2026

Rates newsletter

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O **Whanganui** DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Plan 2026-2027: Delivering what matters

Rates fund the essential infrastructure, services and facilities that our community relies on every day. Setting rates is about finding the right balance – keeping costs as affordable as possible while making sure we can continue to fund what matters to our community.

Setting this year's budget through the Annual Plan 2026-2027 has been challenging for the council. Like households, we're facing increasing costs. For example, the cost of materials like bitumen for our roads has risen significantly and electricity costs are expected to add around $1 million to this year's budget. The global fuel crisis has also increased costs. The council has chosen not to pass all of these costs directly on to ratepayers this year, but doing so means making trade-offs in other areas of the budget

To calculate rates, the council first works out the cost to run its services for the year. Property values are then used to determine how that total cost is shared out across ratepayers.

For the 2026/27 financial year, this resulted in an average rates increase of 6.9 percent.

The rates increase for your property may be higher or lower than the average – especially this year because of the effect of the September 2025 rating valuation. The valuation doesn't change the amount of rates that the council collects but it does change the share that each property pays. Rates also vary based on factors like your property's value, land size and the services you receive.

As we head into the new financial year, the focus for the council is on carefully managing spending, finding efficiencies and delivering value for money for our community.

We know rates can be a real pressure for some households. If you're experiencing hardship or need support, please contact the council early so we can talk through the options available.

What are my rates paying for in the year ahead?

Scan the QR code to be taken to the Annual Plan 2026/2027. This sets out the major projects and areas of work proposed for the year ahead.

The easiest way to pay

The easiest way to pay your rates is to set up a direct debit that matches your income frequency. That way, payments are spread across the year, easing the pressure of quarterly instalments.

You can set up the direct debit to go out weekly, fortnightly, monthly or even quarterly – whatever suits your needs.

Check out the pay your rates page on our website - **whanganui.govt.nz/rates**

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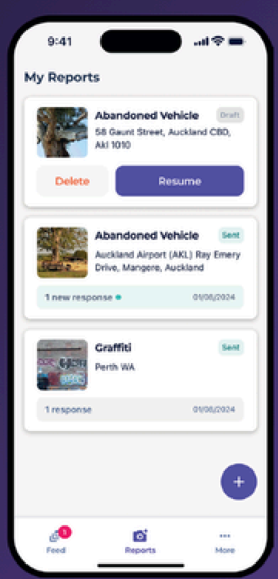

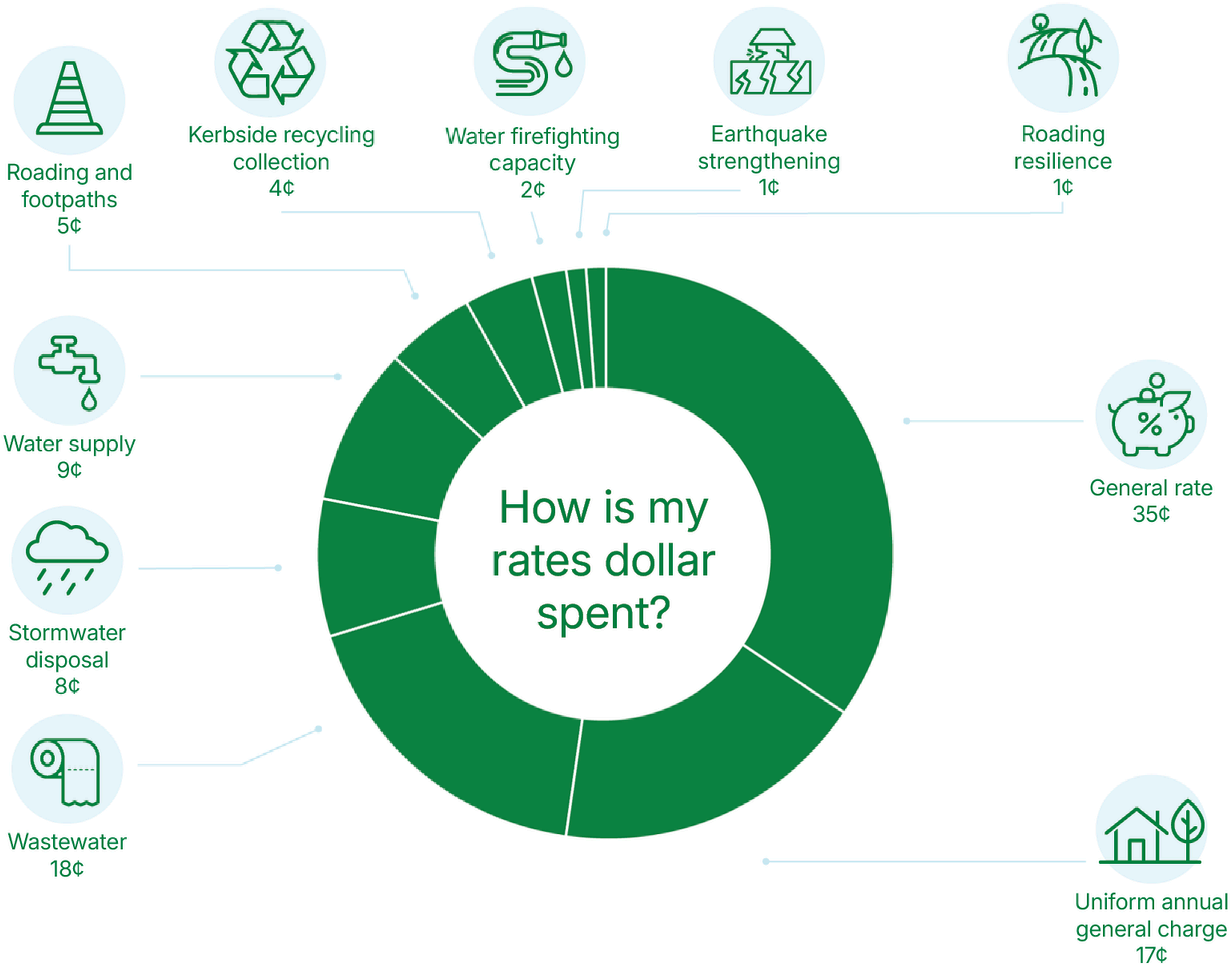

These breakdowns are based on an average residential property and may not be the same for everyone.
For more information visit **whanganui.govt.nz/rates**

Rates Rebate Scheme 2026/2027

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to $830 for ratepayers* on a low income who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on **1 July 2026.**

How is my rebate worked out?
Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, rates and the number of dependants living with you.

If you are a SuperGold card holder (receiving the pension), the income eligibility for a rebate is $46,400. If you are a non-SuperGold card holder, the income eligibility for a rebate is $33,210.

However, if your income exceeds either of these amounts, you could still be entitled to a rebate depending on the total costs of your rates and the number of dependants.

*ratepayer means any person whose name is recorded in Whanganui District Council's rating information database (RID)

Check your eligibility

Scan the QR code or visit **whanganui.govt.nz/rates-rebate-scheme** for a handy calculator to see if you are eligible.

How do I apply?
The easiest way to apply is by booking an appointment with us online. You can also download an application form while you're there.

What information do I need to provide?
Accurate information about your income (and that of any spouse/partner and/or joint homeowner who lives with you) for the tax year ended 31 March 2026.

Applications close on Wednesday, 30 June 2027.