



REGIONAL SERVICES FUND

PŪTEA RATONGA Ā-ROHE

Volunteer emergency services save lives in our communities.

Two years ago we agreed to collect a rate on behalf of other councils to fund these services in the Waikato region. We currently distribute \$630,000 (GST excluded) of funding, which is \$3.74 per property, to the following emergency services:

\$354,600 TO SURF LIFE SAVING PER YEAR

\$175,400 TO COASTGUARD PER YEAR

\$50,000 TO PHILIPS SEARCH AND RESCUE TRUST PER YEAR

\$50,000 TO COROMANDEL RESCUE HELICOPTER TRUST PER YEAR

After seeking input and feedback from local councils in the region and the current recipients of the fund, we're suggesting the following two changes:

- Include Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR) as a beneficiary of the fund. LandSAR has trained and skilled volunteers who work with authorities such as NZ Police or the Rescue Coordination Centre to look for lost, missing or injured people. There are nine local groups across the region: Whitianga (Kuaotunu), Tairua-Pauanui-Whangamata, Thames, Paeroa, Waihi, Hamilton, Waitomo (Te Kūiti), Taupō and Tūrangi. The council's suggestion includes a funding contribution of \$40,200 per year to address a funding shortfall for the equipment and training costs of the nine local groups we have in the Waikato region.
- An additional funding contribution of \$25,000 per year to cover two regional lifeguards working two to three hours either side of low tide cycles at Hot Water Beach, seven days a week. Surf Life Saving New Zealand has reported unprecedented increases in visitors to the Cathedral Cove/Hot Water Beach area during the 'shoulder season' (October to December and April to June).

		PREFERRED OPTION
OPTION 1 Status quo – maintain current funding levels	OPTION 2 Add LandSAR as a beneficiary	OPTION 3 Add LandSAR as a beneficiary, and increase the funding to Surf Life Saving services
Impact on levels of service: No change	Impact on levels of service: Increase	Impact on levels of service: Increase
Total contribution: \$630,000	Total contribution: \$670,500	Total contribution: \$695,500
Impact on rates: \$3.74 per property	Impact on rates: \$3.98 per property Increase of \$0.24	Impact on rates: \$4.13 per property Increase of \$0.39