



Your rates for the 2010/11 financial year

August 2010

Dear Wanganui Ratepayer

In setting the level of rates for the coming year council has taken a balanced approach, seeking to meet the needs of our infrastructure and our community against the need for ongoing rates restraint.

Council's decisions have resulted in an average overall rate increase of 4.7% for 2010/11, which means Wanganui ratepayers have had one of the lowest rates increases in New Zealand over the past six years.

Average rates increase by Wanganui District Council by year

Year	Rates	Inflation
2005/06	0%	2.80%
2006/07	3.00%	4.00%
2007/08	1.80%	2.00%
2008/09	4.70%	4.00%
2009/10	3.20%	1.90%
2010/11	4.70%	1.80%
Total average increase over six years	2.90%	2.75%

In putting together our Annual Plan 2010/11 we were faced with significant challenges as a result of withdrawal of millions of dollars of government roading subsidy; the failure of No. 1 Bore resulting in additional costs to find new water; additional debt funding taken out to build the new Splash Centre; and we are still facing challenging economic times.

Work continues to ensure the long-term security of Wanganui's water supply, as well as reducing household and business expenses through providing softer water. The new bores, Abelard and Heloise, have increased the supply and added softer water into the city supply, reducing the overall hardness of Wanganui's water. A small existing bore will be completed and a small softening plant installed at Westmere Reservoir.

Council has also taken the view that Wanganui cannot afford to stand still and must improve our visitor experience and actively recruit new residents and visitors. In September our new riverside Visitor Information Centre and Southern Entranceway projects will be completed and we will embark on a nationwide promotional campaign.

Wanganui is a great place to live and work and over the coming year we will continue to develop our city and our community – and tell the rest of New Zealand about it too!



Best wishes

Michael Laws

Michael Laws
Mayor

The highlights of the Annual Plan 2010/11 are:

- Holding a referendum in October 2010, at the same time as the triennial elections, to ask the community whether it wishes council to explore options to become a unitary authority and assume the responsibilities of the Horizons Regional Council; and how many gaming 'pokie' machines Wanganui should have.
- Completion of the Southern Entranceway and new Visitor Information Centre in September 2010.
- The focus on the riverfront development will continue with \$150,000 budgeted for developing initial designs for the area.
- Council has allocated \$350,000 from the economic development budget for image building and promotion of Wanganui, to attract visitors and new residents to the city. A total of \$1.7M has been allocated over the next 10 years to fund this work.
- Undertaking and supporting a range of initiatives, including the use of legislation, to crack down on gang fortifications and tackle illegal street racing and combat graffiti.
- \$30,000 to fund the 'For Our Kids' initiative of the Community Taskforce on Youth Wellbeing, to foster development of Wanganui's young people through greater community involvement and volunteering programmes.
- Funding for the new Gonville Café Library in Abbot Street to open on Saturdays for a one year trial period from September 2010.
- Additional funding for Wanganui in Bloom levied against only the Central Business District Targeted Rate.

Suburb	Average of 2010/11 rates	Average of 2009/10 rates	Average rateable land value	Average rateable capital value	Average rates increase
Aramoho	\$1,677	\$1,604	\$54,173	\$187,445	\$73 4.6%
Castlecliff	\$1,604	\$1,543	\$69,431	\$161,933	\$61 4.0%
Central City	\$1,894	\$1,806	\$75,120	\$224,412	\$88 4.9%
Durie/Bastia/Putiki	\$1,881	\$1,789	\$92,119	\$261,498	\$92 5.1%
Gonville	\$1,791	\$1,717	\$70,876	\$195,013	\$74 4.3%
Springvale	\$1,948	\$1,852	\$92,247	\$259,498	\$96 5.2%
St Johns Hill	\$2,163	\$2,052	\$113,576	\$337,280	\$111 5.4%
Wanganui East	\$1,736	\$1,659	\$65,140	\$190,207	\$77 4.7%
Other	\$1,438	\$1,342	\$127,123	\$315,572	\$96 7.1%

10-Year Plan amendment

Council's desire to more regularly assess the appropriateness of its investments has resulted in an amendment to the Investment Policy in the 10-Year Plan 2009-2019. This amendment will allow council to evaluate its individual and its portfolio of investments after considering the risk and return ratio, and the impact the investments have on the social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the district. The amendment will allow council to acquire, divest and/or make loan advances via debt or equity mechanisms.

The amendment also allows council to undertake public consultation on acquisition or divestment decisions where the council believes that consultation would not affect the value of the investment.

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.

How Wanganui's rates increase compares with other councils

Council	Rates increase over 2009/10	Rates increase over 2010/11	Average over 2 years
<i>Wanganui</i>	3.20%	4.70%	3.95%
Christchurch	3.90%	3.97%	3.94%
Dunedin	7.00%	5.50%	6.25%
Hamilton	4.40%	2.96%	3.68%
Horizons Regional Council	6.40%	4.99%	5.70%
Manawatu	4.50%	3.5%	4.00%
Nelson	3.20%	6.30%	4.75%
New Plymouth	3.60%	4.80%	4.20%
North Shore	5.20%	5.30%	5.25%
Palmerston North	6.50%	3.50%	5.00%
Rangitikei	8.00%	4.86%	6.43%
Ruapehu	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Tauranga	10.90%	3.80%	7.35%

How the average Wanganui residential rate is spent

