



21 March 2024

File Ref: 5-IM-2

Local Government Official Information Request

Thank you for your request for information from Council. All requests to the Council for information are required to be considered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). More information about how the Council handles LGOIMA requests can be found in the Council's LGOIMA Request Policy, which is available on the Council's website.

Your request for information was received on 13 March 2024 and related to water rating information. Please see our response below:

1. What is your Council's proposed rates increase this year?

Response

For 2024/25: 12.5% (assuming a 1% growth rate, that equates to 11.5% increase for existing ratepayers)

2. What proportion of that is for water services and water infrastructure?

Response

Roughly 35% of our total rates are water-related, and as (essentially) all of our different rate types are increasing by the same degree, 35%

3. What proportion of any proposed rates increase is to service the debt for water infrastructure?

Response

No rate increase is specifically driven by the need to service water related debt.

4. What proportion of any proposed rates is to service debt for water infrastructure?

Response

The Draft LTP (Year 1) shows combined finance costs for Water Groups is \$1.67m. Total Council Operating costs are \$57.15m so taking one as a % of the other, 3%

5. How much debt is your Council currently servicing for water infrastructure?

Response

\$31.6m as of June 2023

6. What is your Council's current projected costs of servicing this debt over the next 10 years?

Response

Servicing 'this debt' is ambiguous – if you are referencing \$31m in your previous question (in which case the figure is, say, 5% pa ie \$15.5m over 10 years) or if you mean 'ongoing water related debt', which will continue to increase over the LTP (in which case the figure is \$31m, due to budgeted future increases in debt).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/about/contact-us/official-information> with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Rhonda Morris 027 294 7375.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gordon', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Carol Gordon

Group Manager Democracy & Planning