

Introduction from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer

Nā ngā pakihwi o ō tātou tīpuna, ka taea e tātou te titiro whakamua.'

'From the shoulders of our ancestors, we are able to see the future.'

Welcome to our Long-term Plan (LTP). The development of the 2015-25 LTP has provided an opportunity for individuals, organisations and businesses to have their say on the Council's direction, priorities, work programme and budgets for the next 10 years.

Council's direction is about maintaining sound infrastructure and core services as well as looking for new and creative solutions to see Wairoa prosper. This double edged approach ensures that ratepayers and the community have an affordable strategy now and for future growth. We encourage the people of Wairoa to assist us in setting priorities and programmes which build a brighter tomorrow and invest in the future.

We know that ambitious development is not possible without a sound financial base. Recently we have been working hard on resetting the financial baseline of Council with a particular focus on intergenerational equity, where resources and assets are administered and preserved in trust for future generations. Investing in our future will require rates increases; however, Council will use its reserves to keep rates at an affordable level.

The next 10 years will be some of the most important for us in deciding the future of Wairoa. There are many challenges including economic development, infrastructure, social and cultural imperatives and this plan seeks to address those in an innovative and cost-effective way.

Throughout the plan's development, Council has sought to consider transformation and investment into the community. The need to arrest and reverse population decline and build our economic capabilities remains vital; economic development is a key priority. Our goal is to partner with others to develop further a Council environment which assists businesses to bring about real change for Wairoa.

Infrastructure provides a foundation for building strong and resilient communities and Council will be investing in infrastructure over the life of this plan. These projects will keep our district working and are necessary to continue or improve levels of service and regulatory compliance.

The projected average rates increase up to 2025 is 4.34% per annum.

Maintaining sound infrastructure and core services as well as planning for the future and looking for new and creative solutions to see Wairoa prosper is the key theme throughout this plan and Council calls on the community to support its vision for bringing real change. It is up to each and every one of us to contribute to positive change, and together, we can make this happen.

The LTP was adopted on 5 August 2015. This is outside the statutory requirement to adopt the LTP on, or before 30 June 2015.

Thank you for taking the time to read this plan.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fergus Power".

Fergus Power
CEO
Wairoa District
Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Little".

Craig Little, JP
Mayor
Wairoa