



**HAVE  
YOUR SAY  
KŌRERO  
MAI**

# Whanganui District Council - Have your Say 2024

## Welcome

Whanganui District Council is seeking feedback on the draft Long-Term Plan.

No decisions have been made yet so your feedback is important.

### Please note:

- all questions are optional except your name, email address, contact phone number and connection to Whanganui,
- all submissions will go into the draw to win a grocery hamper worth \$100,
- further information on all of these proposals is available on our website <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/Have-Your-Say/Consultations/Long-Term-Plan-2024-2034>
- if you have any issues with your submission please contact: [policy@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:policy@whanganui.govt.nz) or phone (06) 349 0001

# Submission: Long-Term Plan 2024-34



WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Submissions close at 5.00pm on Thursday, 2 May 2024

## How to submit

You can complete this submission online at  
[www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say)

### Alternatively, please return this form to:

The Policy Team  
Whanganui District Council  
101 Guyton Street  
Whanganui 4500

### Or email your submission to:

[policysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:policysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz)

## Privacy statement

Please note that your submission will be published under your name and organisation.

Contact details will not be made publically available. Your demographic information may be reported in combination with other submitters without identifying you individually.

All information will be held by the Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street, and submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

## Your details (please print your details clearly)

### \*Name:

First / Surname

### \*Email:

\*required (email or address)

### \*Postal address:

### \*Contact phone number:

### Organisation:

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of your organisation and your role.

### \* What is your connection to Whanganui? (tick any which apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> I live in Whanganui                         | <input type="radio"/> I am a visitor to Whanganui                     |
| <input type="radio"/> I whakapapa to Whanganui                    | <input type="radio"/> I own a business or am a developer in Whanganui |
| <input type="radio"/> I am a Whanganui District Council ratepayer | <input type="radio"/> Something else (describe below)                 |
| <input type="radio"/> I work in Whanganui                         |   |

Would you like to speak in support of your submission at a hearing?

Yes

(Please ensure you have completed the details above, including your contact number)

No

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

If you wish to include any documents in support of your submission on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34, please attach to this form.

# Whanganui District Council

## - Have your Say 2024

### Long-Term Plan 2024-34

This Long-Term Plan is being developed in unique circumstances. With the costs to provide services rising sharply, the Council has gone through the books and made substantial cuts and deferrals to bring the rates down to a 10.6% average rates rise for the next financial year (from 1 July 2024).

We strongly encourage you to read our consultation document for the Long-Term Plan: <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/Have-Your-Say/Consultations/Long-Term-Plan-2024-2034>

The consultation document provides further information on all of the proposed options below.

### Proposed Service Cuts

We need to make at least \$2 million worth of service cuts to keep the average rates rise to 10.6% for next year.

Reducing services provides immediate savings on rates, which is why we have already identified \$1.5 million in cuts - this includes reducing budgets for trees, shrubs and annuals, reducing the number of new library books purchases, disestablishing the Youth Council and associated work programme, discontinuing the digital strategy

implementation resource, and reducing maintenance of premier parks.

Below we have laid out some options for further service cuts which would help to make up the remaining \$500,000 in savings.

The impact on rates is described next to each option and where options are listed as 'Council's preferred option' they have already been factored into the proposed 10.6% rates rise. Therefore, the more services we keep the higher the rates will be.

### Davis Library

More than 100,000 books, magazines and DVDs are available within our district and can be borrowed from one of our library buildings or services. Given the number of library facilities and services we have available there is the opportunity to reduce the level of service offered at Davis Library in order to save on costs. For more information see page 21 of the Consultation Document.

#### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Close Davis Library for one day during the week, i.e. a Monday** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 2: Close Davis Library for one day on the weekend instead of a weekday** (add \$0.90 per property per year to the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 3: Keep the Davis Library days and hours as they are** (add \$2.30 per property per year)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

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## Whanganui East Pool

The Whanganui East Pool provides a great space for the wider community to swim, cool off, get active, and spend time together. However, multiple issues have been identified which will require a significant investment of over \$2 million to keep it operating.

Due to the significant investment required, Council thinks it's a perfect time to look at broader options for outdoor swimming for Whanganui residents and developing an outdoor facility that is fit for the future. *For more information see page 22 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Close the Whanganui East Pool and complete a feasibility study for outdoor swimming in Whanganui** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 2: Invest in the Whanganui East Pool upgrade and continue to operate the pool** (add \$22.40 per property per year)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Repertory Theatre

The Whanganui Repertory Theatre requires significant repairs to continue operating, including earthquake strengthening and a new roof. The retaining bank behind the theatre also requires permanent stabilisation at an estimated cost of \$250,000. A full rebuild of the building would cost around \$2.6 million. *For more information see page 23 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Close the theatre for demolition** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 3: Invest in the stabilisation of the retaining bank, demolish the existing building and build a new theatre** (add \$10 per property per year)



**OPTION 2: Invest in the permanent stabilisation of the retaining bank required so the building can be sold** (add \$0.60 per property per year)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Rotokawau/Virginia Lake Aviary

We consulted on this issue in the last Annual Plan and community feedback was in support of retaining and improving the aviary. Council has since made improvements to the aviary, including reducing bird numbers, changing feeding schedules, providing enrichment and improved veterinary services.

In the new context of rising costs, we are putting this option back on the table for the community to consider. *For more information see page 24 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Close the aviary**  
(this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)



**OPTION 2: Keep the aviary open** (add \$10.20 per property per year)

Comments...

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## Mainstreet hanging flower baskets

Hanging flower baskets are maintained throughout Whanganui's central business district by Mainstreet Whanganui. These baskets have provided a pop of colour and enhanced our cities atmosphere for 30 years, but they could be considered a nice-to-have as we find ways to reduce costs. *For more information see page 24 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Remove the hanging flower baskets** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)



**OPTION 2: Keep the hanging flower baskets** (add \$5 per property per year)

Comments...

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# Cuts have **NOT** been proposed for the following services

We are not proposing to cut the services or facilities below. However, in the interests of keeping the rates rise lower we want to hear whether you think we have got this balance right.

## New Zealand Glassworks

New Zealand Glassworks is a significant centre for art glass and a popular tourist attraction, bringing in around 37,000 visitors in 2022/23. The facility is currently topped up by rate funding of around \$192,000 per year. Council proposes to retain New Zealand Glassworks but to seek a buyer that will operate the business into the future. *For more information see page 25 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Keep New Zealand Glassworks, but seek a buyer** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 3: Close New Zealand Glassworks** (save \$10.30 per property per year)



**OPTION 2: Keep New Zealand Glassworks in Council ownership** (no impact on rates)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Drop off points for rural rubbish

Council provides rate-funded drop off points for rural rubbish. There are no private waste providers who are willing to service outer rural communities as it is uneconomic.

Council does not recommend ceasing this service as it would mean these areas have no alternative for rubbish disposal - which may lead to further fly tipping and illegal dumping. *For more information see page 25 of the Consultation Document.*

### Do you agree? Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Keep the drop off points for rural rubbish** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**DON'T KNOW**



**OPTION 2: Close the drop off points for rural rubbish** (save \$9.50 per property per year)



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Gonville Library

Council recognises how important our library services are to the community and we do not recommend closing the Gonville library, nor reducing its hours.

However, in the context of rising costs you are given the opportunity to choose from the options provided below. *For more information see page 26 of the Consultation Document.*

**Do you agree? Which is your preferred option?**

**OPTION 1: Keep Gonville Library days and hours as they are** (this is our preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)

**OPTION 3: Close Gonville Library completely** (save \$12.50 per property per year)

**OPTION 2: Close Gonville Library for one day during the week, i.e. a Monday** (save \$1 per property per year)

**DON'T KNOW**

**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Winter Gardens

The Winter Gardens are a free attraction located at Rotokawau Virginia Lake which cost \$140,000 per year to run. Council does not recommend closing the Winter Gardens. *For more information see page 26 of the Consultation Document.*

**Do you agree? Which is your preferred option?**

**OPTION 1: Do not close the Winter Gardens** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the 10.6% rates rise)

**DON'T KNOW**

**OPTION 2: Close the Winter Gardens** (save \$7.50 per property per year)

**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Level of Community Grant Funding

Council provides community grants to organisations which provide services or events focused on community health, safety and wellbeing. Council recognises that such services and events are needed now more than ever, and therefore recommend increasing the community grant funding by \$100,000. For more information, see page 27 of the Consultation Document.

**Do you agree? Which is your preferred option?**



**OPTION 1: Increase the community grant funding by \$100,000** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 2: Maintain the community grant funding at its current level** (save \$5.30 per property per year)



**OPTION 3: Cut Community grant funding by 10 percent or \$110,000** (save \$11.20 per property per year)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

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**Do you have any further comments on service cuts?**

Comments...

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# Whanganui District Council - Have your Say 2024

## Long-Term Plan 2024-34

While we are working hard to reduce the rates rise for next year, we still need to make some long-term investments in order to make our city more liveable, attractive and provide long-term financial stability.

We are proposing a number of projects, which will contribute to these goals. In most cases these projects will not impact on next year's rates (2024/25), they are budgeted for in future years. The impact on rates is described next to each option.

With a number of projects that we could invest in, we need the community to help us decide which investments we should proceed with.

## Proposed Future Investments

### Funding of core infrastructure - roading, footpaths and three waters

Council currently manages \$1.5 billion worth of roading, footpaths and three waters assets. The cost of maintenance such as replacing pipes and resealing roads has increased significantly more than the rate of inflation. This means we need to invest more in order to maintain our core infrastructure at a reasonable level. *For more information see pages 30-31 of the Consultation Document.*

Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1:** Increase funding for our core infrastructure to get us to a reasonable state in the future (This is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 2:** Significant increase of funding to bring our core infrastructure up to a reasonable state sooner (add \$56 per property per year)



**OPTION 3:** Maintain the current level of funding, which isn't enough to get us to where we need to be. Noting assets will deteriorate further (save \$56 per property per year)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

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## Hotel and Car Park

Whanganui has long aspired to attract a hotel to the city with different options being explored. The lack of places to stay and limited covered parking is currently hindering our ability to host large-scale events. Whanganui has already shown what it is capable of through the success of events like the Masters Games and Vintage Weekend.

The hotel and carpark would only proceed if the business case demonstrated that there is demand and that the projects are financially viable i.e. that the hotel and carpark will be able to provide returns to offset rates by 2038/39. *For more information see pages 32-33 of the Consultation Document.*

**Do you agree? Which is your preferred option?**



**OPTION 1: Council takes the lead with the development of a hotel and carpark, subject to outcome of detailed business case** (Council's preferred option - this would add \$30 per property per year from 2025/26 through to 2038/39, after which the returns from the hotel and carpark will start to offset rates)



**OPTION 2: Seek an operator to develop a hotel and carpark for Whanganui** (no impact on rates)



**OPTION 3: Do nothing** (no impact on rates)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE**  
(state below)

Comments...

## Royal Whanganui Opera House

The Royal Whanganui Opera House is a landmark cultural icon. It was built in 1899 and is the last wooden theatre operating in Australasia. While the theatre has seen a lot of care over the years, there are aspects of the building that no longer meet requirements - in particular, the theatrical flying system needs updating, the stagehouse requires expanding and there are health and safety concerns which need to be addressed.

The Council's preferred option assumes 50% of the funding will be obtained from external sources. *For more information see pages 34-36 of the Consultation Document.*

**Which is your preferred option?**



**OPTION 1: Do nothing – leave stagehouse as it is with scaffolding and restricted level of operation** (add \$3 per property per year for three years)



**OPTION 3: Build a new stagehouse and implement a new fly system** (Council's preferred option - add \$38 per property per year for 20 years from 2026/27)



**OPTION 2: Implement a new counterweight flying system only within the existing stagehouse building structure** (add \$44 per property per year for 20 years from 2026/27)



**OPTION 4: Full upgrade, including front of house improvements** (add \$74 per property per year for 20 years from 2027/28)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE**  
(state below)

Comments...

## Marae Development

The Whanganui district is home to nearly twenty Marae. As well as being a central part of Iwi and Hapū culture, Marae perform many important roles into the wider community. This includes hosting and facilitating hui, events, providing accommodation and supporting civil defence and emergency management responses to natural hazards.

If we invest in Marae upgrades such as back-up power generators and rainwater storage tanks then Marae can continue to play these critical roles into the future. *For more information see page 38 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Provide grant funding of \$3.5 million over the seven years (2028 to 2034) for Marae upgrades** (This is Council's preferred option and would cost \$27 per property per year from 2028-2034)



**OPTION 2: Do not provide grant funding for Marae upgrades beyond 2027 when the central government funding ends** (no impact on rates)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Whanganui Surf Lifesaving Service

The current Whanganui surf lifesaving service (WSLS) facility is at the end of its serviceable life and is a considerable barrier to the training and development of lifesaving members. The ability to provide critical water safety programmes is also significantly compromised.

To ensure the future of this service, a new facility is required. WSLS is seeking \$5-7 million in total for a rebuild. *For more information see pages 40-41 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Funding of \$1 million to WSLS as contribution to this project** (This is Council's preferred option and would cost \$7 per property per year for 10 years from 2027/28)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)



**OPTION 2: Provide no funding to the project** (no impact on rates)

Comments...

## Pākaitore Reserve Paving and Crossing

Pākaitore Reserve is a significant historic site. This project involves installing a pavement and raised road crossing on Taupō Quay, between Bates Street and Market Place. The aim is to restore the link between the land and the awa, provide a clear entrance point to Pākaitore and improve safety, with an established crossing for pedestrians. *For more information see page 42 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Construct new raised pavement crossing between Pākaitore and the awa** (This is Council's preferred option, and would cost \$6 per property per year for 10 years from 2029/30)



**OPTION 2: No changes to existing road layout in this location**(no impact on rates)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

## Rapanui Road Trail

Rapanui Road is the long narrow stretch that connects State Highway 3 past Westmere to Kai Iwi Beach (Mowhanau). A new trail is proposed to safely accommodate and encourage the walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders who share this road with vehicles. *For more information see page 43 of the Consultation Document.*

### Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Provide full funding for this project at \$2.4 million, provided that a feasibility study is conducted** (this is Council's preferred option and would add \$12.50 per property per year for 15 years from 2032/33)



**OPTION 2: Do nothing and focus on road safety improvements to benefit all users** (no impact on rates)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

# Asset Sales

To reduce the rates rise to 10.6% for next year, the Council has forecasted we will need to sell \$16 million worth of assets.

The Council owns a portfolio of assets (for example - land, buildings and reserves). We have the opportunity to sell some of our assets which could then be used to repay debt and off-set rates.

First, we want to understand how comfortable you are with selling assets. If endorsed, the next step would involve the council returning to consult on the **specific assets** to be sold.

## Which is your preferred option?



**OPTION 1: Sell \$16 million worth of assets to repay debt - noting we would return to community with specifics on which assets could be sold** (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



**OPTION 2: No assets are sold to repay debt** (add \$23 per property to next year's proposed rates rise of 10.6% and \$43 per year thereafter)



**DON'T KNOW**



**SOMETHING ELSE** (state below)

Comments...

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# How would you strike the balance?

**Service Cuts** - based on the proposed rates rise for next year, would you prefer to?



1



2



3



4



5

Reduce and close more services to get the rates lower

Keep more services open but see a higher rates rise

**Long-term Investment** - would you prefer to?



1



2



3



4



5

Make the lowest possible investment in our core infrastructure and long-term projects

Increase investment in our core infrastructure and long-term projects to future-proof Whanganui

## Final comments

Do you have any final comments or questions on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34?

Comments...

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## Additional information

These questions are not required, but help us better understand the community and how best to engage.

### Demographics

#### Gender

Female  Male

Another gender  
Specify if you feel comfortable

#### Age

Under 18 years  18–29 years  30–39 years  40–49 years

50–59 years  60–69 years  70–79 years  80+ years

#### Ethnicity

Tick all that apply

NZ European  Māori  Asian

Pacific Peoples  Middle Eastern / Latin American / African

Other  
please specify

#### Location

Tick one

Aramoho (Lower Aramoho,  
Upper Aramoho)

Bastia Hill / Durie Hill

Blueskin / Pākaraka

Castlecliff (Castlecliff North,  
Castlecliff South, Mosston)

Fordell / Kakatahi

Gonville (Balgownie, Tawhero,  
Gonville South, Gonville East,  
Gonville West)

Marybank / Gordon Park

Putiki

St John's Hill / Otamatea

Springvale (Springvale West,  
Springvale East, Mosston)

Whanganui Central (Laird Park,  
Whanganui Central, Whanganui  
Collegiate)

Whanganui East (Williams  
Domain, Wembley Park, Kowhai  
Park)

Other  
please specify

Would you be interested in receiving emails about further consultation opportunities with Council? If so, please tick the box (right) and ensure your email address has been completed:

Yes