



Your rates for the 2009/10 financial year

August 2009

Dear Wanganui Ratepayer

This year the Wanganui District Council has taken an innovative approach to determining the level of rates you will pay. We asked the community directly – through *Referendum '09* – what it wants, you told us and we listened!

As a result, council has settled on an average rates increase of 3.2% for 2009/10, reflecting the wishes of the majority of voters.

Again, this is one of the lowest rates increases in the country. The average Wanganui District Council rates increase over the past five years has been 2.4%. This is considerably below the rate of inflation and the lowest of any city, district or regional council in New Zealand.

Average rates increase by Wanganui District Council by year

Year	Rates	Inflation
2005/06	0%	2.8%
2006/07	3.0%	4.0%
2007/08	1.8%	2.0%
2008/09	4.7%	4.0%
2009/10	3.2%	3.0% (est.)
Total average increase over 5 years	2.5%	3.2%

Our 10-Year Plan 2009-2019 was prepared against an extraordinary financial, economic and political background. It recognises that the economy is currently in recession, international financial markets are in turmoil, and both Treasury and bank projections forecast rapidly rising unemployment. All of these issues will have their negative impact upon Wanganui and our local economy.

However, despite this, the council has successfully made the important decisions necessary to deliver an enhanced and affordable quality of life over the next 10 years.

The decisions included in the 10-Year Plan 2009-2019 have remained true to the community's ability to pay, its vision for the future and the infrastructural and capital project spend necessary to progress council's 'family-friendly' strategy.

We have sought to capitalise on this positive, forward-thinking approach, while also providing the funding and planning needed for the infrastructure and services that this community expects and deserves.

The highlights of the 10-Year Plan are:

- The successful discovery and delivery of "soft water" to Wanganui urban residents
- A new \$180,000 promotional budget aimed at creating an enhanced image of Wanganui on the national and international stages
- The funding of an enhanced southern entranceway to give visitors a better first impression of Wanganui
- The funding of a new entranceway into Wanganui from the airport – to be called Chas Poynter Drive in honour of the previous long-serving Mayor
- Continued rates restraint – meaning that for the fifth year in a row, Wanganui rates increases have been much less than the rest of local government – and under the average rate of inflation
- Debt levels peaking at \$90 million and then declining dramatically
- The confirmed retention of Wanganui Gas and its trading arm Energy Direct, our forestry assets and council-owned pensioner housing
- Increased funding to support Wanganui in Bloom

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.



Best wishes

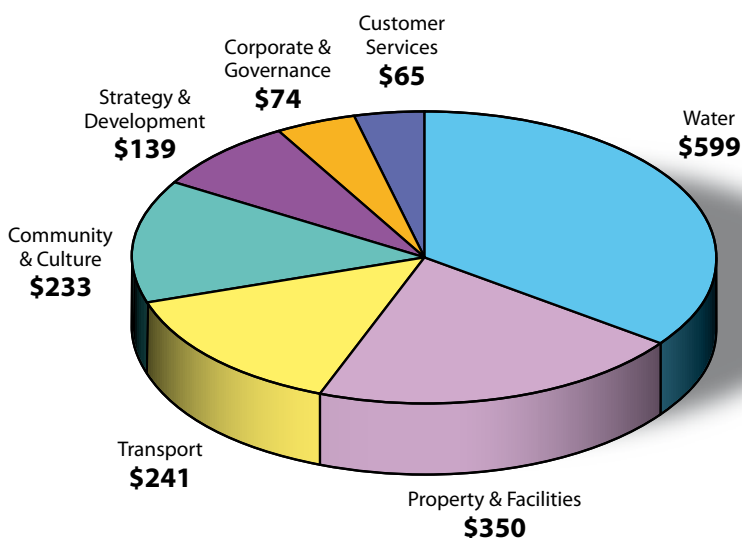
Michael Laws
Mayor

Suburb	Average of 2009/10 rates	Average of 2008/09 rates	Average rateable land value	Average rateable capital value	Average rates increase
Aramoho	\$1,604	\$1,547	\$54,055	\$186,813	\$57 3.7%
Castlecliff	\$1,542	\$1,485	\$69,021	\$160,067	\$57 3.8%
Central City	\$1,808	\$1,746	\$75,510	\$223,293	\$62 3.5%
Durie/Bastia/Putiki	\$1,787	\$1,728	\$92,009	\$259,812	\$59 3.4%
Gonville	\$1,717	\$1,662	\$70,750	\$194,162	\$55 3.3%
Springvale	\$1,850	\$1,802	\$92,424	\$257,587	\$48 2.7%
St Johns Hill	\$2,072	\$2,058	\$113,732	\$337,889	\$14 0.7%
Wanganui East	\$1,660	\$1,602	\$65,350	\$190,061	\$58 3.6%
Other areas	\$1,331	\$1,215	\$126,062	\$308,838	\$116 9.5%

How Wanganui's rates increase compares with other councils

Council	Rates increase 2008/09	Rates increase 2009/10	Average over 2 years
Wanganui	4.7%	3.2%	3.9%
Ruapehu	3.8%	4.5%	4.1%
Christchurch	5.1%	3.9%	4.5%
Hamilton	5.3%	4.4%	4.8%
Manawatu	5.3%	4.5%	4.9%
North Shore	5.9%	5.2%	5.5%
New Plymouth	9.1%	3.6%	6.3%
Nelson	12.0%	3.2%	7.6%
Tauranga	4.6%	10.9%	7.7%
Rangitikei	8.9%	8.0%	8.4%
Palmerston North	11.3%	6.5%	8.9%
Dunedin	10.4%	7.0%	9.0%
Horizons Regional Council	21.2%	6.4%	13.8%

How the average Wanganui residential rate of \$1,701 is spent



Customer services group – includes Emergency management, Regulatory services

Corporate and governance group – includes Corporate management, Governance, Investments

Strategy and development group – includes Economic development, Strategy and policy

Community and culture group – includes Community development, Library, Royal Wanganui Opera House, Sarjeant Gallery, War Memorial Hall, Regional Museum

Transport group – includes Roading, Footpaths and berms, Airport, Sea port, Central Business District parking

Property and facilities group – includes Cemeteries, Central Business District maintenance, Community buildings and rural halls, Parks and reserves, Pensioner housing, Property, Swimming pools

Water group – includes Water supply, Stormwater, Wastewater, Waterways and natural drainage, Waste minimisation