

Dear Wanganui ratepayer

Wanganui District Council has committed to an average 3% rates increase in 2006/07 and for the next 10 years. Wanganui's rate rises for the years 2005-2007 are the lowest in New Zealand.

As a result of public submissions on the Council's Draft 10-Year Plan, the following key decisions were made:

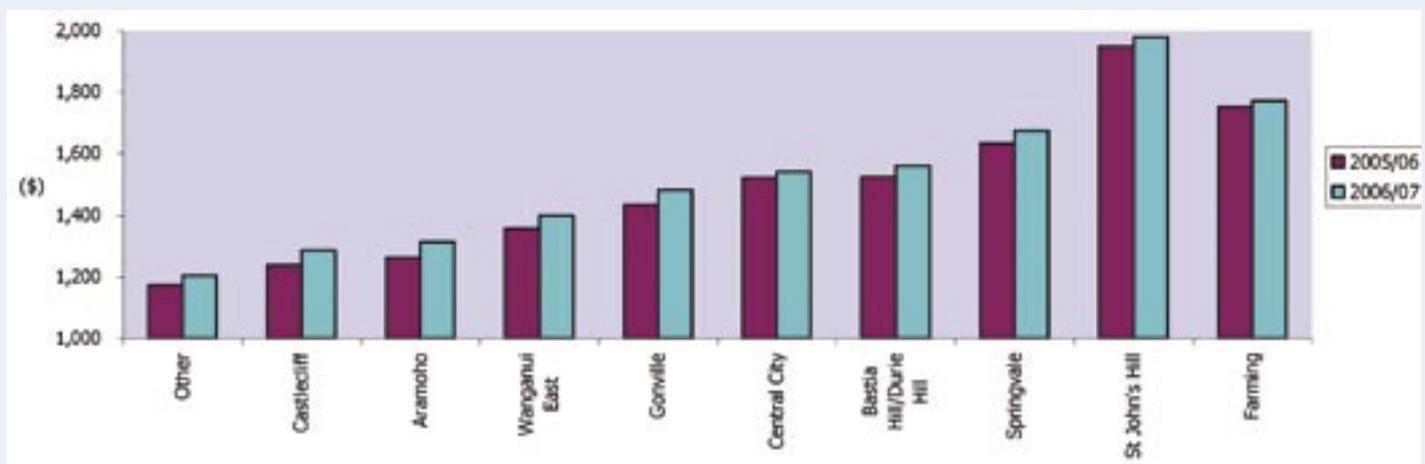
- An additional \$1.3 million for the swimming pools budget in 2006/07 to fund the Splash Centre extension.
- An additional \$262,000 for the roading budget to fund the difference between the expected and the approved subsidy level for the Whanganui River Road seal extension project.
- An additional \$3.3 million in 2006/07 and \$3 million in 2007/08 for the stormwater budget to cover increased costs of separation works.
- An additional \$1.215 million for the parks and reserves budget to cover the riverfront development project.
- An additional \$50,000 for the Central Business District Services budget in 2006/07 for a third toilet to be built at the Orient Toilets to accommodate mobility scooters.
- Funding for Community Contracts was increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000 for each of the 10 years.
- An additional \$25,000 for the community development budget for security cameras in Victoria Avenue and Trafalgar Square in both 2006/07 and 2007/08.

- \$16,000 for the economic development budget in 2006/07, 2007/07 and 2008/09 to allow permanent bollards to be erected at the Cemetery Circuit.
- It was agreed that animal control would be partly funded by rates with a \$6,000 input in 2006/07.
- It was agreed that asset sales of under or non-performing assets, including Montgomery Reserve, will proceed. Monies gained will be devoted to capital projects (e.g. Splash Centre extension, riverfront development, Whanganui River Road).
- A further \$69,000 was added to the \$500,000 cut in Council's corporate staffing budget making a total cut of \$569,000.
- It was agreed that Council would enter into discussions and negotiations with rural and community groups over the future ownership and management of rural and community halls.

As a result of these decisions:

- Average rate rises will be 3% for the coming 2006/07 financial year and for each year after that to 2016 (this includes inflation but excludes the soft water rate).
- Debt will peak at \$70 million in 2009/10 and then decline to \$61 million in 2015/16.

Average rates 2006/07



STOP PRESS: Rates Rebate Scheme

A brochure about the Rates Rebate Scheme is enclosed with your rate account. If you require further information or assistance, please contact the council's rates department, phone 349 0519.



Splash Centre extension

Your chance to be part of this exciting project

The extension to the Splash Centre swimming complex has received the official thumbs-up from the Council and tenders have been called for the construction.

The new complex will include a learn to swim pool, school teaching pool/recreation pool, toddlers' pool, lazy river, spa pools, sauna, steam room, gym and two hydroslides.

In its 10-Year Plan for 2006-2016, the Council has confirmed a \$3.8 million contribution to the project. The remaining funding is to come from external funding sources. The project was originally estimated to cost \$4.5 million but estimates are up to \$5.4 million due to inflation. Other sources of funding are the Whanganui Community Foundation (\$1 million), Powerco Community Trust (\$500,000) and community fundraising is also under way.

We know that Wanganui residents are excited about this project and many have asked how they can help. Community fundraising activities are under way. Or you may wish to make a direct donation, using the slip on the bottom of this page.

Every dollar counts so we welcome your contribution, however small or large. Be part of this exciting development of Wanganui's swimming and leisure facilities.

You can include the donation with your rates payment – just fill in the amount you would like to donate on the slip below, tear off and return to the Council.

Thank you for your donation

I would like to donate: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 other \$_____ to the Splash Centre extension.

You can enclose your donation in the reply paid envelope with your rates payment.

Name: _____ :Signature

Address: _____