



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Whanganui pre-election report

2025

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Message from the Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

Local government is where decisions get made that shape the everyday lives of people in our community – from roads, parks and public spaces to housing, water, waste, and community facilities. These decisions have long-term effects on how liveable Whanganui is, not just for now, but for future generations.

That's why local elections matter.

If you care about Whanganui and want to help guide our future, now is the time to consider standing for election. Our community needs people who are committed, collaborative, and community-minded. You don't need to be an expert – just someone who listens, keeps an open mind, communicates clearly, and is willing to learn.

Strong and respectful relationships are a vital part of the role. The council works in partnership with Iwi and Hapū, as well as with regional agencies, community organisations, and central government.

Being an elected representative is meaningful work. This term, the council is progressing key projects including a new housing entity to improve housing affordability and a district plan review to support growth and resilience.

Major initiatives like the Te Pūwaha marine precinct and North Mole regeneration are well underway.

We're also developing business cases investigating funding and feasibility for replacing the Dublin Street Bridge and potential upgrades to the Royal Whanganui Opera House stagehouse.

Under the Local Water Done Well programme, we're required to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan by 3 September 2025.

This will set out how we plan to ensure that the delivery of water services will be financially sustainable, affordable for our communities and comply with new regulations that the government has introduced, including economic regulation. The next council will oversee implementation of the plan and realise the opportunities it presents.

Our council is preparing for government reforms around climate adaptation legislation which will shape how we plan for long-term climate resilience. In addition, the Resource Management Act is being replaced by the Planning Act and Natural Environment Act, with councils expected to implement these changes in a consistent, effective way.

With new regional funding deals being rolled out in late 2025 and 2026, we want our council to be ready with a strong vision and clear priorities so we're well-placed to benefit.

In Whanganui you can stand for Mayor, one of ten general ward councillor roles, one of two Māori ward councillor roles, or one of seven rural community board positions. We're excited to have you join us.

Even if you're not standing, your voice matters. Ask questions, talk with your whānau, find out the perspectives of those who are putting themselves forward – and vote for the people you believe will help shape the best future for Whanganui.

Ngā mihi,



David Langford
Whanganui District Council Chief Executive



About this report

A pre-election report is for people thinking about standing in the local body elections for Whanganui District Council and a community board. It aims to help voters understand the role of elected members and the work of the council when considering what the important issues are for their community. The report includes details about the council's major projects, financial strategy and planned spending.

Are you considering standing for council?

If you want to stand in the Whanganui District 2025 local body elections or would like to know more, please contact us on **06 349 3003**, elections@whanganui.govt.nz or visit whanganui.govt.nz/election

Key dates:

Nomination period: **4 July - 1 August**

Delivery of voting papers: **9 - 22 September**

Election day: **11 October**

Declaration of results: **16 October**

What is the Whanganui District Council?

Whanganui District Council is the local government territorial authority for the Whanganui district. The purpose of the council is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, our community; and to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.

Twelve elected members (10 general and two Māori ward councillors) and a mayor will be elected by voters to represent them in the Whanganui district.

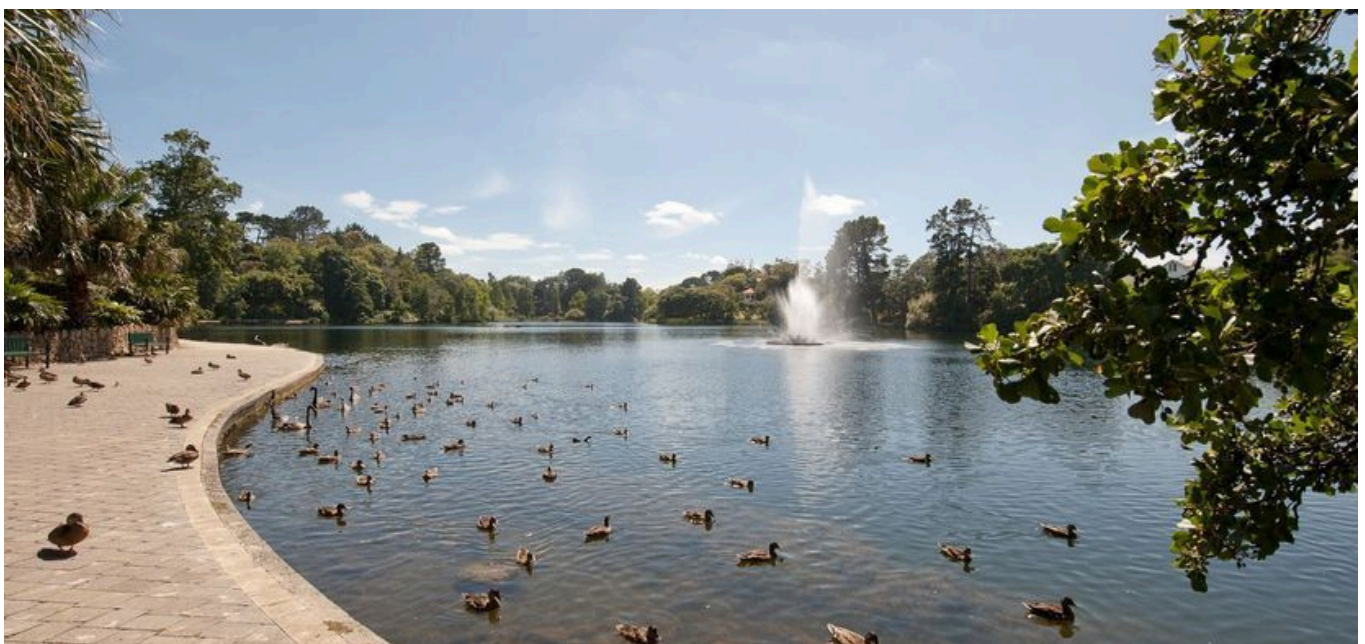
Councillors are known as the “governance” part of the council. They make high-level decisions and give strategic direction about how our city and district works and how it should develop into the future, informed by the views of the community. The governing body — the council — establishes committees with delegated powers to receive updates and enable effective decision-making.

The elected members employ a chief executive to run the everyday business of the council.

The chief executive employs the council staff who manage the day-to-day running of the organisation and the practical aspects of achieving the elected members’ visions.

The organisation as a whole is responsible for our operational and service delivery, including:

- infrastructure services, such as wastewater, stormwater and drinking water, and local roads;
- town planning and resource management;
- local regulatory services, such as building consenting, dog control and alcohol licensing;
- developing and maintaining parks, recreation and cultural facilities, libraries, art galleries, museums and cemeteries;
- civil defence and emergency management;
- economic development and tourism promotion;
- supporting and promoting the arts and distinct cultures of the rohe.



Whanganui is growing

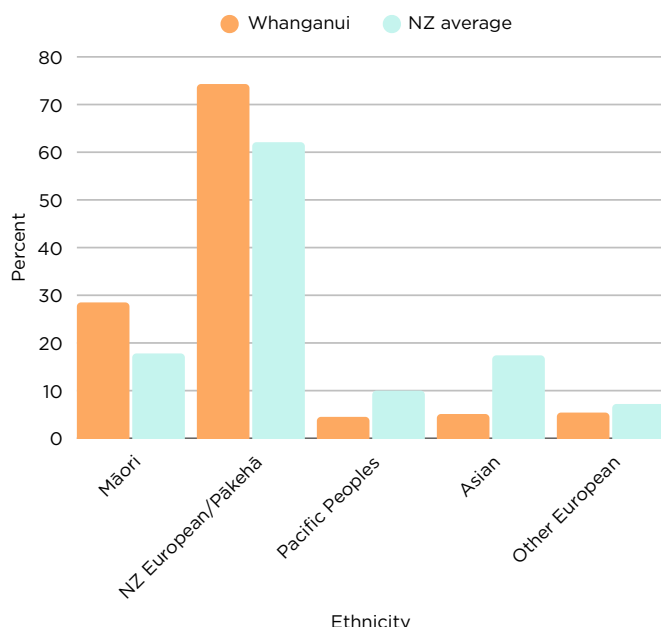
Total estimated resident population

48,900

Predicted population by **2034**
(high growth scenario)

52,129

Whanganui has a **higher population** of residents identifying as Māori than the New Zealand average, and is **home to 19 Marae**.



Whanganui has a **lower population of working-age residents than the national average**. 41% of our population is under 15 or over 65.

Age Group	Whanganui	NZ Average
0-14 years	19.00%	18.70%
15-65 years	59.10%	64.70%
65+ years	22.30%	16.60%

Our tourism expenditure is outpacing the national average, but our GDP per capita is still lagging behind.

GDP per capita

\$53,427 (NZ=\$79,210)

Tourism spending in the past year

4.8% (NZ= 0%)

81.5% of this spending in Whanganui was by domestic tourists.

Mortgages and rents are **slightly lower** than the national average here, but the average household incomes and salaries are also lower.

Category	Whanganui	NZ Average
Average annual salary	\$65,290	\$78,731
Average household income	\$99,968	\$135,092
Average weekly rent	\$483	\$575
Mortgage proportion to income	28.40%	39.30%

We have a **higher rate of unemployment** and slightly fewer people working in high-skilled jobs than the rest of NZ.

Category	Whanganui	NZ Average
Unemployment rate	5.90%	4.00%
High-skilled employment	36.80%	38.50%
Low-skilled employment	36.60%	34.70%

Whanganui's NEET rate (% of people aged 15-24 years who are not employed or engaged in education or training) is more than **twice the national average**.

NEET rate =

29.8% (NZ= 12.1%)

Key partners and relationships

At Whanganui District Council we value our relationships and partnerships with key groups and organisations. The opportunity to work together and to understand what is important for different groups across the community is crucial to the council's role in promoting the environmental, cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of our community now and in the future.

Elected members have an important role to play in supporting relationships that are respectful, collaborative and constructive. This means listening to and working to understand the needs and priorities of different groups in the Whanganui community.

Tangata Whenua

The council regularly engages with Tangata Whenua/Hapū and Crown-legislated iwi. The relevant Acts, values, principles and agreements which guide these relationships are outlined below.

The Treaty of Waitangi

The Waitangi Tribunal applies a set of principles based on what Te Tiriti o Waitangi stood for, which have been adopted into law. The council has a role in upholding Treaty of Waitangi principles through our statutory responsibilities (such as under the Local Government Act and Resource Management Act).

The main principles are as follows:

Partnership - Both the Crown and Iwi agree to act towards each other with good faith. The obligations of partnership include the duty to consult Tāngata Whenua.

Reciprocity - The partnership is a reciprocal one. Tāngata whenua ceded to the Crown kāwanatanga of the country in return for a guarantee that Tino Rangatiratanga (full authority) over their land, people and taonga would be protected.

Autonomy - The Crown guaranteed to protect Tāngata Whenua autonomy.

Active protection - The Crown has a duty to actively safeguard Tāngata Whenua rights and interests.

Equal treatment - The Crown is required to treat all Iwi/Hapū fairly and not advantage one Iwi/Hapū over another if their circumstances, rights and interests are broadly the same.



Tangata Whenua Iwi Partnerships

The council has working relationships with collective Hapū, claimants (including those with overlapping interests in Whanganui), and post-settlement entities. The council also works with a range of entities from Marae and Hapū, to Rūnanga and statutory Iwi organisations, and acknowledges that Hapū hold their own Mana Motuhake within their rohe.

In the spirit of good faith and partnership, it's important that Hapū and Iwi are informed at the concept stage of any policy or major infrastructure development. Hapū have also indicated they wish to be engaged in relation to activities within their rohe, rather than just consultation with the Iwi body at large. This allows for the voice of Hapū to be heard clearly and the values and effects to be considered at place.

Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust

Around the country, Hapū/Iwi have been part of settlements of their historical Treaty claims as redress for historical injustices, including loss of land through breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi.

A 2015 Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry found that local Hapū/Iwi have many well-founded grievances, including around the government's tactics when it acquired 89,000 acres of land around Whanganui city. The settlement that is being negotiated acknowledges the wrongs of the past and sets a positive direction for the future.

Treaty settlement negotiations between the Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiations Trust (WLSNT) and the Crown have been progressing since 2017 and are now nearing their conclusion. Whanganui District Council has agreed to support a platform of work with Ngā Hapū o te Iwi o Whanganui.

Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017

Te Awa Tupua o Whanganui is a tupuna and a vital taonga to Whanganui Hapū and Iwi, recognised and protected in Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017. This Act affirms the inextricable link between Whanganui Iwi and the Awa and recognises a set of values called 'Tupua te Kawa'. You can read more about these values here [**ngatangatatiaki.co.nz**](https://ngatangatatiaki.co.nz)

Te Awa Tupua is central to the council's work. It shapes how we care for the environment and how we build and maintain relationships with the local Iwi, Hapū and communities connected to the Awa. The most important aspect of this Act for elected members is to put the health and well-being of the Awa and the mana of the communities within its catchment at the centre of its decisions, as well as to be guided by the four Kawa (values).

The Te Awa Tupua Act also provides for the establishment of Te Kōpuka - a strategy group with the purpose of acting collaboratively for the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua.

You can read more about this group at [**tekopuka.co.nz**](https://tekopuka.co.nz)

Other key relationships

Other key relationships include Whanganui Police, Safer Whanganui, Te Whatu Ora Whanganui and a wide range of regional and local organisations focused on environmental, cultural, social and economic development at the national, regional and local levels. These relationships help ensure that the council can draw on insights from partners and operate effectively and efficiently in the running of the district.



Our broader strategic framework

The council's strategic framework is the set of documents that guide us in both our day-to-day operation and longer-term work. The framework informs our planning, sets our priorities and ensures transparency and accountability back to the community. It can include concrete actions and specific targets, such as expenditure, as well as higher-level community goals. Some of the key documents which make up this framework are outlined below.

The long-term plan

The long-term plan (LTP) sets out what the council intends to do in terms of services, describes how it will manage its finances and sets strategic objectives for the next 10 years. This document is updated and replaced every three years.

The annual plan

An annual plan is put in place every year we do not do an LTP. The annual plan budgets activities and services for the upcoming financial year and allows the council to adjust the finances forecast in the LTP based on more accurate information. It also outlines any significant changes that have been made to the work programme in the LTP.

The district plan

The district plan is essentially a 'rule book' for development and activities within a district. It manages the way land is used and developed, balancing environmental protection with community needs.

Strategy for Whanganui

The council has recently adopted a new overarching strategy called 'Strategy for Whanganui'.

The feedback received throughout the development of this strategy showed the passion and love that residents have for Whanganui. They value its rich history, strong sense of heritage, the natural environment, the Awa, and the deep sense of connection that this community emulates.

At the same time, many recognise that Whanganui holds significant untapped potential. There's a strong desire to see the district grow in a way that honours its unique character while embracing new opportunities. Residents want to see the council take a more active leadership role - not only in supporting growth, but in ensuring that growth leads to a better quality of life for everyone, now and into the future.

Based on community input and engagement we developed five new goals for the council: grow, build, protect, celebrate, and activate Whanganui.

Strategy for Whanganui Rautaki mō Whanganui



Performance monitoring

Regular performance monitoring ensures the council knows how well it's doing its job and using those results to inform action that will improve outcomes for the community.

One way we achieve this is integrating performance measures into our planning, such as the targets we set in our LTP. We use a mixture of internally sourced data, our Customer Request Management (CRM) system, information collected by third parties, and resident surveying to inform our performance results.

The council uses an external agency to conduct its annual Community Views Survey. This survey measures the use and satisfaction with our facilities, services, and performance of elected members and staff. The survey also asks residents about their behaviours and general perceptions of the district.

As well as reporting quarterly, we also produce an annual report, which looks at what we have achieved against what we planned to do through our LTP, and our financial performance.

The planning cycle



While the final decision-making power rests with the elected members of the council, getting feedback directly from the community is key to effective local government and informs the council's decision-making.

As well as running the annual community views survey, we also use in-house or 'intercept' surveys or touch-screen customer feedback systems to find the views of people who have recently used our facilities or services.

Another way we gather community feedback is through consultation or engagement.

Formal consultation is one type of engagement and statutorily required for a number of council decisions or matters. In addition to regular use of our website and social media platforms, we also rely on other engagement methods throughout the year such as community meetings, focus groups, surveys and online engagement to help inform, educate, and actively involve members of the community and to help refine our thinking on certain topics.

Whether we are running an engagement or consultation process, the community's views will be shared with councillors to help inform their decisions. Elected members are not required to follow what most community members say, but they are required to weigh up all community feedback and the relevant information available.

Council's three focus areas

More community involvement

Our community has sent us a clear message that they want to be more involved and so we've made this a focus area.

We've just trialled our first citizens' assembly – where randomly selected residents work together to make a recommendation to the council – in this case on the future of outdoor swimming facilities, including the Whanganui East Pool.

Going forward, we'll be looking at new practices that involve the community more-and-more in decision-making.

Infrastructure investment

In our Long-Term Plan 2024-34, we committed \$386 million to water services, roading and footpaths over the next ten years. This is more than 80 percent of our capital funding over ten years being spent on core infrastructure.

Progress so far includes: replacing Erni's Bridge, replacing 530 metres of footpath in Caffray Avenue, actively responding to climate change risks through coastal work, completing hazard and risk assessments, making upgrades to our stormwater network and receiving a national Small Airport Infrastructure Award for the resurfacing of the airport's runway, taxiway and apron areas.

Affordable rates

The council has been enacting a six-point efficiency and cost saving plan to drive population growth, improve efficiency, explore alternative funding for projects, cut council services, sell assets to repay debt (subject to community consultation) and identify sources of non-rates revenue. Through this plan, the council was able to achieve an average rates rise of only 2.2 percent for 2025/26.

Some of our progress on this plan so far includes:

Kerbside food scraps service

The removal of the food scraps service that was planned to start on 1 July 2025 has reduced the rates requirement for 2025/26 by \$1 million. This saving includes the removal of the food scraps portion of the kerbside contract and a provision for the unrecoverable part of the contractor's sunk costs being reimbursed.

Staff restructure

We have restructured our organisation and staffing to achieve efficiencies of \$1.2 million per annum.

Fees and charges revenue increases

We are expecting higher fee revenue in some activities, such as parking and aquatics. Our total non-rates income is expected to increase by just under 20% in 2025/26.

Property renewals

We have moderated our property renewals budget down for affordability and to ensure we can deliver and achieve the planned programme.

Three waters capital programmes

Three waters capital programmes have been moderated to ensure that they are deliverable and achievable in the 2025/26 financial year.

Venues improvements

We have made some minor reductions to our venues improvement budgets where possible.

Corporate asset replacements

We have optimised our corporate budgets for items like IT hardware replacements.



Major projects for the coming term

We have several projects and initiatives underway and more planned over the next several years. Below are some key projects:

Te Pūwaha - Whanganui Port Revitalisation Project

The purpose of Te Pūwaha is to create a modern, purpose-built marine precinct that will be a community asset for the next 50 years and beyond. This is a collaborative project, which we are undertaking in partnership with Hapū, the Crown, Whanganui Port, Q-West Boat Builders, Horizons Regional Council and the Port Employment Precinct (WDETT).

Construction work is already underway at the Whanganui Port, with the budget remaining within the \$50 million set in 2023.

Dublin Street Bridge

The Dublin Street Bridge provides a safe and efficient link between Whanganui East and central Whanganui.

The council is currently working on a business case to put to NZTA Waka Kotahi which will test the feasibility and funding for a bridge replacement. This business case includes collaboration with stakeholders, as well as partnering with Hapū and Iwi to align with the Te Awa Tupua Act.

North Mole Regeneration and Dune Restoration Project

We are working with community partners to regenerate the dunes and develop a fit-for-purpose car park and visitor destination at the North Mole.

The project will deliver community and Hapū aspirations in compliance with Tupua Te Kawa and build on the significant work already undertaken by the Castlecliff community over the past decade to enhance the area. It complements the redevelopment of the port at the river mouth, led by Te Pūwaha and will help transform the area into a key visitor and community space.

Royal Whanganui Opera House

A business case has recently been completed looking at options for redevelopment of the stagehouse at the Royal Whanganui Opera House. The business case includes data and information from a range of personnel including infometrics, funding, consultation with major users and advice regarding heritage of the building. A workshop will take place in August 2025 to determine potential next steps for this project.

Housing

The council wants to create more affordable housing in our district to meet current and future demand. It is estimated that 1,000 new houses are needed over the next 10 years. A business case has shown that we should establish a standalone housing entity with partners to achieve this. As part of the annual plan 2025/26 the council resolved to fund the development and establishment of a standalone entity to grow and improve Whanganui's housing stock.

District Plan

The council has had to put some of its planned review of the District Plan on hold, pending the outcome of Central Government reforms to the Resource Management Act. We will continue to review the spatial planning aspects of the district plan until the outcomes of this review become clearer. The spatial and district plans shape how and where Whanganui develops, taking community aspirations and wellbeing into consideration.

Other projects/initiatives

Climate Change

The council's Emissions Reduction Plan is scheduled to be adopted by the end of 2025 with an action plan for implementation to follow. This plan will show how the council can reduce emissions over the next 10 - 30 years.

We will also be working on integrating the five key recommendations made by our Office of the Auditor General (OAG) audit on climate change earlier in the year. The recommendations cover actions for collaboration, strategy, performance measures, governance and reporting.

Water Supply

Our focus will be on advancing the installation of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection and chlorination treatment systems that will give extra protection to our drinking water supply. Work will include procurement, design and implementation in the 2025/26 year.

Stormwater

As part of an integrated project, we will install and upgrade infrastructure (water supply, stormwater and wastewater) and roading from Fox Road to Fitzherbert Avenue. This project is designed to support new residential growth in the area as identified in the Springvale Structure Plan.

Work will commence in the southern drainage corridor. This project will increase resilience within the stormwater network south of Fitzherbert Ave to service residential growth in this area.

We will also complete the third and final stage of the stormwater separation project in the Industrial Area (Raupo Street) with the installation of a new stormwater pipeline. As well as separating the stormwater and wastewater systems, it will reduce the risk of flooding.

Wastewater

Work will begin to connect Mōwhanau to the city network for wastewater treatment and disposal. The current wastewater treatment scheme at the Mōwhanau Village will then be disestablished.

A feasibility study on options for wastewater treatment plant sludge disposal or recycling will be explored. The discharge consent for the city wastewater treatment plant's ocean outfall is due for renewal by 2026 and will require a comprehensive application and consultation process.

Community places and open spaces

Bank stabilisation work behind the Repertory Theatre will be undertaken to prevent risk to the building once the sale process is completed.

Waste Minimisation

We plan to start a review of our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021-2027 (Waste Plan) to ensure that it remains aligned with the New Zealand Waste Strategy and industry advancements.

Venues, Events and Facilities

We will undertake a refurbishment programme at the community library hubs in Hakeke Street and in Castlecliff – and of our two mobile library vans, ensuring they continue to be fit for purpose and meet the needs of library customers.

We will complete the collection transition project for Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery. This entails moving 9000 works from our offsite storage into the new purpose-built storage in the basement of the redeveloped Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery in Pukenui Queen's Park.

Economic Development

Airport activity this year will focus on the construction of a parallel taxiway to improve the safety of airport operations, and the development of a 30-year Airport Master Plan.

Roading and Transportation

There will be continued focus on maintaining and upgrading existing road infrastructure to ensure safety and accessibility for all road users under the new government policy statement of increased maintenance and resilience and value for money.

Community Support

Work is underway to determine options for trailer or mobile storage and equipment for the Putiki Emergency Response Group (PERG). This project supports a community-led initiative to increase community resilience and preparedness for flooding or similar event in Putiki.

Corporate

Our focus will be on the local body election and binding Māori ward referendum. A full induction programme for the new triennium will be undertaken with all incoming elected members.



Central Government Reforms

We regularly provide input and express our views to central government on policy, statutory reforms, and various issues that might affect our communities.

The government has proposed and implemented several changes and reforms across local government recently. These include:

Local Water Done Well

Local Water Done Well is the government's new plan for managing New Zealand's drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services. It replaces the Labour government's Affordable Water reforms.

Councils and the government agree that water will cost all communities more in the future. This is due to a range of things, such as the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change, population and industrial growth, ageing infrastructure, new compliance standards, improvements in technology, health requirements and government policy.

As part of the Local Water Done Well policy all district and city councils were required to choose a delivery model for their water assets which will provide financial sustainability, affordability for ratepayers and compliance with new regulatory standards. On 15 July 2025, the council resolved to establish a joint council Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) with Ruapehu District Council.

A Water Services CCO is a body that is specifically established to manage and deliver water services, where the ownership lies with one or more councils. Essentially it is a company owned by councils dedicated to providing water services to the community. It will have an independent, professional Board of Directors which is appointed by the shareholding councils (Whanganui and Ruapehu district councils).

This new model will ensure that we can continue to invest in water services and infrastructure in a more affordable way for our communities, have more resilience and capacity (both staffing and financial) to respond to future challenges and improve community and environmental outcomes. It is also an opportunity to embed a Te Awa Tupua approach – where we place the wellbeing of the river and its communities at the centre – into the establishment of the CCO from the beginning.

Next steps for this work include:

- Developing a Water Services Delivery Plan to meet the government's deadline of 3 September 2025.
- Working with Ruapehu District Council, Iwi and Hapū to integrate the values and principles of Te Awa Tupua into the project structures and eventual establishment of the CCO.
- Establishing the CCO in line with the Implementation Plan contained in our Water Services Delivery Plan.

Resource Management Act overhaul

The government has announced that the Resource Management Act 1991 will be replaced with two new acts.

These are detailed below:

The Planning Act

This Act is proposed to focus on land-use planning and regulation. It will enable the urban and infrastructure development New Zealand needs and will align with the Government's Going for Housing Growth Plan and the 30-year National Infrastructure Plan. It will create well-functioning urban and rural areas, including by separating incompatible land uses.

The Natural Environment Act

This Act is proposed to focus on the use, protection, and enhancement of the natural environment, i.e. our land, air, freshwater, coastal and marine water and other natural resources.

Each new act will be supported by one set of national direction, to ensure it is implemented by councils and others in an efficient, nationally consistent way.

Climate Adaptation Planning

The government is developing an adaptation framework to strengthen how New Zealand prepares for the effects of climate change. Over time, this framework will set out the government's approach to sharing the costs of adapting to climate change.

The government has signalled the framework will help communities and businesses know what investment will happen in their area, for example, whether the council will build flood protection infrastructure and what support will be available to help with recovery from events like slips or floods. It will also cover proactive choices to protect from foreseeable risks, and long-term recovery after a severe weather event happens.

The government intends to introduce legislation in 2025 to progress the adaptation framework. There may also be a wider work programme which could include amendments to existing legislation, regulations and other non-legislative elements.

Local Government Reforms

The government have signalled they are working on local government system improvements focused on the following themes:

1. **Decision-making** - setting a clear role and effective legislation for local government, saving time and money and balancing democratic principles.
2. **Systems and processes** - giving councils appropriate, modern regulatory tools and balancing efficiency gains over service levels and costs.
3. **Funding and financing** - expanding council funding options and borrowing limits so the cost of investments can be better spread over time and not just paid for up-front by increasing rates.
4. **Transparency and accountability** - ensuring ratepayers know what they're paying for and supporting councillors to effectively represent their communities.

Signalled changes include redefining the purpose of local government from promoting social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future to: "meet[ing] the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses" with the additional new purpose of "supporting local economic growth and development".

government has also signalled they are investigating a ‘rate peg’ mechanism which could regulate the total income councils can raise through rates.

Finances

Basis of preparation

The financial information below has been prepared from the 2022/23 Annual Report, 2023/24 Annual Report, 2025/26 Annual Plan and the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

2024/25 Forecast Annual Report information has been prepared based on the most up-to-date information available as of 11 July 2025. These figures are unaudited and may likely change from those published in the audited 2024/25 Annual Report.

Long-Term Plan figures have not been adjusted to reflect changes made since the adoption of the latest Annual Plan (including the removal of food scrap collection service).

Funding impact statement

	Annual Report 2022/23 \$000	Annual Report 2023/24 \$000	Forecast Annual Report 2024/25 \$000	Annual Plan 2025/26 \$000	Long Term Plan 2026/27 \$000	Long Term Plan 2027/28 \$000	Long Term Plan 2028/29 \$000
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	40,183	41,223	43,689	43,071	46,912	49,188	49,218
Targeted rates	30,126	35,340	41,155	44,929	51,187	55,146	58,418
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	6,705	13,436	10,958	6,512	7,956	8,350	8,915
Fees and charges	10,312	11,104	12,795	14,258	12,991	13,351	13,936
Interest and dividends from investments	1,607	2,809	3,246	2,611	2,238	2,738	2,738
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	4,693	3,840	4,258	4,547	3,332	3,500	3,717
Total operating funding (A)	93,626	107,752	116,101	115,930	124,615	132,273	136,941
Application of operating funding							
Payments to staff and suppliers	75,097	91,797	87,831	88,015	88,323	91,550	92,536
Finance costs	5,597	8,760	8,596	10,354	11,480	11,932	12,433
Other operating funding applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total application of operating funding (B)	80,694	100,557	96,427	98,369	99,802	103,482	104,969
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A - B)	12,931	7,195	19,675	17,560	24,813	28,791	31,972
Sources of capital funding							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	10,876	12,375	9,813	8,857	13,196	9,812	29,454
Development and financial contributions	19	279	653	612	625	639	653
Increase (decrease) in debt	10,000	66,000	19,979	16,255	11,679	6,823	13,320
Gross proceeds from asset sales	23	107	51	0	0	0	0
Lump sum contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding	3,200	2,646	0	0	0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding (C)	24,118	81,407	30,496	25,724	25,500	17,274	43,426
Application of capital funding							
Capital expenditure							
-to meet additional demand	508	1,122	1,211	2,003	3,179	7,871	5,590
-to improve the level of service	24,426	37,791	28,441	12,732	28,175	15,916	13,986
-to replace existing assets	15,809	17,631	15,090	20,015	18,698	21,999	55,558
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(3,694)	20,646	314	(465)	262	279	264
Increase (decrease) of investments	0	11,412	5,115	9,000	0	0	0
Total application of capital funding (D)	37,049	88,602	50,171	43,284	50,313	46,065	75,398
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C - D)	(12,931)	(7,195)	(19,675)	(17,560)	(24,813)	(28,791)	(31,972)
Funding balance ((A - B) + (C - D))	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Statement of financial position

	Annual Report 2022/23 \$000	Annual Report 2023/24 \$000	Forecast Annual Report 2024/25 \$000	Annual Plan 2025/26 \$000	Long Term Plan 2026/27 \$000	Long Term Plan 2027/28 \$000	Long Term Plan 2028/29 \$000
Assets							
Current assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	14,833	1,334	13,543	10,160	6,812	7,240	7,648
Receivables	8,203	13,973	10,259	9,384	9,557	9,733	9,906
Inventory	1	-	16	-	-	-	-
<i>Total current assets</i>	23,038	15,308	23,818	19,544	16,369	16,973	17,553
Non-current assets							
Other financial assets:							
-Investment in CCOs and other similar entities	51,300	94,379	82,375	104,545	101,093	101,093	101,093
-Investment in other entities	2,134	2,062	2,225	2,225	2,175	2,175	2,175
<i>Total other financial assets</i>	53,434	96,441	84,600	106,770	103,268	103,268	103,268
Property, plant and equipment	1,313,037	1,417,121	1,529,205	1,572,579	1,530,459	1,591,657	1,650,549
Intangible assets	1,804	2,240	2,527	1,968	2,923	2,730	2,540
Investment property	18,925	21,105	33,190	35,030	37,839	38,672	39,484
Derivative financial instruments	1,202	893	893	-	-	-	-
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	1,388,402	1,537,800	1,650,415	1,716,347	1,674,490	1,736,327	1,795,842
Total assets	1,411,440	1,553,108	1,674,232	1,735,892	1,690,858	1,753,300	1,813,395
Liabilities							
Current liabilities							
Payables	15,294	18,190	10,128	15,025	15,283	15,547	15,804
Borrowings	25,250	19,500	27,500	21,500	19,500	19,500	19,500
Employee entitlements	2,747	3,315	3,434	2,862	2,919	2,976	3,032
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	43,292	41,005	41,063	39,387	37,702	38,023	38,337
Non-current liabilities							
Borrowings	92,000	163,750	175,750	210,150	218,492	225,315	238,635
Deferred tax liability	48			-	50	50	50
Employee entitlements	152	169	169	172	156	160	163
<i>Total non-current liabilities</i>	92,200	163,919	175,919	210,322	218,698	225,525	238,848
Total liabilities	135,492	204,924	216,982	249,709	256,400	263,548	277,184
Net assets (assets minus liabilities)	1,275,948	1,348,184	1,457,251	1,486,183	1,434,458	1,489,752	1,536,211
Equity							
Accumulated funds	617,661	612,245	619,055	612,205	610,793	609,181	628,197
Revaluation reserves	588,362	665,265	766,906	806,448	755,439	812,066	839,244
Restricted reserves	68,328	68,719	69,033	66,205	66,629	66,909	67,172
Other reserves	1,597	1,955	2,257	1,325	1,597	1,597	1,597



Compliance with financial strategy

This following information is required by section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 and compares some key debt, rates and investment return parameters with the limits and targets set out in the council's financial strategy. The debt and rates parameters have been prepared on the same basis used to prepare the council's annual reports and in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

Council's limits on borrowing identified in the financial strategy of the relevant Long Term Plan	Limit	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25
Net debt as a percentage of total revenue	<200%	91%	146%	150%

Investment ratios


Council's target for investment identified in the financial strategy of the relevant Long Term Plan	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25
<i>Target = Return on investment/Budgeted return</i>	6.50%	6.50%	\$200,000 to offset rates
City Endowment	2.70%	1.90%	\$70,000
<i>Target = Dividends paid</i>			
Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited	\$0.5M	\$0	\$0
Budgeted Return	\$0.5M	\$1M	\$0

Rates


Council limits an increase of total rates revenue (excluding water by meter, trade waste and penalties) after accounting for growth.

Rates (increase) affordability	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25
Actual rate increase	3.80%	7.80%	11.20%
Limit	4.40%	7.90%	11.50%



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