

# CATCHMENT RATES FOR NEW WORKS

## RĒTI WHENUA FOR NGĀ HANGANGA HOU

No matter where you live – in a town, out in the country, on a lifestyle block or by the ocean – it’s important to make good decisions about how you use your land.

We provide landowners and community groups with advice and funding to help them retire erosion-prone areas, fence and plant waterways, and protect wetlands, native bush and coastal areas.

It’s all about reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients entering our waterways and providing habitat for native plants and animals.

In some cases, the funding we provide can be matched by the Department of Conservation or Waikato River Authority, ensuring greater outcomes are achieved for the region while reducing costs to individual landowners.

There’s a high demand from landowners for these services, which suggests there’s also a growing shift to more sustainable land use practices. However, we aren’t collecting enough rates to meet this demand. We also have increasing opportunities to partner with others and co-fund projects, but right now we don’t have the money to take advantage of most of these opportunities. This isn’t a viable way to continue, so we propose to increase funding and our resources.

Catchment and harbour management plans help us prioritise where we carry out work and at what scale. These non-statutory plans are created in collaboration with the affected communities, and give us a better understanding of the vision and priorities people have for their catchments. They provide the overarching framework and direction to guide our work in a catchment and enable us to coordinate our work and resources with other agencies – sometimes attracting additional funding.

We don’t have plans for all catchments and harbours across the region, and want to focus on areas we haven’t provided a lot of planning support for in the past. For example, west coast harbours. We are also fast-tracking our existing programme to finalise the last two big harbour plans for the Coromandel zone – Whitianga/Mercury Bay and Coromandel/Manaia.

The table below outlines where we’re proposing increases for each of the catchments, and the cost of those works. These increases would have no impact on debt.

**We’re proposing to increase targeted catchment rates to fund all the works set out in this table. What do you think?**

PROPOSED LEVEL OF SERVICE	ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROPOSED			
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEARS 4-10
<b>LOWER WAIKATO</b>				
Additional funding would go towards meeting our existing commitment to fund work on investigations into options for improving the health of Lake Waikare and the Whangamarino wetland in conjunction with the Waikato District Lakes Accord.  We would also employ three new catchment officers over five years to support landowners to undertake works based on the priorities outlined in the Waikato Waipā River Restoration Strategy and Lower Waikato Zone Plan.  We need to review the Lower Waikato Zone Plan and have scheduled this for year 6 at a cost of \$50,000.	\$90,000	\$467,000	\$923,000	\$6.9 million
<b>UPPER WAIKATO</b>				
Additional funding to support restoration projects in the Whirinaki catchment.	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$392,000

PROPOSED LEVEL OF SERVICE	ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROPOSED			
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEARS 4-10
<b>CENTRAL WAIKATO</b>				
<p>Additional funding for two catchment officers to support the increased demand from landowners undertaking works. Priority would be given to areas that align with the priorities outlined in the Waikato Waipā River Restoration Strategy and Central Waikato Zone Plan.</p> <p>We need to review the Central Waikato Zone Plan and have scheduled this for year 6 at a cost of \$50,000.</p>	\$50,000	\$190,852	\$293,000	\$3.31 million
<b>WAIPĀ</b>				
<p>Additional funding would go towards meeting our existing commitments in conjunction with the Waikato River Authority.</p> <p>Our catchment officers would also provide additional support to landowners to undertake actions from the Waipā Catchment Plan, including soil conservation, fencing and planting.</p> <p>We need to review the Waipā Zone Plan and have scheduled this for year 6 at a cost of \$50,000.</p>		\$21,813	\$32,719	\$431,465
<b>WAIHOU-PIAKO</b>				
<p>The Waihou-Piako catchment doesn't have a catchment management plan, so in the first instance we would gather data and information to better understand the pressures, priorities and needs of this catchment. From this, we would identify what catchment plans are required.</p> <p>We are also proposing to add an extra catchment officer in year 2 to support landowners in this area.</p>	\$65,000	\$223,000	\$263,000	\$1.33 million
<b>COROMANDEL</b>				
<p>Additional funding to fast track the completion of the Mercury Bay and Manaia harbour and catchment management plans.*</p> <p>We would also be looking to maintain the areas where we have already removed mangroves, and continue with harbour restoration sites.</p>	\$95,000	\$145,000	\$110,000	\$470,000
<b>WEST COAST</b>				
<p>Additional funding for catchment officers to support landowners to undertake coastal enhancement works, like restoring coastal wetlands, reducing coastal weeds and predator control work.</p> <p>We need to review the West Coast Zone Plan and have scheduled this for year 4 at a cost of \$50,000.</p>	\$85,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$700,000
<b>ALL OF REGION BENEFIT</b>				
Additional funding to implement the land biodiversity programme on own land.	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$42,250	\$316,000
Additional funding for a catchment planner who would work on catchment plans with the initial focus being the west coast.*	\$73,000	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$651,000

\* This is funded 100 per cent by general rates.



Not all of these works will apply to everyone, so it's important you find out how your rates would be affected.

[waikatoregion.govt.nz/ratescalculator](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/ratescalculator) 0800 800 401