

# FRAMING 2023/24

## ANNUAL PLAN

YEAR 3 LONG TERM PLAN 2021-31

*Tirohanga Whakamua - Look to the future*

## **Mihi**

### *Acknowledgment*

***E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā  
rau rangatira mā o te rohe nei o  
Rangitīkei, tēnā koutou katoa.***

***Mihi mahana tēnei o te  
Kaunihera o Rangitīkei kia tātou  
katoa e noho ana  
ki roto i te rohe nei,  
nau mai, whakatau mai rā***

***Whakataka te hau ki te uru,  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga,  
Kia mākinakina ki uta,  
Kia mātaratara ki tai,  
E hī ake ana te atakura,  
He tio, he huka, he hau hū,  
Tīhei Mauriora!***

*The Rangitīkei District Council  
acknowledges all those who live  
within our District.*

*We send a warm welcome to you all.*

*Cease the winds from the west  
Cease the winds from the south  
Let the breeze blow over the land  
Let the breeze blow over the ocean  
Let the red-tipped dawn come with  
a sharpened air  
A touch of frost, a promise of a  
glorious day!*



# Tirohanga Whakamua Rangitikei

## Have your say on the 2023/24 Annual Plan

Haere mai and welcome to our 2023/24 Annual Plan Consultation Document.

Every three years, Council adopts a Long Term Plan outlining where we want our District to go and how we plan to achieve that over the next ten years. In the second and third years we review anything that has changed and any new ideas, taking a revised plan to our community for feedback which Council considers before making final decisions.

This document outlines the key choices in the Annual Plan 2023/24 that we'd like to hear your feedback on. Anyone with an interest in the Rangitikei District is welcome to provide feedback on the 2023/24 Annual Plan via mail, online, in person or by verbal submission.

The Council wants to hear feedback from all ages and ethnicities, from townships and rural communities, right across the District.

**To find more information on any part of this process, the Annual Plan or this document, you can:**

 **Visit** our website: [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz)

 **Contact** our Council staff by calling 0800 422 522

 **Contact** an Elected Member (contact details on page 20).

 **Email** us at [info@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz)

 **Follow** us on Facebook at [facebook.com/RangitikeiDC](https://facebook.com/RangitikeiDC)

 **Come** along to one of our community consultation sessions across the district. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to find out when these will take place.

- Bulls
- Taihape
- Marton
- Hunterville
- Rātana
- Scotts Ferry
- Koitiata
- Turakina
- Kauangaroa
- Ōhingaiti
- Mangaweka
- Tūtaenui
- Otairi
- Papanui Junction
- Taoroa
- Moawhango
- Whangaehu
- Mataroa
- Winiata Marae

For full details please check our website.

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### Our projected average rate increase for current ratepayers for 2023/24 is 9.01%

9.01%

Council has worked on a number of cost savings to keep rates as low as possible, but this increase remains higher than what was forecast in the long-term plan.

To read more about how this rate is made up view page 16 of this document.

Kōrero  
Mai

Have your say on the  
2023/24 Annual Plan  
by 5pm, Tuesday  
25 April 2023.

# Te tukanga

## How does the Annual Plan process work?

### What's this all about?

This document tells you about what your Council will be doing and services it will be providing in 2023/24.

It outlines our projected average rate increase and explains where this will be spent. We also highlight some of the issues and challenges we face as a district in 2023/24.

It's also an invitation for you to have your say on the work we are planning and share your ideas on other changes you would like to see.

We are committed to the future of our district and creating an Annual Plan that best serves the communities who live here, while recognising the challenges we are currently facing. To achieve this we need to hear from you - our people - about what you want and need to make Rangitikei home.

**23 March - 25 April 2023**  
Consultation

### What happens next?

#### **23 March to 25 April 2023 - Consultation**

We need to hear your feedback by 5pm, Tuesday 25 April 2023.

**11 May 2023**  
Hearings

#### **11 May 2023 - Hearings**

**1 June 2023**  
Deliberations

#### **1 June - Deliberations**

After we have heard from you, our Councillors will deliberate and make their decisions.

**22 June 2023**  
Adoption

#### **22 June 2023 - Adoption**

Our Mayor and Councillors will vote to adopt the Annual Plan.

**July 2023**  
Action

#### **July 2023 - Action**

Our team will get on to putting the Annual Plan into action.

### What is an Annual Plan?

The Annual Plan sets out the Council's plans and budget for 2023/24. It identifies any significant variations from what was planned in our Long Term Plan 2021-31 and the reasons for these.



**Kōrero  
Mai**

**Have your say on the  
2023/24 Annual Plan by  
5pm, Tuesday 25 April 2023.**

## **He karere** **Mayor's Message**

### **Engā tāngata katoa o te rohe nei, piki mai kake mai.**

Kia ora, talofa lava, hello,

Welcome to the Annual Plan, which marks Year 3 of the Long Term Plan 2021-2031. This document provides an overview of the services Council will fund and provide this year including what your rates will be.

In the Long Term Plan, 2021-2031 we made a series of assumptions regarding factors like interest and inflation rates to set an expected rates increase of around 6.5% for this year. However, like many other Councils around the country, we are having to revise this figure. Interest rates are climbing and the inflationary pressure on wages, construction and roading, in particular, are very high. The Government's position on reforms such as Three Waters is also confusing, which is making planning and allocating staff resources extremely difficult. This year we as Councillors have worked hard to get the average rate increase for individual ratepayers to 9.01% by making some reductions in areas such as funding opportunities and delaying some improvement opportunities until affordability improves. It has been a challenging process. We recognise the increased costs and pressures that ratepayers are under, and we have strived to balance the need for essential Council programmes while considering the affordability of the district. Overall this results in a Council budget increase of 10.01%.

Council intends to address Council-owned earthquake-prone buildings in our town centres and have set funding in place to help with this. As part of that - we are continuing to plan for the Marton Civic Centre, and are also focusing on the build programme for Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre. These are key choices in this year's plan and we invite you to have your say. Please take the time to submit on key choices, or anything you find of interest, in the Annual Plan. The Consultation Document is a summary of the full Annual Plan document. For more information and to read the full document please visit [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz).

We have many reasons to be optimistic, including the significant growth in our district over the last few years. The influx of new houses and business potential is already starting to flow through to support rates. We have provided modern facilities, such as the new Taihape Amenities Building, named the Ngā Awa Block. We are also replacing the Marton water source with bore water, which will see a vast improvement in smell and taste of Marton's urban drinking water.

I am grateful for the support of our community groups who continue to add vibrancy to our facilities and parks.

I would like to congratulate the new and returning Councillors, along with staff, for the work that has been done to prepare this document under challenging circumstances.



Ngā mihi,  
**Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitīkei.**



## Ngā mahi o te tau

### What we've achieved during our 2022/23 Annual Plan

- We worked with local iwi and completed the installation of **artwork at the Bus Lane** and the **green space at Te Matapihi**. Further collaboration resulted in an iwi design for the charger stations which were moved to the new car park at Te Matapihi.



- Construction of the new **Mangaweka Ablution Block** has been completed and it has been opened to the public. The **Mangaweka Pavilion** has also been reroofed.
- Continuing the upgrades on the **RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall** in Marton, we nearly completed stage two, this includes installing accessible bathrooms and new heating and cooling systems. Practical completion has been achieved and the building is operating under a Certificate of Public Use.
- Drilling the test hole for the bore which is part of the **Marton Water Strategy** has begun and two potential aquifers have been found. Testing is now underway to determine what the water quality is like to define the upgrade on the treatment plant. The tender for the engineering design of the treatment plant alterations to the existing **Marton Plant** and the resource consent is underway. The project is due to be completed at the end of 2024.

- The construction of the new amenities building, **Ngā Awa Block, at Taihape Memorial Park** is in its last phase and expected to be completed by late April 2023. Ngā Awa Block will provide sports teams with a modern changing facility that will serve our community for many years to come.
- **Dry vault toilets** have been installed at Turakina, Tutaenui Dams and Springvale Bridge.
- Work has been completed around the possible options for strengthening the **Taihape Grandstand**. Thanks to the Taihape Heritage Group, Heritage New Zealand granted the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand **Category 2 heritage building status** in January 2023. \$1 million has been committed by Council for the strengthening. The strengthening design has been estimated by a professional Quantity Surveyor to be around \$2 million.
- We selected **Community Leisure Management (CLM)** to be the new facility managers of the Marton and Taihape community pools in October 2022. The team brought in an exciting new range of services and programmes including their award winning SwimMagic swim school, the always popular aqua aerobics, and birthday party packages.

- **Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project** is progressing. The construction of the pipeline from Marton to Bulls apart from three stream crossings has been completed. Work has started on the consenting pathway for the overarching project and the consenting strategy is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year.



- Significant progress has been made with the **Lake Waipu Improvement and Rātana Wastewater Treatment Project** with the consent being lodged and the land purchase being completed.
- Some of the **Marton Council housing units** received a new roof, while the units at Rātana received interior renovations.
- We supported the great work of the **Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society** and **The Friends of Taihape Society** on improvements to our community reserves.



2022

- We welcomed our first elected members for the **Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward** and **Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward** Māori Wards in 2022.
- We produced a **Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy** which will be completed by June 2023. This Strategy will provide long term guidance on the parks and open spaces that we need across the district.
- An **Urban Design Study for Taihape Memorial Park** has commenced and is well underway with preliminary results and reports expected back by the end of June 2023. This study will help make informed decisions about what the park needs and how the community-led projects will best fit to enhance the park.
- A draft of a **Better Business Case** has been completed for the **Marton Civic Centre** and the **Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre**, which informed the options for the key choices for this year's Annual Plan.



2023



- We're part-way through the development of a **spatial plan** for the Rangitikei district. We've called this plan **Pae Tāwhiti Rangitikei Beyond**. The purpose of this document is to identify community aspirations and set out the strategic direction for future growth of our district. The feedback we gather during the public consultation will be incorporated into our draft spatial plan. Once complete, the spatial plan will guide a range of Council projects, including our infrastructure planning and district plan review. The public consultation for this project is currently open - to make a submission please visit [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti) for more information.



# Ngā whakataunga

What are the decisions we need to make?



## Whiringa Tuatahi | Key Choice 1

### Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre

The Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre was closed in 2021 due to earthquake risks.

We know that many people wish to see it brought back to life, however with a poor heating system and many other repairs needed, bringing the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre up to standard will come at a cost. On the other hand, without a Town Hall or Civic Centre, residents are left without a main venue or space for the community to come together.

Council facilities housed in the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre include the library, information centre and Council offices. The whole building is earthquake prone and would benefit from structural, safety and accessibility improvements.

The Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31 includes a total project budget of \$9,700,000 for the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre. Council was also successful in applying for Better Off Funding from Central Government for this project of \$1,883,000. It is intended that this project will be undertaken first, prior to the Marton Civic Centre.

In addition Council has previously agreed funding support to earthquake strengthen the old Grandstand in Taihape Memorial Park, of up to \$1 million. Cost estimates indicate that earthquake strengthening to a basic level may cost up to \$2 million which does not include restoration. Costs in addition to Council's \$1 million funding will need to come from community led fundraising.

To make sure we had the information we needed to make a decision on how to progress with Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre, Council engaged an expert to deliver a Better Business Case. The Better Business Case process helps us to understand the wider context, the problems and potential solutions, the objectives and needs of the community, and what options exist for the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

Key sites identified during this process were the existing

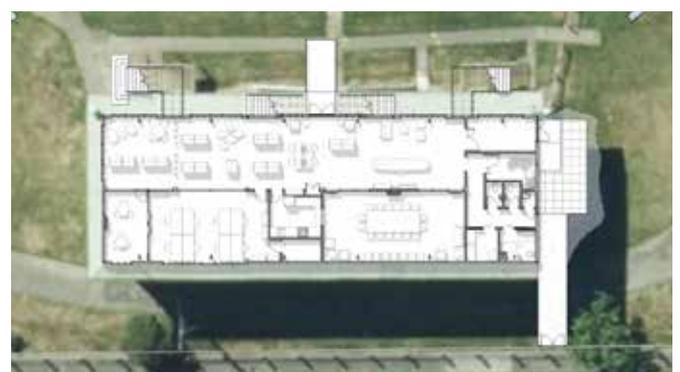
Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand sites.

As part of this process, we had to assess a wide range of realistic options against how well they meet the spending objectives and critical success factors for the project; then from this, create a short list with a number of possible options that are identified and examined in further detail.

From this business case, Council decided that the community should be consulted on two options, both of which will provide spaces to bring the community together.

#### These options are:

- 1. Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre (preferred option)** - which includes new heating, improvements to fire safety and accessibility, and full restoration to improve all spaces. The Library, Information Centre and Council offices will return to the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre. Under this option Council will continue to commit up to \$1 million towards the earthquake strengthening of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.
- 2. Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Transformation of Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand** - which includes basic earthquake strengthening, heating and accessibility improvements to Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre but no further restoration to the building. This means that only the hall area will continue to function. The Library, Information Centre and Council offices will be relocated to a transformed and earthquake strengthened Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.



High level concept designs for indicative purposes only.

## Options

OUR  
PREFERRED  
OPTION

### Option 1

#### Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre

##### Advantages and Disadvantages

###### Advantages

- Will improve the user experience of RDC services
- Will create a better-connected community
- Will increase community wellbeing
- The Town Hall / Civic Centre will be more multipurpose than in its current state
- The Town Hall / Civic Centre will be safe, warm and compliant to the Building Act

###### Disadvantages

- High cost
- No increase in square metres of usable space compared to current building

###### Risk level

- **Very High** – Earthquake strengthening and renovation always comes with unknowns, the Town Hall / Civic Centre is technically and structurally complex due to the age of the building

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 1

##### Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre

###### Likely consequences

- **Impact on rates:** \$0.89m per year
- **Impact on debt:** \$12.1m
- **Impact on level of service:** Improved level of service

###### Estimated project cost

**\$14m \***

\* Under this option Council will only commit up to \$1 million towards the earthquake strengthening of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand. Increase on LTP budget (\$9.7m) of \$4.3m.

### Option 2

#### Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Transformation of Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

##### Advantages and Disadvantages

###### Advantages

- Will improve the user experience of RDC services
- Will create a better-connected community
- Will increase community wellbeing
- Could be phased/staged easily

###### Disadvantages

- High cost
- Disconnected town hall from civic centre
- Only the Town Hall part of the current Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre will be safe, warm and compliant to the Building Act, other parts of the building may need to be removed

###### Risk level

- **Very High** – Earthquake strengthening and renovation always comes with unknowns, the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand are technically and structurally complex due to the age of the buildings

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 2

##### Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Transformation of Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

###### Likely consequences

- **Impact on rates:** \$0.9m-\$1.17m per year
- **Impact on debt:** \$13.1-\$16.1m
- **Impact on level of service:** Improved level of service

###### Estimated project cost

**\$15m - 18m \*\***

\*\* Range of cost, because scope and complexity of Taihape Town Hall could be reduced with civic services relocated to the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand. Increase on LTP budget (\$9.7m) of \$5.3m - \$8.3m.

**We want to know how often you used the Taihape Town Hall when it was still open and before COVID.**

Make a submission during this year's Annual Plan Consultation and let us know so we can make smarter investment decisions.

Kōrero  
Mai

## Whiringa Tuarua | Key Choice 2

### Marton Civic Centre



As outlined in previous years, we are looking to develop a new Civic Centre in Marton's town centre; something that we know will come with significant costs.

A new Civic Centre would bring Marton's library, information centre, council head office and emergency management under one roof. This new space will help to transform the Marton library experience into an inviting centre for learning and interaction, improve the customer and staff user experience of Council facilities, as well as increase the efficiency of Council services.

The Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31 includes a total project budget of \$19m for the Marton Civic Centre.

There are existing buildings and sites that could be sold to offset some of the costs.

To make sure we had all of the information we needed to make a decision on how to progress with the Marton Civic Centre, Council engaged an expert to produce a Better Business Case. The Better Business Case process helps us to understand the wider context, the problems and potential solutions, the objectives and needs of the community, and what options we have in front of us for the Marton Civic Centre.

As part of this process, we had to assess a wide range of realistic options against how well they meet the spending objectives and critical success factors for the project; then from this, create a short list with a number of possible options that are identified and examined in further detail.

From this business case, Council decided that the community should be consulted on two options, both of which will provide spaces to bring the community together.

#### These options are:

- 1. Demolish existing buildings and replace with new purpose built facility (preferred option)** – this includes demolishing the Cobbler, Abraham and Williams and Davenport buildings on the corner of Broadway and High Street, Marton, subject to resource consent. A new building would be constructed on the same site to accommodate civic functions from 46 High Street, Marton, a new learning and interaction centre (library) and various meeting spaces for the community.
- 2. Refurbish Existing Buildings, Preserving Some Heritage Features, where possible** – this includes refurbishing the Cobbler, Abraham and Williams and Davenport buildings on the corner of Broadway and High Street, Marton to accommodate civic functions from 46 High Street, Marton, a new learning and interaction centre (library) and various meeting spaces for the community. It is anticipated some heritage features will be preserved and some parts of the existing buildings will be demolished, this is subject to resource consent and design.

Option 1



Option 2



High level concept designs for indicative purposes only.

## Options

OUR  
PREFERRED  
OPTION

### Option 1

#### Demolish existing buildings and replace with new purpose built facility

##### Advantages and Disadvantages

###### Advantages

- Meets and exceeds all objectives defined in the Better Business Case
- Revitalisation of Marton's town centre
- Purpose built construction results in highest efficiency use of the building
- Resolves liability issues around the empty corner buildings on Broadway
- Does not require temporary offices during construction

###### Disadvantages

- High cost
- Limited parking
- Resource consent required for demolition (some of the buildings are heritage listed)

##### Risk level

- **Very High** – Resource consent is required for demolition due to heritage status

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 1

##### Demolish existing buildings and replace with new purpose built facility

##### Likely consequences

- **Impact on rates:**  
\$2.4m per year
- **Impact on debt:** \$33m
- **Impact on level of service:**  
Improved level of service

##### Estimated project cost

**\$33m \***

\* Increase on LTP budget (\$19m) of \$14m.

### Option 2

#### Refurbish Existing Buildings, Preserving Some Heritage Features, where possible

##### Advantages and Disadvantages

###### Advantages

- Preserves some heritage features
- Meets and exceeds all objectives defined in the Better Business Case
- Revitalisation of Marton's town centre
- Purpose build construction results in highest efficiency use of the building
- Resolves liability issues around the empty corner buildings on Broadway
- Does not require temporary offices during construction

###### Disadvantages

- High cost
- Limited parking
- Resource consent required for refurbishment (some of the buildings are heritage listed)

##### Risk level

- **Very High** – Resource consent is required for refurbishment due to heritage status

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 2

##### Refurbish Existing Buildings, Preserving Some Heritage Features, where possible

##### Likely consequences

- **Impact on rates:**  
\$2.41m per year
- **Impact on debt:** \$34m
- **Impact on level of service:**  
Improved level of service

##### Estimated project cost

**\$34m \*\***

\*\* Increase on LTP budget (\$19m) of \$15m.

## Whiringa Tuatoru | Key Choice 3

### New active mobility pathway along Calico Line, Marton



Council has been asked to consider installing an active mobility pathway along Calico Line, from Ngā Tawa Road to town.

The draft Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, currently being consulted on, includes an active mobility pathway 'town loop' for Marton, which covers both Ngā Tawa Road and Calico Line from town to Ngā Tawa Road.

While plans to construct a pathway along Ngā Tawa Road are already in place, we are seeking your views on what we should do about the Calico Line pathway. A proposed plan of the pathway is on our website. Ngā Tawa School have requested the pathway along Calico Line is prioritised to address ongoing concerns about the safety of students who walk into Marton from the school.

Council is considering two options as outlined below. We need the community to help us decide whether you would like us to invest to make sure this path is planned in the 2023/24 financial year, or delay the decision and seek funding from Waka Kotahi.

#### These options are:

- 1. Basic path (preferred option)** – Council undertakes the minimum work required to design and build a gravel pathway from the intersection of Calico Line and Ngā Tawa Road, Marton through to the existing footpath on Bredins Line - \$275,000, capital (debt funded), during 2023/24.
- 2. Wait and apply for funding** – Council does not take action this financial year on the Calico Line pathway. A work plan will be submitted to Waka Kotahi for the 2024-27 funding round, within which Council can apply to have this pathway subsidised by Waka Kotahi. The work will have to fall in the 2024-27 period, and it is not guaranteed that this project will meet the funding criteria.

### Options

#### Option 1

##### Build a new basic pathway

##### Advantages and Disadvantages

###### Advantages

- Provides safer passage for students of Ngā Tawa school in 2023/2024
- Improves our connections to the wider Marton township.

###### Disadvantages

- If we do not wait for Waka Kotahi funding, we could end up paying more than we need to for the project
- The project will be debt-funded

**Cost: \$275,000 capital (debt funded)**

OUR  
PREFERRED  
OPTION

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 1

##### Build a new basic pathway

##### Likely consequences

- **Impact on rates:** \$20,000 per year
- **Impact on debt:** \$275,000
- **Impact on level of service:** Improved connections

#### Option 2

##### Wait and apply for funding

##### Advantages and Disadvantages

###### Advantages

- Waka Kotahi may fund or subsidise the new pathway
- Council may not have to pay the full amount and may be able to put Council funding towards other projects in the community

###### Disadvantages

- Waka Kotahi are not guaranteed to fund or subsidise this project
- The project may take a lot longer to get off the ground
- Ngā Tawa students are not guaranteed safe passage to and from school in 2023/2024

**Cost: Dependent on Waka Kotahi approval.**

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 2

##### Wait and apply for funding

##### Likely consequences

- **Impact on rates:** \$0 for 2023/24
- **Impact on debt:** \$0 for 2023/24
- **Impact on level of service:** Stays the same

## Ngā kaupapa matua

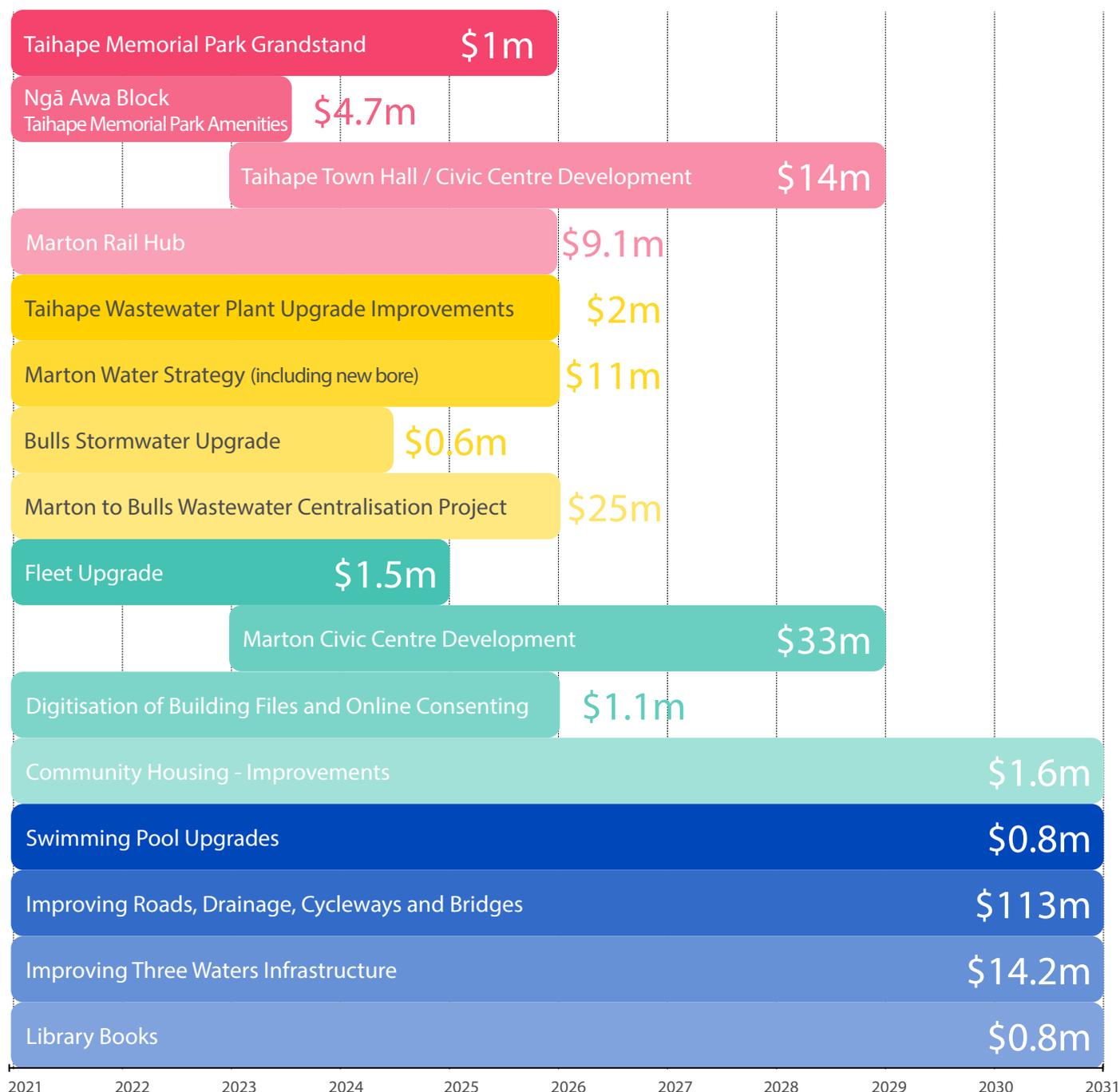
### What key projects are we planning?

Infrastructure accounts for more than 80 per cent of the Council's operating expenditure and almost all of Council's capital expenditure.

To keep moving forward, we need to deliver a huge range of infrastructure and other projects. We need to do this while maintaining a balance between delivering our services, getting the best value for our district, ensuring equity between generations and fairly sharing the cost.

We need to stay within our financial limits so we can keep on track while implementing our plans and ensuring a great future for our communities.

Our full Financial and Infrastructure Strategy (which you can find online) details the key infrastructural issues we face over the next 30 years, the costs and service implications, and how we plan to manage them.



# Ngā tāke kaunihera

## What will our rates look like?

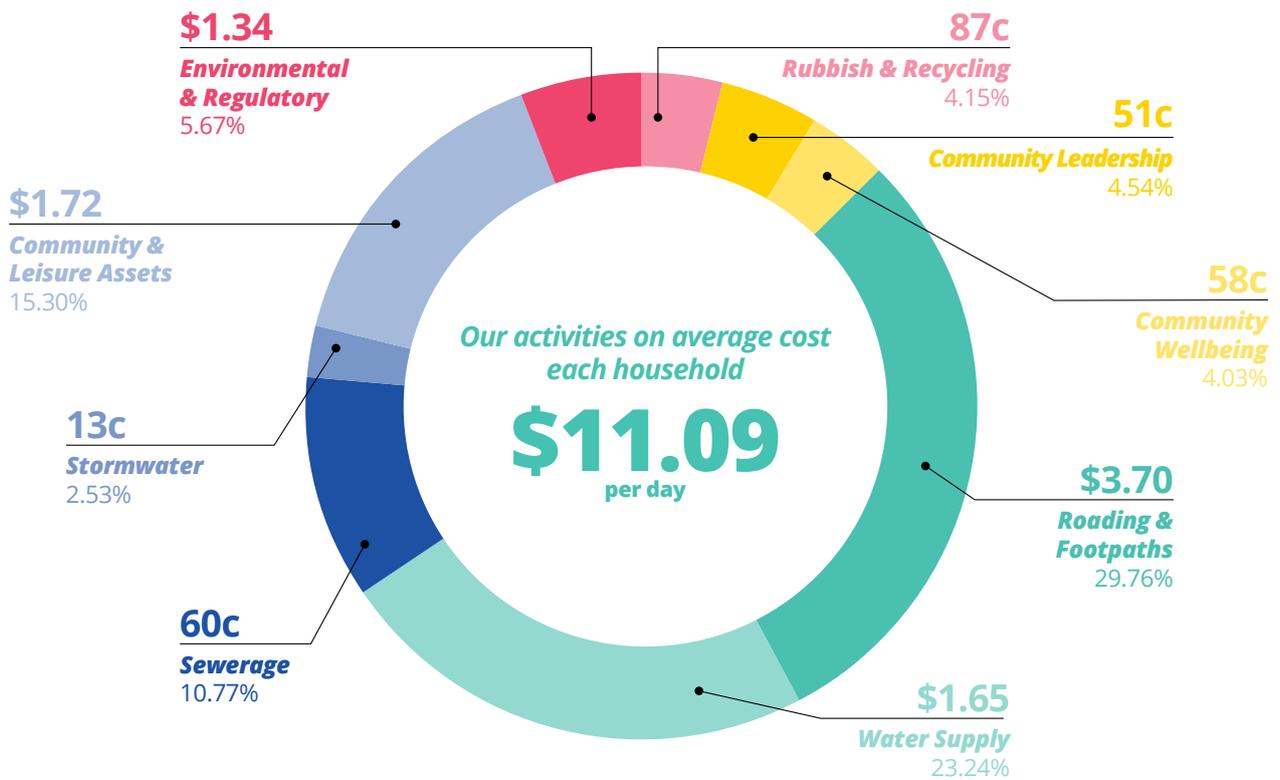
Every year, we collect rates from property owners in our District to cover the costs in our budget, pay back some debt (if we have any) and store some away for future renewals of our assets (depreciation).

Rates are allocated among Council's activities, after consideration of a number of factors which include external sources of revenue and respective levels of expenditure.

In our District we have about 8,216 rateable properties and the amount of money needed to pay for Council services and facilities is divided between these properties.

**The amount charged is different for each property and how much you pay can depend on things like:**

- The capital value of your property including improvements
- What services the property owners/occupiers receive or are likely to benefit from
- Targeted rates applied to a specific area or scheme



### Council is increasing its rates at a higher level than was stated in the LTP.

Like many Councils, we are facing an unprecedented economic climate that includes increasing inflation, employment shortages, significant weather events and increasing interest costs. Although Council has identified a number of cost savings efficiencies, we are proposing a rate increase that is higher than the figure stated in the LTP. The LTP included a rate increase of 6.54% for 2023/24, however it is now expected that the average rate increase for existing ratepayers will be around 9.01%. Coupled with growth in the District's rating base, this should generate an additional 10.01% in Council's rating revenue.

The table below shows the total rates increases (excluding penalties and remissions) for the next 10 years based on our LTP. These are the proposed total increases across the District and will vary from property to property. To view the impact on sample properties refer to page 87 of the Draft Annual Plan. You can also see what your projected rate increase is likely to be by using Council's Rates Calculator on our website. [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rates](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/rates)

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
7.07%	7.29%	10.01%	6.54%	8.79%	5.54%	3.79%	3.79%	2.54%	2.04%

## Ngā nama pūtea

### What about debt?

While we do our best to maintain our District's growth and live within our means, sometimes we need to utilise borrowed funds to support our projects.

Borrowing allows us to get the things we need now, and pay it off over time. Repaying loans over time also means that current and future ratepayers contribute to the cost of the asset that they both benefit from.

### Three Waters Reform

The Government has signalled its intent to reform the way Councils own and manage their assets related to the three waters (stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water). The anticipated outcome of this is that Council will transfer its three waters related assets to an external entity on 30 June 2024. This would also result in Council no longer receiving related revenue or incurring related expenses in relation to the three waters groups of activities. Further, Council would receive compensation for its three waters related debt (see below).

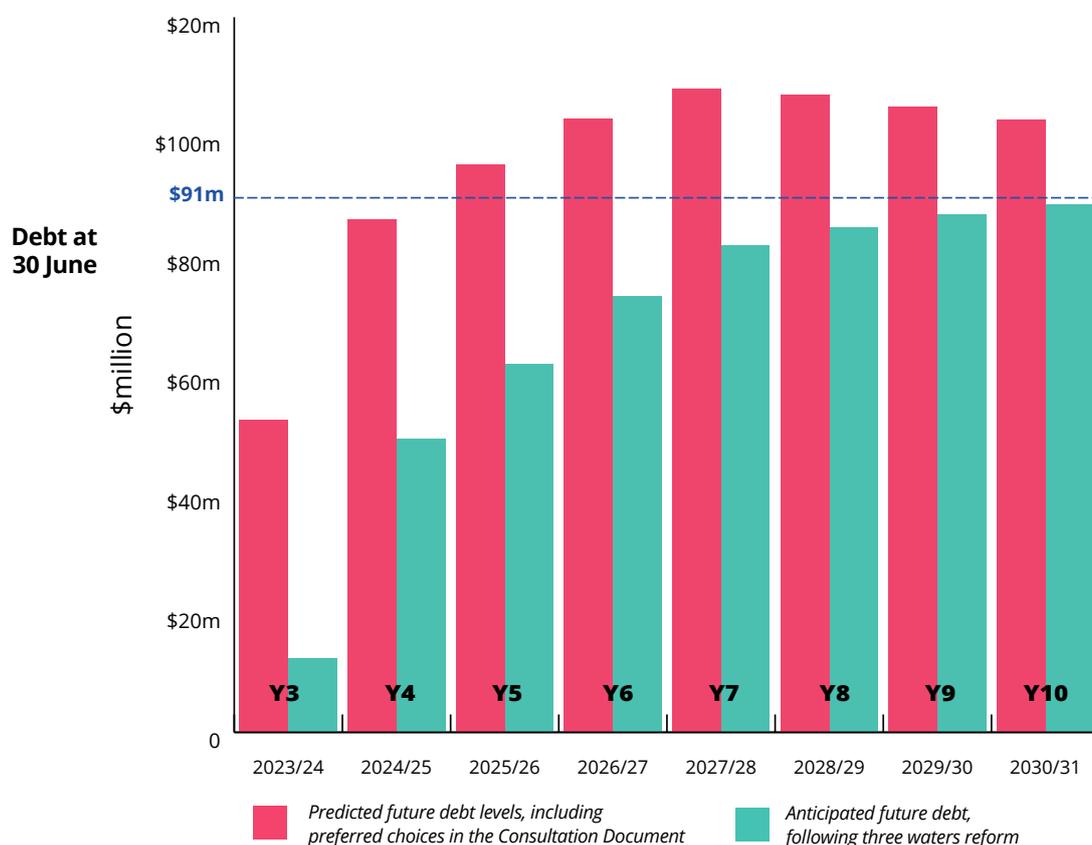
Such reform would have a significant impact on Council's Statement of Financial Position, including debt levels, from 30 June 2024 and its subsequent financial statements thereafter. The exact financial impact of these proposed reform cannot be reliably estimated until much nearer to 30 June 2024.

### Predicted Future Debt Levels

Council's predicted future debt levels, including Council's preferred choices in this Consultation Document, are shown in the graph below (pink bars). As can be seen, these debt levels exceed Council's debt ceiling of \$91m calculated at the time of Council's current Long Term Plan in 2021. Council recognises however that these predicted debt levels are likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed three waters reform. As noted above, under this reform Council will have debt associated with three waters assets repaid by Central Government; Council has already started these discussions with Central Government. The debt graph below shows Council's anticipated future debt following three waters reform and the associated debt payment from Central Government (notionally estimated at the time of asset transfer on 30 June 2024 to be \$40m - although the debt repayment may be staggered over a number of years) (green bars).

In addition, the green bars incorporate current debt interest rates which are higher than those calculated at the time of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

Council's future debt ceiling will be reviewed for the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.



# Ngā whakapau pūtea

## What do we spend our money on?

Council funds and looks after assets and infrastructure in our District, such as roads, pipes, buildings, parks, town signage and rubbish bins.

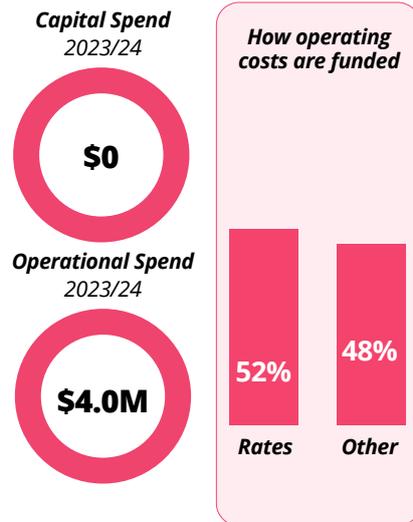
The money we spend on developing, upgrading or maintaining physical assets is known as **capital expenditure**.

Council's capital expenditure is generally funded by debt, grants, subsidies and/or rates. Additional debt will mostly be in relation to the acquisition and construction of new assets and infrastructure, rather than the replacement of existing assets and infrastructure.

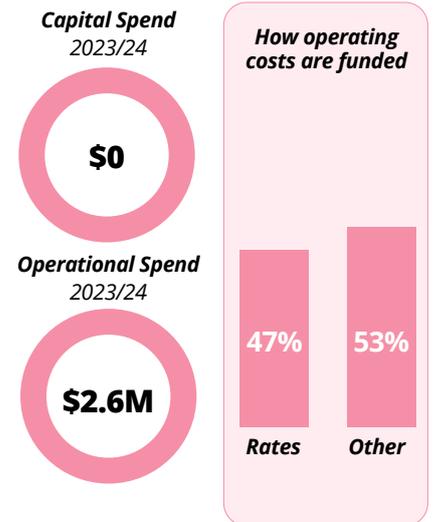
We also fund and take care of many services in our District, including running, monitoring and regulating the goings-on in our communities. This is known as **operational expenditure**.



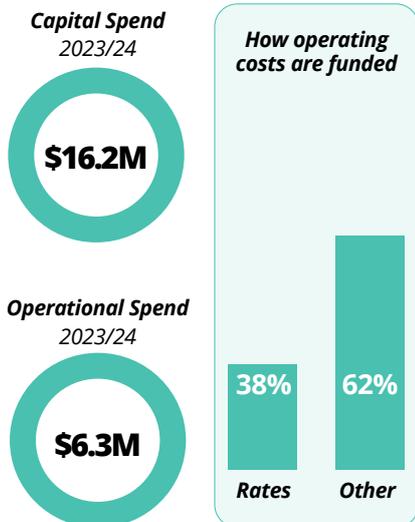
### Environmental & Regulatory



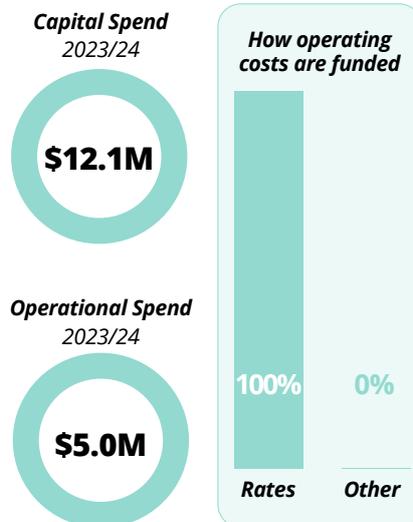
### Rubbish & Recycling



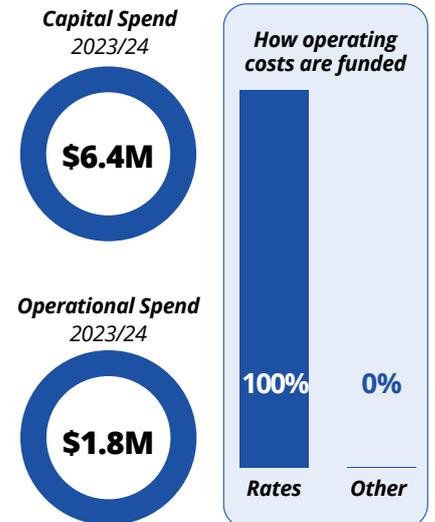
### Roading & Footpaths



### Water Supply

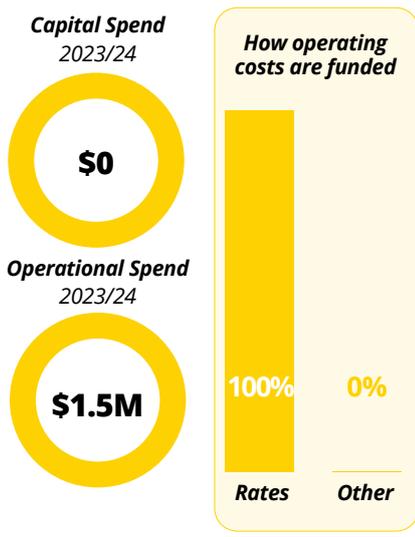


### Sewerage

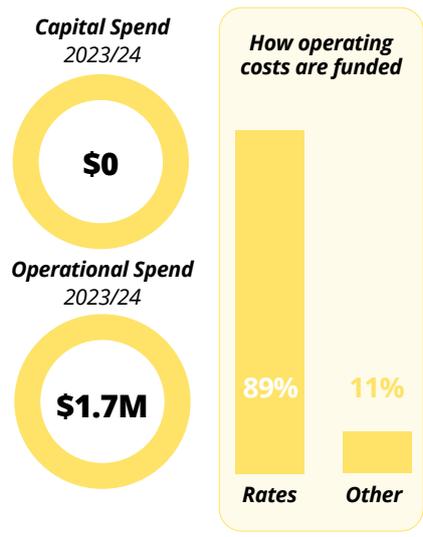




### Community Leadership



### Community Wellbeing



### Reducing community funding to lower rates



We know that there are significant pressures on our community, and we want to reduce Council expenditure where we can and keep rate increases as low as possible.

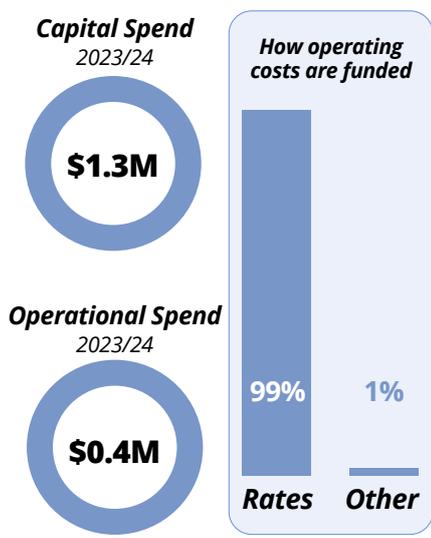
As a result of increasing cost pressures from inflation, depreciation, the impact from significant weather events, salary payments to staff to align with the median of the local government sector, fuel increases, and water compliance, Rangitikei District Council are looking at reducing the funding that is available for the community to apply for, including removing half of the Event Sponsorship Scheme funding, removing the Parks Upgrade partnership funding, and removing the funding provision from the current placemaking fund.

Community groups and individuals are encouraged to make submissions for funding through this annual plan process and Council will consider these as part of its deliberations on all submissions.

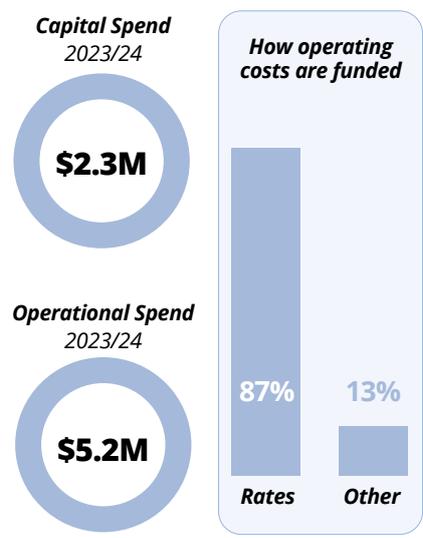
This reduction in the amount of funding for these initiatives will ultimately help to reduce Council expenditure and lower rates for 2023/2024.



### Stormwater



### Community & Leisure Assets



**Have your say on the 2023/24 Annual Plan by 5pm, Tuesday 25 April.**



## **Ngā ratanga wai** **Three Waters Reform Update**

As outlined on page 15, the Government intends to proceed with a reform that will change the way Councils own and manage their assets related to the three waters (wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water).

Here in Rangitikei, these services are delivered by Manawatū District Council under a shared services agreement, funded through rates. When the reform is complete, there will be four new entities created that would take control of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater across New Zealand.

The four entities are geographically split across the country and are referred to as A, B, C and D. Rangitikei District sits within entity B, alongside much of the central North Island. Council is participating in transition work to migrate assets and staff into these new entities.

Like many other councils in New Zealand, we have concerns about this reform. We are doing everything we can to engage in the project to make these concerns heard and get the best outcome for our community.

The Department of Internal Affairs are the Government agency leading this reform – you can find extensive information about the progress and next steps on their website [www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme).

### **Three Waters Reform Financial Support to Local Authorities “Better Off Funding”**

Central Government has committed to provide funding support for Councils to ensure no local authority is financially or materially in a worse off position to provide services to its community.

Their “better off” package supports Local Government to invest in the well-being of their communities.

Council’s allocation is for up to \$13M which is dependent on Council applications for funding being approved. Council’s application during the first funding round was approved in full, totalling \$3.33M for the following initiatives:

- A business case for housing
- Development of a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan
- Accelerating the District Plan Review
- Flood Protection for Marton CBD
- Hautapu River Parks Project
- Taihape Civic Centre
- Town Centre Regeneration
- Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa – Ngā Marae o Rangitikei Water Compliance

**Kōrero  
Mai**

**Have your say on the  
2023/24 Annual Plan by  
5pm, Tuesday 25 April.**

## Rēti Ngāherehere Hou

### Introduction of a Forestry Differential

During the 2022/2023 Annual Plan, Council consulted on a potential rating differential for properties used primarily for forestry. A rating differential is a different rating level for a particular category or type of rateable land, in this instance 'forestry land'.

Like several other councils, we looked to introduce a rating differential to fund damage caused to the roading network by forestry trucks. There are about 40,000 square metres of road damage caused by forestry traffic every year which, at the time of our initial consultations, cost around \$480,000 each year to repair. Of this amount, Council needs to pay \$175,000 after Waka Kotahi (New Zealand Transport Agency) contributions. The proposed rate differential would raise around an extra \$50,000 towards this cost which is split amongst forestry property owners.

The Forestry Differential was proposed at a rate of 1.5 (50% increase) for the 2023/24 year, and future differential rates were to be considered as part of the development of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

During previous consultation in 2022 Council received a number of submissions which provided valuable feedback on this proposal. In response, Council decided to delay the introduction of a differential on the roading rate to allow further engagement with iwi and the forestry sector. This further engagement was done in late 2022 / early 2023.

Following this further engagement members of the forestry sector offered to come up with an alternative solution to the differential. They are now working towards formally agreeing to a funding scheme where each member:

- agrees (unconditionally), that in advance of the financial year, a quarterly payment will be made, which covers a proportion of the overall amount
- cross-guarantees other members' contributions
- agrees that any non-payment under this agreement will see this arrangement cancelled for future years and replaced with a forestry rating differential (which would be increased in the first year to recognise the non-payment that triggered this)

If the above formal funding scheme cannot be set up a 1.5 rating differential will be established on land rated as forestry land.

## Ngā momo uiuinga

### What else are we consulting on?

#### Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24

Fees and charges allow us to pass on some costs directly to those who use particular services and facilities, like the transfer station or hiring a hall.

This reduces the amount of funding collected through rates.

The Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 has been reviewed and proposes an increase to all fees by 6%, which is the CPI index provided by economic consultancy BERL. Fees set by legislation or regulation are unchanged.

Other changes have been made in the following areas:

- **Regulatory** - Adjustments to several charges and deposits to better reflect staff time, including the addition of several categories. Simplification of staff rates.
- **Halls** - Adjustments to the formula by which longer periods and not-for-profit usage are charged, and simplification of the range of hireage rates for some halls.
- **Waste** - Increase in weighbridge charges to reflect increased disposal costs including central government waste levy.
- **Miscellaneous charges** - various adjustments to reflect Ministry of Justice guidelines, change in Ward structure, and removal of unused categories.

#### Traffic and Parking Bylaw

The Traffic and Parking Bylaw is currently being reviewed by the Council, with the aim of simplifying or removing elements that may overlap with existing legislation or are addressed through other means. The proposed amendments would allow the Council to restrict lane usage based on the type of vehicle or goods being carried, but only after careful consideration of the rationale and purpose of the restriction.

#### Rates Remission Policy Amendment

The Rates Remission Policy was reviewed and adopted on 9 June 2022.

One of the changes made was the removal of the category "contiguous rating units owned or leased by a single ratepayer". Contiguous units are adjacent or touching properties that share a common boundary or wall.

This removal was based on the understanding that these remissions were already covered under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2022. However, this legislation refers to two or more rating units being owned by the same person, while the previous policy also covered rates for contiguous units leased by the same person. Council's intention was to continue providing these remissions to contiguous units, both leased or owned by a single ratepayer, so is proposing to reinstate the removed section to ensure all affected ratepayers are covered.

#### Revenue and Financing Policy Amendment

Council is proposing changes to Part B of the Revenue and Financing Policy which outlines the way Council gets money for different activities. This is because there has been an increase in some fees and charges and Council also need to make some minor adjustments to how they allocate administrative costs. This means that we may change how the General Rate is distributed among different activities, however, these changes will not affect the total amount of money collected from rates.

## Ngā kaikaunihera Meet your Council

This is your Council. You've elected representatives from across the Rangitikei District to work alongside our community as we move towards making this place home.

We want to hear from you throughout this process. Get in touch with a Councillor from your ward if you would like to have a chat about this Consultation Document, or about the 2023/24 Annual Plan.



**Mayor Andy Watson**  
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**Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson** ●  
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**Councillor Fiona (Fi) Dalgety** ●  
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**Councillor Richard Lambert** ●  
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**Councillor Greg Maughan** ●  
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**Councillor Jarrod Calkin** ●  
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**Councillor Brian Carter** ●  
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**Councillor Coral Raukawa** ●  
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[coral.raukawa@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:coral.raukawa@rangitikei.govt.nz)



**Councillor Piki Te Ora Hiroa** ●  
021 0275 9983  
[tracey.hiroa@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.hiroa@rangitikei.govt.nz)

- Central Ward
- Northern Ward
- Southern Ward
- Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward
- Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward

# Puka Tāpaetanga Submission Form

He aha tō tirohanga whakamua mō Rangitīkei? Have your say on our 2023/24 Annual Plan

Submissions close at 5pm Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

## Your Details

Ingoa/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tōpūtanga/Organisation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Kāinga noho/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Īmēra/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Waea/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council Hearings on 11 May. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

Please tick here if you want your details (but not your name) to remain private.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
Submissions on this Annual Plan are public information and your information and submission will be made available to the public as part of deliberations.  
Your submission will only be used for the purpose of the Annual Plan process and will be held by Rangitīkei District Council at 46 High St, Marton 4710. You may access the information and request its correction, if required.

## Optional Demographic Information *This is kept confidential for analysis only.*

### Age:

- <24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65>

### Gender:

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

### Ethnicity:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you live in Rangitīkei?**
- Yes - where? \_\_\_\_\_
  - No - where? \_\_\_\_\_

### How did you hear about this consultation?

- Newspaper
- Mail
- Website
- Meeting
- Facebook
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

CUT-OUT SUBMISSION FORM

Tape edge together before free posting

## 👉 Key Choice 1? (see page 8)

### Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre

I prefer...

- Option 1 \*** - Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre
- Option 2** - Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Transformation of Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand
- Something else**

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 Please include more pages if required.

\* Council's preferred option.

## 👉 Key Choice 2? (see page 10)

### Marton Civic Centre

I prefer...

- Option 1 \*** - Demolish existing buildings and replace with new purpose built facility
- Option 2** - Refurbish Existing Buildings, Preserving Some Heritage Features, where possible
- Something else**

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 Please include more pages if required.





***Kōrero  
Mai***

***Have your say on the  
2023/24 Annual Plan by  
5pm, Tuesday 25 April.***

***Rangitikei District Council***

*Kōrero  
Mai*



***Tirohanga Whakamua  
Look to the future***

***info@rangitikei.govt.nz  
www.rangitikei.govt.nz***