

Horowhenua District Council's draft Long Term Plan 2024-44

The Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out the services and projects the Council will provide to the Horowhenua community for the next 20 years until 2044.

Council's draft Long Term Plan 2024-44 includes three key topics:

1. What services do we need for our community?
2. How should we manage our waste?
3. Sharing costs - who should pay for what?

The formal consultation period started on 15 March and runs **until 5pm on 15 April 2024**.

During this period we encourage you to have your say by making a submission.

Hearings will take place on 2 May, followed by deliberations on 22 May 2024. Council will receive all submissions before this to inform that discussion and subsequent decisions. Elected Members will adopt the final Long Term Plan 26 June 2024.

There are several aspects for consideration that affect Waikawa Beach as well as other similar communities in the district. These kerbside recycling, berm mowing and rates rises.

It is a widely held view in the community that we receive few council services when compared to other areas of the district, water supply, sewage disposal and stormwater disposal being the major ones. Should Waikawa Beach be subject to a lesser rates increase because of the lack of these, and other, services.

Kerbside recycling is another issue because of the distance Waikawa Beach is from current recycling facilities. Should kerbside recycling cease does council intend to establish recycling facilities closer to communities such as Waikawa Beach.

Is berm mowing more important in a community like Waikawa Beach because so many properties are not occupied on a permanent basis. What will be the effect on the general appearance of the area if berm mowing were to cease. Are unmown berms a fire hazard in summer.

Perhaps if the full rate rise was to be applied to Waikawa Beach kerbside recycling and berm mowing could be continued (perhaps on a slightly less frequent basis) to compensate for the lack of other council services.

Have your say – make a submission before 15 April 2024.

Proposed options

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
(Status Quo - current levels of service): An average 23.6% rates increase to keep the current levels of service	(Preferred Option) An average 17.4% rates increase with some reduced levels of service	Reduced Services to achieve a rate increase less than 17.4%

What that means

OPTION 1 – you’d see no reductions or stoppages of services you receive but this would be an average 23.6% rates increase and it isn’t Council’s preferred option.

OPTION 2 (preferred option) – To reduce the rates increase to an average of 17.4%.

THE CHANGES YOU’D SEE ARE:	SAVINGS IN \$ TERMS	SAVINGS AS % OF RATES
Removing fund for Adverse Events/Emergencies	\$200,000	0.4%
Increasing fees (by higher than the average) to meet the Revenue and Financing Policy target for Animal Control and other minor changes across the organisation	\$100,000	0.2%
Closing Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, the Youth Space and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom on Sundays. <i>*Tell us if you think there might be other ways we could save the required funds across facilities, without having to close on Sundays.</i>	\$77,000	0.1%
Increasing parking meter fees from \$1.10 to \$2.00 to increase revenue	\$100,000	0.2%
Council will sell half our Carbon Credits to lower the rates increase (included in the 17.4%)	\$450,000	0.9%
Increasing Trade Waste Levies	\$214,000	0.4%
Reduce Council’s investment in Waste Minimisation activities	\$100,000	0.2%
Stop Urban berm mowing	\$240,000	0.5%

OPTION 3 - For an average rates increase less than 17.4%: Includes all changes in Option 2, and asks which of the following you’d support:

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU SUPPORT?	SAVINGS IN \$ TERMS	SAVINGS AS % OF RATES
Slowing down our work on implementing our affordable housing action plan	\$90,000	0.17%
Reducing our investment in economic development for the district	\$200,000	0.38%
Continue to partially fund recycling through debt	\$625,000	1.2%
Remove funding for community development. This includes removing community grants and funding.	\$945,000	1.8%
Reduced investment in information services	\$176,000	0.3%
Reduce the level of rates funded depreciation	\$140,000	0.3%
Reduce investment in roading	\$400,000	0.8%

Note - the impacts of this option on rates for each property and on Council’s borrowings will depend on the reduction in rates expected.