



## FROM MAYOR CRAIG LITTLE Annual Plan adopted

On Tuesday, Council adopted its 2025/26 Annual Plan, which includes an average rates increase of 5.23% for the coming year.

While 5.23% is still an increase, it is significantly less than the 15.5% increase we forecasted a year ago. It has been a hard slog to keep the increase affordable for our ratepayers while also planning for continued building of resilience and maintaining service levels, but that is the commitment we made and have achieved.

Last year, when the forecast average rates figure was set, it was based on the information available at the time and off the back of two flood events and spiralling expenses. It was a challenging time, and we worked hard with Government Ministers to secure external funding, and this has helped to offset the forecasted rates figure.

I acknowledge that no one ever wants any cost increase, but it is a positive result to have reached a significantly lower increase than we had expected.

This has been achieved by higher-than-expected revenue from external funding, lower-than-expected borrowing, and conducting a line-by-line review of all Council activity budgets without significant impacts on levels of service.

This year, Wairoa District property owners received their three-yearly rating valuations from independent valuers Quotable Value. Valuations do not affect the amount of money a Council collects from rates - it is a tool that helps the Council work out everyone's share of rates. Any rates change is determined by your new property value compared with the new average across the district.

Please remember, the 5.23% increase is the average across the whole district. It is important to be aware that there will be rate

increases and decreases across Wairoa's property sectors due to the latest Quotable Value valuations.

## Local Waters Done Well

Discussions are underway on how Wairoa people would like their water services to be delivered in the future.

The month-long engagement is part of the Central Government's Local Water Done Well (LWDW) legislation, which aims to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges.

LWDW changes the way all councils across the country have traditionally delivered three waters services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater), and paves the way for services and assets to be retained by councils while offering new options for delivering water services and funding water infrastructure.

As part of the Local Water Done Well programme and new legislation, all councils must consider how they can better and more cost-effectively provide these essential services.

Based on the financial modelling provided, Wairoa District Council elected members have decided on the preferred option of a joint council regional model in the form of a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) for future three waters delivery. Council is also seeking feedback on a Wairoa District Council CCO model and an In-house delivery model, similar to the current delivery, but with significant changes to meet the new legislation.

## June 2024 flooding

As we approach the first anniversary of the June 2024 south side flooding, I would like to acknowledge all those people who remain impacted by this event.

There are still 91 yellow-stickered homes (originally 128) plus a significant number of garages, outhouses, sheds, etc. impacted.

I recently revisited the flood-affected area, and it was heartbreaking to see families still struggling, people who have lost everything and are financially ruined. They are trying to put family homes back together, some of these people are pensioners and on fixed incomes, and they are literally rebuilding in tiny steps, just doing one small bit at a time.

In addition to repairs, rebuilding, and replacement, many incur the extra cost to rent a portable or temporary pod, providing them with a place to live.

It really is a terrible situation, and no fault of these significantly affected people. Through the Mayoral Relief Fund, we have managed to help people in a small way, and I remain grateful to the generous donations businesses and organisations have made to the fund. I am continuing to advocate to see if we can attract any additional support to further support impacted people's needs.

## Matariki

This year's Wairoa Matariki celebrations will acknowledge the volunteers who have supported our community during the weather and flood events over the past two years. As we approach the first anniversary of the June flooding event, it is timely to reflect on all those people who have stepped up to support our community.

The Wairoa Matariki Whānau Concert will be held on Friday, June 6, from 6-8 pm at the Wairoa Community Centre and will feature performing artists, a lantern ceremony, Maumahara (reminiscing), food and produce stalls, and a fireworks display. Plus, on Thursday, June 5, Wairoa's first Matariki outdoor movie experience will be held with the screening of 'Coco' at 5pm.

Thank you to everyone who makes these events possible, your hard work is appreciated.

## INSPECTION OF RATING INFORMATION DATABASE

Wairoa District Council advises that the Rating Information Database, for the Wairoa District, is available for inspection at the Council Office, Queen Street, Wairoa from 8am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday. This notice is required in accordance with section 28(4) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Malcolm Alexander  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Mayor Craig Little

## MEET THE MAYOR KANOHI KI TE KANOHI

If you would like to have a meeting with the Mayor, call the council offices on 06 838 7309 to arrange a meeting time.

He is available to meet with people on Wednesdays.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

### COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, May 27, 10am

### ORDINARY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 27, 1.30pm

### MĀORI STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 3, 10am

### YOUTH COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 3, 3.30pm

### STRATEGY, WELLBEING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, June 10, 10am

## The GAIETY Now Showing

May 22 - 29  
Lilo & Stitch PREMIERE

PG | 2hr 4m

Thursday 22nd May 5.30pm

Saturday 24th May 2pm

Sunday 25th May 11.30am

### A Minecraft Movie

PG | 1hrs 41m

Sunday 25th May 2pm

### Thunderbolts

M | 2hr 6m

Friday 23rd May 5.30pm

Wednesday 28th May 5.30pm

### Final Destination: Bloodlines

R16 | 1hr 49m

Friday 23rd May 8pm

Thursday 29th May 5.30pm

### Sinners

R16 | 2hr 17m

Saturday 24th May 5.30pm

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## LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Consultation is now open for Local Water Done Well.

Have your say by going to [www.consultations.nz/wdc/](http://www.consultations.nz/wdc/) or picking up a submission form from our Council office on Queen Street or Wairoa Library. Consultation closes 11.59pm on Sunday, 15 June 2025.

### COMMUNITY HUI

Tuesday, 27 May 6pm

Lake Whakamarino Lodge, Tuai

### INFORMATION DROP IN SESSION

Friday, 13 June 10am - 2pm

Wairoa District Council Chambers

### CARAVAN SESSIONS

Tuesday, 3 June 1pm - 3pm

New World Wairoa

Wednesday, 4 June 10am - 2pm

Frasertown Shop

Tuesday, 10 June 1pm - 3pm

Gemmells, Marine Parade