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

Preview the needs, projects and plans we have forecast for the next three years.



### **CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

There are a number of challenges facing our council, and there are opportunities in solutions.



### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

View our financial position, including rates and debt limits within our financial strategy.



**To vote, nominate someone, or stand as a candidate,  
your enrolment details must be up-to-date.**

You can check or update your enrolment details at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz)



# HE PĀRONGO HIRANGA

## KEY INFORMATION

Candidate nominations for all the positions listed below open on 4 July 2025 and close on 1 August 2025.

**Nominations must be received at Council no later than 12pm (midday) on 1 August 2025.**

### You can vote for and stand as a candidate for the following positions:

#### Tararua District Council

- ▶ Mayor
- ▶ Councillors in three wards, as follows:
  - North Tararua Ward (4 Councillors)
  - South Tararua Ward (4 Councillors)
  - Tamaki nui-a-Rua Māori Ward (1 Councillor)

#### Community Board Members

- ▶ Dannevirke Community Board (4 members)
- ▶ Eketāhuna Community Board (4 members)

#### Horizons Regional Council (HRC)

- ▶ Tararua General Constituency (1 Councillor)
- ▶ Tonga Māori Constituency (1 Councillor)

#### Masterton Community Trust Members

- ▶ Masterton Community Trust\* (6 trustees)

#### Greater Wellington Regional Council (WRC)

- ▶ Wairarapa Constituency (1 Councillor)\*

*\* A small part of the Masterton Community Trust area extends into the Tararua District Council. Approximately 50 TDC electors will receive a voting entitlement for this election. If you need more information on Masterton Community Trust or the Horizons Regional Council and Wellington Regional Council candidates, contact our Electoral Officers.*

## Timeline for Local Elections

### 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 AT 12 NOON

Election Day – voting closes midday.

### 11 OCTOBER 2025 FROM 12 NOON

Preliminary results.

### 16 - 22 OCTOBER 2025

Declaration of results.

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

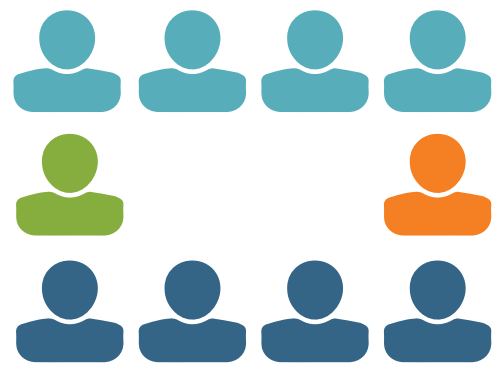
Elected members' swearing-in ceremonies.

# Our governance structure:

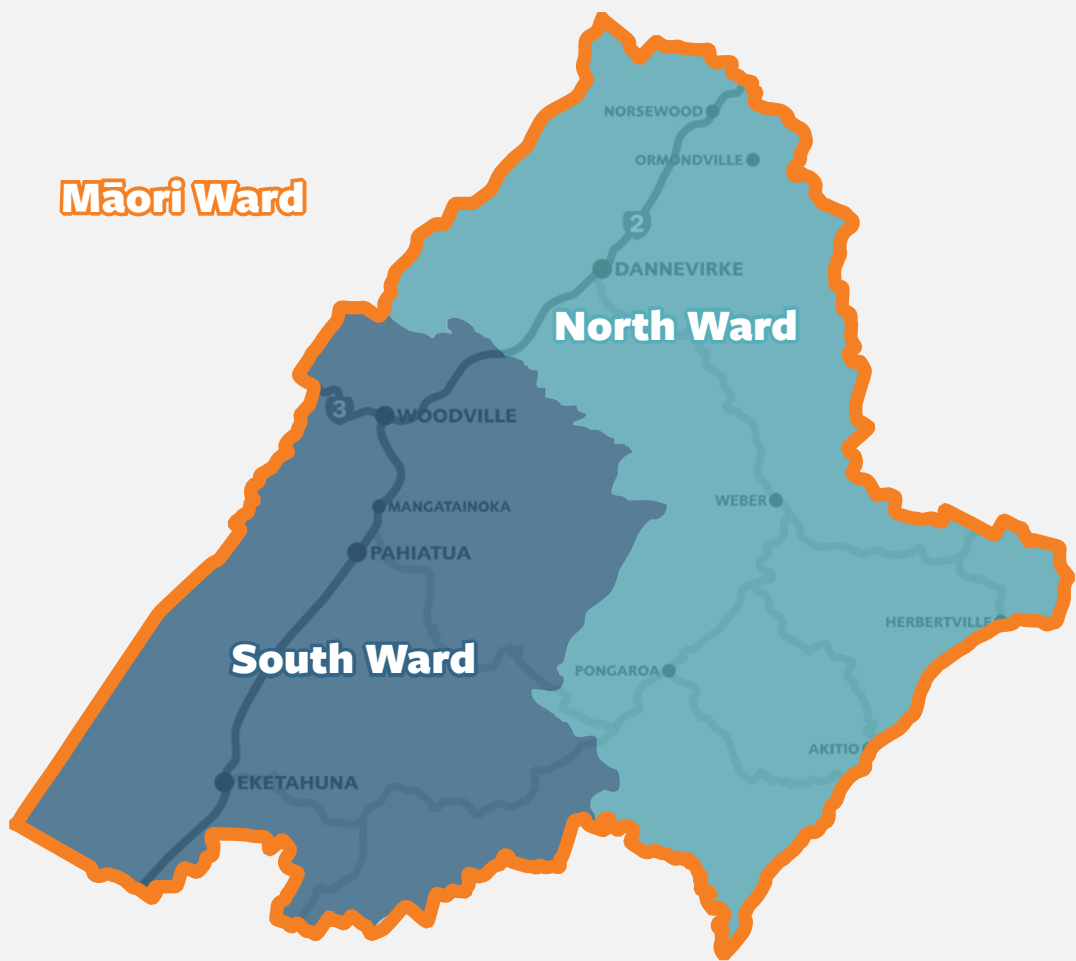
Tararua District Council is currently made up of a Mayor and 9 Councillors, all elected by the community for a three-year term.

The Deputy Mayor is appointed either by the Mayor or by a decision of the Council.

- Mayor
- North Ward (4)
- Māori Ward (1)
- South Ward (4)



## 2025 Māori and General Ward Map:



Want to view the map for the Horizons Regional Council Constituencies?

Scan the QR code, or type this link into your web browser:

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Constituency-map.pdf>





# Where to get information

## [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz)

Information on how to enrol for the 2025 Local Elections.

## [www.lgnz.co.nz](http://www.lgnz.co.nz)

Information about the role of Local Government New Zealand.

## [www.tararuaadc.govt.nz](http://www.tararuaadc.govt.nz)

Information for residents and ratepayers voting in the Tararua District local elections and referendums.

## Enrolment Forms

**By emailing:** [enquiries@elections.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@elections.govt.nz) or [elections@tararuaadc.govt.nz](mailto:elections@tararuaadc.govt.nz)

**By phoning:** 0800 36 76 56 and ask for a form to be sent to you.

**By texting:** 3676 to get a form sent to you.

## Supporting Documents

### Tararua District Council 2024-2034 Long Term Plan:



[www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/170494/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-1-AND-2-060924.pdf](http://www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0025/170494/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-1-AND-2-060924.pdf)

### Tararua District Council 2023/2024 Annual Plan:



[www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/121608/Annual-Plan-2023-24-300623!.pdf](http://www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/121608/Annual-Plan-2023-24-300623!.pdf)

### Tararua District Council 2023/2024 Annual Report Summary



[www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0035/177974/AR-Summary-2023-24-191224PM-Digital.pdf](http://www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0035/177974/AR-Summary-2023-24-191224PM-Digital.pdf)

### Tararua District Council District Strategy - Thriving Together 2050



[www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/138248/Tararua-District-Council-Final-Draft-District-Strategy-2050.pdf](http://www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/138248/Tararua-District-Council-Final-Draft-District-Strategy-2050.pdf)

### Tararua District Council Meetings and Agendas



[www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/publications/agendas-and-minutes](http://www.tararuaadc.govt.nz/publications/agendas-and-minutes)









# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNCIL AND DISTRICT.

This section gives you the lay of the land — who does what, how Council is structured, and the big-picture goals that guide our work. It also introduces some of the key partnerships and decision-making groups that help shape services and outcomes for the district.

For candidates, this is where you'll get a feel for the machinery of local government — how things work, where you might contribute, and the systems you'll be part of.

For voters, it's a snapshot of how Council operates, the roles different people and groups play, and the strategic direction that drives long-term decisions for the Tararua District.



# HE ANGA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Tararua District is growing, and our local government is always evolving. As our communities get bigger and new challenges arise, how we plan, lead, and deliver services will continue to shift and change.

Council's job is to guide these changes in a way that keeps our services affordable, looks after our environment, and supports all our people.

Our strategic goals and visions are built on strong foundations; Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Local Government Act 2002. These foundations are about making sure **everyone** can take part in local decision-making, and supporting the wellbeing of our communities now and into the future.

In our 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, we outlined a clear direction for the future of our district. This included our vision for the community, the outcomes we want to achieve, and the key goals we're working towards.

## OUR VISION

**Tararua -  
Thriving Together**

**Ka huri tahi  
ngatahi Tararua**

We thrive together. Vibrant, connected communities where our land and waters are nurtured and our people flourish.

Mā te whenua, mā te  
waiora tātou e ora ai hei  
hapori ngangahau hei  
hapori honohono hoki.

## OUR FOUNDATIONS

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

Maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making. Specific principles and requirements for local authorities that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local authority decision-making processes.

**Local Government Act**

Enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

## STRATEGIC ENABLERS

**Infrastructure Strategy**

Reliable infrastructure that is fit for purpose and future proofs our thriving district for tomorrow.

**Financial Strategy**

Building a sustainable footing to increase the resilience of our assets and services, and help us to plan for the future.





# O MĀTOU WĀHANGA ARONUI

## FOCUS AREAS



### Thriving District

We grow Tararua in a smart and sustainable way that values our identity. We use our resources sustainably and with care, to ensure they are looked after for our future generations



### Improving our Environment

We celebrate our environment and work together to enhance our local natural resources and minimise our negative impacts on them. Our district is home to a unique and beautiful landscape



### Connected Communities

We provide facilities and services that meet the needs of our communities, enabling whānau living in Tararua to thrive. Our district is enriched by our community that are actively engaged in, and contribute to, our thriving Tararua



### Interactive Council

We engage with our community and respond to their needs, continuously improving over time. Our Council provides fit for purpose services in an engaging way, improving confidence and encouraging our community to engage with us.

## NGĀ PUTANGA WAWATA

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

The people are thriving, happy, safe and well.

Partnerships with iwi are honoured.

The natural environment is improved while still producing a diverse range of primary industry food and products.

Quality community facilities and infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of future generations and support our long-term prosperity.

We are nimble; ensuring we have the capacity, innovation, and adaptability to improve community well-being, while promoting balanced & sustainable growth.

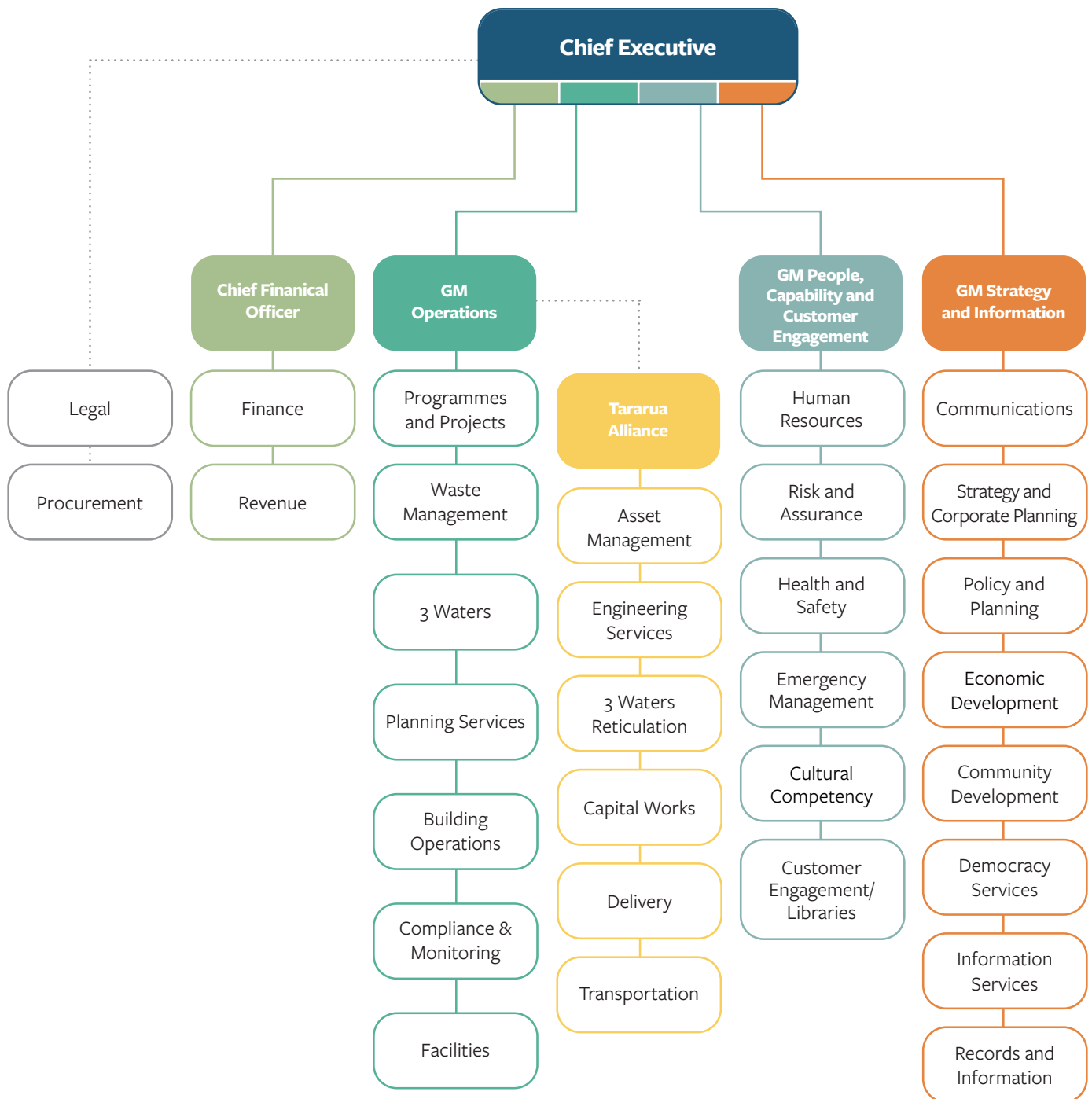
We work collaboratively, gaining strength from each other as challenges and opportunities arise, to make great things happen.

# TE ANGA O TE RŌPŪ WHAKAHAERE

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Our organisation structure shows the different activities and functions that help us operate efficiently. This structure ensures we stay focused on our goals, meet our responsibilities, and work together effectively across the organisation.

At our council, the organisational structure works in groups and “GM” means Group Manager.





# NGĀ POARI ME NGĀ KOMITI HAPORI

## COMMUNITY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Community Boards and Community Committees help connect Council with local communities. They're a valuable link — raising local issues, supporting projects, and helping shape what happens in their area.

**Community Board members** are elected during local elections, and each board includes up to two appointed councillors.

**Community Committees** have a similar role to that of a Community Board, but they carry out their functions under contract to Council (and that's why they're not included in local elections).

[Explore Pahiatua Community Committee](#)

[Positively Woodville Community Committee](#)

[Dannevirke Community Board](#)

[Eketāhuna Community Board](#)

# NGĀ TŪRANGA KAUNIHERA ME NGĀ RATONGA

## COUNCIL ROLES & SERVICES



### Water Services

Managing the supply of safe drinking water, the treatment of wastewater (sewage), and the control of stormwater to protect people, property, and the environment.



### Rubbish and Recycling

Collecting household waste and recycling materials, and managing transfer stations or landfills.



### Roading and Footpaths

Maintaining local roads, footpaths and signage.



### Parks and Reserves

Looking after public parks, gardens, sports fields, and playgrounds.



### Land, Building and Environmental Regulation

Managing building and resource consents, planning and zoning, food safety, noise control, and public health regulations.



### Animal Control

Managing dog registration, responding to roaming dogs or dangerous dogs and delivering education programmes.



### District Development

Supporting local events and projects, and initiatives that create economic growth.



### Emergency Management

Preparing for and responding to natural disasters and emergencies.



### Community Facilities

Providing and maintaining libraries, public toilets, cemeteries, and other shared public spaces.



### Democracy and Governance

Running local elections, council meetings, and community engagement.

# MŌ TE HAUMITANGA O TARARUA

## ABOUT THE TARARUA ALLIANCE

The Tararua Alliance is a collaborative working agreement, or partnership, between Tararua District Council and Downer NZ Ltd to manage Council's **transportation** activity and **water, wastewater, and stormwater** reticulation infrastructure.

Maintaining our 1,966km network of local roads is one of Council's largest areas of investment. With a relatively small number of ratepayers supporting a large rural roading

network, every investment decision must be carefully assessed, planned, and prioritised.

Our approach is guided by the Transport Activity Management Plan. Funding from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to maintain local roads is influenced by the Government's transport priorities, as set out in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS 2024).

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## What are the key issues for Tararua roads?

### Balancing road maintenance priorities

Our funding request to NZTA for the period from July 2024 - June 2027 was a mixed bag for road maintenance. Council sought additional subsidised funding to address some of the long-term asset condition trends, with pavement (road surface) maintenance and renewals one of the key areas of funding increases.

Subsidised funding was increased for sealed road maintenance and renewals, however due to a change in Government priorities, funding was reduced for other activities such as vegetation control, sign and footpath maintenance.

### Increasing roading resilience

Through the Land Stability Project, we are working with Horizons and the Ministry of Social Development to plant out slip-prone land to prevent slips on private land closing roads and causing costly damage.

We are also working to identify vulnerable sections of road and complete low-cost improvements to reduce the likelihood of high-cost storm damage.

### Ageing bridge structures

Over the next 10 years many of the district's older bridges will reach the end of their useful life. Work is underway to identify low-volume bridges that may no longer be cost-effective to maintain.

### Reticulation issues in Tararua

The challenges we face with our reticulation networks are common to towns around New Zealand – the predominant issue being the age of the pipes in the ground, with many in our district near 100 years old. Ageing infrastructure means more inspections and unplanned interruptions from breaks and leaks. Because we can't replace all the old pipes at once due to the high cost, renewal work is prioritised by the highest risk first. Climate change and resilience is a key issue at the forefront of planning for the reticulation of all three waters.

Stormwater presents a challenge, as the stormwater infrastructure network in Tararua does not provide the capacity needed for the way our towns are growing and climate change. The stormwater network includes 28km pipe, 26km open channel and 1,160 manholes. Funding has been set aside in the Long Term Plan for stormwater modelling, to provide data to inform fit-for-purpose stormwater system design.

Drinking water management is strictly governed by Central Government legislation. The district has 180km pipe, 47km lateral pipe, 1000 hydrants, 2700 manifolds, 800 valves and 700 meters to maintain that provide drinking water to the towns. The wastewater reticulation network includes 92km of pipe, 1,100 manholes and 21 pumping stations to maintain. Reducing infiltration from stormwater and flooding is an issue.

## Quick stats from the 2023/24 Annual Report



**1,966km** of roads

- Our teams filled over **4,200** potholes on our roads
- Our teams graded over **1,650km** of unsealed road



**523** bridges and high capacity culverts

- Over **214** bridges were attended to - including cleaning, painting and general maintenance



**10,992** culverts, sumps, manholes and other drainage assets

- **1,180** culverts were unblocked or cleared



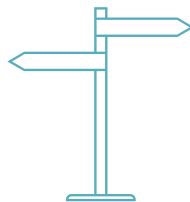
**125km** of footpath

- **2,967m<sup>2</sup>** of footpath were repaired or renewed



**1,806km** of road stormwater channels and drains

- **256km** of roadside drains were renewed, repaired or cleared. (Equals the distance from Dannevirke to Taupō)



**11,452** road signs

- **3,142 road** signs were repaired or replaced



**1,668** street lights



**21.2km** of retaining walls along the side of our roads

### Emergency works on our roads included:



**164** trees were cleared from our roads



**291** dropouts and **486** slips were fixed



**84** floods and **2** emergency tomos were dealt with

**Total: 1,027 emergency works**

- Expenditure across the 2023-24 financial year saw Tararua District Council invest \$32,054,268 in emergency event repairs

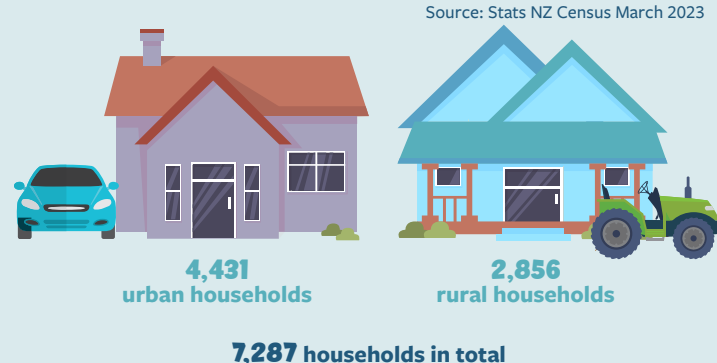
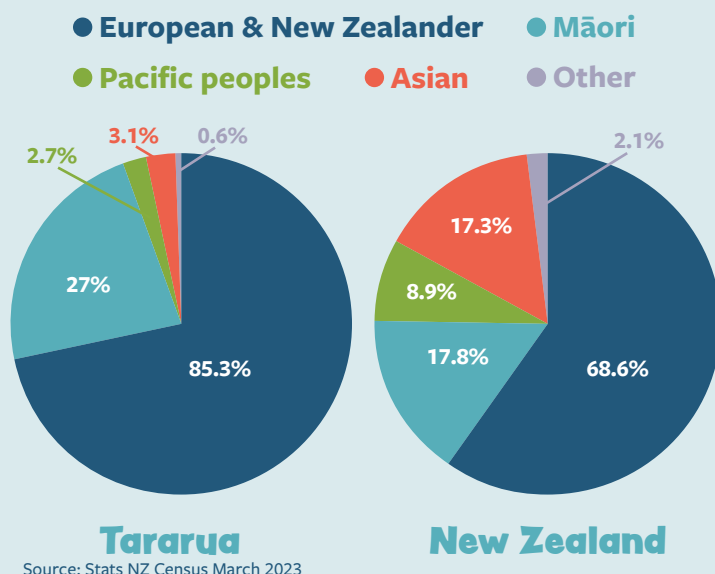
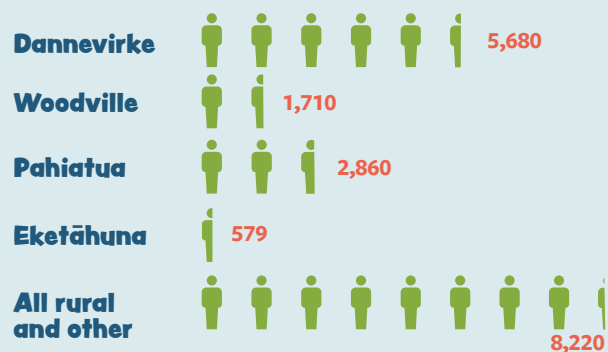
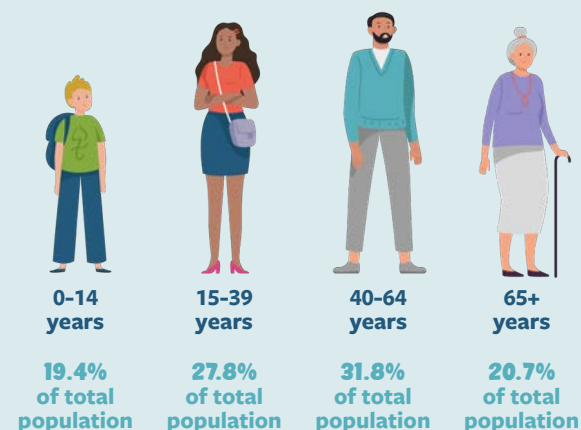


# NGĀ MEKA TERE MŌ TŌ TĀTOU TAKIWĀ

## FAST FACTS ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

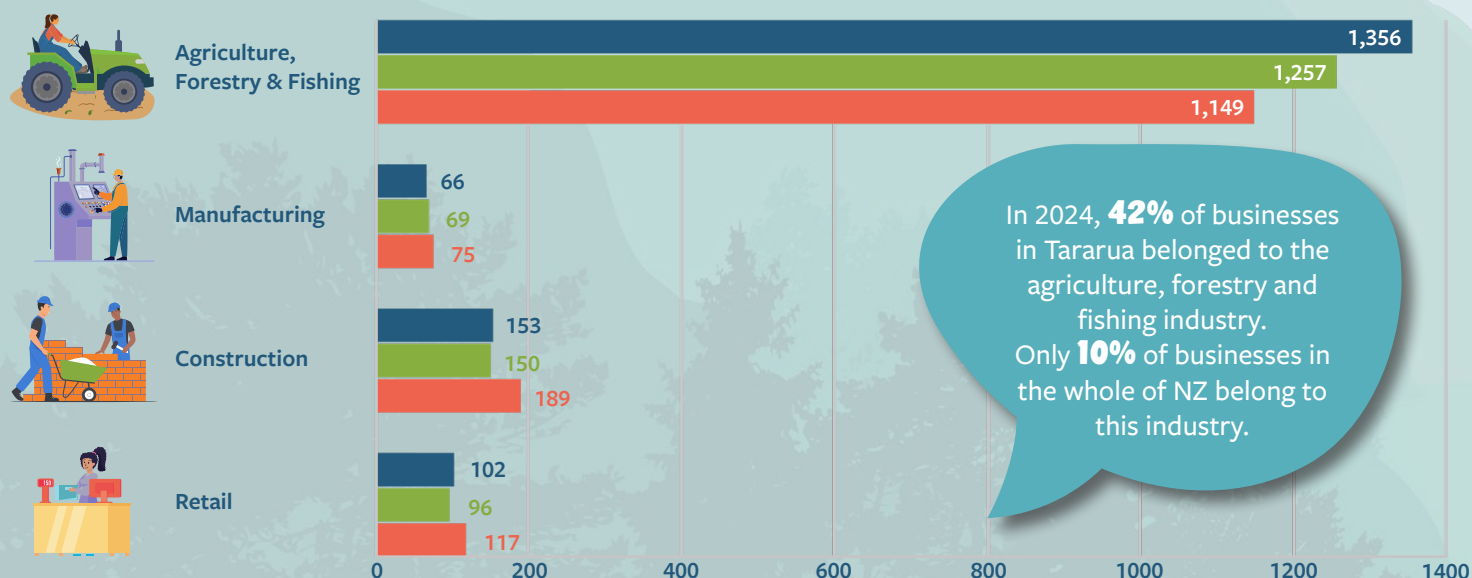
### Demographics

Total population – 19,050

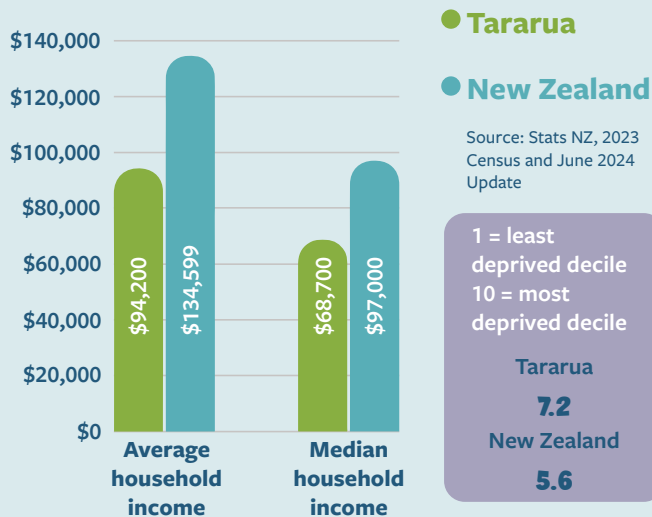


### Businesses in Tararua

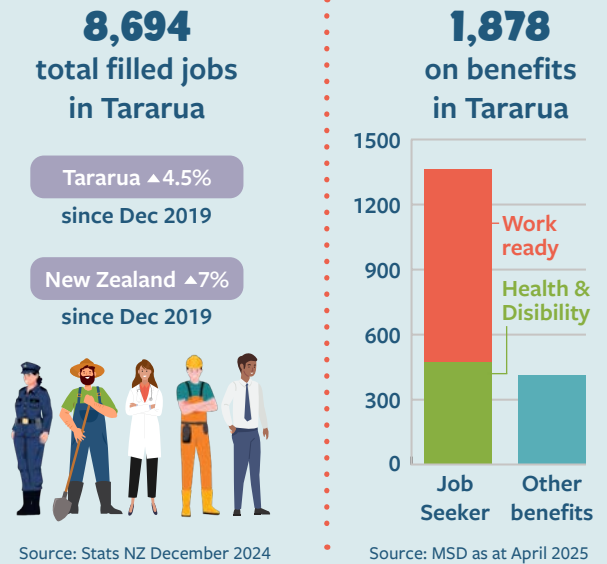
Source: Stats NZ



## Income and Deprivation



## Employment



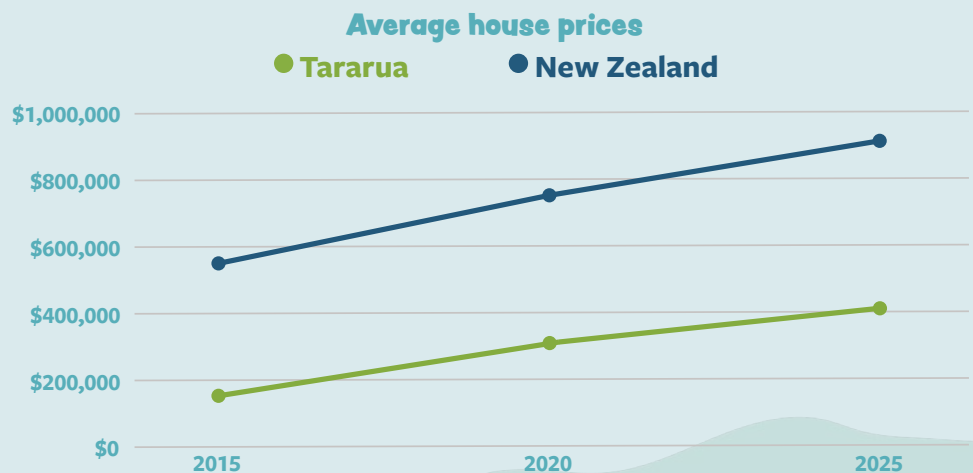
## Housing Affordability

Source: Stats NZ and QV average house prices



Years of average household income  
required to buy average house

Taranua **4.4 years**  
New Zealand **6.8 years**



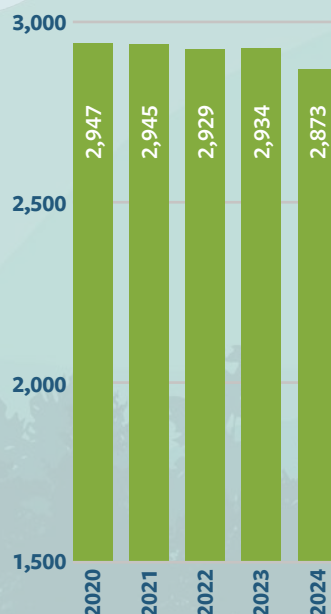
## School Students

Source: Education Counts  
(Ministry of Education)



Student attendance -  
2024 Term 4

Taranua **63.1%**  
New Zealand **58.1%**



## Health Enrolments

Source: THINK Hauora - Taranua District

**16,293**  
June 2023

**16,336**  
June 2024



## Crime Stats

Source: NZ Police



**1,792**  
Year ending  
March 2024

**1,616**  
▼ 9.8%  
Year ending  
March 2025









# WE'VE GOT SOME BIG JOBS ON THE GO RIGHT NOW.

This section gives a snapshot of what's planned and already underway across the district — a look at the key projects and priorities on the table. Challenges and opportunities facing Council will be covered in a separate section.

For candidates, these are the priorities you'll be helping to shape — and the opportunities you'll have to make a real difference in the years ahead.

For voters, these are the projects you can expect to see delivered in your community and in some instances, these are the issues you can expect Council to ask you for feedback on in the future.



# NGĀ TINO HINONGA ME NGĀ WHAKAAROTAU

## MAJOR PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND CORE SERVICES

#### Water Meters

We will be installing water meters for properties connected to our Council water supply. This project is a step toward more efficient and fairer water use across the Tararua District.

Right now, we're looking into the best hardware and software, possible charging options, and making sure backflow prevention is in place to keep our drinking water safe.

Councils across New Zealand have seen water use drop by up to 30% after installing meters. When people can see how much water they're using, they tend to use it more wisely and can spot problems like leaks sooner.

Currently, only 11.4% of connected properties in the Tararua District — that's 658 out of 5,787 — have water meters. For residents, having a meter means better visibility of how much water is being used. It also means people will only pay for the water they actually use, rather than everyone paying the same regardless of usage.

We'll roll out installations over the next three to four years. While the exact approach to charging hasn't been confirmed yet, we're looking at a transition process that we'll consult on in the new financial year.

For us, measuring water use is key to managing our network better. The data helps identify where water might be getting lost or wasted, which could avoid costly infrastructure upgrades later. It also helps with long term planning so we can keep water accessible and affordable into the future.

Using water more efficiently might also mean we don't need to apply for increased

water take consents — saving costs and easing pressure on our water sources.

Water meters are part of New Zealand's wider water reform work. They help create a fairer system, where high users pay more and low users pay less.

#### What to expect:

- ▶ Meter installations will begin at the end of this year and roll out area by area.
- ▶ We'll contact you before your installation.
- ▶ Meters will be placed near existing tobies (usually at the property boundary).
- ▶ We'll share more updates in the coming months.



#### MORE INFORMATION

See Page 28 of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document:



[https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0029/185564/LWDW-Consultation-One-Page-14-March-2025.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/185564/LWDW-Consultation-One-Page-14-March-2025.pdf)



## Dannevirke Impounded Water Supply

Since major repairs in July 2023, the Impounded Supply has been performing well.

We've been operating it at a water level of 9 metres (below the maximum of 12 metres), with daily monitoring and checks continuing.

### Background of issue

In July 2021, leakage was discovered in the Dannevirke impounded water supply. An extraordinary Council meeting in October 2023 discussed the next steps, including funding for raw-water treatment, extra storage, and delaying a final decision on repairs until more information was available.

In September 2024, Council received reports from Tonkin & Taylor, Damwatch, and others. These covered geotechnical investigations, liner inspections, and options for the future.

### Since then, several steps have been taken to strengthen the impounded supply:

- ▶ Expert advice confirmed the supply is performing as designed. While there are risks, none are considered immediate, and continuous monitoring is in place.
- ▶ Divers patched three small pinholes in the liner. No new issues have been found and the impound has stabilised. On-going daily monitoring is required and we have plans and procedures in place should anything change.
- ▶ A plot of land has been identified for a new treated water reservoir. Once built, it will provide a backup supply and allow repairs to the existing treated water reservoir if needed.
- ▶ Testing of the Tamaki River during heavy rain has been carried out to assess how we manage turbid (muddy) water. Results have proven that a clarifier is the improvement needed.
- ▶ We are now progressing with land purchases to build a plant capable of treating more turbid water directly from the river, along with new treated water storage. This work

will be done before any further decisions are made on the impounded supply.

- ▶ A temporary pump is in place to access the lower six metres of water in the impounded supply. A permanent pumping solution is being designed.
- ▶ Six-monthly underwater drone inspections will continue to make sure the liner remains in good condition.



### MORE INFORMATION

See the Projects section of the website:



<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/services/projects/current-projects/dannevirke-impounded-water-supply>

## Pahiatua Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The upgrade to Pahiatua's Wastewater Treatment Plant has come a long way since plans were first presented in December 2022.

After working closely with Iwi, Horizons, and industry experts, we've refined our design approach and selected two Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) plants capable of treating 2,500m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater per day.

Originally, estimates ranged from \$4.4 million to \$10.5 million. In the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034, the cost was estimated at \$1,887,480, but after finalising the detailed designs, this has now increased to \$3,300,000.

We considered other options, like a single

larger DAF plant (5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day), but it wasn't the best fit. A single large DAF plant would have pushed operating limits and required more resources, making it less practical and more expensive in the long term.

The dual-plant system is more flexible to operate, more energy efficient, and importantly, cheaper to run long term. While the initial capital expenditure is higher, the long term operational savings and energy efficiency make this choice the best value for our community.

This upgrade ensures we meet the strict consent conditions that Council operates under, increases the plant's capacity, and removes solids from the treated wastewater before it flows into the new wetlands.

Our wetlands play a big role by helping filter and manage the discharge into the river. While the upfront cost is higher, this system is a smarter long term investment — it saves energy, reduces ongoing costs, and benefits both the environment and the Pahiatua community.

#### MORE INFORMATION

See Page 18 of the Annual Plan 2025/26 Consultation Document:



[https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/187028/FINAL-Annual-Plan-Consultation-Document-2025-26-compressed.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/187028/FINAL-Annual-Plan-Consultation-Document-2025-26-compressed.pdf)

## GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION

### Māori Ward referendum

In 2021, Council voted in favour of establishing a Māori Ward and the Tamaki nui-a-Rua Māori Ward was introduced in 2022, creating a dedicated Māori Ward seat at the Council table.

As we get ready for the 2025 local elections, the future of the Māori Ward will now be decided by voters through a referendum — as required by national rules. This means, when you vote for your local Council representatives, you'll also be asked to say yes or no to keeping the Māori Ward.

The Government passed the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, which came into force on 30 July 2024. This Act made several changes to the mechanisms for establishing Māori wards, including reintroducing the option for the community to demand a binding poll after the establishment of a Māori ward by a council.

The Act also requires several councils (including both the Tararua District Council and Horizons Regional Council) to hold a binding poll at the 2025 elections on whether or not to retain their current Māori wards or constituencies.

The Poll will seek confirmation from the community as a whole about whether to continue with the Māori Ward. The results of the Poll will come into effect for the 2028 election.

#### MORE INFORMATION



Links to the Act and Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/maori-wards>



## Iwi partnership

Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua represent many Hapū (sub-tribes), each with their own whenua (land) and awa (river) tributaries. Both Iwi have signed deeds of settlement with the Crown and have partnership agreements with Tararua District Council.

Our relationship with Iwi continues to grow stronger. We are committed to supporting their aspirations, including through capacity-building help from Better Off Funding.

While Council has responsibilities to all Māori, we also have a special duty to act in good faith and with mutual respect towards our Iwi partners.

This means recognising Iwi priorities and respecting their traditions — especially ancestral land, water, wāhi tapu (sacred sites), valued plants and animals, and other taonga (treasures).

To support these partnerships, it's important that Iwi and Māori receive all the information they need to contribute fully to Council decision-making.

Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua played a key role in shaping our Long Term Plan. This created open and transparent engagement and built strong foundations of trust and shared opportunity — from Council to Iwi, and Iwi to Council.

Together, Council and our Iwi partners share a vision for a thriving, healthy district that supports its people and their cultural values.

This is guided by the principles of kotahitanga (unity) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) — working together to care for the environment and manage natural and physical resources responsibly.

Through ongoing engagement with Iwi, Māori,

and the wider community, we have developed a shared understanding of the outcomes we want to achieve. For our Iwi partnership, these include:

- ▶ Embracing the Treaty principles of partnership, protection, and participation with Iwi and Hapū, while sharing and respecting Te Ao Māori.
- ▶ Supporting Iwi aspirations, including priority areas such as housing, rangatahi (youth), and health.
- ▶ Working in partnership with Iwi, Hapū, and Māori on initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of tāngata whenua across Tararua.



### MORE INFORMATION



**District Strategy:** [https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/138248/Tararua-District-Council-Final-Draft-District-Strategy-2050.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/138248/Tararua-District-Council-Final-Draft-District-Strategy-2050.pdf)



**Better Off Funding:** <https://nationalinfrastructure.govt.nz/better-off-funding-bof/>

# STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GROWTH

## Growth Strategy

Tararua has begun to experience increased population growth, with an increased demand for land for development.

Therefore, Council have developed an Urban Growth Strategy to establish clear, effective direction for the management of projected residential, commercial and industrial growth within our district over the next 30 years.

Until now, our growth has been largely opportunistic, with a lack of clear direction. Many opportunities to improve infrastructure and community well-being aren't easily obtained, and there's a risk we could have a district made up of disconnected and poorly integrated development. We've also seen the loss of rural land to ad-hoc subdivision, with little focus on connected communities or sustainable environmental outcomes.

The Urban Growth Strategy has been developed to help us understand our growth requirements, outline the challenges faced with increased housing demand, and provide recommendations for how we can meet these demands efficiently and effectively. This has had to be balanced against legislative requirements like the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land, infrastructure demands and natural hazard limitations.

We have been aspirational with our population projections as we are mindful of the opportunities that the opening of Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatū Tararua Highway will have on the future of the Tararua District, particularly Woodville.

The recommendations from the Urban Growth Strategy will be adopted into the Proposed District Plan Review.

### The Urban Growth Strategy has recommended:

- ▶ Residential zone changes to facilitate future growth across our town centres.
- ▶ Providing industrial zoning for existing industrial activities in Rural areas such as Fonterra and Oringi Business Park.
- ▶ Adopting the concept of a "Mixed Use" zoning to replace commercial zoning, creating more flexibility for landowners within our town centres. The Mixed Use zone is being increasingly used in district's such as ours to allow for a range of activities to happen on a single site. It typically allows for commercial or retail activity on the ground floor of a building (and in some circumstances light industrial might also be appropriate), with residential activity on upper floors or at the rear of buildings.
- ▶ Adopting a Māori Multi Purpose Zone to create flexibility for Māori land and facilitate papa kainga development.



### MORE INFORMATION



**Urban Growth Strategy:** <https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/plans-and-reports/growth-strategy>



**District Strategy:** [https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/138248/Tararua-District-Council-Final-Draft-District-Strategy-2050.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/138248/Tararua-District-Council-Final-Draft-District-Strategy-2050.pdf)



## Urban Enhancement Strategy 2025–2050

Council has developed an Urban Enhancement Strategy — a shared vision to improve public spaces and support vibrant, welcoming town centres.

Funded through Better Off Funding, this builds on the Urban Growth Strategy but shifts focus from private land to the places we share — like town squares, parks, and main streets.

The Strategy will guide future projects by Council, developers, and community groups, making sure plans reflect local needs. It doesn't set specific projects or timelines, but it provides a clear framework for decisions and investment.

### The Strategy:

- ▶ Identifies investment priorities for public spaces.
- ▶ Sets guidelines for amenities and beautification projects.
- ▶ Encourages cohesive development involving developers, the council, and the community.
- ▶ Promotes sustainability by integrating public feedback and future growth projections.



### MORE INFORMATION



**Urban Enhancement Strategy:**  
<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/?a=189181>



**Better Off Funding:**  
<https://nationalinfrastructure.govt.nz/better-off-funding-bof/>

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND FACILITIES

### WaiSplash carpark proposal

Parking and safety issues around WaiSplash Community Aquatic Centre in Dannevirke have been a concern for some time — especially during busy periods and events at the nearby sports fields.

Earlier this year, Council asked the community for feedback on a proposal to buy land on York Street to allow for a carpark extension. Following public feedback, Council agreed for the Chief Executive to negotiate the purchase of 33 York Street, and enter into a sale and purchase agreement for the property, subject to confirmation by Council at a later meeting (yet to be determined).

If the land is purchased, and the carpark extension doesn't go ahead, Council can still sell the site in the future. However, if another buyer gets in first, the opportunity to improve parking at this location will be permanently lost.

If Council proceeds with the purchase, it will be funded through the General Purpose Fund — a reserve that can be used for things like land purchases, without affecting rates or costing ratepayers extra.



### MORE INFORMATION

See Page 11 of the Annual Plan 2025/26 Consultation Document:



[https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/187028/FINAL-Annual-Plan-Consultation-Documents-2025-26-compressed.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/187028/FINAL-Annual-Plan-Consultation-Documents-2025-26-compressed.pdf)

## Pahiatua pool

During the Long Term Plan consultation, the Pahiatua community strongly supported building a new indoor swimming pool to replace the old one. A record number of submissions highlighted the need for a year-round space for swim education, lessons, and programmes for all ages.

The project is expected to cost \$6.1 million. Tararua District Council has already contributed \$600,000 for design and committed another \$2.5 million after seeing strong community backing. The Bush Aquatic Trust has raised \$2.5 million and is working to secure the final \$1.1 million.

It's been a long journey for both the Trust and Council. Together, we've worked to put the project in the best position to move ahead. The design is complete and we have now engaged the market for construction negotiations.



### MORE INFORMATION

See Page 19 of the Annual Plan  
2025/26 Consultation Document:



[https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/187028/FINAL-Annual-Plan-Consultation-Documents-2025-26-compressed.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/187028/FINAL-Annual-Plan-Consultation-Documents-2025-26-compressed.pdf)

**Elected  
members are  
responsible  
for setting  
the direction  
for council  
projects and  
priorities.**

**Want to learn more?  
Check out the 2024-  
2034 Long Term Plan:**

[www.tararua.govt.nz/publications](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications)









# OUR DISTRICT IS FACING SOME REAL CHALLENGES.

From rising costs and ageing infrastructure to major government reforms that are reshaping how councils work across Aotearoa New Zealand - there's a lot on the table.

**But it's not all doom and gloom.** These challenges are also opportunities – to rethink how we work, invest smarter, and shape a stronger future for our communities.

In the next few pages, we'll break down what's going on, what it means for Tararua, and how we're planning to tackle it – **together.**

# NGĀ WERO ME NGĀ ANGITŪTANGA

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Local Water Done Well

Water is something we all rely on - every home, farm, and business depends on it.

Across the country, our urban water systems are under pressure - pipes are aging, costs are rising, standards are continually changing and we're facing more regulations around how drinking water and wastewater is properly managed.

To tackle these challenges, Central Government has been rolling out new water reforms with legislation called 'Local Water Done Well', replacing the previous Three Waters Reform. This aims to make sure that water assets stay under Council ownership, either directly or indirectly, and lets each council decide the best way to provide water services to their communities.

Costs have been increasing for water services in New Zealand for some time, and everyone agrees that we need to find better ways to provide safe and reliable water that is as affordable as possible.

In Tararua, water is one of the biggest cost pressures on rates, especially in our urban areas. Around 4.19% of the 7.29% rates increase for the 2025/26 Annual Plan is related to water.

On 11 June, Tararua District Council voted to progress work on the joint Wairarapa-Tararua water services model, set out under the

Government's Local Water Done Well reform.

This should ease price pressures in the long run, but there are still unavoidable big costs coming up that will push prices up anyway.

A joint council-controlled organisation (CCO) for water services will be formed with Masterton, Carterton, and South Wairarapa District Councils. Community consultation held across the districts from February to April showed strong support for the model.

Council also agreed to prepare a contingency plan in case any Wairarapa council chooses to withdraw from the plan for a joint organisation.

The councils have a Commitment Agreement to begin detailed planning on how to deliver water services together. This includes developing a joint Water Services Delivery Plan and negotiating the terms for establishing the shared organisation.

Alongside this, a Tararua-specific Water Services Delivery Plan will be developed. Based on the Long Term Plan, it will reflect the new delivery structure and meet updated economic measures. Projects will be identified for future delivery, but current planned works to improve water supply resilience will continue as scheduled.

The Water Services Delivery Plan needs to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) by each council by 3 September, demonstrating financial sustainability.







## Drinking water in Tararua

**Over 5,700 residential properties are serviced through the following individual water supplies:**

**8** water intakes, including **2** bores

**7** water treatment plants

**1** pump station and **14** reservoirs

**267kms** of water supply pipelines (that's approximately the same distance as Dannevirke to New Plymouth)

Average age of our pipelines: **50 years**

**47kms** of laterals



## Wastewater in Tararua

**Over 5,300 customers are connected to Council's wastewater systems:**

**7** wastewater treatment plants

**21** sewer pump stations

**95kms** of wastewater pipelines (that's approximately the same distance as Dannevirke to Hastings)

Average age of our pipelines: **80 years**

**1,100** maintenance chambers



## Stormwater in Tararua

**Over 5,000 customers benefit from Council's stormwater systems:**

**28kms** of stormwater pipelines

**26kms** of open channel drains and streams

Average age of our pipelines: **37 years**

**1,100** maintenance chambers and sumps



## Affordability and cost of living

We know that affordability and the rising cost of living are major concerns for our communities.

Like households and businesses across New Zealand, we're facing significant cost increases driven by inflation that's far higher than originally forecast.

Many of the cost pressures we are facing come from an ongoing capital works programme, new regulatory changes, and rising interest costs.

Of the proposed 7.29% rates increase for this year, 4.19% relates directly to water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

Without these waters services, the draft average rates increase would have been around 3.1%. The cost of water services is expected to keep rising in the coming years, making it a significant cost for our community.

Some costs are unavoidable and are being passed down to local councils by the Government – for example, the new \$101,000 levy for the national water regulator Taumata Arowai (\$77,000), and a fee of \$24,000 for the Commerce Commission.

However, we are actively working to deliver services more efficiently, while building a resilient, future-focused district.

### Our financial strategy is committed to:

- ▶ Managing costs carefully while continuing to invest in essential infrastructure and services.
- ▶ Building resilience and providing for growth.
- ▶ Maintaining our current asset base and increasing levels of service where most needed.

### Key cost-saving and efficiency initiatives include:

- ▶ **Kerbside recycling brought in-house:** Several cost-saving measures have been put in place by bringing this in-house. By taking direct control of our kerbside recycling service, we have reduced the average cost to ratepayers by 19.63%.
- ▶ **Section 17A service reviews:** We do these reviews every six years to ensure our services are being delivered in the best way possible – researching sharing with other councils, in-house and outsourcing options. We have completed reviews of our campgrounds, pools, and solid waste services to ensure they are being delivered in the most cost-effective way.
- ▶ **Reducing rates increases:** In the current Long Term Plan, a rates rise of 11.79% was forecast for 2024/25. Through careful reprioritisation, funding adjustments, and deferring non-essential activities, we have reduced this to 7.29%.



- ▶ **Asset sales and land rationalisation:** Council is proposing the sale of underused land and properties, with 4 sites proposed for sale. By reviewing this, we can reduce debt and free up funds to invest in critical infrastructure. There will be no sale of these properties until we have heard community feedback.
- ▶ **Integration of services:** We are working towards creating more efficient, one-stop service hubs in Woodville, Pahiatua, and Dannevirke, improving customer experience while saving operational costs.
- ▶ **Pensioner housing sustainability:** Our pensioner housing service remains self-funding, without relying on rates. We are progressively increasing rents to maintain healthy, affordable homes for older residents while building reserves to renew aging housing stock.

Despite challenging economic conditions, we continue to focus on being financially prudent.

As we weigh up necessities and nice to haves, we will look for ways to reduce costs, manage debt prudently, and ensure our communities receive essential services at the best possible value.

**A section 17A review is a check required by the Local Government Act to see if a council service is being delivered in the best, most cost-effective way — either by the council or someone else.**

## Growth

We've got some major growth opportunities, like the opening of the new Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway. This will create even more growth for our district, and we want to be ready for it (and the challenges that growth can bring).

This highway will bring more people, jobs, and business. With that in mind, we need to attract business and industrial growth throughout our District, to provide jobs for our locals. If we plan right, we'll all benefit and that is why, alongside our District Strategy and Growth Strategy, we are working on a District Plan review.

Our current population is 19,050 and our projected population growth by 2034 is 20,357. It's important we grow Tararua in a sustainable way that values our identity but also ensures we are ready for the opportunities ahead of us.

Some things to keep in mind with this growth include; making sure we consider climate change impacts, thinking about what our largely rural landscape can and should produce, making sure people can continue to work with greater flexibility, and future-proofing our infrastructure.

Balancing growth and affordability are key. We aim to be realistic about what's needed for growth while ensuring it remains within our means. We want to have growth and affordability work hand in hand for a sustainable future.





## Footpaths in Tararua

During the development of the Transport Activity Management Plan, covering the period of the 2024-2027 National Land Transport Plan, Councillors approved an increase in funding to address key maintenance issues across the footpath network.

However, due to Central Government changes in priorities, the subsidised funding available for footpaths was reduced by \$1M compared to the budget available through the 2021-2024 National Land Transport Plan. As a result of the significant funding drop, we are currently only able to attend to the most serious footpath maintenance issues.

Council consulted on whether to boost footpath funding by \$150,000 due to the reduced NZTA support, which would have raised rates by 0.40%. Most of the 42 submissions (33) were against it. Instead, Council will use \$150,000 from depreciation reserves to fund urgent footpath maintenance, focusing on safety — with no impact on this year's rates.

This allows us to maintain the current level of service. The next opportunity to seek additional subsidised funding will be in the 2026/27 financial year through the National Land Transport Programme 2027/2030.

## Government reform and changes to the Resource Management Act

Central Government has announced that the Resource Management Act 1991 will be replaced.

It will be replaced with two new acts that clearly distinguish between land-use planning and natural resource management, while putting a priority on the enjoyment of private property rights.

These changes are expected to have flow-on effects for councils across the country, including Tararua. While the full implications are not yet clear, we anticipate adjustments will be needed to our processes and policies as the new system is introduced.



**Elected members are responsible for understanding local issues and directing staff to explore and develop options for effective solutions.**

**Want to learn more?**  
**Check out the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan:**

[www.tararua.govt.nz/publications](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications)









# LET'S JUMP INTO THE FINANCIAL SIDE OF THINGS.

This is where we get into the numbers — budgets, funding, and financial planning. It's the engine room of council operations and the part that supports every service, project, and decision we make.

In this section, you'll find information about our financial position, details on debt and cashflow, and a summary of major projects.

# NGĀ NAMA ME NGĀ PŪTEA

## DEBT & FINANCIAL RATIOS

Debt and Financial Ratios	Limit	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Rates affordability benchmark</b>								
- Income Limit (\$000's)		29,242	33,441	38,946	42,783	46,485	50,978	54,438
- Actual Income (\$000's)		30,624	34,773	38,199	41,504	47,554	50,829	54,292
- Increases Limit		7.90%	9.20%	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	7.20%	7.10%
- Actual Increases*		11.22%	13.17%	11.67%	8.61%	11.57%	6.86%	6.79%
<b>Debt affordability</b>								
Net Debt as a percentage of total revenue	less than 175%	73.3%	60.4%	86.6%	128.1%	127.5%	160.1%	161.0%
Net interest as a percentage of total revenue	less than 10%	2.6%	2.3%	4.2%	4.4%	5.8%	7.6%	8.3%
Net interest as a percentage of annual rates income (debt secured under debenture)	less than 15%	6.0%	6.4%	8.9%	8.0%	9.7%	11.0%	11.8%
Liquidity (External, term debt + committed loan facilities + available liquid investments to existing external debt)	greater than 110%	131.2%	124.5%	123.0%	112.3%	115.4%	112.8%	111.9%
Balanced Budget Benchmark	greater than 100%	100.3%	110.4%	128.5%	118.6%	117.9%	102.7%	104.4%
Essential Services Benchmark	greater than 100%	132.8%	218.0%	282.0%	278.0%	225.2%	207.1%	155.7%
Debt Servicing Benchmark	less than 10%	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%	4.4%	5.9%	7.7%	8.4%

\*Increases recorded within the financial strategy differ to actual increases due to Council being required under the Local Government Act (2002) to include revenue it has budgeted for water meter consumption in the rates increase calculation. Water consumption revenue budgeted can differ significantly depending on actual consumption within any financial year and is charged to the individual properties separate to the rates process.

### What is a “Limit of Net External Debt”?

The Net External Debt Ratio shows how much money council owes compared to how much it earns each year from rates and other income.

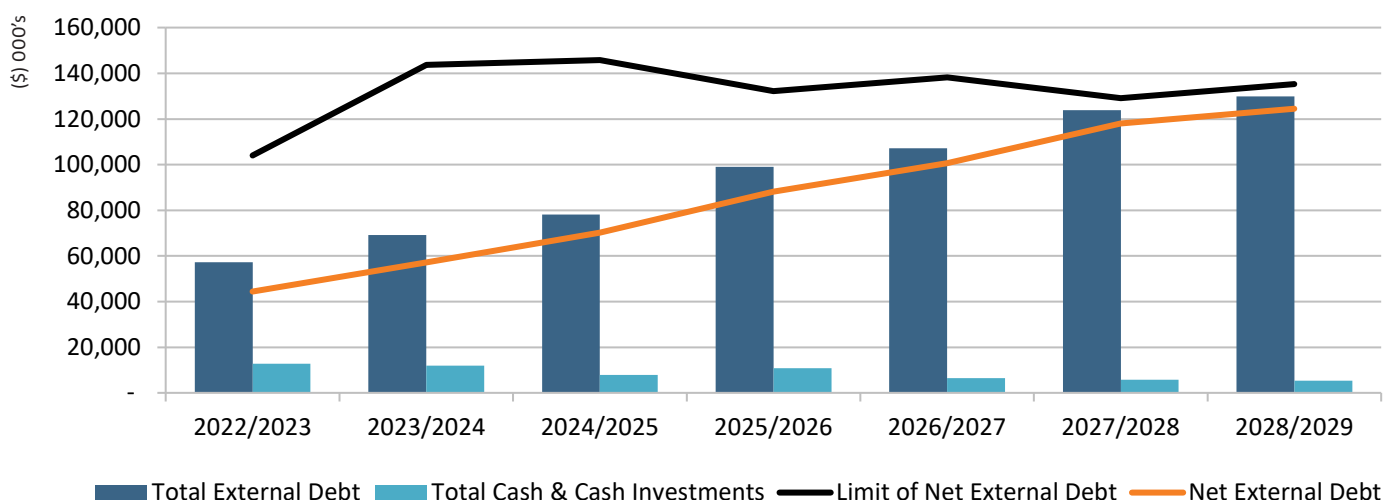
It helps make sure council isn't borrowing more than it can afford to pay back.

**Tararua District Council's ratio is 175%, which means our debt is 1.75 times our yearly income.**

While that might sound high, it's still within the standard borrowing limits set for councils across New Zealand. This level of borrowing allows us to invest in essential infrastructure and services for the district, while still keeping our finances in check.

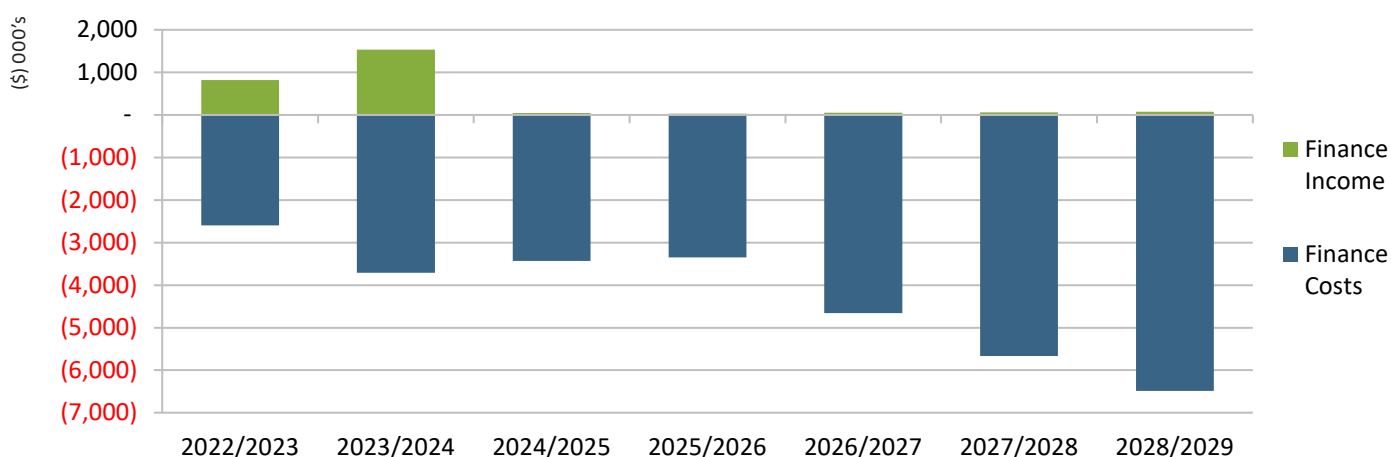


## Debt & Cash Investment Position



**Graph Summary:** Our debt is going up each year, and our cash reserves are staying low. Even though we're borrowing more, we're still staying within our allowed debt limit, so it's being managed responsibly.

## Finance Income & Expense



**Graph Summary:** The interest we have to pay is going up each year, while the interest we earn from savings stays low. This means the cost of borrowing will keep increasing over time, and more of the council's money will go toward paying interest.

### What do you mean by AR, AP, LTP?

AR means Annual Report, AP means Annual Plan, and LTP means Long Term Plan (or 10-year Plan).

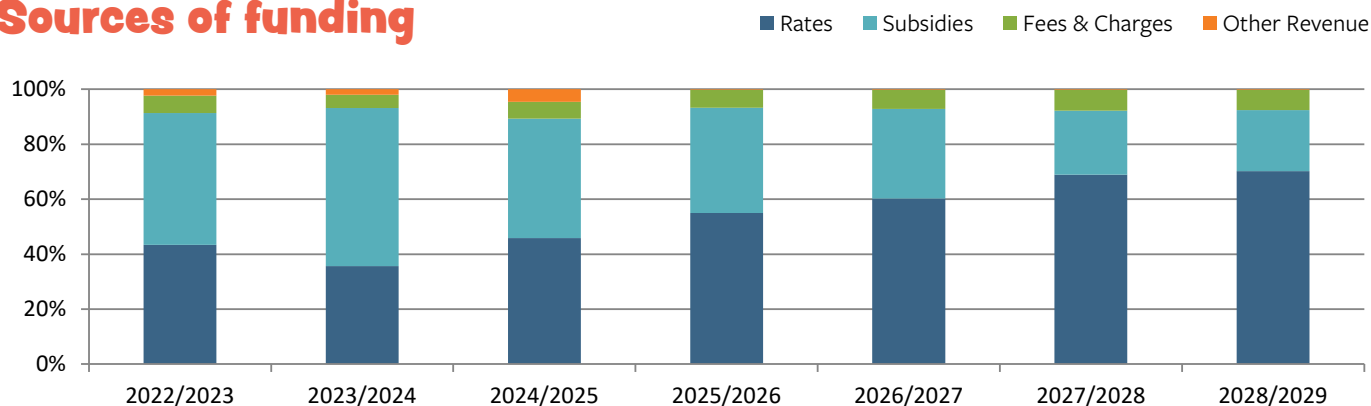
LTPs are reviewed every three years, with Annual Plans prepared in the years between (except Year 1 of the LTP, which also serves as the Annual Plan), and Annual Reports are produced each year to show Council's actual results against budgets set in the AP or LTP.

# HE TAUĀKĪ WHAKAPAUNGA MONI

## STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

Statement of Cashflows	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Cash from Operating Activities</b>							
<b>Cash was provided from:</b>							
Rates	29,444	33,052	37,473	40,327	46,851	50,184	53,617
Grants & Subsidies	31,105	49,284	36,098	29,011	25,758	17,159	17,159
Fees, Charges and other receipts (incl Donations)	4,371	3,974	5,129	4,903	5,558	5,659	5,747
Interest received	547	1,608	41	29	54	58	73
Dividends and subvention payments received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other revenue	468	294	90	132	68	60	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,935</b>	<b>88,212</b>	<b>78,831</b>	<b>74,401</b>	<b>78,289</b>	<b>73,121</b>	<b>76,663</b>
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>							
Payments to staff & suppliers	(45,510)	(60,513)	(39,861)	(39,910)	(40,574)	(43,688)	(44,492)
Interest paid	(2,222)	(3,549)	(3,430)	(3,352)	(4,659)	(5,663)	(6,485)
GST payments	(1,678)	(333)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(49,410)</b>	<b>(64,395)</b>	<b>(43,291)</b>	<b>(43,262)</b>	<b>(45,233)</b>	<b>(49,351)</b>	<b>(50,977)</b>
<b>Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>16,525</b>	<b>23,817</b>	<b>35,540</b>	<b>31,139</b>	<b>33,056</b>	<b>23,770</b>	<b>25,685</b>

## Sources of funding



**Graph Summary:** Over the past few years, higher government subsidies—such as for Route 52 upgrades and Cyclone Gabrielle recovery—helped reduce pressure on rates. As these one-off subsidies phase out, a greater share of funding must come from rates. This trend would only shift if Central Government increases funding support in future.

Statement of Cashflows	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Cash from Investing Activities</b>							
<b>Cash was provided from:</b>							
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	47	-	-	200	200	200
Proceeds from investments realised	4,929	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,929</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>							
Purchase of fixed assets	(21,989)	(36,736)	(50,454)	(49,895)	(43,719)	(40,916)	(32,176)
Purchase of investments	(1,864)	(2,900)	(268)	(461)	(253)	(417)	(150)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(23,853)</b>	<b>(39,636)</b>	<b>(50,722)</b>	<b>(50,355)</b>	<b>(43,972)</b>	<b>(41,333)</b>	<b>(32,326)</b>
<b>Net cash inflow (outflow) form investing activities</b>	<b>(18,923)</b>	<b>(39,588)</b>	<b>(46,922)</b>	<b>(50,355)</b>	<b>(43,772)</b>	<b>(41,133)</b>	<b>(32,126)</b>
<b>Cash from Financing Activities</b>							
<b>Cash was provided from:</b>							
Proceeds from borrowing	18,200	37,200	13,563	21,649	14,525	21,829	11,468
Tenant contributions received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>37,200</b>	<b>13,563</b>	<b>21,649</b>	<b>14,525</b>	<b>21,829</b>	<b>11,468</b>
<b>Cash was applied to:</b>							
Repayment of borrowings	(12,033)	(25,200)	(2,828)	(3,223)	(4,414)	(5,148)	(5,464)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(12,033)</b>	<b>(25,200)</b>	<b>(2,828)</b>	<b>(3,223)</b>	<b>(4,414)</b>	<b>(5,148)</b>	<b>(5,464)</b>
<b>Net cash inflow (outflow) form financing activities</b>	<b>6,167</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>10,734</b>	<b>18,425</b>	<b>10,111</b>	<b>16,681</b>	<b>6,004</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>(3,771)</b>	<b>(648)</b>	<b>(791)</b>	<b>(606)</b>	<b>(681)</b>	<b>(437)</b>
Total cash at start of the year	3,213	6,982	7,689	(337)	6,216	5,610	4,929
<b>Total cash resources at end of the year</b>	<b>6,982</b>	<b>3,211</b>	<b>7,041</b>	<b>(1,128)</b>	<b>5,610</b>	<b>4,929</b>	<b>4,492</b>



# HE TAUĀKĪ WHAKAWENGA HAUPŪ

## FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENT

Funding Impact Statement	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Sources of Operating Funding</b>							
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	12,727	13,818	14,726	16,378	17,638	18,356	19,243
Targeted rates (other than a targeted rate for water supply)	17,897	20,955	23,473	25,126	29,916	32,473	35,049
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	19,723	37,068	8,689	7,756	7,458	8,147	8,147
Fees, charges, and targeted rates for water supply	4,326	4,573	4,979	4,753	5,408	5,509	5,597
Interest and dividends from investments	819	1,536	41	29	54	58	73
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	817	378	240	282	218	210	216
<b>Total Operating Funding (A)</b>	<b>56,309</b>	<b>78,328</b>	<b>52,148</b>	<b>54,323</b>	<b>60,692</b>	<b>64,753</b>	<b>68,324</b>
<b>Applications of Operating Funding</b>							
Payments to staff and suppliers	49,297	64,852	40,207	40,757	40,925	44,068	44,879
Finance Costs	2,599	3,711	3,430	3,352	4,659	5,663	6,485
<b>Total applications of operating funding (B)</b>	<b>51,896</b>	<b>68,563</b>	<b>43,637</b>	<b>44,109</b>	<b>45,584</b>	<b>49,731</b>	<b>51,365</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A-B)</b>	<b>4,413</b>	<b>9,765</b>	<b>8,511</b>	<b>10,214</b>	<b>15,109</b>	<b>15,022</b>	<b>16,960</b>
<b>Sources of capital funding</b>							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	13,070	17,443	27,408	21,255	18,300	9,013	9,013
increase (decrease) in debt	6,200	12,000	10,734	18,425	10,111	16,681	6,004
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	3,800	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated Capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total sources of capital funding (C)</b>	<b>19,270</b>	<b>29,443</b>	<b>41,943</b>	<b>39,681</b>	<b>28,411</b>	<b>25,694</b>	<b>15,016</b>

Funding Impact Statement	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
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### Applications of capital funding

#### Capital expenditure

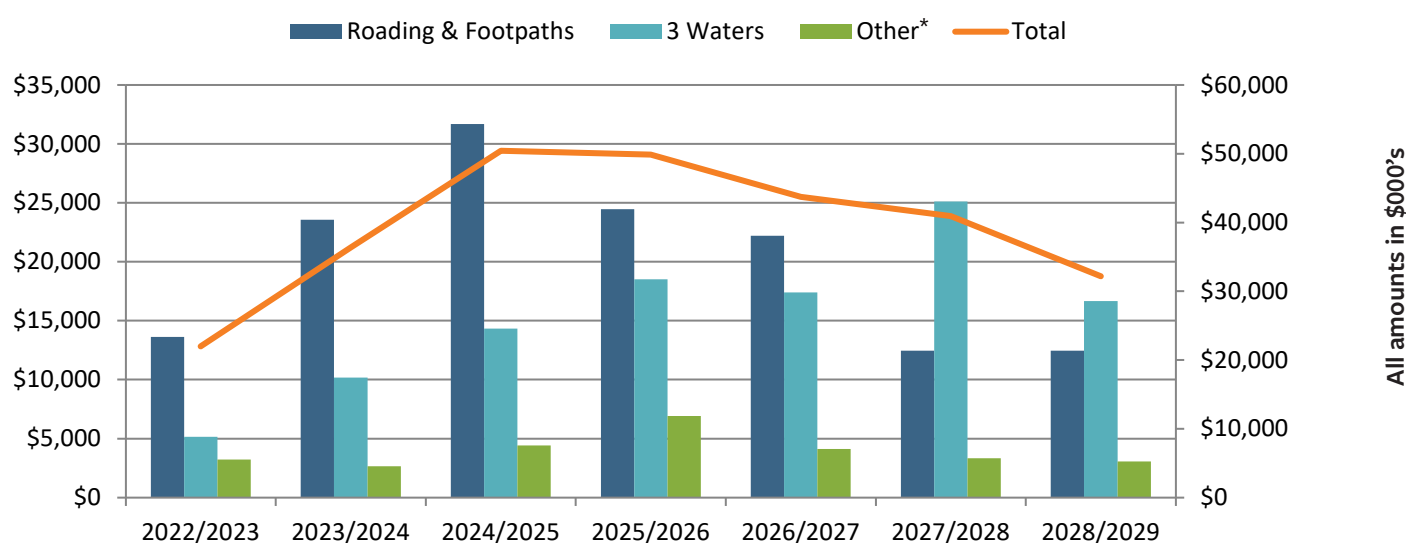
- to meet additional demand	336	2,517	1,457	2,496	1,313	2,494	1,134
- to improve the level of service	7,533	11,041	4,863	14,146	8,461	9,158	9,032
- to replace existing assets	14,122	22,832	44,134	33,253	33,945	29,264	22,011
Increase (decrease) in reserves	1,692	(82)	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) of investments	-	2,900	-	-	(200)	(200)	(200)
<b>Total applications of capital funding (D)</b>	<b>23,683</b>	<b>39,208</b>	<b>50,454</b>	<b>49,895</b>	<b>43,520</b>	<b>40,716</b>	<b>31,976</b>

<b>Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C-D)</b>	<b>(4,413)</b>	<b>(9,765)</b>	<b>(8,511)</b>	<b>(10,214)</b>	<b>(15,109)</b>	<b>(15,022)</b>	<b>(16,960)</b>
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<b>Funding Balance ((A-B)+(C-D))</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
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## Total capital expenditure:

roading and footpaths, water services and other



\* **Other** in this instance means all other activities of Council.



# HE TAUĀKĪ WHAKARĀPOTONGA TŪNGA PŪTEA

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Summary Statement of Financial Position	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Assets</b>							
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Financial Assets	22,175	25,887	16,081	23,237	16,053	16,017	16,254
Other Current Assets	137	2,068	137	110	137	137	137
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>23,678</b>	<b>29,043</b>	<b>17,584</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,556</b>	<b>17,520</b>	<b>17,757</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>							
Other Non-Current Assets	1,141,935	1,183,397	1,248,189	1,305,263	1,358,181	1,405,571	1,446,773
Financial Assets	52	54	52	54	52	52	52
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>1,148,311</b>	<b>1,190,418</b>	<b>1,253,529</b>	<b>1,308,900</b>	<b>1,363,617</b>	<b>1,411,059</b>	<b>1,452,311</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,171,990</b>	<b>1,219,461</b>	<b>1,271,113</b>	<b>1,333,358</b>	<b>1,381,173</b>	<b>1,428,579</b>	<b>1,470,069</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>							
<b>Current Liabilities</b>							
Other Current Liabilities	15,024	16,166	13,455	13,683	14,153	14,534	14,921
Borrowings	13,000	12,200	3,186	3,433	4,003	4,261	4,519
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>28,188</b>	<b>28,530</b>	<b>16,805</b>	<b>17,542</b>	<b>18,320</b>	<b>18,958</b>	<b>19,604</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>							
Other non-current liabilities	646	634	646	354	646	646	646
Borrowings	44,200	57,000	74,996	95,570	103,225	119,649	125,394
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>46,806</b>	<b>61,249</b>	<b>77,602</b>	<b>95,924</b>	<b>105,832</b>	<b>122,255</b>	<b>128,001</b>

Summary Statement of Financial Position	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>74,994</b>	<b>89,779</b>	<b>94,407</b>	<b>113,466</b>	<b>124,152</b>	<b>141,214</b>	<b>147,605</b>
<b>Equity</b>							
Retained Earnings	344,519	354,883	370,544	399,030	406,419	417,992	422,083
Other Reserves	752,477	774,799	806,162	820,861	850,602	869,374	900,381
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,096,996</b>	<b>1,129,682</b>	<b>1,176,706</b>	<b>1,219,891</b>	<b>1,257,021</b>	<b>1,287,365</b>	<b>1,322,464</b>

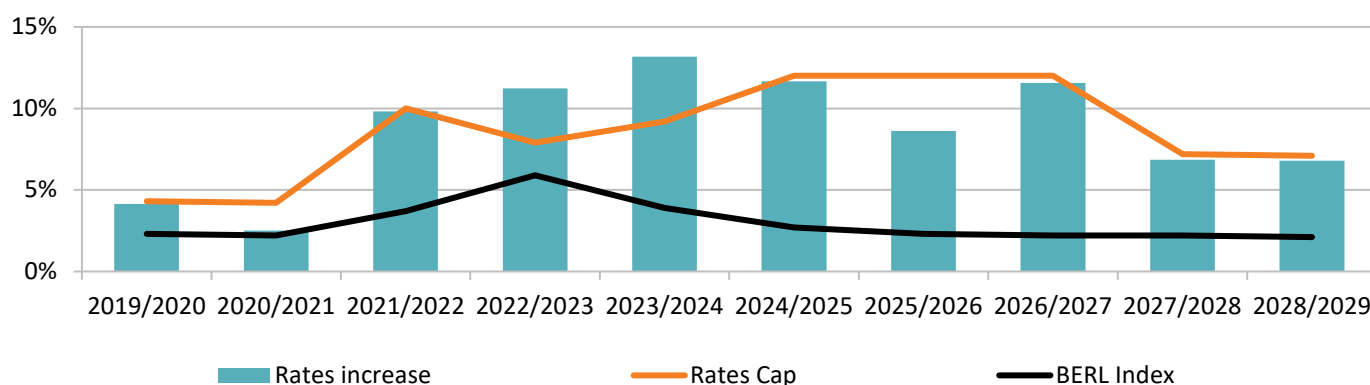
## Annual Rates Increases Over Time

This graph shows how our annual rates increases compare with both inflation (BERL Index) and the rates cap set in our Financial Strategy.

In recent years, our rates increases were higher to fund key services and catch up on rising costs – often above inflation (the BERL Index), but

mostly within or near our financial strategy cap.

From 2027/28, we have reduced our rates cap and are planning smaller rates increases - the aim of this is to provide ratepayers with some certainty around rates increases over the life of the current Long Term Plan.



### What is a “BERL Index”?

The BERL Local Government Cost Index is a type of inflation measure designed specifically for councils.

It tracks the rising costs of delivering local services — like fixing roads, maintaining water pipes, running waste services, and paying staff.

It's different from general inflation (like food or petrol prices) because it focuses on the things councils actually need to buy to keep the district running.

**When the BERL Index goes up, it means it costs more for councils to do their job — even if everyday inflation stays low.**



# NGĀ HINONGA PŪTEA NUI

## MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

### Summary of Capital Expenditure

Summary of Capital Expenditure	AR 2022/23 (000's)	AR 2023/24 (000's)	LTP Yr 1 2024/25 (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
Growth	336	2,517	1,457	2,496	1,313	2,494	1,134
Level of Service	7,533	11,041	4,863	14,146	8,461	9,158	9,032
Renewal	14,122	22,832	44,134	33,253	33,945	29,264	22,011
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,991</b>	<b>36,390</b>	<b>50,454</b>	<b>49,895</b>	<b>43,719</b>	<b>40,916</b>	<b>32,176</b>

### Major Capital Projects

Major Capital Projects	Total (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Growth</b>					
<b>Stormwater</b>					
District Stormwater Development	530	262	268	-	-
<b>Stormwater Total</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Wastewater</b>					
Wastewater Reticulation Network Extensions	2,178	514	532	555	577
<b>Wastewater Total</b>	<b>2,178</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>Water Supplies</b>					
Water Reticulation Network Extensions	4,352	1,414	476	1,939	524
<b>Water Supplies Total</b>	<b>4,352</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>524</b>
<b>Growth Grand Total</b>	<b>7,061</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>2,494</b>	<b>1,100</b>

Major Capital Projects	Total (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Level of Service</b>					
<b>Wastewater</b>					
Eketahuna Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	2,097	210	1,887	-	-
District Wastewater Sludge Disposal Facility	1,707	100	1,607	-	-
Pahiatua Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	3,460	3,460	-	-	-
Woodville Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	1,326	120	954	252	-
<b>Wastewater Total</b>	<b>8,590</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Water Supplies</b>					
District Universal Water Metering	1,788	610	384	393	401
<b>Water Supplies Total</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Transportation</b>					
Minor Safety Improvements	638	-	200	219	219
<b>Transportation Total</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>Community Facilities and Services</b>					
New Pahiatua Pool	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
Carpark Development Dannevirke	310	310	-	-	-
Carnegie Re-Design and Re-Development	1,072	-	1,072	-	-
<b>Communities Facilities and Services Total</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Level of Service Grand Total</b>	<b>14,898</b>	<b>7,310</b>	<b>6,104</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>620</b>

Major Capital Projects	Total (000's)	AP 2025/26 (000's)	LTP Yr 3 2026/27 (000's)	LTP Yr 4 2027/28 (000's)	LTP Yr 5 2028/29 (000's)
<b>Renewal</b>					
<b>Stormwater</b>					
Stormwater Reticulation Network Renewals	3,240	333	1,134	878	894
<b>Stormwater Total</b>	<b>3,240</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>894</b>
<b>Wastewater</b>					
Wastewater Reticulation Renewals	7,656	1,619	1,478	2,267	2,292
Infiltration Strategy and Implementation	1,532	629	536	329	39
<b>Wastewater Total</b>	<b>9,188</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>2,331</b>
<b>Water Supplies</b>					
Reticulation Water Mains Renewals	10,785	2,361	1,949	3,090	3,385
Dannevirke Water Rural Main Line Plant to Reservoir 2	7,821	-	1,537	6,284	-
Dannevirke Impounded Supply	1,049	1,049	-	-	-
<b>Water Supplies Total</b>	<b>19,655</b>	<b>3,410</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>9,374</b>	<b>3,385</b>
<b>Transportation</b>					
Drainage renewals	4,465	655	1,194	1,308	1,308
Pavement Rehabilitation	10,925	2,883	2,521	2,761	2,761
Sealed Roads Resurfacing	19,029	4,959	4,410	4,830	4,830
Unsealed Road Metalling	2,137	524	506	554	554
Emergency Reinstatement	3,621	-	1,135	1,243	1,243
Footpath renewals	1,001	150	267	292	292
Bridge renewals	1,264	302	302	330	330
Carpark renewals	434	105	107	110	112
Structures Component Replacements	1,605	330	400	438	438
Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Works	22,829	12,000	10,829	-	-
<b>Transportation Total</b>	<b>67,309</b>	<b>21,907</b>	<b>21,670</b>	<b>11,865</b>	<b>11,867</b>
<b>Renewal Grand Total</b>	<b>99,392</b>	<b>27,898</b>	<b>28,304</b>	<b>24,712</b>	<b>18,478</b>



**Elected  
members are  
responsible  
for setting  
priorities  
and making  
sure public  
money is  
spent wisely.**

**Want to learn more?**  
Check out the 2024-  
2034 Long Term Plan:

[www.tararua.govt.nz/publications](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications)



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