

2019 PRE-ELECTION REPORT

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Connected Communities | Desirable Lifestyles | Treasured Environments.
Hapori Tūhono | Āhua Noho Tōrere | Taiao Piki Kōtuku



WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION TO THE PRE-ELECTION REPORT

The preparation and issue of this report is a legislated requirement of the Local Government Act 2002, as part of the triennial election cycle. This report has been prepared by the Chief Executive and has not had any input from elected members.

The purpose of the report is to provide information about the local authority in the lead up to the local government election on 12 October 2019. This is not a standalone document. It restates the forecasts contained within the 2018-28 Long-Term Plan, as well as a summary of performance over the last three years.

The financial information contained in this Pre-Election Report has been compiled from the following sources:

- The financial information for the years 2016/17 and 2017/18 has been extracted from the Annual Reports for these years.
- The financial information for the 2018/19 year and onwards has been extracted from the 2018/28 Long Term Plan along with our latest estimates for 2018/19. These reports and plans can be accessed at: http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/wairoa/council_documents/index.htm

The information in this document has not been separately audited. However, all components of the financial information presented in the following pages have been separately audited by the Auditor General, through its agent Ernst and Young, either as part of the Annual Report audits or the 2018/28 Long-Term Plan audit.

This includes the 2019/20 Annual Plan information, which was audited as Year One of the 2018/28 Long-Term Plan. Any changes to these audited documents have been disclosed directly underneath the changed report.

As the district has less than 20,000 residents, WDC is eligible for reporting concessions that have been applied in the preparation of this document. Primarily this concession is that WDC is able to utilise the information for the 2018/19 financial year annual plan (or budget) for this report and is not required to prepare a forecast of actual costs for the financial year.

However, in the interests of transparency we have decided to include this information. Unaudited monthly reporting is now prepared that details variance to budget and also includes limited forecasting. These reports are available as they are received by Council.

The Values of the Wairoa District Council

*Hold fast to the values of **Connectedness, Creativity, Leadership** and **Compassion**, for the **Inclusive Wellbeing** of our community.*

*Kia mau tonu ki ngā whai hua ō te **Whanaungatanga, Auahatanga, Rangatiratanga** me te **Aroha**, hei **Oranga** mō te **Iwi Whānui**.*

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Purpose

The requirement to prepare a pre-election report was introduced by Section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002.

This politically independent report, prepared by the Chief Executive, provides information to promote discussion leading up to the 2019 local election about the issues facing the local authority. The content of the report, which focuses on key financial parameters from the past three years and projections for the next three years, as specified in the Act. This report is prepared and published to meet the requirements of the Act.

Basis of Preparation

This report is being released in the pre-election period. Special care has been taken to ensure it is politically neutral. It is presented as an apolitical document, and is not a manifesto, either whole or in part, for any candidate or political grouping taking part in the election campaign.

While this report has not been audited, much of the information presented has been sourced from audited reports. For example, the first two years' retrospective financial data have been audited as it has been taken directly from the respective annual reports.

Report

Every three years, citizens have the right to elect their district leaders – the Mayor and councillors. The process gives us the chance to think about how we want the district to be governed. I am pleased to present Wairoa District Council's Pre-Election Report ahead of the 2019 triennial elections.

This report is designed to draw the public's attention to the key issues over the coming years, and to the current Council's performance against the adopted Financial Strategy as well as the forecast financial position for the incoming Council.

This report assesses Council's present and future needs for our community and the recent progress and future planned programme of work to meet these challenges. Council's role, as outlined within its Long-Term Plan 2018-28 (LTP), is to deliver well-maintained infrastructure and high-performing core services, as well as ensuring our communities can meet future challenges and plan effectively for the future.

We continue to look at ways of ensuring services are affordable whilst focusing on maintaining satisfactory levels of service. The LTP lays out a plan for maintaining a sound infrastructure and core services as well as looking for new and creative solutions to see Wairoa prosper.

Economic development will remain a key priority for the Wairoa District Council (WDC). Our goal will be to partner with others, including central Government and the Provincial Growth Fund, to further develop a Council environment which assists businesses and innovative individuals to bring about real change for the district of Wairoa.

This Pre-Election Report also outlines significant infrastructure and environmental projects for the district including the Wastewater upgrade, bridge strengthening and roading.

Other major projects outlined in this report include: property revaluations based on the 2018 revaluation figures, Mahia greenwaste and recycling centre, Wairoa landfill, 3 waters, piping open drains, the Māhanga and Blue Bay water supplies, CBD enhancement, Tuai Hall upgrade and the Water intake project.

As a Council we are facing increasing central Government imposed legislative requirements that we must conform to, and are working in a rapidly changing environment. We continue to work hard to increase efficiencies within Council's operations to ensure we are operating in an affordable way while still meeting our necessary obligations. We also continue to focus on our community outcomes of economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing.

This is not a standalone document. Residents interested in reading more about the information contained in this report should look at the WDC Long-Term Plan 2018/2028 and Annual Plan 2018/2019. Additional information on past performance is contained in the Annual Reports. All of these documents are readily available from our website or can be accessed by calling into Council's office and requesting a copy.

I am committed to leading an organisation that delivers and is accessible and open. This report is part of that commitment. An informed community is, after all, part of a healthy democracy. It aims to add to the public discussion in the lead up to elections that close on Saturday 12 October 2019.

Steven May



Chief Executive Officer

19 July 2019

SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVES

Wastewater

Council's wastewater discharge consent expired in May 2019. A new consent application was lodged with Hawke's Bay Regional Council in 2018. It was based on a community-led best practicable option package involving the modification of the existing wastewater facilities, transitioning to a land-based discharge, and a network renewals commitment. It includes an ongoing commitment to the river health partnership strategy.

This is one of the most significant infrastructure initiatives Wairoa has seen in 30 years. It includes:

- Reducing inflow to the wastewater treatment plant of storm water and groundwater by upgrading the storm water reticulation network, capacity upgrades and removal of illegal storm water connections to the wastewater reticulation network.
- Disposing of some of the treated wastewater to land and increase the capacity to dispose to land over time.
- Investigating and implementing storage needs to facilitate land disposal.
- Adding filtration and UV disinfection to the treatment process to produce a cleaner effluent with reduced levels of pathogens. A total cost of \$6.5 million was approved, however due to inflation assumptions the overall cost is estimated to be \$8.15 million. The cost of this project is spread over six years. As Council lodged the application in 2018, the current service can continue until the new consented option is rolled out.

Bridge Strengthening

Council is currently carrying out strengthening work on a number of bridges across the district, but many more require strengthening work. A bridge-strengthening programme was endorsed to improve the resilience of our roading network, in response to legislative changes.

This programme is providing economic benefits for current and future land use in the district. It includes accommodating increased dimension heavy-production motor vehicles (HPMV) on our roads. The total project cost is approximately \$1.4m per annum of the LTP.

Throughout the first year of the LTP, Council has made progress with the bridge-strengthening programme. A number of capacity assessments are being completed and designs are being undertaken for physical works to start.

Council has taken the opportunity to apply to the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers. This application has been accepted and subsequently the ratepayer share of 25% (\$2.2 million) has been funded by the PGF. NZTA funds the remaining 75% share.



Roading State Highway 38

In 2015, NZTA delegated maintenance of the unsealed sections of State Highway 38 to Council. This arrangement is ongoing and is 100% funded by the NZTA through their maintenance and operations budgets.

Ongoing maintenance of the unsealed sections of SH38 is undertaken by contractors engaged by Council. The contract model used to deliver maintenance on the unsealed sections has been changed, with the new contract in effect since 1 March 2019. The aim of the change in contract delivery is to ensure the road delivers the desired experience for users, while meeting the requirements of the government's policies for state highways.

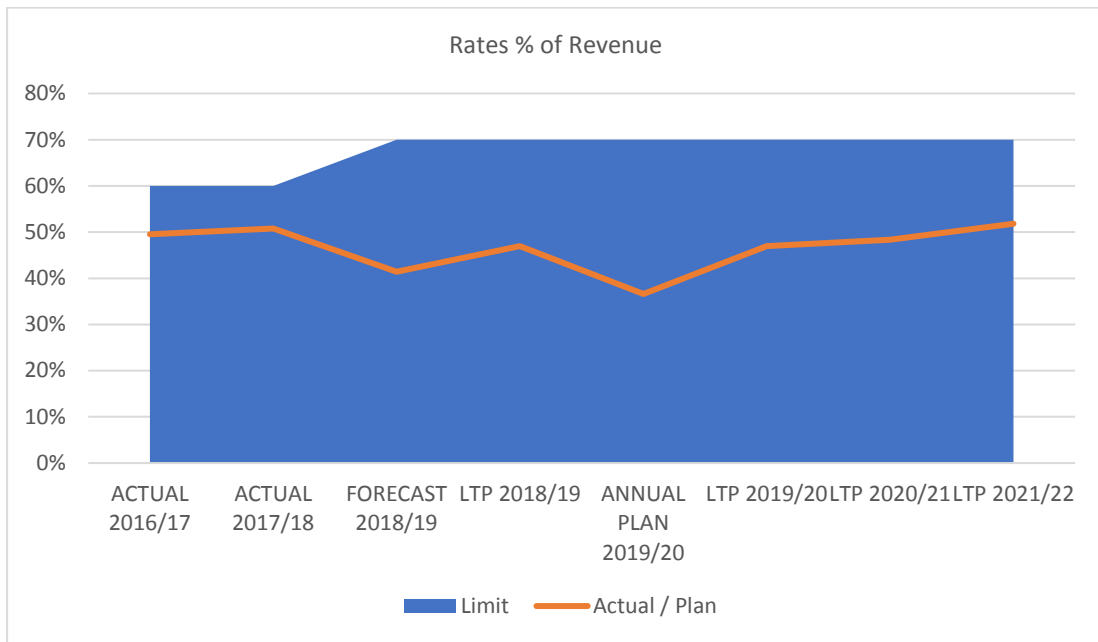


FINANCIAL POLICIES

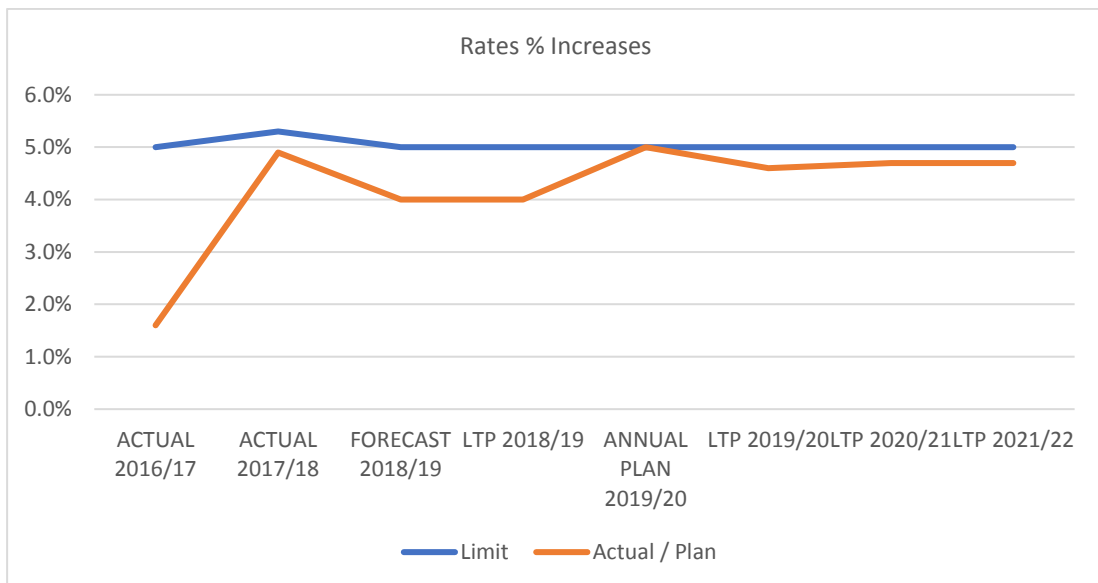
Financial Thresholds

Council’s Financial Strategy prescribes several limits to ensure that it delivers services to the community within a prudent financial framework. These are stated below, with historical and expected performance against these depicted:

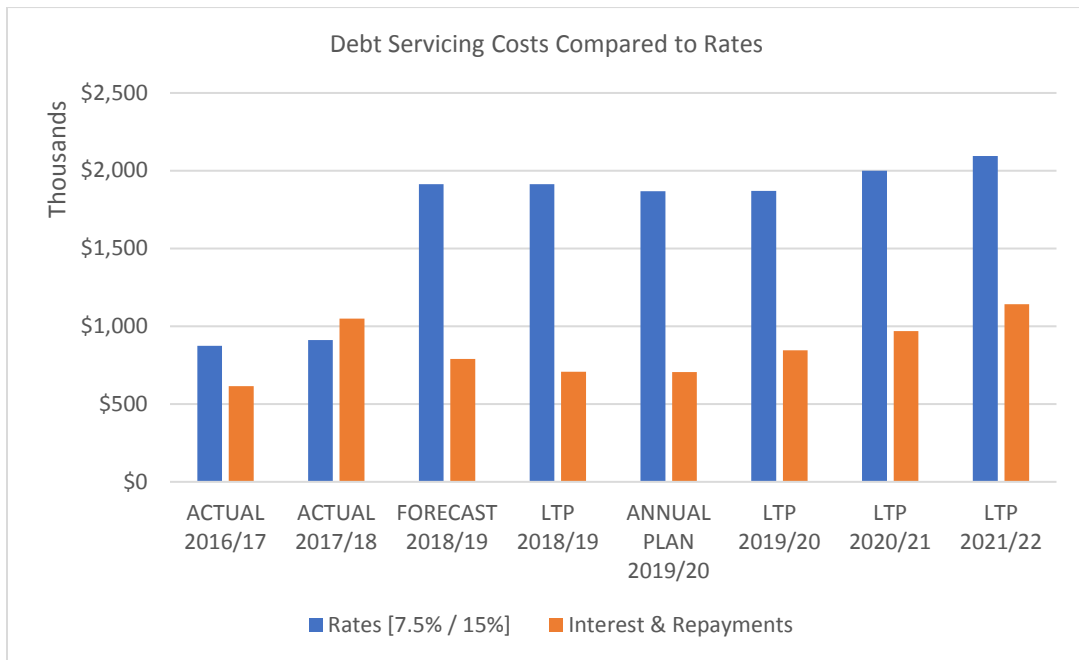
1. A maximum of 70% of all income can be raised from rates. Previously this was 60%.



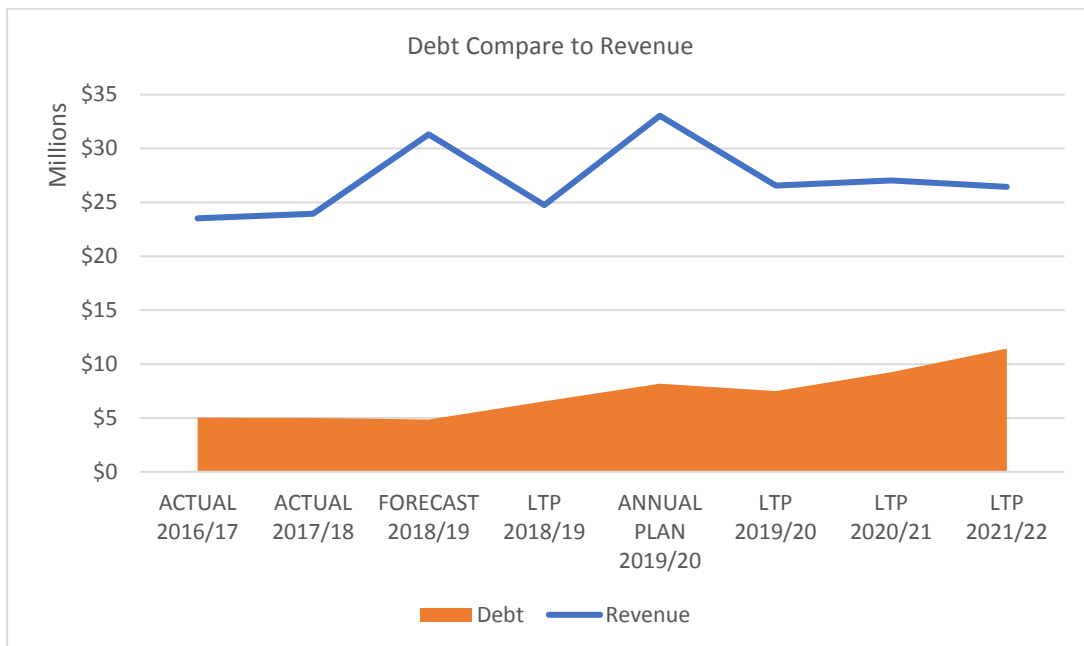
2. The annual rates increase will be limited to 5%. This was previously the Local Government Cost Index + 3.5%.



3. Loan interest and repayments will be no greater than 15% of rates. In the previous LTP the equivalent calculation was that interest costs would be no greater than 7.5% of rates.



4. Net external debt must not be greater than 100% of total revenue.



Investments

Council has not quantified targets for returns on investments in its financial strategy. Actual and forecast returns compared to budget for this year and the previous two years are shown in the table below:

<u>Return on investments</u>			
Rate of return	2017	2018	2019
Actual	5.5%	11.7%	13.8%
Budget	6.3%	12.6%	9.0%
Total Investment Revenue '000	2017	2018	2019
Actual	\$823	\$1,210	\$557
Budget	\$946	\$856	\$825
Value of Investments Held '000	2017	2018	2019
Actual	\$14,893	\$10,335	\$4,048
Budget	\$14,950	\$6,779	\$9,122

Council has funded much of its capital expenditure by allowing its lower coupon investments to mature. Consequently, although the total revenue has reduced, the average rate of return has increased.

These investments were held for the purposes of infrastructure renewals and Council has been working through its renewals programme that had previously been deferred.

In 2018 Council joined the Local Government Funding Agency, which enables it to borrow at more competitive rates than in the past. Council will use this facility to fund major capital expenditure, including the Wairoa wastewater scheme upgrade.

FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENT

	Actual 2016/17 (\$ 000)	Actual 2017/18 (\$ 000)	Forecast 2018/19 (\$ 000)	LTP 2018/19 (\$ 000)	Annual Plan 2019/20 (\$ 000)	LTP 2019/20 (\$ 000)	LTP 2020/21 (\$ 000)	LTP 2021/22 (\$ 000)
Sources of Operating Funding								
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	3,389	4,033	3,563	3,604	3,645	3,453	3,609	3,635
Targeted rates (other than a targeted rate for water supply)	8,269	8,130	9,406	8,023	8,451	9,018	9,459	10,066
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	4,627	6,001	8,466	4,865	5,980	5,231	5,395	5,471
Fees charges and targeted rates for water supply	2,806	1,525	1,605	2,288	2,685	2,772	2,198	2,248
Interest and Dividends from Investments	823	1,210	557	825	807	670	568	525
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, other receipts	84	90	81	85	87	87	88	90
Total Operating Funding	19,998	20,989	23,678	19,690	21,655	21,231	21,317	22,035
Applications of Operating Funding								
Payments to staff and suppliers	19,450	21,741	22,983	18,273	22,510	18,798	19,327	19,196
Finance costs	615	1,050	791	707	705	771	854	955
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of operating funding	20,065	22,791	23,774	18,980	23,215	19,569	20,181	20,151
Surplus (Deficit) of operating funding	(67)	(1,802)	(96)	710	(1,560)	1,662	1,136	1,884
Sources of capital funding								
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	3,070	2,323	7,525	4,702	10,853	5,081	5,474	4,173
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in debt	-	-	-	1,535	1,648	962	1,737	2,198
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	2	-	35	-	-	-	-	-
Lump sum contributions	453	634	86	100	379	100	100	100
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	255	155	155	146	137
Total sources of capital funding	3,525	2,957	7,646	6,592	13,035	6,298	7,457	6,608
Application of capital funding								
Capital expenditure								
- to meet additional demand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- to improve the level of service	1,460	1,560	2,795	2,412	7,518	1,225	1,684	1,935
- to replace existing assets	3,414	5,634	10,375	9,662	8,888	8,884	9,528	8,058
Increase (Decrease) in reserves	(1,416)	(6,039)	(2,678)	(3,522)	(3,428)	(899)	(119)	(826)
Increase (Decrease) of investments	-	-	(2,942)	(1,250)	(1,502)	(1,250)	(2,500)	(675)
Total application of capital funding	3,458	1,155	7,550	7,302	11,475	7,960	8,593	8,492
Surplus (Deficit) of capital funding	67	1,802	96	(710)	1,560	(1,662)	(1,136)	(1,884)
Funding Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to prepare a Funding Impact Statement, the format of this is prescribed by the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014. This statement provides a picture of what Council is spending money on and how this spending is funded. The statement does not contain depreciation because this is a non-cash item; instead the amount spent on fixed assets is included.

Council will need to carefully manage its revenue and expenditure in the next few years, particularly with escalating costs in roading and water services. In order to keep within its financial prudence thresholds, especially rates increases, there will be some important decisions to be made with regards to how it utilises limited reserves and resources in order to continue to deliver desired service levels.

In its Annual Plan 2019/20, Council achieved this by reducing the amount it rated for depreciation, using reserves to smooth the costs of certain projects. This is a short-term remedy. In the long-term it would not be sustainable, and Council will need to monitor this.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

This report shows what we own, what we owe to external parties and what the Council is worth as at the end of each financial period, or 30 June of each year.

	Actual 2017 (\$ 000)	Actual 2018 (\$ 000)	Forecast 2019 (\$ 000)	LTP 2019 (\$ 000)	Annual Plan 2020 (\$ 000)	LTP 2020 (\$ 000)	LTP 2021 (\$ 000)	LTP 2022 (\$ 000)
Current Assets								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,032	3,432	3,395	2,287	410	1,136	1,277	974
Inventories	58	49	50	58	58	58	58	58
Trade & other receivables from non-exchange transactions	3,352	2,609	2,952	3,138	2,483	3,602	3,638	3,321
Financial assets at fair value	7,060	3,068	2,048	-	-	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	13,502	9,158	8,445	5,483	2,952	4,796	4,973	4,353
Less Current Liabilities								
Trade & other payables	4,467	4,060	4,148	8,673	9,531	8,785	8,934	8,927
Term Liabilities - Current Portion	12	5,012	4,852	-	-	-	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	4,479	9,072	9,000	8,673	9,531	8,785	8,934	8,927
Non Current Assets								
Property, Plant & Equipment	259,446	260,474	268,334	273,100	295,616	292,737	297,942	301,646
Loans & other receivables	90	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments in Subsidiary	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
Biological asset - forestry	260	260	260	260	260	260	260	260
Available for sale financial assets	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Intangible Assets	143	129	116	188	231	217	200	182
Financial assets at fair value	7,833	7,267	2,000	9,122	7,620	7,872	5,372	4,697
Total Non Current Assets	269,045	269,436	271,983	283,943	305,000	302,359	305,047	308,058
Non Current Liabilities								
Retirement Provision	107	115	115	112	115	115	120	124
Landfill Aftercare	708	750	750	730	753	753	776	800
Borrowings	5,012	-	-	6,536	8,182	7,498	9,235	11,433
Total Non Current Liabilities	5,827	865	865	7,378	9,050	8,366	10,131	12,357
Net Assets	272,241	268,657	270,563	273,375	289,371	290,004	290,955	291,127
Represented by								
Equity	272,241	268,657	270,563	273,375	289,371	290,004	290,955	291,127

The increases in construction and civil engineering prices, along with asset revaluations planned for January 2020 are reflected in the increases in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The transition from Council being a net investor to a net borrower is also illustrated in this statement. Council's financial position is forecast to remain healthy, but with a reducing comfort zone.

MAJOR PROJECTS

The following is a summary of some of the major projects that are currently underway within the WDC's operations, in addition to the significant issues mentioned earlier in this report.

Roading Dust Impact

The impacts of land use changes and forestry harvesting cycles on our rural roads, and especially unsealed roads, presents an ongoing issue for residents. Council allocated \$90,000 per annum to fund work to mitigate and reduce impacts from dust on unsealed roads. This does not include resealing. Road sealing was undertaken near Putere School on Putere Road this year.



Roading Emergency Works Reinstatement

Each year, natural events impact on the transport system. To recover from these events an assessment of the repair work required was undertaken and budgeted for in the LTP.

The scope of recovery work ranges from cleaning-up slips and debris to construction of retaining walls and reinstating roads and access for communities. An assessment of the amount required for each is funded through targeted rates and loan and reserves funding to ensure affordability for ratepayers.

During September 2018, the district was subjected to a high intensity rainfall event. As a result, the district's road system was severely impacted with a number of road closures due to washouts and slips.

The estimated cost of the damage was \$8.41m with a significant portion (95%) of this being funded by NZTA. The initial clean-up of the slips (\$1m) has been undertaken and contracts to repair some of the dropouts have been awarded. This work has commenced, however a significant number of dropouts in the district remain. Council has secured funding with NZTA to reinstate the roads. But due to the extent of repair work, recovery will span at least two years.

There is a \$5.2m increase in the budget from the original budget in Year Two of the LTP to reflect the reinstatement of the transport system required. Between 75-95% is funded by NZTA, and Council's share has been funded from reserves and loans.



Property Revaluations

Once every three years Council is required to revalue all land in the district. Property valuations were carried out by an independent valuation service provider in October last year and property owners were notified of their new valuations. In total, rateable 'land values' in the district increased by 38.1%, and 'capital values' increased by 29.3%.

The valuations of different categories of land increased by different amounts or proportions. This means it is necessary to adjust the rates based on these changes. Changes in property values do not affect the total amount of rates that Council receives, just how this is distributed across the district.

General Revaluation 2018 reported higher increases in land values for pastoral properties, followed by residential properties. This means a higher level of some rates have been charged on these two groups when compared against other property types, including forestry and commercial property. Their values increased by a smaller percentage. Rural residential property values did not alter to the same degree.

In line with Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, Council-funded activities such as roading, airport maintenance and environmental health costs are rated based on a property's land value.

Other activities, such as maintaining parks and reserves and economic development costs are rated on a property's capital value. Close to half of our activities are funded by charges based on land and capital values.

Mahia Green Waste and Recycling Centre

Mahia's waste and recycling needs have increased over the past few years, and Council agreed to spend \$150,000 on the establishment of a green waste and recycling centre at Mahia to accommodate residents' and visitors' waste and recycling needs more effectively.

Council is exploring options for suitable sites around the Mahia Peninsula, which will also allow for increased demand during the summer peak season. This requires significant design and coordination with landowners and neighbours. Council has taken the opportunity to apply to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) to accelerate this work and reduce the financial burden on ratepayers. \$175,000 + \$20,000 for operations and maintenance costs over two years has been secured from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

Wairoa Landfill

Council implemented all of the proposed changes to the landfill service, creating a cost-effective delivery whilst reducing the burden across all ratepayers. Changes included an increased minimum charge for general waste and green waste, increased fee per tonne for general waste and for green waste and closing the landfill and recycling centre on three days during the week.

Council consulted on the number of days to open the facility at the end of 2018 and early 2019. The decision was to open it for four days instead of six days. The community's preference was to have a reduction in operating hours rather than a rates increase based on increased landfill operating expenses.

Since April 1 2019, the landfill and recycling centre is operating over four days a week: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 8am until 2pm. The service is being delivered by national contractor Smart Environmental with a focus on delivering a convenient and cost-effective service for local people.



3 Waters (Drinking Water, Storm Water & Wastewater)

The New Zealand Government is currently reviewing how the 3 Waters are managed. It has indicated that, alongside regulatory changes, there is likely to be major structural reform of the local government water sector. The scale of the challenge indicates that the status quo is not sustainable in the long-term. Among the key issues identified were weak regulation, capability challenges (particularly for smaller councils), funding and financing issues for upgrading and maintaining infrastructure.

The Government has said that “for many smaller councils, there is no clear way forward given the scale of the challenges.” It has encouraged stakeholders to put forward their best suggestions as to what reform may look like.

The five councils within the Hawke’s Bay Region, including Wairoa District Council, have collectively commenced a review of Hawke’s Bay’s 3 Waters service delivery. The primary objective of this review is to complete an assessment and provide recommendations on the current and potential service delivery models for 3 Waters in the Hawke’s Bay region.

The review’s first phase is progressing well and is intended to provide the Councils with information to engage with central Government on the reforms. Ultimately a recommendation will be provided to the Councils about the best way forward. It will then be for the Councils and their communities to decide the next steps.

Piping Open Drains

Last year, Council agreed to spend \$1.2 million on new footpaths and piped open drains under an accelerated programme. However, after securing confirmation of funding from NZTA, Council resolved to move all of the locally funded footpath budget for the duration of the LTP, and in 2018/19 and 2019/20 \$75,000 of the open drain budget into the subsidised roading activity budget and make the Kitchener Street open drain a priority. There is an additional \$500,000 available to spend on other new footpaths and piping open drains.

A key safety priority for the Wairoa township has been piping the open drain along Kitchener Street. To ensure that good quality infrastructure is built, Council had a peer review conducted on the initial design. The design has been changed to reflect the effects of increased rainfall and other climate changes. As a result, the project costs increased, and physical works were not completed in Year One of the LTP.

Although the project cost has increased it will still proceed with 75% funding from NZTA and an estimated completion of 2020/21.



Māhanga Water Supply

The Māhanga water supply does not meet the current New Zealand Drinking Water Standards (NZDWS). As a result of the outcome from the referendum in 2017, Council is required to upgrade the water supply to the settlement of Māhanga. This supply will need to be fully compliant with the NZDWS, and a key part is to ensure the water source (i.e. bore) can provide a sustainable and cost-effective water supply. An estimated sum of \$235,000 was allocated to upgrade the treatment of the Māhanga drinking water supply.

There are significant challenges to delivering long-term safe drinking water in the Māhanga community. If the public drinking water supply at Māhanga was upgraded, Council would estimate costs to be significantly higher due to the proposed changes in the 3 Waters space and due to current changes to the NZDWS. Council has met with the community to discuss the project and highlight the key challenges, opportunities and a way forward. It is very unlikely that Council will be able to deliver a compliant drinking water supply under new standards to the Māhanga community for \$235,000 as indicated in the LTP.

A combination of the uncertainties around the provision of water supply, and the as yet unknown outcome of Central Government's 3 Waters review, means it is not prudent that Council spends any more ratepayer money until the outcomes of the review and the new water regulations are released and can be considered. Council is continuing to work with property owners to ensure a compliant and affordable solution is reached and is committed to working with the community in the fairest and most transparent way possible. Once the details of the 3 Waters review are known Council will determine the impact and advise Māhanga residents.

CBD Enhancement

Last year, Council heard ideas from the community around improvements to Wairoa's CBD. This followed years of comments from those wanting to see improvements to safety, security, and the look of closed shops. It was an opportunity to understand what the community saw as the issues and opportunities for the town centre, what their visions were and how much of the CBD should be covered by this project.

Council opted to not invest \$1.5 million into the CBD enhancement but instead to carry-over and use the existing \$200,000 budget for some minor work. This decision was based on community feedback from people asking for the town to be tidied up rather than a total enhancement.



Blue Bay Water Supply

Council is working on options to upgrade the water supply at Blue Bay to meet the current NZDWS. An estimated budget of \$215,000 was included for this upgrade in 2018/2019. The drinking water supply upgrade for the Blue Bay sections was not completed by December 2018 as planned due to higher than expected costs due to the proposed changes in the 3 Waters space and with current changes to the NZDWS. The Blue Bay community requested that Council partner and share costs for the scheme's development.

Council's preference is to pause the project until Council is advised by Central Government of the full extent of the 3 Waters review. Once the details of the 3 Waters review are known Council will determine the implications and advise Blue Bay residents. Council is continuing to work with property owners to ensure that a compliant and affordable solution is reached and is committed to working with the community in the fairest and most transparent way possible.

Tuai Hall

Following engagement with the Tuai community in 2018 and 2019, Council has updated its arrangements for the management of its property assets in Tuai. This includes the Tuai Hall, Craft Rooms and former Play Centre. The intention behind this is to ensure the properties are accessible and fit for use by all members of the community. Having received feedback from the community on suitability and having carried out asset condition assessments, Council is looking to carry out remedial works and upgrades to the buildings, drawing \$80,000 from the Tuai reserve fund to complete this work.

Water Intake

Due to ongoing high rainfall, flooding has occurred which has resulted in damage to the riverbank. It was imperative that Council repair and stabilise the area where the water intake is situated to ensure ongoing water supply to the Wairoa township. Construction of the sheet pile retaining wall is underway and, despite challenging site conditions, the project is almost complete.

An old retaining wall 4-6m below ground level was discovered during the work. As a result, the project has cost an additional \$20,000 to construct. This is unbudgeted emergency works.

OTHER INFORMATION

The district covers an area of 4,120 square kilometres with a population estimated by Statistics NZ for 2015 of 8,180.

Council is made up of the Mayor and six elected representatives. In addition to their duties as members of Council, the elected representatives serve on a number of sub-committees that oversee specific areas of Council's operations. The Council is also supported by the Māori Standing Committee.

Council Contact Information:

Physical Address:

Coronation Square, Queen Street, Wairoa

Postal address:

PO Box 54, Wairoa 4160, Hawke's Bay

Phone:

+64 6 838 7309

Fax:

+64 6 838 8874

Email:

administrator@wairoadc.govt.nz

KEY DATES FOR THE ELECTION

Nominations open	19 July 2019
Nominations close	16 August 2019
Voting papers delivered	20-25 September 2019
Special voting period	20 September 2019 -12 October 2019
Removal of election signs	11 October 2019
Voting closes	12 October 2019
Progress results available	As soon as practical after close of voting 12 October 2019
Official declaration	17-23 October 2019
Candidates' expenses deadline	13 December 2019

REFERENCES TO DATA PROVIDED IN THE REPORT

2016/17 Annual Report

2017/18 Annual Report

2018-28 Long-Term Plan

Asset Management Plans

Finance policies are detailed in the 2018/28 Long-Term Plan

Annual Plan 2019/20.

These documents are available on Council's website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz