



# Kia ora koutou

Enclosed is your rates assessment for the 2018/19 year.

Whanganui District Council has recently adopted the Long Term Plan for our community, which sets out what we want to achieve – and how to pay for it – over the next ten years.

After robust discussion about how we can continue to develop a thriving, growing and safe district, we unanimously arrived at a 4.3% rates increase for the 2018/19 year.

Updated valuation data for Whanganui shows \$70M worth of growth in the last twelve months, which meant we were able to drop the average rates increase from what we initially thought.

Overall, over the next ten years, our community is looking at a rates increase of 2.4% on average.

Increasing population growth in our district means the 'rates burden' can be shared between everyone, which reduces the cost for all of us.

We know rate increases can be difficult for some, however, with the hard work of our staff and the oversight of councillors, we have been able to keep the increase reasonably low while spending significantly on much-needed infrastructure.

One of these projects is our new, fully-functional wastewater treatment plant, which meets its strict consents and is well ahead of other regions who are facing challenges about how to manage wastewater responsibly. Our new plant will meet the needs of domestic and industrial users, as well as accommodating population growth.

You may also notice underground stormwater works in the near future as we begin working in the central city, College Estate, Springvale and Aramoho areas to lessen the flooding impact from more frequent rain events. I want to thank you in advance for your patience when you encounter the road restrictions which go with this work.

We have introduced a targeted rate for exotic forestry. This means forestry owners will pay for a fairer share of the damage to

our roads caused by the forest harvest, thus reducing the rates burden on the rest of the community. We will continue to work with this important industry to mitigate the roading damage.

Better infrastructure results in a better community and ultimately, a better quality of life. As I mentioned before, our district is preparing for growth. You only need to take a look around to see more people here, as well as more businesses where locals and visitors can spend money.

Acknowledgement must go to Whanganui & Partners for their role in helping new businesses get up-and-running and their continued effort to support and retain local business and bring talented people and organisations to town.

You might also have seen the 'Little Park' in Victoria Avenue and the viral 'Conversation Station' video which showed locals getting to know each other. This is just one project within the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy. Other projects in the works are lighting up trees and some of our heritage buildings, an upgrade of the bus stop on Taupo Quay and an arts and heritage walkway.

Most of us who live in this place feel a real sense of community and well-being, but it's always good to have that confirmed. In a recent community views survey, 90% of residents said they were satisfied by the quality of life they have here and people felt safer than they felt than the previous year.

Thank you for being a contributor to our community. Your rates help us do the work we need to do to keep our district safe, flourishing and a place people want to be.

Mayor Hamish McDouall

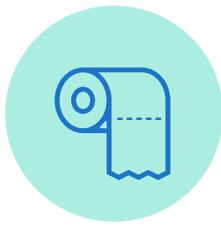


# How are my rates broken down?



31%

Uniform annual  
general charge



16%

Wastewater



14%

General rate



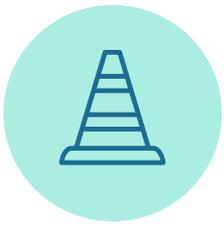
14%

Stormwater  
disposal



10%

Water supply



8%

Roads &  
footpaths



2%

Water  
firefighting



2%

Roading  
resilience



2%

Earthquake  
strengthening



1%

Debt retirement  
levy

These breakdowns are based on an average residential property and may not be the same for everyone

## Rates Rebate Scheme 2018/19

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to **\$630** for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on July 1 2018.

### How is my rebate worked out?

Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, rates and the number of dependants living with you.

The income eligibility for a rebate is **\$25,180**.

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

### How do I apply?

Application forms are available from the council or can be downloaded from [www.govt.nz/rates-rebate](http://www.govt.nz/rates-rebate)

You need to apply in person to Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street.

### Check your eligibility

Visit [www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates-rebates](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates-rebates) for a handy calculator to see if you are eligible.



### What do I need to provide?

- Accurate information about your income (and that of any spouse/partner and/or joint home owner who lives with you) for the tax year ended 31 March 2018.
- Your Horizons Regional Council bill.

**Applications close on 30 June 2019.**