

He aha ō whakaaro? What are your thoughts?

Have Your Say Connect Hono Mai

Let us know
what you
think by 4pm
Wednesday,
4 September!

Ōpōtiki District Council Long Term Plan 2024–2034 Consultation Document

The key issues we're facing, the major projects we want to take on, how we plan to pay for it, and how it may affect your rates.



Ōpōtiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

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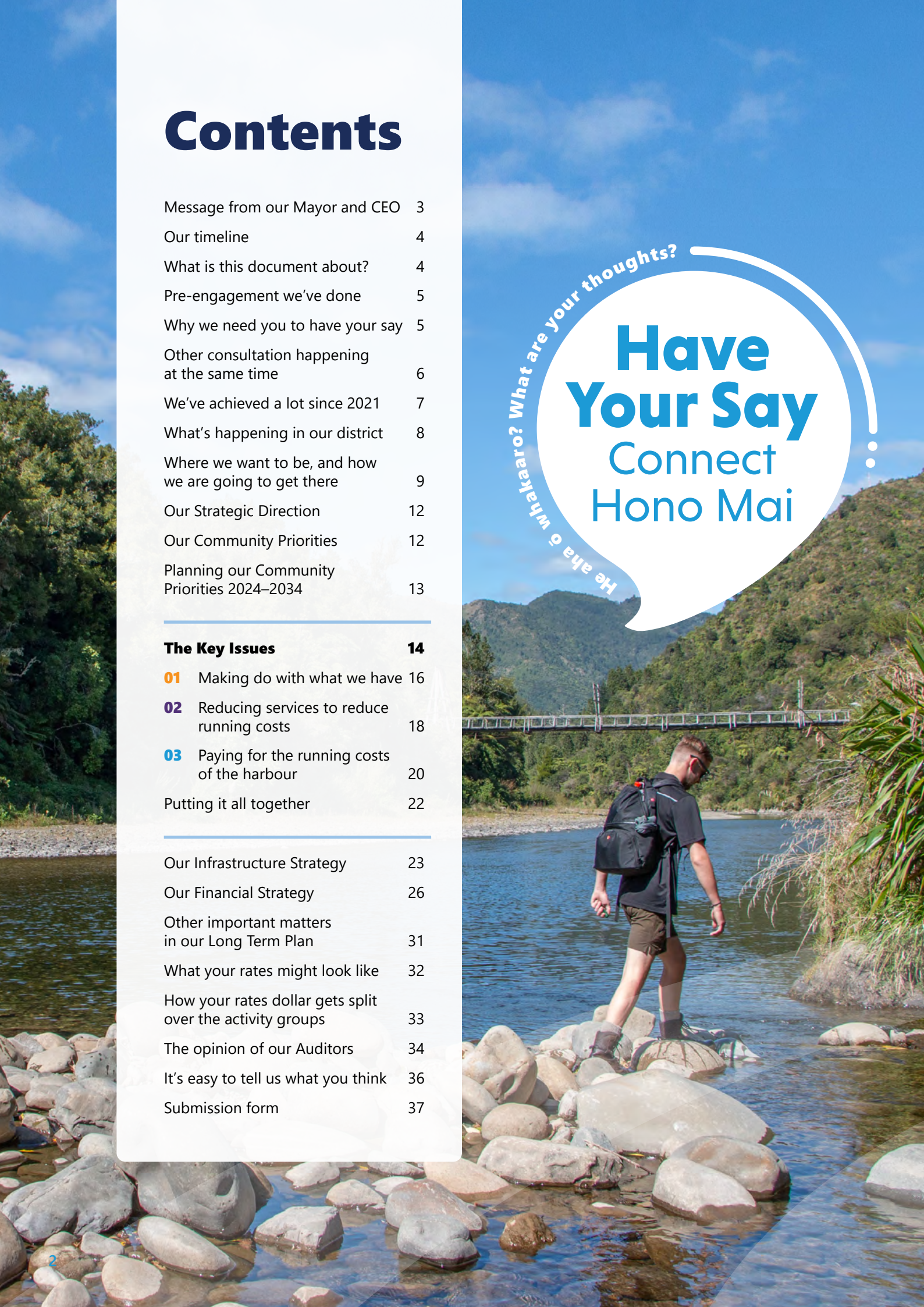
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He aha ō whakaaro? What are your thoughts?

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Your Say**
Connect
Hono Mai



Message from our Mayor and CEO

It has been a period of rapid growth and change for the Ōpōtiki District since our last Long Term Plan (LTP) adopted in 2021, and we have seen the fruits of our labour in economic activity, job opportunities, and new and improved facilities in our rohe. Many long-term aspirations for the district have come to life during this period. At the same time, we, like the rest of Aotearoa and the world, have grappled with the long-lasting social and economic aftereffects of COVID-19 and the subsequent economic instability.

As we look to planning for the next 10 years, our emphasis is on affordability for our community, while intentionally and carefully ensuring the district continues to see positive flow-on effects from new economic activity. We must find the balance between supporting development and the ability to fund.

It is an exciting time for the Ōpōtiki District and there is no shortage of work to ensure the opportunities continue. At the same time, we must acknowledge the national pressures we are all feeling, such as inflation, cost of living, national housing affordability, and changing/increasing mandates from Central Government. It is a time for careful and prudent management.

Please help us shape the future of this rohe by providing your thoughts and feedback through any of our feedback options: online, by email, or by paper.

We are serious about reducing the rating impact for households. We have identified three key areas where we can achieve that and we are asking for your feedback:

1. Should we focus on our current infrastructure, and limit building new stuff?
2. Should we reduce services to reduce running costs, particularly in events, engineering, Toi EDA, and parks and reserves?
3. How should we fund the maintenance of the harbour?



David Moore
Mayor of Ōpōtiki District



Stace Lower
Chief Executive Officer

What is this document about?

We're putting together our Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan (LTP) will set out what our activities are for the next 10 years. It is something every Council is required to have in place at all times by law and it is reviewed every three years. Alongside the Long Term Plan, we produce a consultation document, which is what you're reading now. This document helps us decide what some of the main projects and direction will be in the Long Term Plan, and how we'll go about them.

We're consulting with you because the decisions we make can affect things like rates and debt levels. It can also affect the level of service you get. That's why it's important for us to hear what you think about our proposals on the important issues and choices ahead. LTPs get reviewed every three years so this is a great opportunity to have your say and help shape the future of our district. You can also learn more about our activities, financial status, and priorities.

We really hope this consultation document gives you the information you need to have your say on the key issues. If you do want to read more, supporting documents are available at our service centres or online at connect.odc.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2024-2034

This process is important for our future. If we have a clear focus on what we want to achieve, and a good plan on how to achieve it, our chance of success significantly increases.

Our timeline

Developing a Long Term Plan takes time – we started back in May of 2023 in order to get to where we are now.



Pre-engagement we've done

In the lead up to this formal consultation, we've had multiple informal feedback sessions beginning back in June 2023.

Informal feedback sessions

300+ attendees

Informal online feedback

50+ contributions

Location	Meeting	Date	Attendees (approx.)
Omaramutu Marae	Hapū hui	18/06/23	19
Omaramutu Marae	Mataariki Wānanga	07/06/23 & 08/06/23	80
Ōpōtiki Wharf	Waka Ama Day	12/06/23	40
Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi	Te Ao Hou and Working for Families	06/06/23	3
Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi	Drop in session	04/06/23 & 05/06/23	17
Pararaki Marae	Waihou Bay Masterplan	19/08/23	8-10
Waihou Bay Fishing Club	Waihou Bay Masterplan	19/08/23	30-40
Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi	Toirāwhiti and ŌDC	25/08/23	2
Whitikau Reserve	Ngā Kete o Te Hauora	31/08/23	20-25
44A Goring Street, Ōpōtiki	Ko Kollektive	15/11/23	5
Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi	Drop in session	20/11/23 21/11/23	7
93 Church Street, Ōpōtiki	Eastbay REAP team hui	27/11/23	6
Connect Hono Mai connect.odc.govt.nz	Informal online feedback	Ongoing from November 2023	Over 50 contributions

Why we need you to have your say

Ōpotiki District is moving into a new chapter for the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan. Many significant and long-held goals have been realised – just look at our brand new harbour. At the same time, many extraordinary national and global circumstances have changed the economic landscape.

We know managing the balance between supporting growth and development, and the district's ability to fund these things, is more important than ever.

We need your say to help us get it right.



Other consultation happening at the same time

As well as consultation on the LTP Consultation Document, we have a policy that we'd love your feedback on:

- **Revenue and Financing Policy.**

The Revenue and Financing Policy explains two things:

1. the activities and services Council delivers, and
2. how Council plans to fund the expenditure of these activities and services.

As you can tell, this is a vital guiding document that outlines various costs for ratepayers, so please tell us about your thoughts on whether we've got the balance right.

The first significant change in this draft policy is the new activity structure. The purpose for this change is:

- It reflects the activities and services Council does/ delivers more transparently and accurately.
- It also reflects the funding mechanisms of each activity/service more transparently.

The desire for this is something Council has heard from both our elected members and from the public more generally.

The second change is that the policy is now informed by the Funding Needs Analysis (Appendix 1). This document is where the detail of each activity in the activity structure is broken down to explain the funding sources identified for that activity, and what level of funding they provide. This document ensures Council is compliant with section 101(3) (a) of the Local Government Act.

The third change is a move toward a more "user pays" system for our activities. This looks like an increase to fees/ charges and targeted rates, in order to offset impacts on the general rate.



You can read more and make a submission here:
connect.odc.govt.nz/revenue-and-financing-policy



We've achieved a lot since 2021



Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project milestones

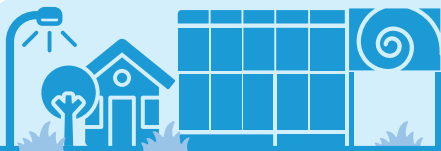
August 2022: Hinewai (amphibious excavator) commenced dredging.

October 2022: hanbar casting completed.

October 2022: stockpiling sand to close old river mouth.

July 2023: channel between walls opened and old river mouth closed.

Check out our Facebook page for tons of awesome pictures of the Harbour.



Property/Town Centre Revitalisation

- The development of 103 Church Street and welcoming the new tenants: Ōpōtiki's Banking Hub and Te Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa.
- New street lighting.
- Rawinia Rangi Reserve Cottage upgrade.

Richard Street upgrades

In 2022 Council completed a major stormwater project along Richard Street from Goring Street to the Tarawa Creek outlet. This outlet is Ōpōtiki's largest and covers around 60% of the town and this upgrade helps to reduce the impact of flooding.



Ōpōtiki District Library Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi

• Books borrowed

2021-2022 = **21,876**

2022-2023 = **24,489**

• Physical visits

November saw the most physical visits in one month for 2022, with **6,361** people making use of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi's many services.

For 2023, physical visits were up again with **6,564** visits in September.

- In our 2024 community survey, when asked for an open-ended response, one quarter of respondents said they couldn't think of anything that would make this space better!
- In an open-ended question, 41% of respondents highlighted the library's role as a safe space for everyone in the community (2024 survey).



Whitikau Reserve playground

- Involvement of rangatahi at design stage.
- Opening for 2023 Matariki Festival.
- Skatepark development.



You can read more about what we have achieved in our Annual Reports on our website **www.odc.govt.nz**

What's happening in our district

These are some (but not all) of the things we think are going to impact the district in the next 10 years.

Te Tiriti Settlements

On 27 May 2023 the signing of Te Whakatōhea's deed settlement occurred. Te Whānau a Apanui also initialled a deed of settlement in late 2023. These are both historic events for the rohe and Council looks forward to playing a supporting role for our district's iwi.

The aspirations of our local iwi and opportunities enabled by settlement will play a significant role in the development and growth of the Ōpōtiki District over the next 10 years.

Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project

The Ōpōtiki Harbour will officially open in 2024 – but the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project has already instigated a huge amount of change, growth, and opportunities in Ōpōtiki. Check out the [Te Ara Moana a Toi Initial Benefits Assessment](#) report to read all about the positive impacts already achieved and projected to come.

Quick facts:

In 2022 alone, the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project created 263 jobs in the district.

Did you know the heaviest hanbar used on the sea walls is 15 tonnes? This is as heavy as two adult elephants and it's also over 2 metres tall.

In total, 12,000 hanbars were used to build both sea walls.

The Ōpōtiki Harbour is the first harbour to be built in Aotearoa for the last 100 years.

Climate Change

We've all experienced the increasing intensity and frequency of severe weather events over the last three years, and likely we all have whānau in other areas of Aotearoa who have been impacted.

As the local Council, we have a (legislative) responsibility to consider the wellbeing of the current and future population of the district – and that includes taking into consideration the safety of living in certain areas that might be more exposed to risk in severe weather events. As we go into the next 10 years, this will be an area of steady focus for the Ōpōtiki District, like much of the nation.

Growth

We know that Ōpōtiki district is a great place to live, work, and play – and the numbers back us up. However, we also know that the increase of new and familiar whānau moving to Ōpōtiki has increased the pressure on our housing. This includes the literal number of houses in the district, and it also includes the infrastructure that supports those houses – like the physical stuff (roading for new suburbs and three waters piping) as well as the health and safety stuff (building plans and consents).

Ōpōtiki District Council's planning takes into account a high estimation of population growth because when we look back at previous population forecasting, our actual numbers have been closest to the high predictions. According to a report done for the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan¹, that could look like as many as 14,600 people living in the Ōpōtiki District by 2055. That's not far away! And we need to be preparing now to understand what resources and planning is needed for this growth in population to be housed safely and sustainably in our beautiful rohe.

1. Eastern Bay of Plenty Housing and Business Needs Research, 2023.



Where we want to be, and how we are going to get there

Ōpōtiki has some big goals and some key challenges in the next few years. Let's unpack them.

Growth

In short, the infrastructure in the district isn't adequate to support the increase in people that we have already begun to see (as well as continuing to look after those who are already here!). Having the right infrastructure – administrative things like zoning and building consents, as well as physical stuff like roading and pipes – means that new suburbs and housing areas can be developed. This kind of activity in the district generates jobs and economic activity. And in addition to adding new infrastructure, lots of the existing infrastructure will be coming due for replacement in the next 10 years. This is all a series of great opportunities, but the infrastructure also involves a lot of cost – that is where the following challenge comes in.

The early years of this LTP has a focus on drawing back to alleviate short-term cost burdens on ratepayers, while Council focuses on planning ahead. Part of this plan is to review Council's Development Contributions Policy in later years which will help address some concerns around the cost of growth – this is a policy where developers looking to spearhead growth projects in the district pay a fee to contribute toward the infrastructure required to support new developments.

Balancing affordability

On the back of our infrastructure is how we need to fund that activity. Supporting this growth needs to be managed very deliberately – if we under resource, we’re cutting off opportunities for Ōpōtiki and whānau who want to live, work, and play here. If we over resource, the community will be paying more than was strictly necessary. This is a balance we and many other councils need to manage. Our community members can see the benefit of growth, more economic activity, and attracting people to the district, but the financial investment required may hurt pockets in a way that is unsustainable.

Council’s Financial Strategy is summarised on page 26 of this document, and the affordability challenges facing the Council can be seen. Council sets self-imposed caps/limits on our general and targeted rates increases, and although Council stays within these limits for the majority of the 2024-34 LTP, there are some instances where Council is proposing to breach these limits. To read more about this and understand when and why Council is proposing these breaches, look to page 27.

Operation of the harbour and wharf

With the completion of the Ōpōtiki Harbour, the costs shift from construction to operation and maintenance. The maintenance required is things like dredging to ensure the channel remains navigable for different types of vessels and during particular seasons or weather events. We know that this cost, on top of the rates increase required to simply keep doing the things we already do, will place strain on a lot of our community.

For the past 12 years, Council has agreed to put funding aside to ensure it can operate the harbour when it comes online. However, factors outside of Council’s control means we need to adjust to ensure the ratepayer base isn’t unfairly burdened with the cost of operating and maintaining the asset. Council is negotiating an agreement with Central Government to delay Council taking on the cost of the operation and maintenance of the harbour, with the express purpose of alleviating ratepayer costs. However, at this stage it is unknown what this agreement may look like. Council is therefore proposing a “Plan B” in this Consultation Document to mitigate some of the financial burden households are facing in the short-term while negotiations continue.

This Plan B involves Council taking on the operating/maintenance costs of the Harbour beginning in the 2024-25 financial year, as always planned, but we would fund this through debt instead of rates for Year 1 (2024-25) and Year 2 (2025-26) of this LTP.

What this does is delay the rating impact on the community for the next two years and mitigates some of the financial burden lots of households are facing.

KEY ISSUE 03

To read more about this topic, and submit your thoughts, go to [Key Issue 3](#) on page 20.

Capital Works Programme

In the previous Long Term Plan, we budgeted for a capital works programme of about \$26 million. However, Council has identified that a reduction in our capital works programme to focus predominantly on renewals and minimal new stuff will result in some savings for the community.

What this means is our primary focus will be on maintaining and renewing what we already have. This means there will therefore be a reduced focus on building new infrastructure. One consequence of this is we may not be as prepared for growth in early years of the LTP as we'd like.



To read more about this topic, and submit your thoughts, go to **Key Issue 1** on page 16.

Funding of depreciation

Depreciation for a Council is not like depreciation for a business or a private asset. Councils build assets which have 30-to-100-year lifespans, and we need to make sure that as they are replaced, there is adequate funding to do so based on today's prices.

If Council were to fully fund the depreciation of our assets in Year 1 of this LTP, this would equate to rating impact of about 11%. In previous years, we have chosen not to fully fund depreciation because the rating impact is too great for our community to meet. The current economic climate and cost-of-living crisis does not change this, and Council has chosen not to fully fund the depreciation of its assets.

Instead, we have opted for an approach called 'Long Run Average Renewal' of our assets. This means Council will set its funding level to the long run average cost of renewals over 30 years.

What have we already committed to?



Harbour-Wharf Masterplan



Renewal of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Our Strategic Direction

Our vision statement: Strong Community, Strong Future

Every Long Term Plan is required to include 'Community Outcomes' which are statements intended to guide Council decision making over the life of the Long Term Plan.

In this long term plan, we have called them 'Community Priorities'. We think Priorities far better reflect how we want to structure our Long Term Plan, the day-to-day mahi we do, and priorities enable the district to achieve outcomes in the long term.

More detailed information about these priorities, and the goals sitting underneath them, will be available in our Long Term Plan.

You will see that we have created a timeline to show when we want to action some Community Priorities, and which ones we think are best to action later in the life of the LTP. Although these priorities will guide the entire 10 years of the LTP, we have spaced the priorities out to show when and where we will focus our efforts.

These are guidelines and indicative only. For example, if external funding becomes available we may be able to bring some of our Growth-focused projects forward into Years 1–3 of the LTP, instead of preparing for them in Years 4+.

Our Community Priorities



WHAKAAROTAU TUATAHI COMMUNITY PRIORITY ONE

Strong relationships and partners

We strive to establish, develop and maintain genuine relationships with iwi and hapū, community groups and stakeholders.

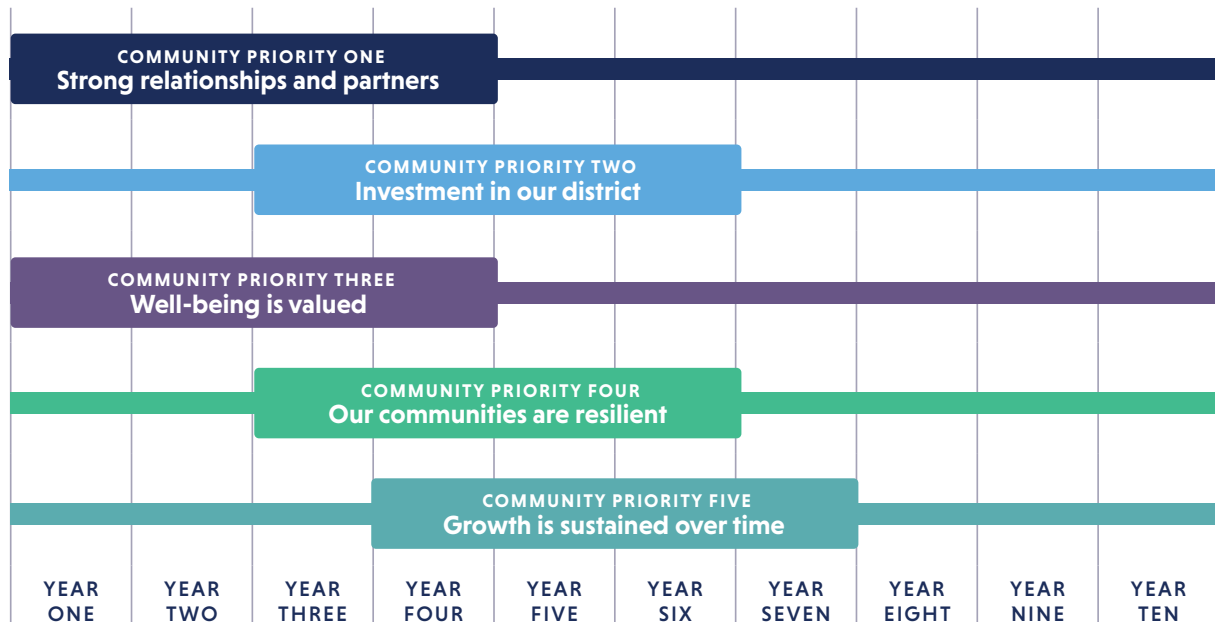


WHAKAAROTAU TUARUA COMMUNITY PRIORITY TWO

Investment in our district

We advocate for and attract high-quality investment across our district.

Planning our Community Priorities 2024–2034



**WHAKAAROTAU TUATORU
COMMUNITY PRIORITY THREE**

Well-being is valued

We value the well-being, toi ora and engagement of all our communities, now and into the future.



**WHAKAAROTAU TUAWHA
COMMUNITY PRIORITY FOUR**

Our communities are resilient

We support our communities to make informed decisions about resilience and adaptation.



**WHAKAAROTAU TUARIMA
COMMUNITY PRIORITY FIVE**

Growth is sustained over time

We plan for a district which is future focused and ready for growth.



THE KEY ISSUES



KEY ISSUE 01

Making do with what we have.

Focus on renewing what we have and limiting new stuff.



KEY ISSUE 02

Reducing services to reduce running costs.

Fewer services to find savings: events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA.



KEY ISSUE 03

Delay paying for the running costs of the harbour.

No rates funding of the harbour until at least 2026.

These options will have the biggest impact on the general rate. Council wants to reduce the rating impact for households over the next 10 years, and has identified the following ways to do so. Now is the chance for you to have your say on whether you agree.

KEY ISSUE 01

Making do with what we have

We are proposing to focus on renewing what we have, and limit our spending on any new stuff.

What's the situation?

Council owns and looks after lots of infrastructure, and a lot of it is invisible. It's underground, like our pipes, or it's something you don't really think about, like being able to flush your toilet and turn on your tap.

Our infrastructure is ageing, and we need make sure we're able to replace it either as it's coming due for replacement (before it's broken), or once it has broken. However, our asset base (all the infrastructure we look after) is too large and too expensive to fully fund from rates – but rates are the main funding source local councils have.

To address this issue, Council has looked at our capital works programme. The capital works programme is our annual plan to 1) build new stuff and 2) upgrade/replace/maintain existing stuff.

As with everything Council does, this is a balancing act between keeping things affordable for the community but ensuring we are also responsibly managing our infrastructure in a way that is sustainable. Managing our infrastructure means two things: replacing things we already own when necessary (i.e. it's broken or about to break), and making sure the rate at which we're building new stuff is fiscally sustainable/responsible.

OPTION 1

Status quo. Continue with the capital works programme as we have planned.

How your general rates would change

The impact on your general rates under this option will be approximately as follows.

Low, median, and high property capital value*	2025 general rates impact (\$) per week	General rates impact (\$) for 2024-25 year	Percentage (%) difference from prior year (2023-24)**
\$300,000	-\$0.72	-\$37.27	-39%
\$470,000	-\$1.12	-\$58.39	-39%
\$800,000	-\$1.91	-\$99.38	-39%

*These figures are based on low, medium, and upper valued properties in the district based on capital value and are approximate, average per annum amounts. The figures shown above are the estimations of the cost to each ratepayer of the proposed option for this activity/key issue.

**The Capital Works Programme proposed under Option 1 and Option 2 are both smaller than last year's. Consequently, the rating impact (\$) will be smaller than the 2023/24 rating impact of the Capital Works Programme.

Levels of Service

Option 1 for this issue is for Council to continue with the status quo – that is, continue with our capital works programme as we have it planned.

That currently includes:

- New builds, including things like piping and waste water treatment plants to allow for growth (new houses) in the district.
- Renewals that address the aging infrastructure we talked about earlier.
- Under Option 1, Council would plan for our capital expenditure budget to be around what we projected in the 2021-31 LTP for the 2024-25 year: approximately \$14.47 million.

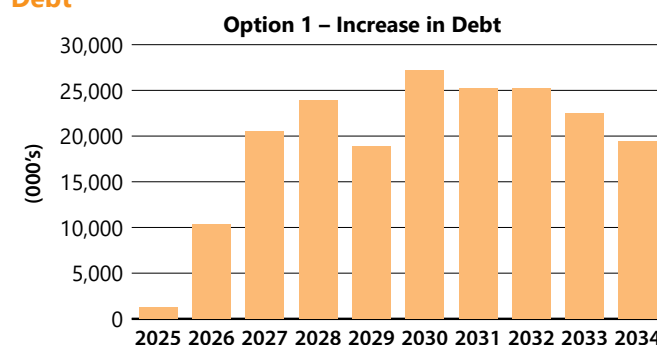
Advantages

- We can address more of our old infrastructure and replace/upgrade it before it breaks.
- Council continues new developments, which furthers the growth prospects and aspirations of the district.

Disadvantages or risks

- Council's capital works programme would remain significantly higher than what has been able to be delivered in recent years. The programme would be unrealistic to deliver without an increase in operational resource and associated expense in the early years of the LTP.

Debt



Council's preferred option

OPTION 2

Pull back on our capital works programme.

How your general rates would change

The impact on your general rates under this option will be approximately as follows.

Low, median, and high property capital value*	2025 general rates impact (\$) per week	General rates impact (\$) for 2024-25 year	Percentage (%) difference from prior year (2023-24)**
\$300,000	-\$0.90	-\$46.79	-50%
\$470,000	-\$1.41	-\$73.30	-50%
\$800,000	-\$2.40	-\$124.77	-50%

*These figures are based on low, medium, and upper valued properties in the district based on capital value and are approximate, average per annum amounts. The figures shown above are the estimations of the cost to each ratepayer of the proposed option for this activity/key issue.

**The Capital Works Programme proposed under Option 1 and Option 2 are both smaller than last year's. Consequently, the rating impact (\$) will be smaller than the 2023/24 rating impact of the Capital Works Programme.

Levels of Service

Option 2 is Council's preferred option. We would pull our capital works programme back to our historic levels of delivery for the first years of this LTP, to alleviate costs in the short-term while better preparing for the years ahead. Instead of Option 1, where our capital expenditure budget would be approximately \$14.47 million for the 2024-25 financial year, Option 2 proposes a budget of \$12 million instead.

What does that mean? Good question!

To come to this option, Council looked back at our annual plans and how much we planned to deliver in capital works, versus how much we delivered in reality at the end of that year.

This revealed that we have delivered less than our planned programme for several years. This can happen for multiple reasons – resources/materials were too expensive, we lacked staff, and (most notably) COVID-19 majorly affected everyone's ability to get mahi done.

We took the average of how much we deliver usually over a three year period and used it as a guide for our capital works programme for the first years of this LTP, which saw it reduce significantly. This 'pull back' helps Council to bring down the cost burden in the short-term, while also allowing us to consider ways to tackle costs going forward.

This means less money spent but also means pushing out some work which would be nice to have done now. This means some assets which ideally would be replaced now won't be replaced and there is a risk they could fail and services are disrupted while services are restored. Also some improvement projects that the community are asking for

will not be delivered unless external funding and resource is provided to deliver those projects.

Some of the key effects of this option will be timing of when works happen. For example, growth projects such as the Hukutaia Growth Infrastructure will be deferred to later years of the LTP where ordinarily Council would have been planning for them now. Other deferred projects include things like water reticulation renewals, where ideally we'd like to replace things (like pipes) before they break, instead we have moved toward a more reactive approach to those projects.

Advantages

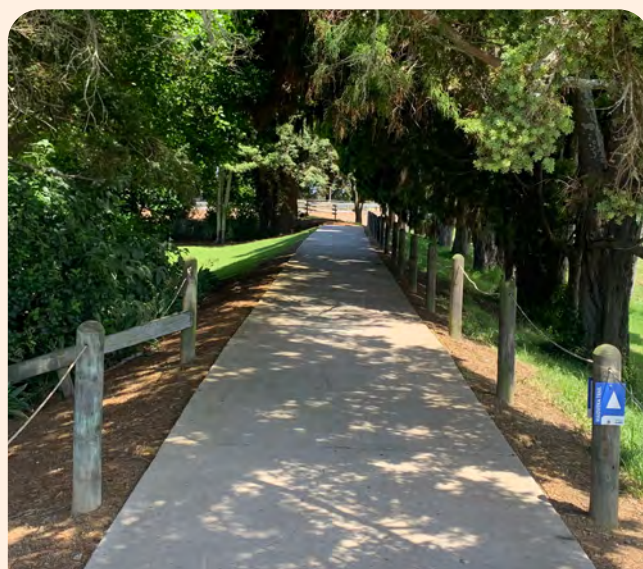
- This approach contributes to keeping the general and targeted rate increases down.

Disadvantages or risks

- Our plan for new stuff will be small, limiting the District's capacity for growth (such as new houses and new businesses). This means the growth we anticipate from population demands, discussed earlier in this document, may be temporarily waylaid by the lack of or delay in supporting infrastructure.
- Although we'll still be replacing/maintaining the infrastructure we already have, this be more limited than we had planned and maintenance and service disruption may increase.
- Some improvement projects that the community are asking for will not be delivered unless external funding and resource is provided to deliver those projects.

Debt

There is no impact on debt for Option 2.



KEY ISSUE 02

Reducing services to reduce running costs

Providing fewer services to find savings; events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA.

What's the situation?

Affordability is a key factor in how Council plans for the future. We know there is only so much the community can afford, and the majority of this Long Term Plan process has been spent looking for savings and ways to reduce the rating increase.

Council, like any other organisation, has costs required for the "business as usual" mahi. This is called operational expenditure, or OPEX, and it is exactly what it sounds like – the cost of keeping the organisation (and all the services/activities we deliver) operating.

There are ways to reduce these costs – but because they're all related to delivering levels of service, a reduction in running costs means a reduction in levels of service.

What does levels of service mean?

Services are all the things Council does or provides – think of things like rubbish collection, maintaining the local public spaces like our parks and roadsides, our Resource Recycle Centres ("the dump"), Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi, and our isite.

Levels of service is how much/how often/how frequently that service is available – think of things like opening hours, waiting times, and how regularly the service is done (such as rubbish collection or mowing).

Council has identified four areas to find savings (by reducing services) to lower the rates impact:

- Events.
- Engineering.
- Parks and Reserves.
- Toi EDA.

OPTION 1

Status quo. Continue the same level of service across all areas of the organisation.

How your general rates would change

The impact on your general rates under this option will be approximately as follows.

Low, median, and high property capital value*	2025 general rates impact (\$) per week	General rates impact (\$) for 2024-25 year	General rates impact (\$) for 2024-34 (LTP ten years)	Percentage (%) difference from prior year (2023-24)
\$300,000	\$1.51	\$78.73	\$685.02	+13%
\$470,000	\$2.28	\$118.64	\$1,026.20	+12%
\$800,000	\$3.77	\$196.11	\$1,688.51	+12%

*These figures are based on low, medium, and upper valued properties in the district based on capital value and are approximate, average per annum amounts. The figures shown above are the estimations of the cost to each ratepayer of the proposed option for this activity/key issue.

Levels of Service

In this option, everything Council currently does will remain at the same levels of service. Unfortunately, this doesn't mean the cost stays the same, as inflation affects councils the same way it affects households or other businesses. There are increased costs associated with delivering the same services at the same levels.

However, this option means all the services and activities of Council continue at the same level (as opposed to being reduced). Specifically, the areas identified in Option 2 will not be reduced. Those areas are:

- Events.
- Parks and Reserves.
- Engineering.
- Toi EDA.

Advantages

- The levels of services in events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA will stay the same.
- There will be no impact on the community's experience of services from Council.

Disadvantages or risks

- General rates will go up by an average of 4% – an amount Council is aware the community are unlikely to be able to afford.

Debt

Neither Option 1 or Option 2 have an impact on Council's debt.

Council's preferred option

OPTION 2

Reduce services in events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA.

How your general rates would change

The impact on your general rates under this option will be approximately as follows.

Low, median, and high property capital value*	2025 general rates impact (\$) per week	General rates impact (\$) for 2024-25 year	General rates impact (\$) for 2024-34 (LTP ten years)	Percentage (%) difference from prior year (2023-24)
\$300,000	\$0.99	\$51.36	\$387.66	+8%
\$470,000	\$1.46	\$75.76	\$560.35	+8%
\$800,000	\$2.37	\$123.13	\$895.56	+7%

**These figures are based on low, medium, and upper valued properties in the district based on capital value and are approximate, average per annum amounts. The figures shown above are the estimations of the cost to each ratepayer of the proposed option for this activity/key issue.*

Levels of Service

This is Council's preferred option. Council would reduce services in areas of the organisation that have been identified as able to provide some cost savings. Reducing the level of these services means the operational expenditure required to do them is lessened – this is what provides savings for the general rate in this option.

The areas that would see reduced levels of service are:

- Events.
- Parks and Reserves.
- Engineering.
- Toi EDA.

Advantages

- This approach contributes to keeping the general rate increase down.

Disadvantages or risks

- The community's experience of services from Council will be significantly impacted.
- The Parks and Reserves reduction will see less litter collection.

- The events reduction will see Council only able to guarantee the delivery of one major event per year. This will be dependent on the events team's success each year on external funding applications.
- The engineering reduction will limit Council's responsiveness to unexpected events, such as a pipe breaking suddenly. This might look like effected areas of the District being on a 'boil water notice' for a longer period of time than usual.
- The Toi EDA reduction will see Council no longer be involved in the Economic Development planning and activities led or supported by Toi EDA. Ōpōtiki District's capacity for economic growth may be affected by the lack of involvement in this strategic planning.

Debt

Neither Option 1 or Option 2 have an impact on Council's debt.

KEY ISSUE 03

Paying for the running costs of the harbour

Council wants to delay funding the harbour from rates until at least 2026.

What's the situation?

Ōpōtiki District is boasting a brand-new harbour (the first one built in New Zealand for the last 100 years!) and it will officially finish construction in 2024. We know the harbour will bring more opportunities and economic activity to the district, especially when paired with future business development.

When Council first started the harbour plan, Council agreed to pay from rates for the operational costs of the harbour once it was up and running. Those operational costs are for activities that keep it 'running' day-to-day, such as dredging. However, external circumstances have changed since that agreement was made and, in light of some of the highest rates rises being seen across the nation, Council does not feel our community is in a position to afford taking on this cost. Councillors expressed a desire to reduce the rating impact as much as possible and delaying funding the harbour costs from rates was identified as an area to achieve this.

Critical infrastructure that we expected to be in place has been delayed significantly due to forces outside of Council's control – the revenue generated from this infrastructure is expected to offset the costs of running the harbour. As a result, Council is left with an upcoming expense, and we are more aware than ever that our community cannot afford to meet the cost.

In addition, as detailed on page 10 of this document, Council is in negotiations with Central Government to delay Council taking on the operational/maintenance costs of the harbour. However, exactly what this agreement may look like is not yet known. This issue, and Council's preferred option, is therefore Council's interim proposal to alleviate the cost that would otherwise be on the ratepayers in the 2024-25 financial year.

OPTION 1

Status quo. Begin paying for the operational/maintenance costs of the harbour from rates in the 2024-2025 financial year.

How your general rates would change

The impact on your general rates under this option will be approximately as follows.

Low, median, and high property capital value*	General rates impact (\$) in Year 1 (2024-25)	General rates impact (\$) in Year 2 (2025-26)	General rates impact (\$) in Year 3 (2026-27)	Percentage (%) difference from prior year (2023-24)**
\$300,000	\$35.32	\$38.36	\$92.18	N/A
\$470,000	\$55.33	\$60.09	\$144.42	N/A
\$800,000	\$94.18	\$102.29	\$245.83	N/A

*These figures are based on low, medium, and upper valued properties in the district based on capital value and are approximate, average per annum amounts. The figures shown above are the estimations of the cost to each ratepayer of the proposed option for this activity/key issue.

** This Key Issue shows no percentage movement as the Harbour operation/maintenance is a new activity under both Option 1 and 2. As such, there is no prior general rate contribution to this activity to compare these figures against.

Levels of Service

This option would see the costs for running the harbour funded by the general rate starting in the 2024–25 financial year (this year). The above table demonstrates the approximate effect this would have on rates, depending on the capital value of your house.

Some of the key maintenance activities will be semi-regular dredging, to ensure the channel passage is safe for use, and regular checking of the rocks and hanbars protecting to ensure they are up to standard (and organising the procurement and replacement of these if they aren't). As well as this kind of technical engineering work, there will be the maintenance of the car park, tar seal, and walkways on top of the sea walls.

Advantages

- The Council and district deliver on its agreement to fund the maintenance and operation of the harbour.

Disadvantages or risks

- General rates will go up by an average of 6% - an amount Council is aware the community are unlikely to be able to afford.

Debt

Under Option 1, there is no impact on Council debt as the operating costs of the harbour are fully met by an increase in rates.

Council's preferred option

OPTION 2

Delay funding the harbour from rates until at least 2026.

How your general rates would change

The impact on your general rates under this option will be approximately as follows.

Low, median, and high property capital value*	General rates impact (\$) in Year 1 (2024-25)	General rates impact (\$) in Year 2 (2025-26)	General rates impact (\$) in Year 3 (2026-27)	Percentage (%) difference from prior year (2023-24)**
\$300,000	\$10.06	\$13.10	\$95.13	N/A
\$470,000	\$15.76	\$20.52	\$149.03	N/A
\$800,000	\$26.82	\$34.93	\$253.67	N/A

*These figures are based on low, medium, and upper valued properties in the district based on capital value and are approximate, average per annum amounts. The figures shown above are the estimations of the cost to each ratepayer of the proposed option for this activity/key issue.

** This Key Issue shows no percentage movement as the Harbour operation/maintenance is a new activity under both Option 1 and 2. As such, there is no prior general rate contribution to this activity to compare these figures against.

Levels of Service

This is Council's preferred option. Although the harbour is open and operating, and Council has previously agreed to pay for the operations/maintenance, the reality is our community cannot afford to meet that cost right now.

This option is straightforward – Council is proposing to defer funding the harbour activity to until at least Year 3 of the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan and use our loan/debt funding to cover the interim years.

Under this option, Council would use debt to fund the maintenance/operation of the Harbour for Years 1 and 2 (2024-25 and 2025-26) of the LTP. The cost to the ratepayer will be smaller than in Option 1, but will not disappear completely, as Council will need to begin paying back the debt. Additionally, as this is not sustainable long-term, fully funding the harbour from rates will 'come online' in Year 3 (2026-27), and this is reflected in the rates impact for Year 3 of Option 2.

Advantages

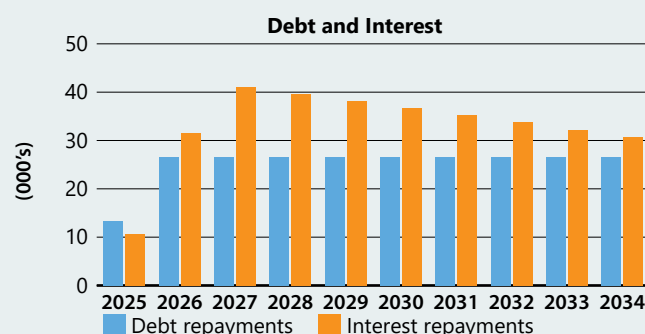
- This approach contributes to keeping the general rate increase down.

Disadvantages or risks

- Council's debt limit will be affected by this option. It is likely we will hit our debt ceiling, which will limit Council's capacity to plan for and engage in other activities.

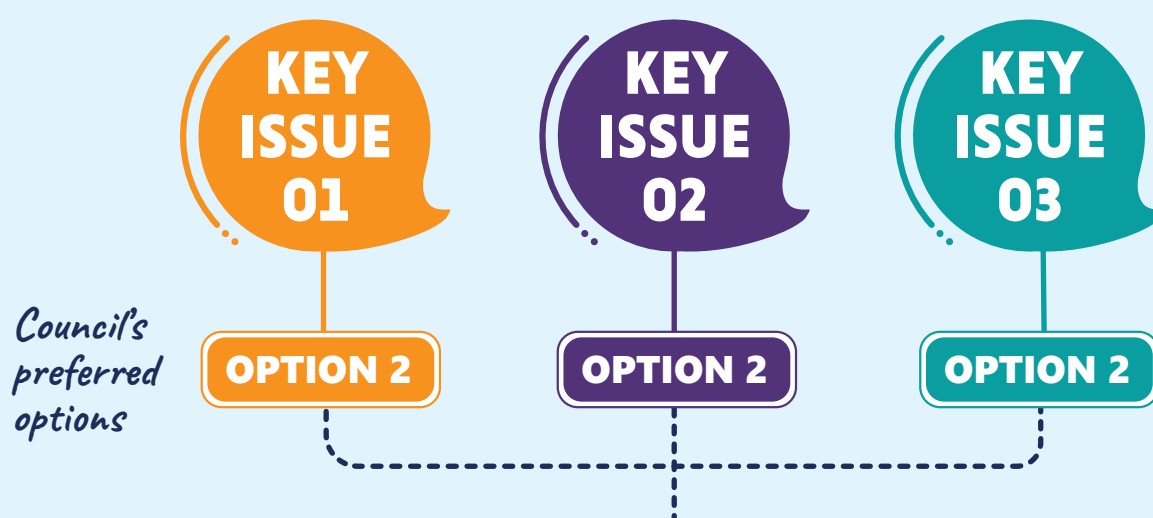
Debt

Under Option 2, Council will incur \$800,000 of debt across Years 1 and 2 of the LTP.



Putting it all together

So, what will the average rates increases look like for the next few years, if Council proceeds with the proposed options for each of the Key Issues?



	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
General Rates increase	8.5%	10.6%	22%
– in \$000's:	972	1,321	3,018
Targeted Rates increase	16.8%	11%	9.4%
– in \$000's:	475	364	343

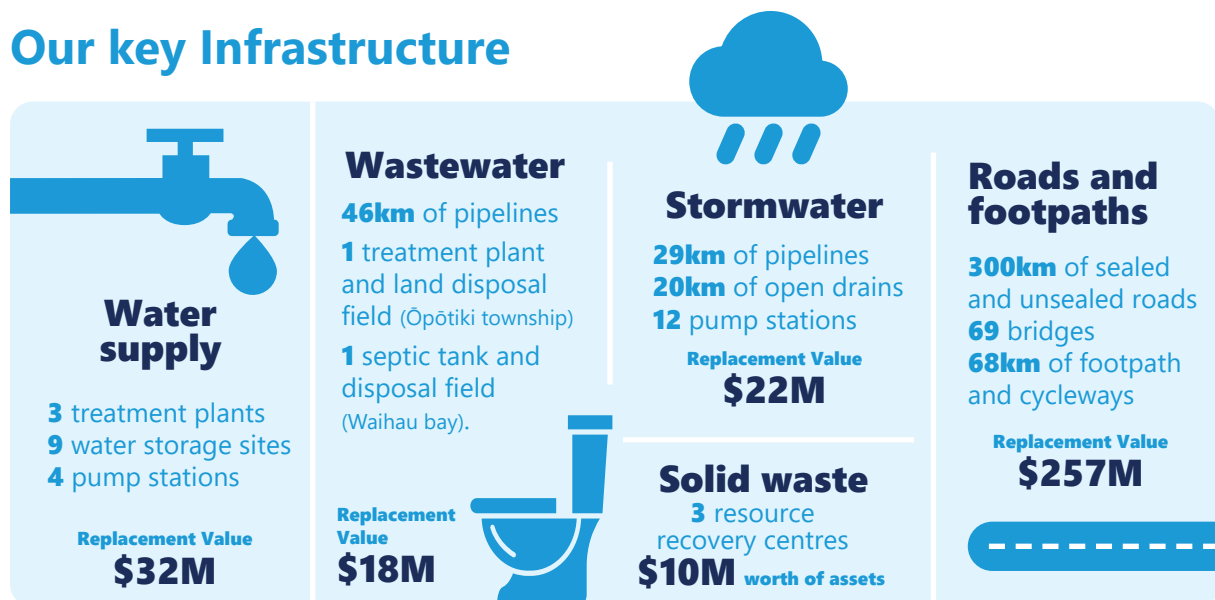
To read more about these numbers, check out Council's Financial Strategy summary on pages 26-30 of this document.

Our Infrastructure Strategy

Infrastructure is the term used for pipes, treatment plants, pump stations, roads, footpaths, resource recovery centres and other assets that are essential for us to live, move around, do business and play. The Ōpōtiki District faces a number of infrastructure challenges over the coming years.

Addressing these challenges will require some big planning and investment decisions to be made. As a part of the Long Term Plan, we have reviewed our Infrastructure Strategy, which focuses on these challenges across the water, stormwater, wastewater, transport, solid waste and harbour activity areas for the next 30 years.

Our key Infrastructure



Challenges, Issues, and Direction

A summary of the challenges, issues and significant decisions to make are below.

Bolded and underlined bullet-points indicate the direction Council intends to pursue.

Infrastructure Challenge	Significant Issue	Direction
Replacing Old Assets	Are we prudent managers of our assets?	- Invest based on asset end of life and get ahead of curve. <u>Adopt long run average renewal approach and invest operationally to mature renewal approach based on asset condition, service condition and criticality.</u> - Limit renewal programme.

Infrastructure Challenge	Significant Issue	Direction
Improving levels of service due to community expectation and or mandated requirements	The ability to pay needs to be balanced against the desire to improve levels of service and in some cases the requirement to improve levels of service in response to the regulatory environment.	- Invest heavily in improving both desired and mandated levels of service. <u>Limit improvements in level of service primarily to mandated areas.</u> - No investment in improving levels of service.
Meeting the demands of future growth	How proactively should Council invest in infrastructure for growth?	- Invest fully in infrastructure to enable growth. <u>Limited investment in identified areas to assist growth.</u> - No pro-active investment for growth.
Natural Hazards	How actively should council be investing in ensuring our infrastructure is resilient to natural hazards?	- Invest significantly to address resilience. <u>Limited investment to critical assets to mitigate some risk.</u> - No investment to manage resilience.
Water Services Reform	Can we afford to fund and resource management of three waters assets ourselves.	- Continue with current delivery model for three waters infrastructure. <u>Investigate alternative delivery model for three waters infrastructure.</u>

Climate Change

With the recent record-breaking storms, flooding, and hot weather events that our district and Aotearoa have been experiencing, as well as predictions for increased frequency of these kinds of weather events, it's no secret that adaptation and resilience will be a key pillar of Ōpōtiki's strategy going forward.

In our 2024-34 Long Term Plan, climate change is a key assumption underpinning our planning. We know from Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Climate Change Risk Assessment that the Bay of Plenty will see hotter drier summers, milder wetter winters, and rising sea levels by 2090. As such, Council's focus in this Long Term Plan will be working to gain a better understanding of these effects and specific impacts/implications specific to the Ōpōtiki District, with an understanding that the effects of climate change will be realised more so beyond the lifetime of this LTP.

Investment

In terms of investment approaches (AKA, money spend) as a result of the above directions, the below is a rough summary.

Activity	Spending in years 1-3	Spending in years 4-10
All	Limit to historic three-year average delivery levels.	Increase
Three Waters	Limit [whilst investing operationally to improve work programme]	Increase
Transport	Increase [within combined limit to historic delivery levels]	Increase
Solid Waste	Increase [within combined limit to historic delivery levels]	Increase
Harbour	New Activity*	New Activity*

**As this is a new activity, one where negotiations with Central Government are ongoing and Council is consulting with the community on how the funding should look, Council cannot comment further what the funding for this activity will look like at this stage. See Key Issue 3 for more information and to have your say.*

Here's some key projects we're already looking at

A note on climate change:

Council's Infrastructure Strategy notes the toll climate change is likely to have on our infrastructure assets during their lifespans (the Infrastructure Strategy covers a 30-year period, while the Long Term Plan only covers a 10-year period). Much of the activity detailed in the full Infrastructure Strategy falls into one of two categories: renewals that will increase the resilience of current infrastructure to the effects of climate change, and growth projects (i.e., new builds) that will enable adaptation within the community – for example, the development of new suburbs in the Hukutaia area to enable living areas outside of flood zones.

A note on growth:

Our growth Planning Assumption states we are assuming a high level of growth over the next ten years. Our key priority to accommodate growth is upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) which is committed to in the early years of the LTP. We do have constraints on the capital works programme however we are still proceeding in the early years with planning work of key projects which will be ready to implement in later years and contribute toward accommodating the growth.

Activity	Years 1-3 of LTP	Years 4+ of LTP
Three Waters	- Progress with developing plans (design, consenting) on Ōpōtiki township Wastewater Treatment Plant. Proceed with some construction (if ready). - Progress with developing plans (design, consenting) for Wastewater Pump Station #1 and Rising Main renewal/upgrade. - Progress Te Kaha Water Treatment Plant relocation. - Some critical renewals undertaken.	- Progress with renewals and upgrades as set out in the new consent for Ōpōtiki township Wastewater Treatment Plant. - Some critical renewals pushed into later years. - Growth projects in later years, can be brought forward if funding sourced. - Unmandated levels of service projects (i.e. SW improvements) in later years, can be brought forward if funding sourced.
Transport	Increase investment to catchup with renewal programme and make use of NZTA 75% funding rate.*	Increase investment to catchup with renewal programme and make use of NZTA 75% funding rate.*
Solid Waste	- Work programme is immature. Increase investment to address immediate needs whilst investing operationally to improve work programme. - Investment in renewing existing assets at each RRC site to bring up to standard.	- Ongoing investment to renew existing assets. - Some improvements to increase capacity and function of each RRC site.
Harbour	Awaiting outcome of negotiations with MBIE.	Unknown at this stage.

**Council acknowledges the uncertainty surrounding the Waka Kotahi subsidy funding toward roading and is operating off assumptions outlined in our Planning Assumptions (in the LTP). Council's assumption is the 75% subsidy will continue to be available for the life of the Long Term Plan.*



You can find out more detail and read all of Council's supporting/underlying documents on our website Connect | Hono Mai: connect.odc.govt.nz

Our Financial Strategy

Where we are now

Council has had a long-running strategy of strengthening our financial position so we have the capacity to respond to growth opportunities – and this was never more evident than when the Central Government Kānoa funding landed which has supported the Harbour Development, the building of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi and other buildings in town, and multiple shovel-ready beautification projects such as the Rawinia Rangi and Whitiākau Reserve park upgrades.

Although these projects have seen significant change and growth in Ōpōtiki, we are also experiencing unprecedented cost pressures, from housing and food to infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. As such, our position is similar to where we were for our last LTP, even though lots of development has happened in the intervening three years:

- We're concerned about rate increases required to fund the services we deliver.
- It's an ongoing challenge to balance this concern with our population's expectation and desire for improved (and additional) services.

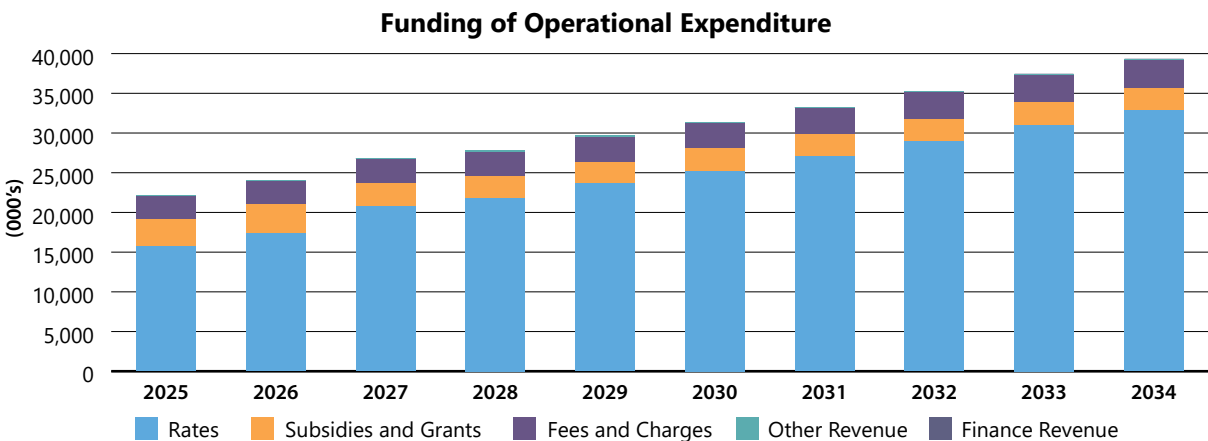
Here's where we're going

In short, the focus on this LTP is pulling back, reducing services, and minimising spend as much as possible in order to mitigate the cost burden on ratepayers. This needs to be kept in balance with delivering core (but reduced) services. The key considerations in the 2024-34 Financial Strategy are:

1. Many ratepayers cannot afford the ongoing escalation of costs.
2. The cost of providing services and activities will not reduce without significant intervention.
3. Council will need to make complex trade-off decisions to work toward decreasing ratepayer burden.
4. Council will need to balance affordability concerns with prudent consideration of debt levels, as increased debt may compromise future development.

Income

Our main source of income is rates (over 60%). Council is forecasting that operating expenditure will increase from \$21.9 million in 2025 to \$30.4 million by 2034. There is a mixture of funding for expenditure but operating costs, which includes overheads, is mainly funded from rates. The below graph demonstrates the different sources that make up Council's funding.



In our Financial Strategy, Council is proposing to limit general rates increases to the Local Government Cost Index – Local Government Aggregate Cost Adjuster + 5%. Ōpōtiki is facing substantial issues with the funding of renewal of infrastructure assets. In order to be able to address these issues in an affordable way, it will require rate increases above the LGCI index for an extended period of time. For this reason, in this LTP Council is proposing an increase of our self-imposed general rates cap from LGCI + 3% to LGCI + 5%. For targeted rates this limit is capped at 10%. While rate increases for individual community members may be higher or lower than these limits, the overall increase in rates will be kept within these limits.

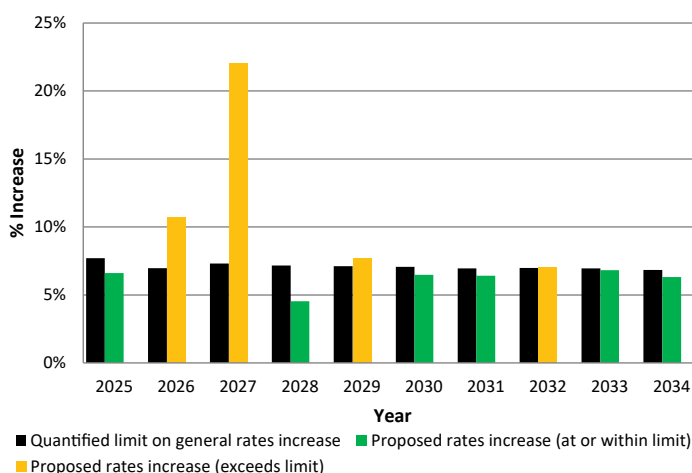
General rates

The self-imposed rates limit is proposed to be breached in Years 2, 3, 5, and 8 the Long Term Plan. Rationale for each breach is provided below:

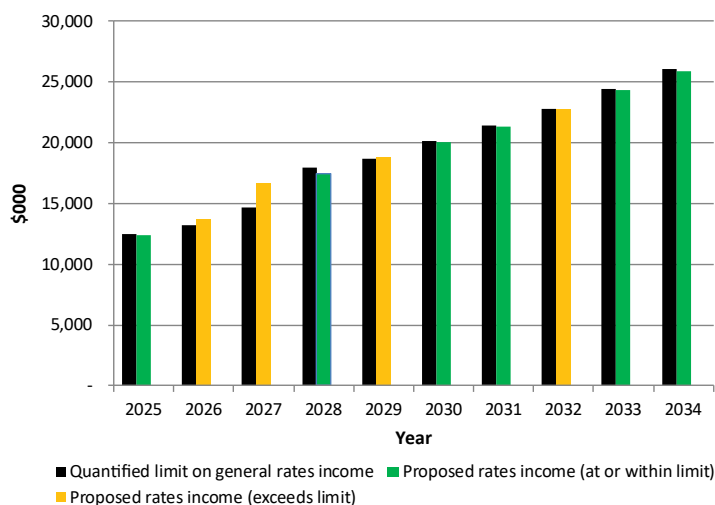
- **Years 2, 5 and 8:** As discussed above, Council is facing a significant challenge funding renewal of infrastructure assets. These breaches are required in order for Council to ensure the renewals programme is being prudently and appropriately funded for, without significant peaks or unrealistic lows of rates increases.
- **Year 3:** Funding of the harbour operation/ maintenance activity from rates is expected to come 'online' during this year. This is driving the proposed breach in year 2027.

These breaches can also be observed for Council's limit on general rates income (graph right).

Rates (increases) Affordability - General Rates



Rates (Income) Affordability - General Rates



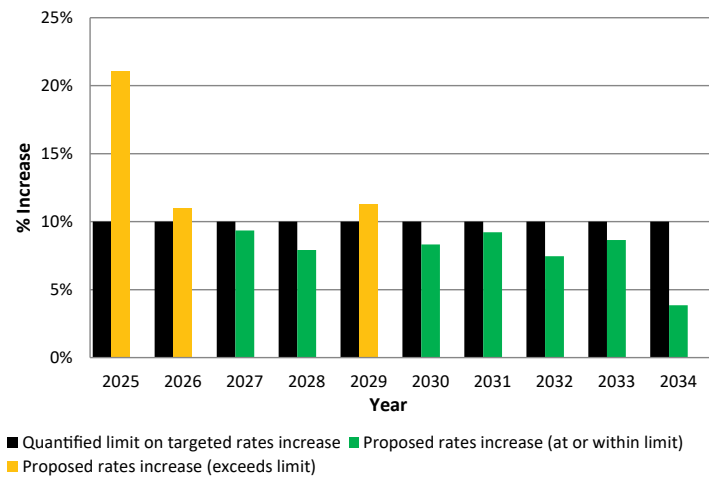
Targeted Rates

Targeted rates make up approximately 15-20% of Council's total income. Council is proposing to breach the self-imposed cap of targeted rates income in Years 1, 2 and 5 of the LTP as a result of Council's new direction to redistribute target rate funded activities away from the general rate funding allocation. The shift toward a more user pays system is a result of Council's acknowledgement of general rates increases and a desire to see the impacts lessened where possible.

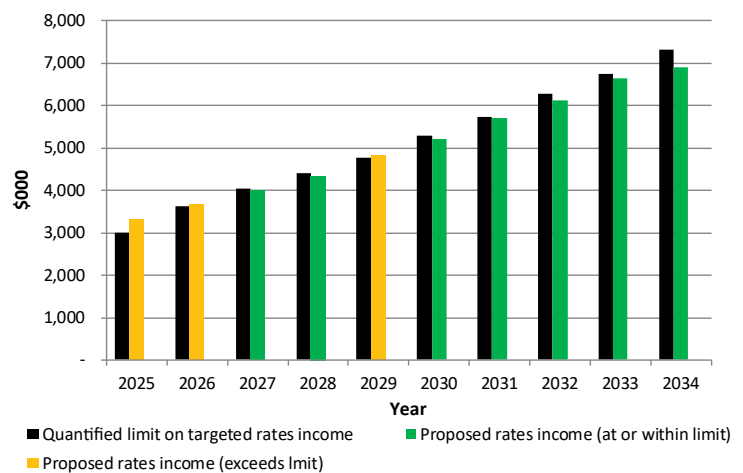
The initial level of shift in allocation accounts for the breach in Year 1 and is forecast to bleed into Year 2 (2026). This shift in direction is being consulted on through the Revenue and Financing Policy, which is open for submissions now. To read more about this and have your say, visit connect.odc.govt.nz. The general need to ensure sufficient operational investment to compliment critical waters infrastructure renewals programme contributes to the further breach in 2029. The specific targeted rates most affected by this change in direction are three waters: water supply, wastewater, and stormwater.

Again, these breaches can also be observed in Council's limit on targeted rates income (graph right).

Rates (increases) Affordability - Targeted Rates



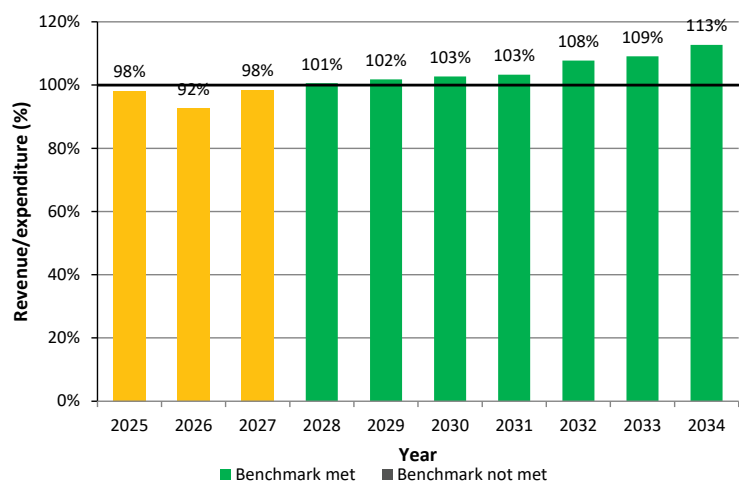
Rates (Income) Affordability - Targeted Rates



Balanced Budget

This chart illustrates the 'balanced budget' benchmark Council is required to report against. Council is proposing to have an unbalanced budget for Years 1-3 of the Long Term Plan period. These breaches are related to the significant funding required for renewal of infrastructure assets discussed in the general rates section. Council is also proposing to fund part of the harbour activity in Years 1 and 2 through borrowings, contributing to the unbalanced budget.

Balanced Budget

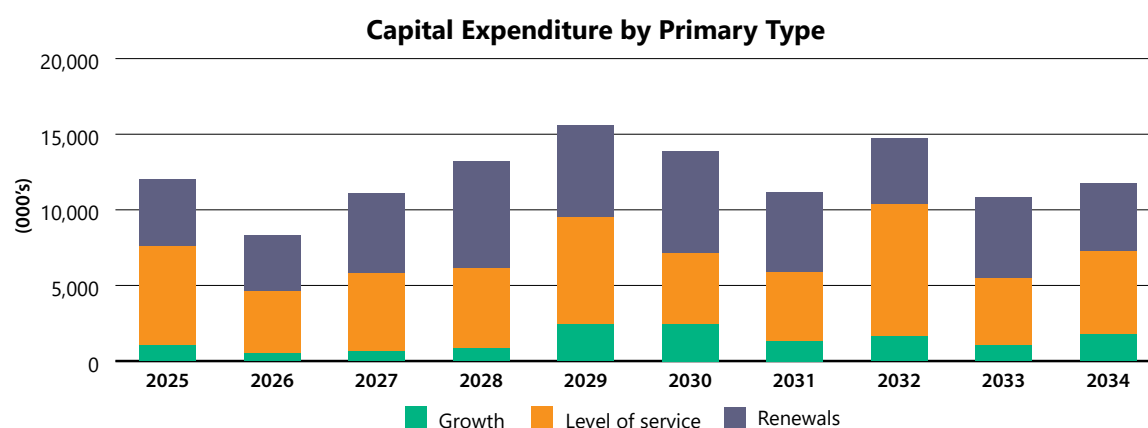
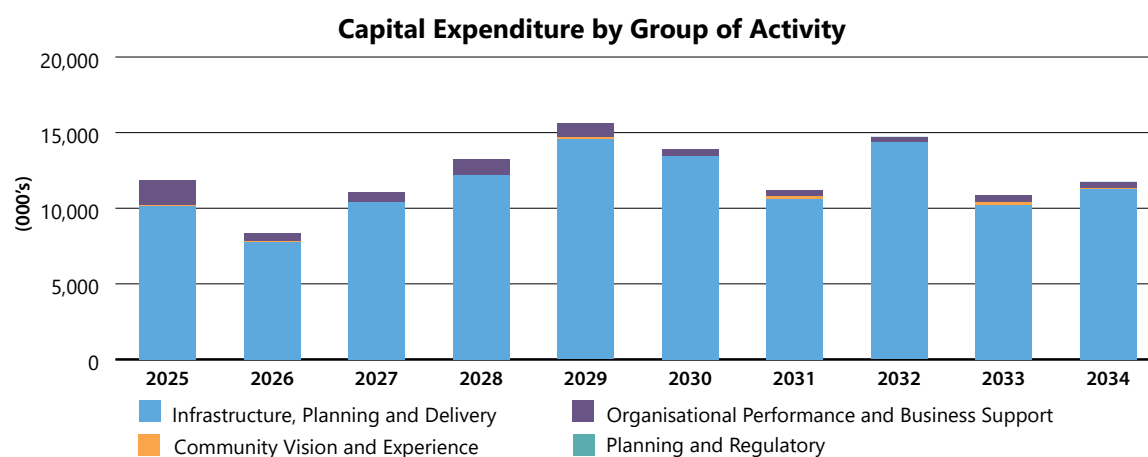
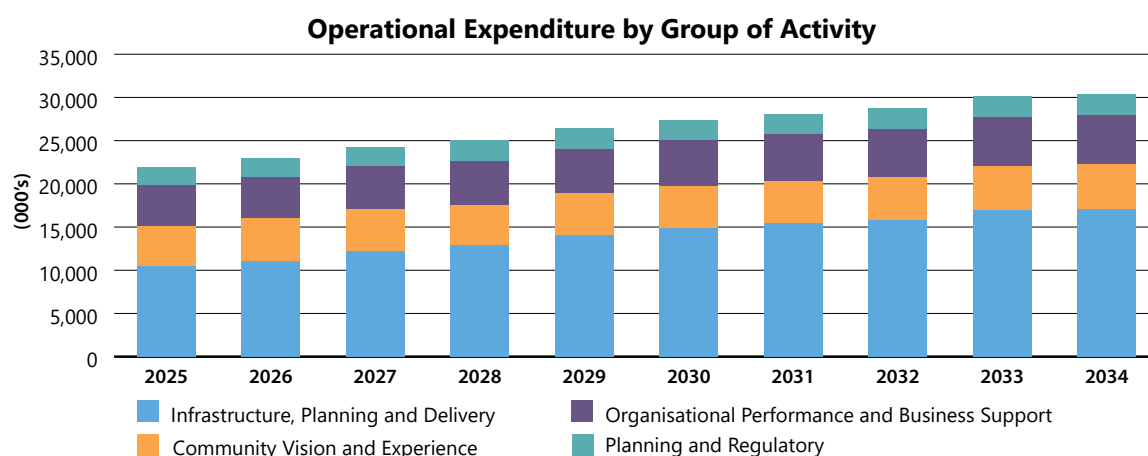


This is what we're planning to spend

Council has two types of expenditure: operating and capital. Operational is exactly what it sounds like; it is the cost required to run the day-to-day operations of Council. Capital expenditure is the cost of buying, renewing, or upgrading assets such as buildings or equipment (lawnmowers, for example).

We're expending our operating expenditure to increase from \$21.9 million in 2025 to \$30.4 million by 2034. The main reasons for increases in operating expenditure are:

1. The cost of maintaining existing levels of services/activities increases with inflation.
2. Increasing levels of services/activities means more cost to run them.
3. Adding capacity for growth – that is, providing more of a service so that new households can 'connect' (like water pipes).

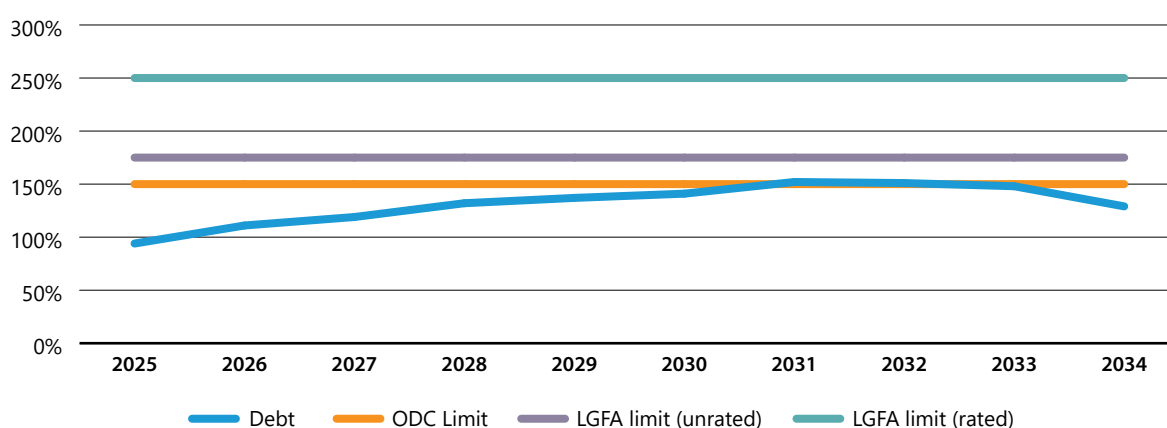


What's the impact on our debt?

Council will need to consider funding of debt retirement in the later years of the Long Term Plan to maintain compliance within the debt limits set by our Treasury and Liability Management Policy. Council's proposed Long Term Plan will see debt increase significantly over the LTP period. Consistent with the previous (2021-2031) Long Term Plan Council is assuming the high prediction for growth modelling trend will come to fruition. This contributes to Council's expected significant increase in debt from the \$24.9 million to \$59.2 million by over the duration of the LTP. Council is forecast to reach its current debt capacity during the LTP period, and begin to trend downwards by the end of this LTP period. Although Council is initially proposing a 'pull back' approach with capital expenditure, we intend for this to help the organisation better prepare for this expected growth and the capital expenditure requirements.

This debt is predominantly required to fund the renewal and upgrade of Council's infrastructure, particularly in the three waters activities. In addition, the long run average renewal funding approach sees a significantly higher than average level of renewal over the 10 year period of the long term plan when compared to the 30 year period of the infrastructure strategy. Due to the significant increase in overall funding this approach requires, Council will phase in the introduction of this funding over a four-year period, with the shortfall in funding provided through debt and made up in the subsequent six years of the LTP period.

Debt to Revenue



Want to know more?

You can read more about this in the documents supporting the LTP, like the Financial Strategy and our Revenue and Financing Policy (out for consultation now!).

connect.odc.govt.nz

Other important matters in our Long Term Plan

Water Services Reform

You may be aware of the several rounds of legislation related to three waters that have happened in the last three years. The short version is that all councils manage the three waters – Water Supply (i.e., drinking water), Wastewater, and Stormwater. The 2022 and 2023 legislation would have seen responsibility for three waters shift from local councils to one of 10 “water services entities”. As a result, councils were instructed to remove the three waters activities from various documents, including the Long Term Plan. This may have created space in our ability to deliver services. Waters coming back in has closed this out.

However, that legislation has since been repealed, and councils now need to go back to including three waters in all documents. The Government has signalled a new package called ‘Local Water Done Well’ is on the horizon, and a key feature of this is water services remaining with local authorities.

At this stage, Council can forecast the approximate cost of delivering three waters services over the lifespan of those assets, and budget for them appropriately in this LTP (see our Infrastructure Strategy). However, we cannot predict what the future legislation will require of Council and what resources will be required to create and deliver a Local Water Done Well’ model in the district.

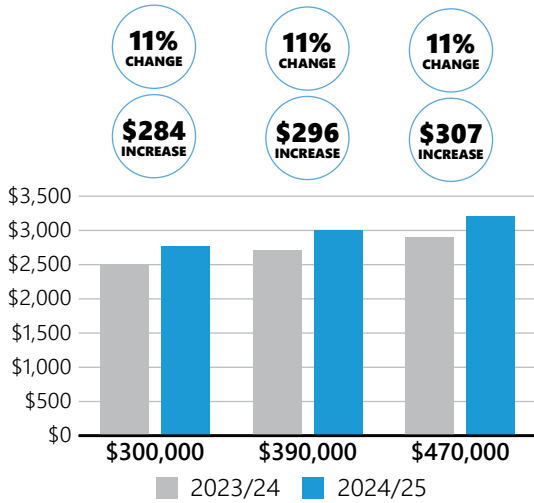
Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Project

Given the Ōpōtiki Harbour is one of our key issues where we want your feedback, it’s obvious this asset has a significant role to play in the next 10 years for the Ōpōtiki District.

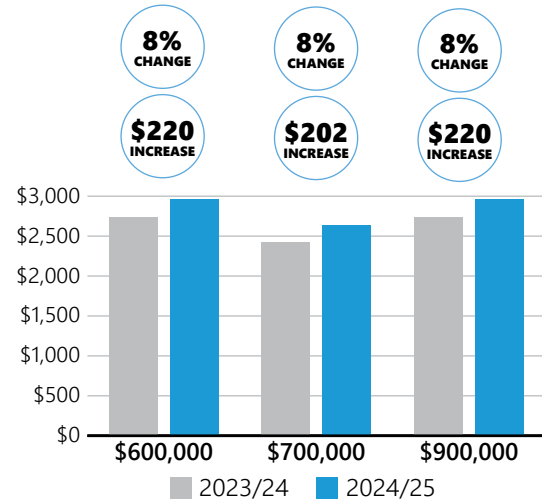


What your rates might look like

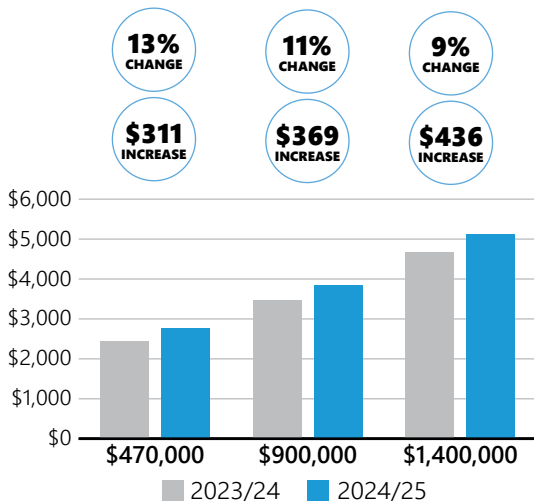
Ōpōtiki house property



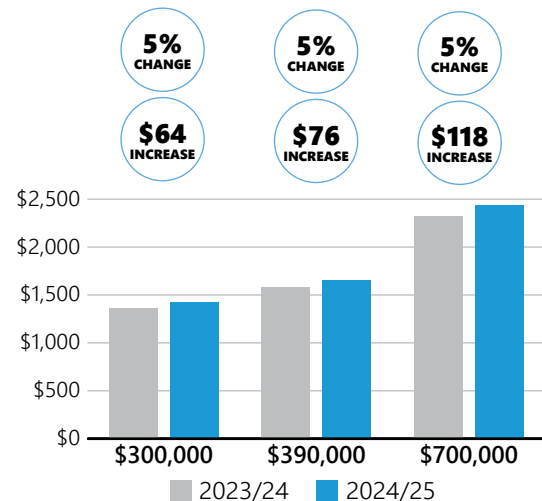
Hukutaia/Woodlands property



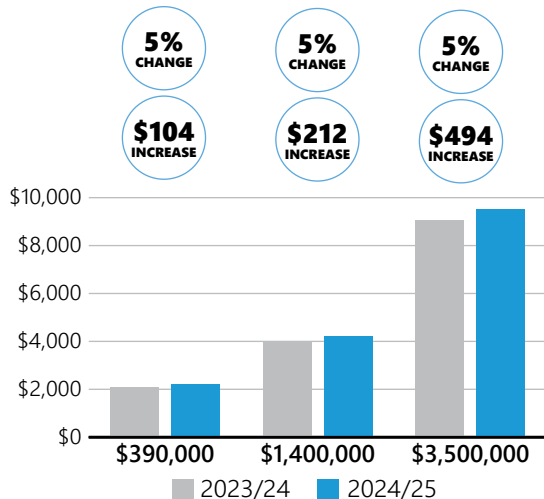
Ōhiwa property



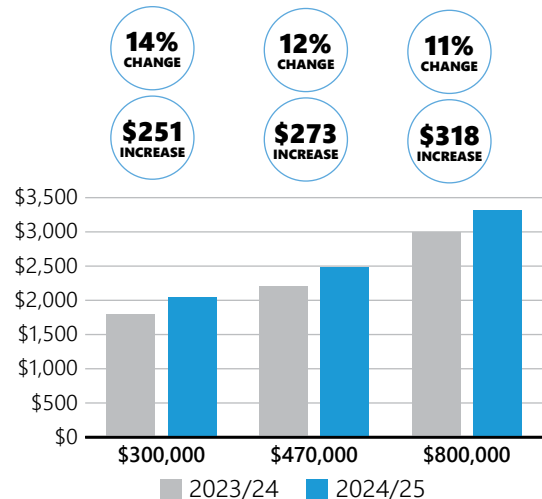
Rural Residential property



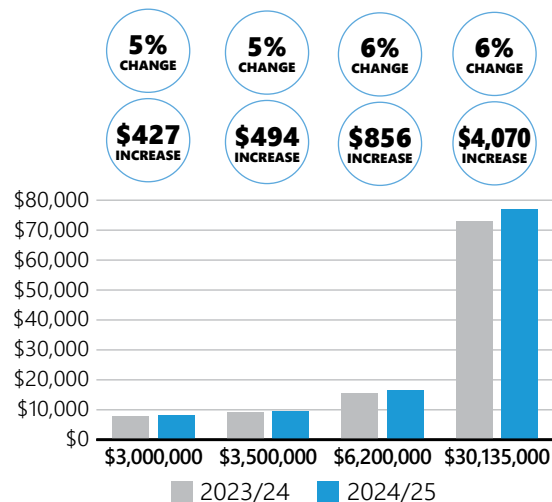
Rural property



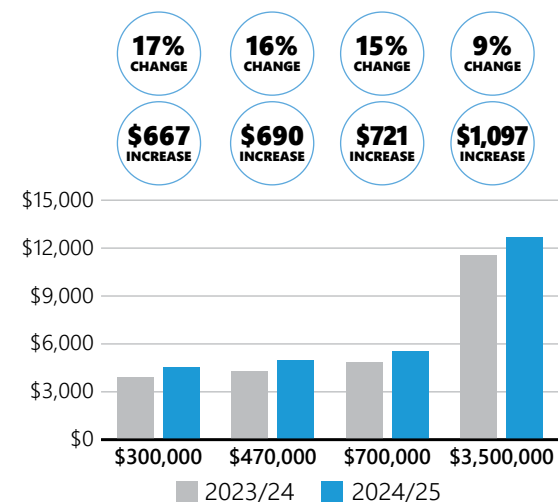
Te Kaha on water



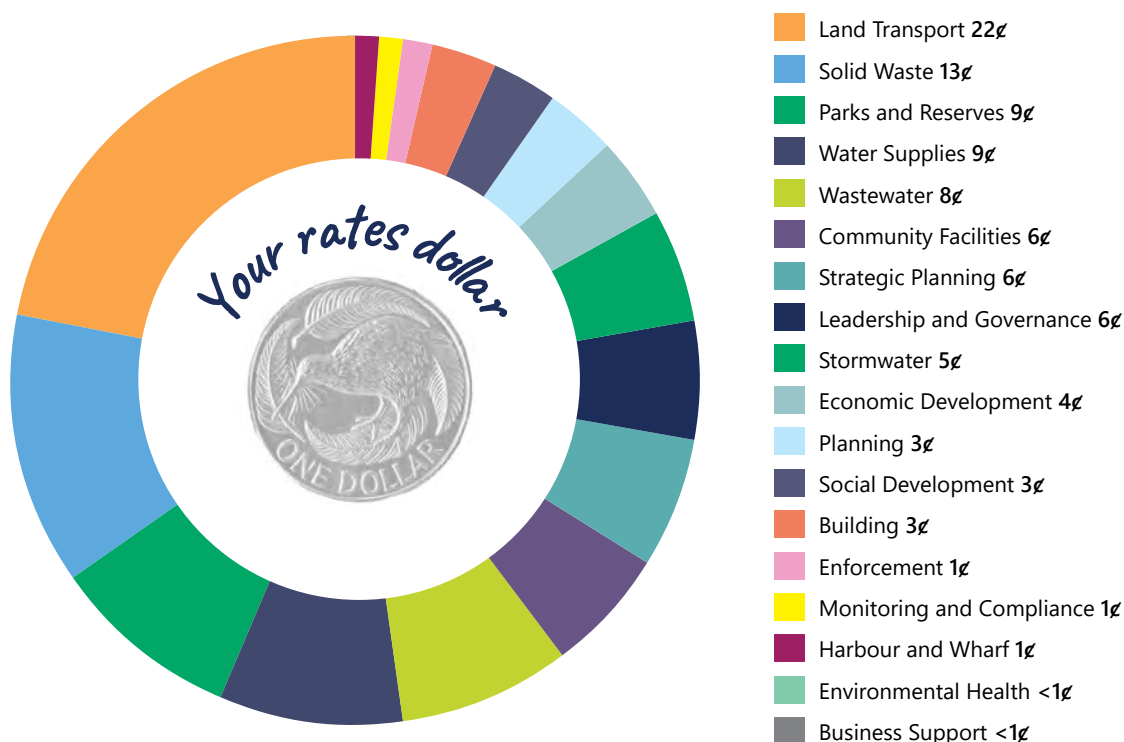
Kiwifruit property



Commercial and Industrial



How your rates dollar gets split over the activity groups



The opinion of our Auditors

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

To the reader

Independent auditor's report on Ōpōtiki District Council's consultation document for its proposed 2024-34 Long-Term Plan

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Ōpōtiki District Council (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its long-term plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and the Council requested me to audit the consultation document. I have carried out this audit using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our audit on 6 August 2024.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2024-34 long-term plan, because it:
 - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long-term plan; and
 - identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and district, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long-term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long-term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

Independence and quality management

We have complied with the Auditor-General's independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of *Professional and Ethical Standard 1 International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) (PES 1)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 1 is founded on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour.

We have also complied with the Auditor-General's quality management requirements, which incorporate the requirements of *Professional and Ethical Standard 3 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (PES 3)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

In addition to this audit and our report on the Council's 2023 annual report, we have carried out a limited assurance engagement related to the Council's debenture trust deed, which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.



David Walker
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General, Auckland, New Zealand



Your Elected members

Cr Steve Nelson (Waioeka-Waiōtahe-Otara), Cr Barry Howe (Ōpōtiki), Cr Maxie Kemara (Coast), Mayor David Moore (District), Cr Tom Brooks (Ōpōtiki), Deputy Mayor Shona Browne (Ōpōtiki), Cr Dean Petersen (Waioeka-Waiōtahe-Otara)

**Have
Your Say**
Connect
Hono Mai

It's easy to tell us what you think

Online

You can complete an online submission on our engagement website, Connect | Hono Mai:

connect.odc.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2024-2034

Email

You can send an email to **connectadmin@odc.govt.nz**.
Make sure you put '**Submission to LTP**' in the subject line.

Submission forms

You can cut out and post (or scan and email) the submission form on the next page. Forms can also be downloaded from connect.odc.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2024-2034, or you can pick one up from Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi, our main office at 108 Saint John St, Ōpōtiki, or the isite at 70 Bridge Street, Ōpōtiki.

Write a letter

Send a letter to PO Box 44, Ōpōtiki 3162.

**Long Term
Plan
2024–2034
submissions
close 4pm,
Wednesday,
4 September
2024**

Submission form

Privacy Act note: Submissions form part of the public consultation process so they will be copied and attached to a publically available agenda and stay on Council minute records.



Opotiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal address:

Phone (daytime):

Email:

**Submissions close 4pm,
Wednesday, 4 September 2024.**

We will let you know that we have received your submission. All submissions will be made available to the Mayor and councillors, who will take them into consideration when finalising the Long Term Plan.

Presentation of submission

Please tick to let us know your choice. If neither is ticked we'll take it that you don't want to speak.

☐ **I wish to speak** in support of my submission at a hearings meeting.

☐ **I do NOT wish to speak** in support of my submission at a hearings meeting.

Your feedback Please refer to the page reference for more information on each issue and/or the supporting information on our website. Please tick the option you support.

KEY ISSUE 01

Making do with what we have – page 16

☐

OPTION 1:

Status quo. Continue with the capital works programme as we have planned.

☐

OPTION 2:

Pull back on our capital works programme. *Council's preferred option.*

KEY ISSUE 02

Reducing services to reduce running costs – page 18

☐

OPTION 1:

Status quo. Continue the same level of service across all areas of the organisation.

☐

OPTION 2: Reduce services in events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA.
Council's preferred option.

KEY ISSUE 03

Paying for the running costs of the harbour – page 20

☐

OPTION 1: Status quo. Begin paying for the operational/maintenance costs of the harbour from rates in the 2024-2025 financial year.

☐

OPTION 2: Delay funding the harbour from rates until at least 2026.
Council's preferred option.

Please include any additional feedback in the space supplied on the back of this form.

Other feedback

Please give us any other feedback you have on the content of this document or any other Long Term Plan issue. Let us know what decision you want Council to make. You can also provide any feedback you have on our other matters here e.g. Our Significance and Engagement Policy and our Fees and Charges.

You can get this submission form back to us by:

POST

PO Box 44
Ōpōtiki 3162

DELIVER

Council office
or Ōpōtiki Library

SCAN AND EMAIL

connectadmin@odc.govt.nz

Thank you for taking the time to have your say



He aha ō whakaaro? What are your thoughts?

Have Your Say Connect Hono Mai

connect.odc.govt.nz



Ōpōtiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

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