

# YOUR WAIKATO

YOUR REGIONAL NEWS UPDATE FROM WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**FEATURING**  
the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan

## The plan for 2013/14

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our proposed work programmes for next year consolidate a wide range of activities to make our region safer, more economically vibrant and ecologically healthy.

Our work for 2013/14 represents the second year of the 10-year plan we adopted last June. It continues to have a green growth theme to ensure economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment upon which the Waikato economy relies. This is in line with the council's mission to provide regional leadership to balance economic and environmental outcomes.

Key projects for the next year include the development of a regional coastal and marine plan for the Hauraki Gulf to cater for the next 30 years. The spatial plan will provide information and maps, including zoning areas for various activities and those for protection. Council staff will also continue to support the development of a regional economic development strategy through the Waikato local government forum comprising the chair of the regional council and the mayors of the region's city and districts.

Further work will be carried out on the council's key planning tool, the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS). Preparations are underway to respond to 37 Environment Court appeals on the proposed RPS. This mandatory document provides an overview of the resource management issues of the region and the ways in which integrated management of the region's natural and physical resources will be achieved. It helps the council achieve its flagship goals of meeting our legislative co-management requirements with iwi, promoting regional development and sustaining land and water qualities.

### TALKING POINTS

Local government reform will continue to be a key conversation in the Waikato. The amendment to the Local Government Act 2002 has come into effect and the Government has signalled a second amendment will be introduced towards the end of 2013.

We will continue to participate in the region's local government forum, which is looking at ways of working together to improve efficiencies and give a strong regional voice to issues.

Elections are one of the most important ways you can take part in the decisions that shape the Waikato region. You will have an opportunity to either vote for the people who will make those decisions, or stand for election as a representative on the Waikato Regional Council yourself, in October's local authority elections.

From this year, Waikato voters will elect 14 regional councillors – 12 from six general constituencies and two councillors from the new Māori constituencies.

In the meantime, we encourage you to have your say on our proposals and anything else raised in the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan. Your suggestions, comments and viewpoints will help to shape the final plan which is scheduled for adoption in June 2013.

**Fill in the submission form on page 8 or complete it online: [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz). Submissions close at 4pm on Friday, 12 April 2013.**

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**Waikato**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
*Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato*

[waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz)

0800 800 401



Continued from page 1.

## OUR PROPOSALS

The draft annual plan details the following proposals:

### Stopbank works

Flooding is the Waikato region's most frequent and widespread hazard. Criss-crossed with 20 large rivers and 1400 streams, the region has areas of high rainfall and steep headwaters that drain into the low lying flood plains where many of us live and work. On average, we can expect a significant flood in the region every two to three years. On your behalf, the council looks after \$350 million worth of assets like floodgates, pump stations and stopbanks designed to minimise flood risks and keep land dry so people can live on it and farm it safely. These flood protection assets protect homes, farms and critical regional infrastructure such as State Highway 1.

In the long term plan last year we budgeted \$22 million over 10 years to undertake work to improve flood protection stopbanks. We've since developed a works programme, which identifies where high priority works should be carried out over the next three years.

Feedback is being sought on the programme of works to upgrade and maintain stopbanks in the Waihou-Piako and Lower Waikato zones, which have been prioritised to take account of both the likelihood of flooding and the potential impacts of flooding.

### Peninsula Project

Waikato Regional Council has a long history of working with landowners and community groups to protect and improve the health and beauty of the Coromandel Peninsula's natural environment under the Peninsula Project. With our support, possum and goat control work has been carried out

over nearly 74,000 hectares of land on the Thames Coast and around 25,000 native plants are planted every year along the peninsula's stream banks, around wetlands and in bush fragments.

Making sure people's lives and property are safe is at the heart of much of our work, with two major flood protection works programmes under the Peninsula Project reaching significant milestones in this draft annual plan period.

Work on the last of the five flood protection schemes on the Thames Coast concluded in mid-2012 at Te Puru and we've been working with the community on getting the fairest and most equitable rates option to pay for

this vital work. We thank Te Puru ratepayers for the informal feedback they provided on a number of possible options at the start of the year, because it has helped us determine the rating proposals included in our draft annual plan for comment.

We have also been consulting with the Graham's Creek community on whether to undertake flood mitigation works in that area of the Coromandel Peninsula. Our discussions with the community and Thames-Coromandel District Council on this issue first began more than six years ago and, as a result of the most recent feedback we received in January this year, the council has reconfirmed its commitment to fund flood mitigation works in 2014/15.



Waikato River, Mercer.

## HOW WE WILL FUND THE WORK

To ensure all our activities are carried out in the most cost effective way, we thoroughly scrutinised the scope, delivery and cost of all council activities during the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (LTP). Budgets are also closely examined leading up to each draft annual plan preparation.

Our regular reviews of organisational costs help us to identify efficiencies and we actively participate in cost saving initiatives, such as all-of-Government procurement and a new computer system jointly developed by six

regional councils to support and manage our regulatory functions. What's more, over the past three years cost savings have been identified through the forecast process resulting in operational surpluses which have been made available to reduce rate increases.

We are very conscious of the constrained fiscal environment and have worked hard to reduce the rates contribution of 3.7 per cent projected in the LTP to an average 2.9 per cent to existing ratepayers.

The draft work programme approved for public consultation will be delivered on a proposed rates revenue of \$78.249 million, a reduction of \$1.28 million on the amount forecast in the LTP. The rates revenue increase is driven solely by targeted rates to meet the cost of stopbank improvement works, while the general rates revenue from all ratepayers in the region is projected to decrease. For the majority of ratepayers, the overall increase will be less than \$15 per annum.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**



Waikato Regional Council is seeking community feedback on a number of proposals in the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan, which is available online at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan).

See the back page for details on how to submit on any matter in this plan. Specific proposals and where they appear in the plan are:

| PROPOSAL                                    | PAGE |
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| Te Puru flood protection rating options     | 23   |
| Graham's Creek flood protection works       | 24   |
| State of the environment monitoring charges | 37   |

## Reforming local government

The impacts of local government reform will continue to be widely discussed across the Waikato over the coming months.

The first part of the Better Local Government reform package culminated in an amendment to the Local Government Act 2002, which passed in late 2012.

The amendment saw the local government purpose statement change. However, this does not affect the council's activities, which are mandated by the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan. Activities will be monitored to ensure they meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure and public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost effective for households and businesses.

With the 2012 amendment also relaxing the requirements for local government reorganisation, Waikato Regional Council has agreed to a set of principles against which any proposal for reform in the region will be assessed. For more details on these principles, please refer to page 13 of the draft annual plan.

The Government has signalled a second amendment to the Act will be introduced towards the end of 2013. This will include recommendations from the Efficiency Taskforce on the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning, consultation and financial reporting requirements, the Productivity Commission's report on better local regulation, and the expert advisory group on local government infrastructure efficiency.





# COUNCIL PROPOSES A FLOOD OF WORKS



The junction of the Waihou River and Kurere Stream. The stopbanks, shown at the bottom of the photo, help protect land during flood events.

## Lower Waikato and Waihou-Piako zones

Waikato Regional Council is seeking feedback on a proposed 10 year works programme to improve flood protection stopbanks in the Lower Waikato and Waihou-Piako river management schemes.

The council looks after \$350 million worth of flood protection assets, including floodgates, pump stations, and stopbanks. These assets are part of a whole river and flood protection system, designed to minimise flood risks and keep land dry. A lot of this work is so carefully integrated into the surrounding environment you can easily drive past it without realising it's there. Stopbanks, for example, may look like natural grassy banks but they are constructed to high engineering standards.

In the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (LTP) the council budgeted \$2.2 million annually, with provision for \$22 million over 10 years for upgrade of the stopbanks on a priority basis.

A more detailed works programme has been developed since the LTP was adopted, with the upgrade of high priority works planned for the next three years. This stopbank upgrade programme is part of the ongoing management and upgrade of the flood protection system, and is necessary to meet scheme design flood protection standards. It includes raising and reconstruction of some

stopbanks, and maintenance and erosion control of the associated river channels and floodplains.

The council undertakes regular and ongoing reviews on the integrity of our extensive flood protection system. This has informed decisions made on the priority of works for the 10-year programme.

As part of the review process, a council report last year identified that up to 15 per cent of the Waikato's 620 kilometres of stopbanks were below appropriate flood design levels. For the main channels and key tributaries this is generally a 1-in-100 year design level.

The stopbanks are primarily in the Lower Waikato and Waihou-Piako zones and improving their standard to appropriate levels will help avoid the risk of productive farmland, properties and roads being inundated for longer than desired during extreme flood events.

The landowners most affected by the proposed works programme will have recently received a newsletter with detailed information.

For more information on this proposal, see page 21 of the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan or visit [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/stopbanks](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/stopbanks).



### WAIHOU-PIAKO

- 343 km of stopbanks
- 986 km of river, natural stream and artificial channels
- 134 floodgate structures
- 52 pump stations.

### LOWER WAIKATO

- 250 km of stopbanks
- 251 km of channels
- 255 floodgate structures
- 65 pump stations
- 120 pumps.



The Manaia Road causeway.

## Graham's Creek works reconfirmed for 2014/15

Waikato Regional Council has reconfirmed its commitment to fund floodway improvement works for Graham's Creek in Tairua in 2014/15.

At a community meeting in January, the majority of affected property owners did not support the proposed floodway improvement works. Instead, they believed that increasing the capacity of the bridge to discharge water into the harbour under the causeway on Manaia Road would address the flooding problems.

Many of those who supported the floodway improvement works also believed the causeway upgrade should be carried out first.

Nevertheless, the council has reconfirmed the works will be undertaken in 2014/15. In the meantime, the regional council will stick with the programme of regular stream maintenance, which has been in place since 2007.

The council will discuss with Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) the potential to proceed with the causeway upgrade in 2013/14.

Through its 10 year plan process TCDC set aside \$1.2 million to upgrade the Manaia Road causeway, but the funding was subject to floodway improvement works being carried out in conjunction with the upgrade.

For more information on this proposal, see page 24 of the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan.



## Rating for completed Te Puru flood works

Waikato Regional Council is seeking feedback on three rating options to pay for work completed last year to protect Te Puru, on the Thames Coast, from up to a 1-in-100 year flood event.

It was the last of five big flood mitigation projects undertaken by the regional council as a result of the 2002 weather bomb on the Thames Coast. The combined cost of protecting the Coromandel town, Tapu, Waiomu-Pohue, Te Puru and Tararu communities was around \$6.5 million.

In response to submissions on the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan, the council last year developed three further rating options which we believed may have been fairer and

more equitable than the per property rate.

Following informal consultation in January this year, the council carried out further work to review the basis by which rates will pay for the work and public comment is now being sought on three ratings proposals detailed in the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan. A newsletter outlining the proposals will also be sent to all Te Puru ratepayers.

The council's rating decision will be implemented from 1 July 2013 and will be in place for 20 years.

For more information on this proposal, see page 23 of the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan.





# A KILLER PLAN

Pests overrun our forests, choke our waterways, kill native birds and cost primary industry millions of dollars every year.



Tutsan is an invasive plant related to St John's Wort and has the capacity to form extensive thicket across farmland. The greatest areas of risk in the Waikato are hill country farms, riparian areas and our native forests. Tutsan produces many long-lived seeds spread by birds, soil and water. It is likely roadside mowing also contributes to its spread. In the proposed RPMP landowners will be required to destroy tutsan on their land. Photo: C Lewis, Weedbusters.

Pest management is one of the council's largest expenditure areas, with about \$7 million to be spent on prioritised work in this coming year. The work directly benefits many ratepayers, with effective management of these pests in the Waikato supporting our environment and our economy.

A 10 year proposal, known as the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), is due to be released early next month for public comment and describes why and how various plant and animal pests will be controlled in the Waikato region. This is not a new programme – in fact, our first pest management strategy was prepared in 1996.

"Much has changed since then, but the council is still committed to managing pests that devastate our native biodiversity and eat into the profits of primary industry," said the council's natural heritage programme manager, Kevin Collins.

Changes made by the Government last year have affected how the regional council delivers pest control and other biosecurity services. "One very positive change is that the Crown must now contribute to the cost of pest control where the spread of pests from Crown land is causing damage and costs to private landowners," Mr Collins said.

Much of the proposed plan is the same as previous years because the underlying pest issues have not changed. However, some changes are proposed:

- The rule for controlling privet could change to require a positive allergy test before a privet tree could be removed on health grounds. While these trees do have a highly scented flower, research shows it is not a strong allergen for most people. In other words, it's unlikely that privet is the cause of the allergy symptoms from which so many people suffer. The concern is that the council may be spending significant time and money on controlling privet when it is not the main cause of most people's allergies.
- Tutsan is a weed that seriously threatens the economics of hill country farming. A new rule would require all tutsan on a property to be destroyed.
- Velvet leaf, a new pest in the proposed RPMP, is a recent weed incursion in the Waikato having been found on one farm in North Waikato and six farms in the Waihou area. It is one of the most damaging weeds to corn and maize crops, aggressively competing with them for nutrients and water, and thereby lowering crop yield.

- On the animal side, Canada goose would not be a pest, but the plan does allow the council to work collaboratively with landowners, hunters and other agencies to control them in certain circumstances.
- Possum control remains a top priority and changes have been proposed to deliver more control for less money over the long term. We would not automatically fund continued possum control in all areas when the Animal Health Board decides that bovine tuberculosis (Tb) is no longer a threat. Instead, we plan to include former Tb areas in the same scoring prioritisation process as other areas in the region.

Feedback from the community on the proposed RPMP will help the council to prioritise its resources and work, with adoption of the final plan scheduled for June 2013. The draft RPMP is due to be adopted on 28 March, with submissions closing on 3 May.

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rpmp-review](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rpmp-review)

## A SAFE HOME TO ROOST

It's an unusual sight to behold on mainland New Zealand. Grey-faced petrel, also known as oi, roosting just a short distance from residences.

That's why a group of A Rocha Aotearoa NZ and community volunteers are working many hours each month to maintain an intensive pest management programme on Mt Karioi in Raglan, where a remnant population of this native seabird nests.

"The focus for the project is to create a thriving oi population as part of that ecosystem. We can increase the chances of successful breeding through predator control and maintaining the habitat," said A Rocha national director and Raglan resident, Kristel van Houte.

A Rocha is an international nature conservation organisation which encourages

New Zealanders to care for the natural environment through hands-on community-based projects.

The group has raised the possibility of a "super-sized" project for Karioi, similar to the Hamilton Halo that provides intensive stoat, rat and possum control to restore native bird populations. That project may take a few years to develop – in the short term the group wants to focus on protecting the oi population in a smaller area.

Ms van Houte said the burrow-nesting species is not considered threatened because of its off-shore populations, but added that seabird populations are generally in decline.

"What's distinctive about Karioi is that the oi are on the mainland and close to a residential area. But if we weren't doing

anything to protect them they would disappear from this region."

She said volunteers have been banding adult birds that come in to breed and a monitoring programme will be carried out over the coming months.

The project has received Waikato Regional Council environmental initiatives fund (EIF) grants. Funding was received in 2011 to purchase traps and artificial burrows, and in 2012 to support a steering group to consult with stakeholders and the community to write a strategic management plan for integrated pest control over the entire mountain.

Find out more about the project by emailing [New.Zealand@arocha.org.nz](mailto:New.Zealand@arocha.org.nz).

### About the EIF

Applications are encouraged for one-off grants of up to \$40,000 from Waikato Regional Council's environmental initiatives fund (EIF).

**A grant is available to any project designed to:**

- enhance the environment
- promote and/or contribute to sustainable management of the environment
- raise community awareness of environmental issues
- provide environmental education.

Applications for more than \$5000 will be processed twice a year and must be received by 1 April or 1 October, while applications for \$5000 or less will be considered as soon as practical after they are received.

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/eif](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/eif)

## YOUR REGIONAL COUNCIL VOTING AREAS

In October this year, voters will elect 14 regional councillors – 12 from 6 general constituencies and 2 councillors from the new Māori constituencies.

Councils must review the number of councillors and how they represent their communities at least every six years. Waikato Regional Council completed its review last year, making a number of changes aimed at encouraging greater participation in local democracy, ensuring fair and effective representation, and better alignment with local council boundaries

and the regional council's own river management zones.

Last August the council confirmed its final proposal for its representation arrangements and notification of the right to appeal or object was also given.

No valid appeals or objections were received, so the final proposal has become the basis for the elections to be held on Saturday, 12 October 2013.

### THE CONSTITUENCIES

| GENERAL CONSTITUENCY | MEMBERS | MĀORI CONSTITUENCY | MEMBERS |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Thames-Coromandel    | 1       | Ngā Hau e Whā      | 1       |
| Waikato              | 2       | Ngā Tai ki Uta     | 1       |
| Hamilton             | 4       |                    |         |
| Waihou               | 2       |                    |         |
| Waipā/King Country   | 2       |                    |         |
| Taupō/Rotorua        | 1       |                    |         |

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/elections](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/elections)



# CARING FOR OUR BEACHES



Planting undertaken at Te Puia Springs at Kawhia's Ocean Beach last year.

Later this month the first of up to 30 planting days to take place on Waikato beaches this year will be held to reduce the risk of coastal erosion and to support local biodiversity.

Every year, Waikato Regional Council funds more than 50,000 native plants for planting by volunteers involved in 20 Beachcare groups across the region.

"Dunes play an important role in protecting beaches from coastal erosion and flooding caused by a combination of massive storms and high tides," said the council's Beachcare coordinator, Sam Stephens.

"Native plants trap sand, building a buffer, and allow the dunes to self-repair following big storm events."

Mr Stephens said the dunes also have important biodiversity benefits, providing a home for endangered insects and lizards, which in turn are food for the native birds that help fertilise the dune plants with guano and spread native plant seeds across the landscape.

"But the dunes are fragile and can easily be destroyed through the removal of native plants. That's why the work of Beachcare volunteers is so important," he said.

Volunteers spend up to 1500 hours planting over winter months, but also carry out a range of other work aimed at protecting coastlines, including:

- building accessways, fences and boarded pathways so people can get to and from beaches more easily and without trampling dunes
- controlling pest plants and animals
- speaking to other community groups and running educational seminars
- monitoring beaches for changes or problems that may need their attention.

"We want local people from the local area to get involved in looking after their beaches to ensure the benefits continue to be realised," Mr Stephens said. "Local volunteers are involved in the decisions made to ensure the plans will best meet their needs, while also benefiting the beach ecosystems."

## How you can protect Waikato's dunes

- Volunteer for your local Beachcare group.
- Always use official accessways to the beach.
- Avoid walking in or crossing dunes.
- Only plant native plants, such as pingao and spinifex.
- Do not dump garden waste in the dunes.

To contact a Beachcare group close to you please email [sam.stephens@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:sam.stephens@waikatoregion.govt.nz) or call Sam on freephone 0800 800 401.

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/beachcare](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/beachcare)

## Modelling Whitianga

Waikato Regional Council is leading work to better understand water circulation within Buffalo Bay and the Whitianga Estuary. This informs planning to manage issues such as coastal erosion, tsunami inundation, sea level rise and the maintenance of water quality in the bay and estuary.

Several years ago the council funded graduate work at Waikato University to produce a computer model simulating tidal, river and wave-driven water flow in and out of the Whitianga estuary and around Buffalo Bay.

"This hydrodynamic computer model provides a good example of how we can apply modern science to help manage potentially complex environmental issues," said coastal scientist, Vernon Pickett.

"The model is under ongoing development to help us address specific issues, as well as inform general resource management work," Dr Pickett said.

For example, the model data has been used to help assess the environmental impact of the Whitianga wastewater treatment plant discharge on the estuary, shoreline erosion from waves and currents within the harbour inlet, and tsunami inundation from local source earthquakes as part of civil

defence planning for the town.

It is also being used to help explain the occurrence of shoreline erosion around Buffalo Bay, and to potentially assess management options, such as inlet dredging, beach re-nourishment, seawalls, breakwaters and groynes. This information and other technical expertise is being provided to the Thames-Coromandel District Council as part of the Whitianga Coastal Futures project.

"Sedimentation is also an issue that many people on the Coromandel are concerned about, particularly in terms of its impact on our harbours and bays.

"Detailed survey work currently underway in collaboration with Land Information NZ (LINZ) will enable us to compare changes in sediment deposition over time. It will also allow us to update our computer model to ultimately develop a conceptual model showing what sediment might do in the estuary and bay," Dr Pickett said.

The regional council manages the coastal marine area that extends from mean high water springs to 12 nautical miles out to sea. District councils are responsible for managing land use in coastal areas above mean high water springs.

## 200+ submit on draft water safety rules

More than 200 submissions on the proposed Navigation Safety Bylaw 2013 are due to be considered this month by Waikato Regional Council.

The draft water rules were released for public comment last December and included a proposed rule change making it compulsory for lifejackets to be worn on vessels of six metres or less in length while the vessel is underway.

Of the submissions received, 54 have indicated they want to be heard during hearings scheduled for 18-20 March at the council's Hamilton East offices.

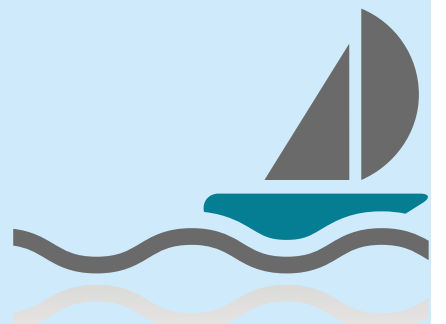
Deliberations are due to begin on 17 April, with the final bylaw to be adopted by the council on 30 May. The new bylaw will become effective from 1 July 2013.

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/bylawreview](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/bylawreview)

The council is responsible for setting and enforcing some of the boating rules in the region to make sure our waterways are safe.

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide for safe use within all navigable waters of the Waikato region (excluding Lake Taupō, which is under the Department of Internal Affairs jurisdiction).

The bylaw impacts recreational activities, including powerboating, kayaking, yachting, jetskiing and swimming.



26 March 2013  
9am - 3.30pm  
Mystery Creek Events Centre  
More than 40 suppliers plus seminars.

For a list of exhibitors and seminar topics, visit [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/forfarmers)

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan represents a review of year two of the council's 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (LTP), the planned work programmes and the way that work is funded.

## Budgeted expenditure

This plan proposes an increase in budgeted operating expenditure from \$109.925 million in 2012/13 to \$112.068 million in 2013/14, in line with the LTP forecast.

The key drivers behind the increase in expenditure for 2013/14 from the current year budget are:

- extension of the council's priority possum control operations (\$827,000)
- provision for the implementation of Variation 6 to the Waikato Regional Plan, and the resulting increase in workload associated with the processing of resource consents (\$580,000). The majority of this cost is recovered from the consent applicant.
- provision for changes in the cost of public transport services as a result of inflation (\$524,000)
- costs associated with the triennial local government elections to be held in October 2013 (\$448,000).

## How we will fund our planned work programmes

Total revenue is planned to increase from \$109.116 million in 2012/13 to \$113.619 million in 2013/14.

### RATES REVENUE

Total rates revenue is projected to increase from \$75.725 million in 2012/13 to \$78.249 million in 2013/14. This compares to \$79.529 million in the LTP – a decrease of \$1.28 million. After allowing for growth, this equates to an estimated average increase of 2.9 per cent to existing ratepayers.

### General rate

The council is pleased to present a budget which sees a decrease in the general rate requirement, reflecting savings achieved through joint procurement initiatives with other councils, general efficiency savings, and the application of surpluses from the 2011/12 financial year to offset rates.

Offsetting the decrease in the general rate is an increase in the biosecurity rate to fund an extension to the council's priority possum control operations. This rate is levied on the same basis as the general rate, being the capital value of all properties in the region.

### Targeted rates – flood control and protection

An increase in targeted rates for flood control and protection works is the main reason for the overall increase in the council's rate requirement. The increase in funding for these activities was approved through the LTP in response to demand from local communities for increases to existing levels of service, as well as some demand for new services.

The council has also continued to take over the management of drainage schemes from Waikato District Council, with the associated rate revenue requirements now included in the budget.

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN RATE REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

| Rates paid by all properties  | 2012/13 rates (\$000) | 2013/14 proposed rates (\$000) | Increase/decrease (\$000) |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| General rate  | 29,595                | 27,747                         | (1,848)                   |
| Uniform annual general charge (UAGC)  | 7,845                 | 8,346                          | 501                       |
| Civil defence and emergency management  | 2,065                 | 2,411                          | 346                       |
| Biosecurity   | 5,456                 | 6,183                          | 727                       |
| Natural heritage  | 956                   | 967                            | 11                        |
| Protecting Lake Taupō   | 2,604                 | 2,609                          | 5                         |
| <b>Total rates paid by all properties</b>   | <b>48,521</b>         | <b>48,263</b>                  | <b>(258)</b>              |
| <i>Estimated average decrease to existing ratepayers after providing for growth</i> |                       |                                | <i>(2.6) per cent</i>     |

| Targeted rates  | 2012/13 rates (\$000) | 2013/14 proposed rates (\$000) | Increase/decrease (\$000) |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Public transport (Hamilton city ratepayers only)                                    | 7,408                 | 7,412                          | 4                         |
| River and catchment services  | 18,135                | 20,834                         | 2,699                     |
| Permitted activity monitoring (properties 2ha and above only)                       | 956                   | 1,028                          | 72                        |
| Stock truck effluent (properties 2ha and above only)                                | 42                    | 49                             | 7                         |
| Animal health board (properties 2ha and above only)                                 | 663                   | 663                            | -                         |
| <b>Total targeted rates</b>   | <b>27,204</b>         | <b>29,986</b>                  | <b>2,782</b>              |
| <i>Estimated average increase to existing ratepayers after providing for growth</i> |                       |                                | <i>10.2 per cent</i>      |

|   |               |               |                     |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total rates revenue</b>  | <b>75,725</b> | <b>78,249</b> | <b>2,524</b>        |
| <i>Estimated average increase to existing ratepayers after providing for growth</i> |               |               | <i>2.9 per cent</i> |

### FEES AND CHARGES

Changes proposed to fees and charges for 2013/14 are:

- Change in relation to state of the environment (SOE) monitoring charges for air discharges and land use consents.
- The continued phasing-in of increases to SOE monitoring charges in relation to geothermal takes and discharges, surface water takes and groundwater takes is planned for 2013/14.
- Fares for passengers using the public transport network in Hamilton city are planned to increase by 5 per cent with effect from 1 January each year. These increases are aimed at ensuring the council continues to progress towards meeting farebox recovery targets (the share of costs met by service users) set by the NZ Transport Agency.



You can obtain more detailed information on your proposed individual rates for 2013/14, or find the answers to many commonly asked rates questions, by visiting our website:

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rates](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rates)

Alternatively, call Waikato Regional Council on **freephone 0800 800 401**. Have the valuation reference number of your property ready, or just use your address and follow the simple instructions.

You can also contact the rates team via email: [rates@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:rates@waikatoregion.govt.nz).



**CHECK YOUR RATES**

Check the rates for your property using our simple online rates calculator: [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/ratescalculator](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/ratescalculator)

## How property revaluations affect you

A number of territorial authorities in the region have undertaken general revaluations this year. While revaluations do not impact the total value of rates that the council needs to collect, they can result in a change in the amount of rates paid by individual ratepayers. If the value of a property has increased by more than the average for that territorial authority, it is likely that rates for that

property will increase by more than the average. However, if the value of a property has decreased by more than the average, it is likely that rates will increase by less than the average for that district or city. We encourage ratepayers to check the proposed rates that will apply to their property through our website: [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rates](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/rates).

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Prospective statement of comprehensive income

|                                  | 2012/13        | 2013/14        |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                  | \$000          | \$000          |
| <b>Total revenue</b>             | <b>109,116</b> | <b>113,619</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>               |                |                |
| Interest expense                 | -              | -              |
| Depreciation                     | 6,129          | 6,429          |
| Amortisation - intangible assets | 446            | 247            |
| Other operating costs            | 103,350        | 105,392        |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>         | <b>109,925</b> | <b>112,068</b> |
| <b>Net surplus</b>               | <b>(809)</b>   | <b>1,551</b>   |

### Prospective statement of changes in equity

|   | 2012/13        | 2012/14        |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | \$000          | \$000          |
| Opening equity  | 415,696        | 423,441        |
| Property, plant and equipment revaluation gains taken to equity | -              | 31,259         |
| Net surplus/(deficit) for the year                              | (809)          | 1,551          |
| <b>Closing equity</b>   | <b>414,887</b> | <b>456,251</b> |

### Prospective statement of financial position

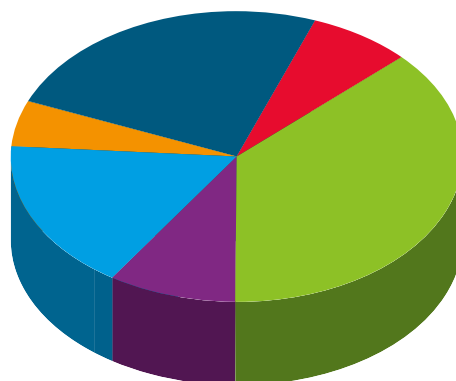
|                          | 2012/13        | 2012/14        |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                          | \$000          | \$000          |
| Current assets           | 29,504         | 43,564         |
| Non-current assets       | 407,331        | 439,839        |
| <b>Total assets</b>      | <b>436,835</b> | <b>483,403</b> |
| Current liabilities      | 19,164         | 24,001         |
| Non-current liabilities  | 2,784          | 3,151          |
| <b>Total liabilities</b> | <b>21,948</b>  | <b>27,152</b>  |
| <b>Total equity</b>      | <b>414,887</b> | <b>456,251</b> |

### Prospective statement of cash flows

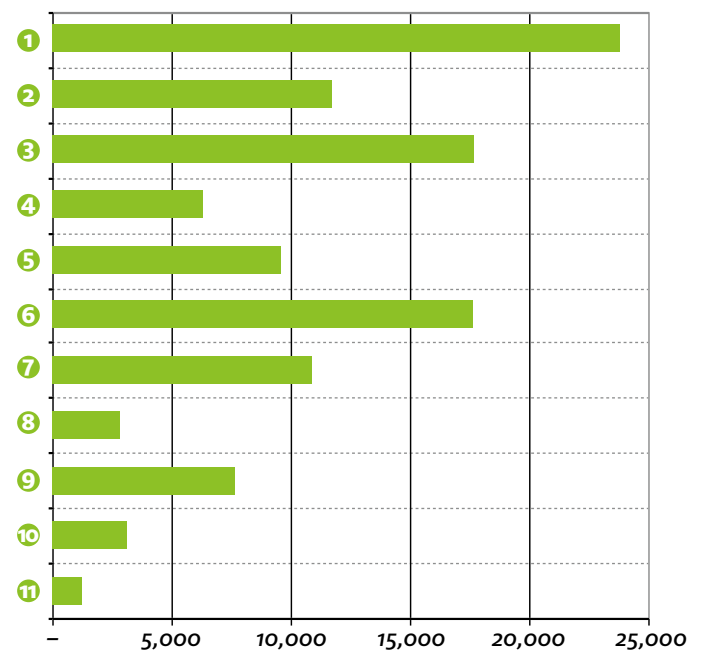
|   | 2012/13    | 2012/14        |
|---|------------|----------------|
|   | \$000      | \$000          |
| Net from operating activities                               | 7,247      | 7,903          |
| Net from investing activities                               | (7,106)    | (9,748)        |
| Net from financing activities                               | -          | -              |
| <b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b> | <b>141</b> | <b>(1,845)</b> |

## Where our funding comes from

- Targeted rates
- Government grants
- Fees and charges
- Investment income
- General rate
- UAGC



## Where we spend our funds



- 1 Transport connections
- 2 Strategic and integrated planning
- 3 Resource management implementation
- 4 Regional democracy
- 5 Natural environment and heritage
- 6 Flood control and protection works
- 7 Environmental community and economic information
- 8 Community safety
- 9 Catchment management
- 10 Council controlled organisations
- 11 Corporate

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Submissions on the 2013/14 Draft Annual Plan close at 4pm on Friday, 12 April 2013. Councillors look forward to your feedback on the key issues. Visit [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz) to make an online submission.

| Name                  | Constituency          | Phone                       | Email                                | Name                   | Constituency       | Phone                      | Email                                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Tony Armstrong</b> | Hamilton              | (07) 829 8609, 021 224 4708 | tony.armstrong@waikatoregion.govt.nz | <b>Stuart Kneebone</b> | Waipā-King Country | (07) 827 3079, 021 943 055 | stuart.kneebone@waikatoregion.govt.nz |
| <b>Norm Barker</b>    | South Waikato-Rotorua | 027 270 9914                | norm.barker@waikatoregion.govt.nz    | <b>Phillip Legg</b>    | Matamata-Piako     | 021 220 7314               | phillip.legg@waikatoregion.govt.nz    |
| <b>Peter Buckley</b>  | North Waikato-Hauraki | 021 227 3436                | peter.buckley@waikatoregion.govt.nz  | <b>Lois Livingston</b> | Hamilton           | 021 704 293                | lois.livingston@waikatoregion.govt.nz |
| <b>Laurie Burdett</b> | Taupō                 | (07) 378 3025, 021 248 0112 | laurie.burdett@waikatoregion.govt.nz | <b>Russ Rimmington</b> | Waipā-King Country | 027 671 1434               | rimmington@xtra.co.nz                 |
| <b>Simon Friar</b>    | Thames-Coromandel     | 0275 926 322                | simon.friar@waikatoregion.govt.nz    | <b>Paula Southgate</b> | Hamilton           | 021 589 957                | paula.southgate@waikatoregion.govt.nz |
| <b>Jane Hennebry</b>  | Hamilton              | 021 229 8591                | jane.hennebry@waikatoregion.govt.nz  | <b>Theresa Stark</b>   | Central Waikato    | 021 941 314                | theresa.stark@waikatoregion.govt.nz   |



Your Waikato is produced on paperstock certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). PEFC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification.

401 GREY STREET, HAMILTON EAST  
PRIVATE BAG 3038, WAIKATO MAIL CENTRE, HAMILTON 3240

**FREEPHONE 0800 800 401**  
**www.waikatoregion.govt.nz**



# SUBMISSION FORM

Please tell us what you think about our proposals. You are welcome to use the submission form here or send in your submission on a separate sheet. The council looks forward to receiving your feedback.

## SUBMITTER

Title (please circle): Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organisation/group submitting (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal address: (Please ensure you provide your full postal address, including rural delivery and postcode) \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (daytime): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick if you prefer to be contacted by email.

Email (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
I/we wish to present my/our group's comments to the council in person at the hearings.  
(please circle): Yes No  
Hearings are scheduled for 7-10 May 2013. You will be notified when to appear.  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR SUBMISSION

Note that your submission and any information you supply as part of your submission is considered public information and will be available in reports and documents relating to this process and may be published on our website at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz).

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# MAKING A SUBMISSION

If you wish to submit on any matter in this draft annual plan, you can make a submission online at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan).

**Submissions close at 4pm on Friday, 12 April 2013**

## VIEW THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

You can view the draft annual plan:

- online at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan)
- at public libraries in the Waikato region
- at any Waikato Regional Council office from 8am to 5pm
- by phoning 0800 800 401 to request a copy.

## HEARINGS

If you indicate that you wish to present your submission to the council in person, we will contact you to arrange a date and time. Hearings are scheduled to take place from 7-10 May 2013.

Please make your written comments as clear as possible and use the presentation time to highlight the most important aspects.

## DELIBERATIONS

The councillors will meet to deliberate on all submissions in May, with the final plan adopted on 27 June 2013.

You will be sent a written explanation of the outcome of your submission after deliberations have taken place.

## ENQUIRIES

For all enquiries about the consultation documents and the submission process, please call Waikato Regional Council's freephone 0800 800 401.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Making your submission online at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan) helps us to reduce costs.

Written submissions can also be:

### POSTED TO:

Corporate Planning and Development Unit

Freepost 118509

Waikato Regional Council

Private Bag 3038

Waikato Mail Centre

Hamilton 3240

### DELIVERED TO:

Waikato Regional Council

401 Grey Street

Hamilton East

Hamilton

### FAXED TO:

07 859 0998

### EMAILED TO:

[haveyoursay@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@waikatoregion.govt.nz)

