

MAYORAL COLUMN

TELL US WHAT YOU REALLY THINK

We are currently asking ratepayers and residents to tell us what they think of the way Council operates, how we make decisions and what other activities we should be doing.

This resident and ratepayer satisfaction survey is a regular feature and provides an opportunity to hear feedback on what we do well, and where we can improve.

It's important we hear open and honest feedback around what our community thinks plays



Mayor Craig Little

a critical role in Council being able to deliver the best possible facilities and services across our district.

We know it can be difficult for people to speak up, but through this survey all the information provided is confidential and your feedback will help shape the future of Wairoa.

The survey is designed to take 5-10 minutes to complete and is open to everyone, other than elected or staff members of the Wairoa District Council and their household members.

Previously our surveys have been by phone, and this year switching to an online survey will hopefully give us the chance to gather even more feedback around how our residents and ratepayers feel.

To take the survey please go to <https://feedback.askyourteam.com/AhlfPci> or scan the code below to be taken directly to the website. Or you can collect a hardcopy of the survey from the Wairoa District Council office on Queen Street.

The survey is live until Wednesday 29th June 2022. We look forward to hearing from you.

ANNUAL PLAN

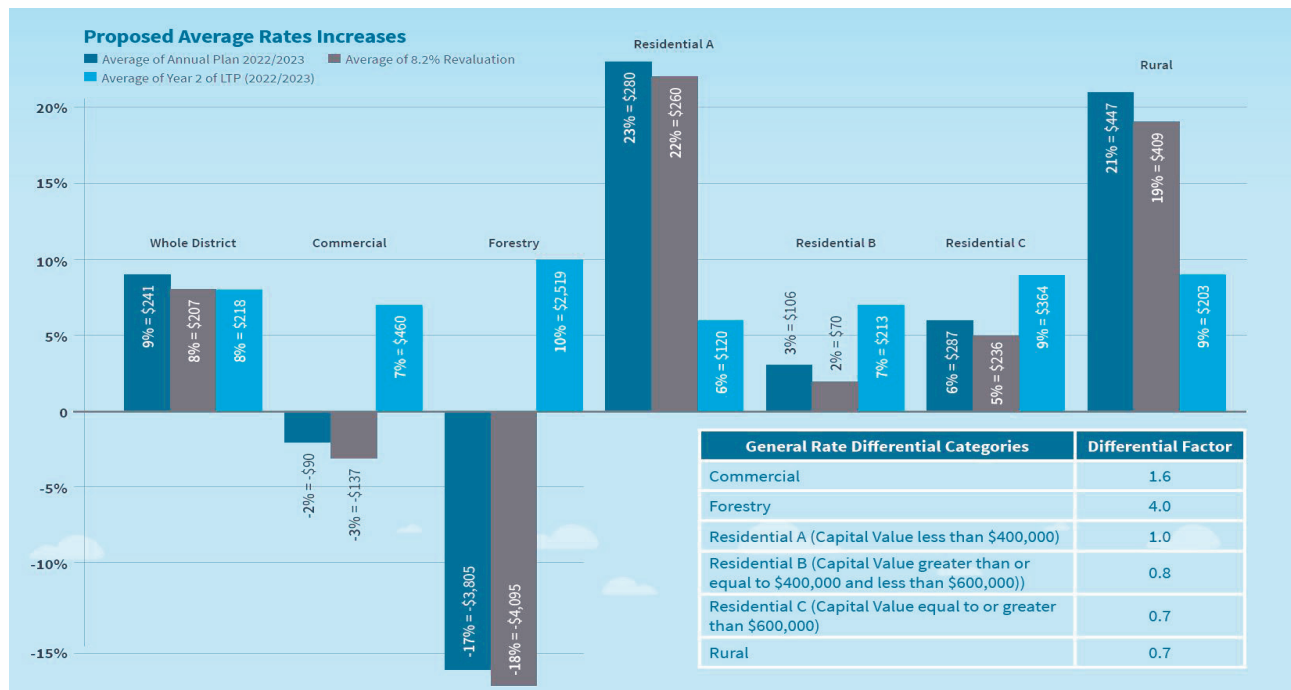
We are seeking feedback on this year's Annual Plan with submissions closing on June 5. Thank you to those people who attended our hybrid community meeting last week. It's always refreshing to hear the thoughts of community members.

This year we are particularly interested in hearing your input around requests for additional funding from the Wairoa Community Centre and Wairoa Museum. If Council continues to fund these two vital community assets at the same level as we currently are, the rates increase would remain at an average increase of about 8.2%, as indicated in the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan.

If you would like Council to increase funding to both these important community facilities, in line with their increased costs, this could result in a total average rate increase of 1.3% on top of the forecasted 8.2% average rates, so an average increase of 9.5%. Don't forget you don't have to support any increase, or you may want to only support an increase for one of these community assets, which would increase rates by around 0.65%.

To see what your forecasted rates are, based on Council's current scenario, please head to <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/services/properties-and-rates/rates/> and type in your address or valuation number.

This will show your current property valuation along with your current rates and the forecasted rates.



I encourage people to check out their forecasted rates as there will be impacts from last year's Wairoa District Rating Revaluation which was carried out by Quotable Value.

This will particularly impact on properties that had high capital value increases. As a general guide, the change from the rate spread of last year is residential houses revalued at \$400,000 and under have the highest significant rates increase, commercial properties have a decrease, farming has an increase and forestry has a decrease.

We need to hear if you are happy with this proposed spread of rates, or would you like to see the differentials adjusted to change to a similar rate spread as last year, a different type of spread or as per the current proposal. Should the valuation bands for residential rating units be adjusted to keep pace with valuations?

Please remember, we are not mind readers, everyone will have different thoughts based on how their property is impacted, we need to hear from you so your community voice can guide us and so we can use the tools we have developed to try and keep rates affordable across the district.

For more information or to make a submission please go to Council's website, www.consultations.nz/wdc. A hard copy of the Annual Plan Consultation Document is available from the Council office on Queen Street.

CAREER PURSUIT

I attended the Career Pursuit event held at the Wairoa College and was really impressed. Delivered by the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust and EIT, this open day provided an interactive and fun event for students and young people to connect with local employers to learn more about future career pathways.

Around 30 businesses participated, and the event really did provide a range of information that students, from the Wairoa College and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu o Te Wairoa, plus members of the public, could understand. Often reading a pamphlet or being online or staring at a screen just

does not cut it as much as hearing from people who are walking the talk. Well done to everyone involved, this was a great event for our community.

WAIROA MĀORI FILM FESTIVAL

Next weekend, Queen's Birthday, we celebrate the Wairoa Māori Film Festival from June 2-6. This is the longest-running indigenous film festival of New Zealand and takes place annually.

The weekend will feature special events and a weekend of movies with screenings at Kahungunu Marae and the Gaiety Theatre.

As always, this will be a great event. I know I am looking forward to it, particularly Te Wairoa Media Award which I will be presenting at the Mana Wahine high tea at Kahungunu Marae, Nuhaka on Sunday, June 5. Tickets are available by heading to www.maorimovies.com

APPOINTMENT ONLY FOR COUNCIL'S BUILDING SERVICES

If you are planning a catch up with one of Wairoa District Council's Building Inspectors, please make an appointment first.

In the past Council has been flexible around casual drop-ins from members of the public needing to talk with a Building Inspector. Now, to create efficiencies and improve time management, appointments will need to be made.

Booking appointments allows Council staff to prepare any necessary information in advance and should streamline projects. Previously staff have worked with clients who have just called into the Council offices, but this casual approach is not an efficient use of Council staff or members of the public's time.

I know booking appointments will mean people will have to be a little bit more organised, but really this is no different to making an appointment for any other specialised service.

To make an appointment with a Building Inspector, please phone 06 838 7309.

• NOW LIVE •
RESIDENTS SURVEY 2022

TE WAIROA

FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

MAORI STANDING COMMITTEE
Thursday June 9, 1.30pm

COUNCIL
Tuesday, June 14, 1.30pm

CONTACT US
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