

Waikato Regional Council works with communities, iwi and industries to sustainably manage our natural resources, to enable a strong economy and a high quality of life for all who live here.

Therefore, everything we do is geared towards looking after our region's water, soil, air, geothermal areas and coasts, so we can all enjoy these precious resources now and into the future and prosper economically.

For this financial year, the council has stuck closely to the programme of works it signalled in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

For our ratepayers, this financial year's \$100.983 million rates budget means an average rates increase of 4.5 per cent for all properties – slightly below that proposed in the long term plan – while targeted rates have risen by an average of 11.2 per cent.

The rise in targeted rates is mainly driven by public demand for increased budgets for biosecurity, public transport (Hamilton only) and catchment work. Our communities wanted more funding to be put into pest control, and more flood protection work has been requested by landowners in the Lower Waikato and Waihou-Piako catchments. The council has also started collecting rates from Hamilton City ratepayers for the Hamilton-Auckland passenger rail service.

We're working together to build a Waikato region that has a healthy environment, a strong economy and vibrant communities!

It's your Waikato Keep informed

Keep up to date with environmental and economic issues and how these affect the work we do and the rates you pay. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or visit our website. Also, you are always welcome to attend committee and council meetings to see your councillors at work.

☎ 0800 800 401

✉ info@waikatoregion.govt.nz

🌐 waikatoregion.govt.nz

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YOUR RATES AT WORK

Mā tāu rēti, ka mahi i ngā mahi



STAND UP & VOTE

What do you stand for?

- Clean, fresh water?
- Unique biodiversity?
- Reducing flood risk?
- Healthy coasts?
- Connected communities?
- The Waikato way of life?

Learn how the candidates in your constituency stand on the issues that are important to you, at waikatoregion.govt.nz/elections, then make your stand by voting for the best people to lead the Waikato region over the next three years.

Waikato regional councillors will be charged with making decisions on key projects, including:

- the reviews of the regional plan and coastal plan
- implementation of Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1
- a sustainable work programme for our flood protection assets
- a new Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan
- a new economic development strategy for the region (Waikato Means Business)
- the region's Māori partnership approach.

LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE COMING SOON.

Why vote?

Democracy only succeeds if you get involved.

Waikato Regional Council has 14 seats in six general and two Māori constituencies in this year's local elections in October.

General:

- Hamilton (4 seats)
- Waikato (2 seats)
- Thames-Coromandel (1 seat)
- Waihou (2 seats)
- Waipā-King Country (2 seats)
- Taupō (1 seat)

Māori:

- Ngā Tai ki Uta (1 seat)
- Ngā Hau e Whā (1 seat)

How to vote

Make sure you are enrolled to vote. You can enrol, check or update at vote.nz

Voting documents, including a reply paid envelope, will be mailed to all eligible voters in September 2019. You may get to vote for more than one candidate depending on where you live.

Your voting document needs to be returned by 12 noon on Saturday, 12 October 2019. Either by post, or by delivering your completed voting document to any district council office in the region or Hamilton City Council during normal business hours.



\$29.19 million



Integrated catchment management |

Te whakahaere ā-tōpū i te rauwiringa wai

Highlights

- Review of the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan, which will include engagement with stakeholders and a biosecurity campaign.
- Increased biosecurity spend to tackle kauri dieback, possums and wallabies.
- Development (with communities) of non-statutory harbour and catchment management plans for Coromandel/Manaia, Whitianga/Mercury Bay and west coast harbours Kāwhiā, Aotea and Raglan.
- Increased capacity for catchment works, in response to community demand.



\$31.61 million

Public transport | Ngā waka kawē tangata tūmatanui

Highlights

- A new customer-friendly public transport integrated ticketing system will be implemented later this year.
- The five-year trial of the rail service between Hamilton and Auckland begins mid-2020. With capacity for 147 passengers each way, it will stop in Frankton, Rotokauri, Huntly, Papakura and Auckland.
- A new public transport service between Hamilton and Tokoroa will begin, improving regional access to essential services, tertiary education and employment and social opportunities.

\$24.18 million



Flood protection and control works |

Ngā mahi hei ārai, hei ārahi hoki i ngā waipuke

Highlights

- Work on the regional infrastructure fish passage project, a partnership with others to mitigate the impacts of land drainage and flood control infrastructure on migratory native fish.
- Delivery of an infrastructure sustainability plan which explores the issues that affect, or may affect, the sustainability of the council's land drainage and flood protection infrastructure, and looks at options to respond to these issues.
- Construction of the new Muggerridge's pump station near Ngātea.

\$16.95 million



Resource use | Te whakamahinga o te taiao

Highlights

- Monitoring of high-risk dairy farms (the 19 per cent with inadequate effluent storage) to bring them in line.
- Targeted monitoring of earthworks-related activities, forestry harvesting and vegetation clearance, as these pose a higher risk of affecting our waterways.
- Preparing for the implementation of Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

\$1.99 million



Regional hazards and emergency response |

Mōreatanga ā rohe me te whakarata ohotata

Highlights

- Launch of the Waikato Regional Hazards Portal, an online tool which improves access to hazard information to help decision making by the public, local authorities and others.
- A new, enhanced version of the coastal inundation tool, which helps councils, local communities and individual land owners assess the potential impacts of projected sea level rises and storm effects.

\$26.56 million



Science and strategy | Pūtaiao me te rautaki

Highlights

- The hearings and decisions process for Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora is expected to be completed, with submitters having the opportunity to lodge an appeal.
- Healthy Environments | He Taiao Mauriora, the review of the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan and the Waikato Regional Plan, continues with a focus on information and data gathering and engagement with stakeholders.
- Responding to the new requirements of the anticipated National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.
- Development of the new strategic direction for the next three years, where the new council sets the priorities to ensure achievement of long term outcomes for a sustainable future.
- Continued support of the implementation and refresh of the Waikato Plan, which was developed by the region's leaders to address the challenges the Waikato faces.

OUR SPEND 2019/20
Total \$146.81m



\$13.81 million

Community and services | Hapori me ngā ratonga

Highlights

- A robust local government election process, which includes encouraging the community to vote, and induction of the new council.
- Establishing new co-governance committees in response to Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

\$2.52 million



Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Group Management |

Te Rakau Whakamarumarū ā Rohe o Waikato

Highlights

- Responding to and implementing key aspects of the Government's emergency management systems reform.
- Review of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan.

