



Rates projections. Project updates. Prospective Financial statements.

Our Plan in Action

Information on year three of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.



Opōtiki District Council
STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE

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What this document is about

This document provides information about Ōpōtiki District Council's proposed Annual Plan for 2026/27, which is Year Three of the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan (LTP).

It outlines the key projects and activities Council plans to deliver during the year, how these will be funded, and what this means for rates. It also includes an overview of Council's financial position, capital and operating expenditure, and forecast rates across a range of property types.

Under section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002, Council must consider whether there are any significant or material differences between what was planned for this year in the Long-Term Plan and what is now proposed in the Annual Plan. Where changes are significant or material, Council is required to clearly explain those differences and consult accordingly.

For 2026/27, the proposed Annual Plan does not introduce significant changes to the overall direction, service levels, or priorities set out in the LTP. Most work planned for the year is a continuation of previously consulted projects and programmes. Some financial assumptions, budgets, and project timings have been refined, and these are explained in this document.

Because the proposals for 2026/27 are consistent with the Long-Term Plan, Council is not required to undertake a special consultative procedure. However, Council values feedback and encourages residents, businesses, and community groups to share their views, particularly on what matters most for future planning.

Your feedback will help inform upcoming Annual Plans and the next review of the Long-Term Plan, as we continue working together to support a resilient, affordable, and sustainable future for our district.

“Nau mai, haere mai”

Welcome

Tēnā koutou katoa,

The 2026/27 Annual Plan marks Year Three of Ōpōtiki District Council’s 2024–2034 Long Term Plan and continues the direction already set with our community.

Over the past few years, Council has progressed significant infrastructure investment across the district. Key roading improvements, including Snells Road, upgrades to wastewater and stormwater networks, and improvements to public amenities and resource recovery centres are strengthening the resilience of our communities and supporting everyday services.

At the same time, councils nationwide continue to operate in a challenging environment. Ongoing reform of water services, proposed changes to planning and local government legislation, and sustained inflationary pressure have all increased the cost and complexity of delivering core services.

In response, Council has taken a disciplined and pragmatic approach to this Annual Plan. During development of the Long Term Plan, our community was clear about priorities: focus on the basics, manage costs carefully, and defer non-urgent spending where possible. This Annual Plan reflects that feedback. Savings have been achieved with minimal impact on core service delivery by refining assumptions, deferrals, and efficiency gains.

Council will still deliver a substantial capital programme in 2026/27, with continued investment in three waters, transport, flood resilience, and public spaces. The focus remains firmly on asset renewal, compliance with national standards, and maintaining our existing infrastructure. Importantly, through updated forecasts and cost controls, Council has reduced the previously projected 16 percent rates increase for this year to 8.9 percent.

Work to support housing and growth continues, including planning in areas such as Hukutaia and longer-term initiatives like the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan and Local Water Done Well. Overall, this Annual Plan maintains the course set through the Long-Term Plan, balancing investment in essential services with affordability for our community.

Ngā mihi,



David Moore



Our work to date

Council adopted the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) late 2024 after extensive work by staff and elected members, and thorough consultation with our communities and stakeholders. In developing that plan and its financial strategy, we were required to make difficult decisions, balancing the need to support growth in our district with the community's ability to fund it, while also managing national pressures such as inflation, the cost of living, housing affordability, and increasing regulatory requirements from Central Government.

Throughout consultation, our community consistently told us they wanted Council to focus on essentials, reduce costs where possible, and defer or delay non-urgent spending. We have listened.

As we prepare the 2026/27 Annual Plan—Year Three of the LTP—significant progress has already been made on the commitments we set. We have completed key roading projects such as Snells Road, strengthened network resilience, advanced improvements to the wastewater network, and upgraded our resource recovery centres to support safer, more efficient, and sustainable operations. We have delivered improvements to public amenities, including upgraded CBD toilets and new lighting at Memorial Park. At the same time, we continue to navigate a wide range of national reforms that will reshape how councils operate, while maintaining a strong focus on serving our community.

This Annual Plan represents a continuation of the LTP rather than a shift in direction. We remain committed to affordability, resilience, and long-term sustainability for a growing district.

Consultation on the LTP indicated a significant rates increase for year three, over 16%. Through strengthening partnerships, savings where possible and refining assumptions the overall rates increase for year three is 8.9%.



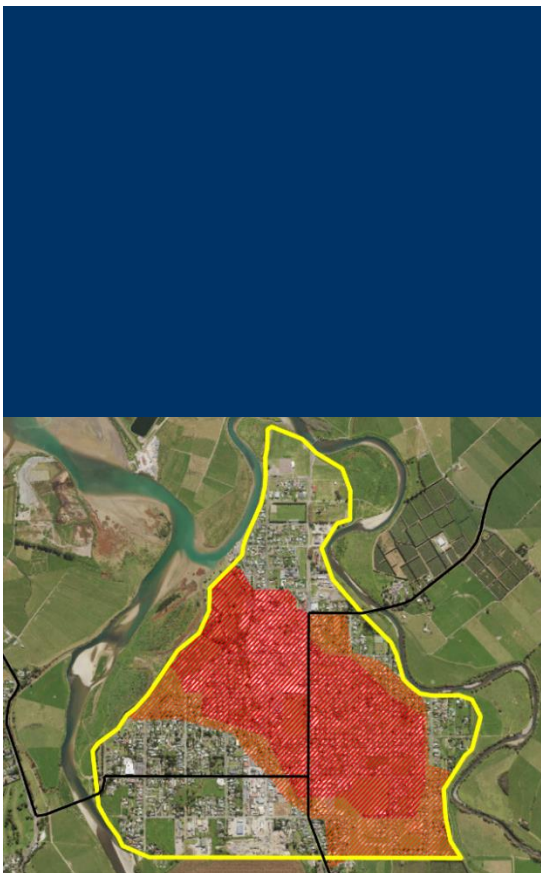


Major Projects

This section gives you some details of our major projects or pieces of work for 2026/27.



Capital Expenditure:
\$3,453,000



Capital Expenditure:
\$827,000

Wastewater

Ōpōtiki Town Wastewater Treatment Plant

Works on the Ōpōtiki wastewater network include upgrades to the Potts Avenue Wastewater Pump Station – enhancing mechanical and electrical reliability, increasing capacity, and improving resilience – aligned with the need to maintain the safe collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater. The Ōpōtiki Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is undergoing enhancements in line with its new discharge consent requirements and Taumata Arowai standards, with Council confirming that the current system is under pressure and must be improved over the next few years to meet future demand. These enhancements include optimisation of oxidation pond performance, improvements to discharge systems, and odour mitigation work. Wastewater reticulation will also undergo rehabilitation as part of the annual plan significant capital works renewal focus, including pipe and manhole upgrades to address infiltration, structural wear, and capacity constraints. Together, these initiatives ensure the wastewater network can meet new regulatory requirements, support future growth, and deliver improved environmental outcomes for the Ōpōtiki community.

Stormwater

Ōpōtiki Storm Water Improvements and Flood Resilience

Ōpōtiki District Council is progressing a series of significant infrastructure upgrades throughout 2026 to strengthen stormwater management and enhance long-term flood resilience across the district. These improvements form part of Council's ongoing commitment to protecting people, property, and essential services during severe weather events.

Duke Street West Stopbank

Construction of the new Duke Street West Stopbank is scheduled to start towards the end of 2026 with completion expected mid-2027. This major piece of flood-protection infrastructure has designed to increase the township's resilience to high intensity rainfall and river related flooding. Once completed, the stopbank will provide a strengthened line of defence for nearby homes, businesses and critical public assets.

Stormwater Network Upgrades Wellington Street Basin

Council will be undertaking targeted upgrades to optimise stormwater performance within the Wellington Street basin and wider catchment, increasing stormwater capacity to manage heavy rainfall.



Capital Expenditure:
\$1,814,000

Water Supply

Te Kaha Water Treatment Plant Relocation

The Te Kaha Water Treatment Plant relocation project reflects a major strategic investment by Ōpōtiki District Council to address long-standing water quality challenges associated with the current stream adjacent supply. The existing shallow take near the Puremutahuri Stream, are prone to reduced water quality during wet weather events, when elevated sediment levels infiltrate the system and affect the treatment process, sometimes resulting in cloudy water and reduced effectiveness of treatment steps. Although the water remains safe due to robust monitoring and management, including boil water notices when required, Council has committed funding through LTP 2024-2034 to strengthen Te Kaha's drinking water infrastructure by securing an alternative water source, upgrading or replacing the existing treatment plant, and considering a new reservoir. With investigation activities completed in earlier years and new exploratory works underway in 2025, construction aligned with final design approvals is planned to begin in 2026/27 financial year, ensuring a more resilient, reliable, and climate resistant water supply for the Te Kaha community.

Reticulation Renewals

Council has several reticulation renewal projects planned across the district to ensure long-term resilience and reliability of potable water network. The districts water supply system serves nearly 6,000 people and includes extensive reticulation assets that require ongoing renewal to maintain safe and consistent service. One of the major planned upgrades is the replacement and strengthening of the water supply main running from Ōtara Road through to Ford Street, a critical part of the network that supports water delivery to Ōpōtiki households and commercial users. Earlier works on the Ōtara Road raw water main have shown that replacing aging pipelines significantly improves resilience – particularly against failures, sediment disturbance, and disruptions caused by weather or operational issues – demonstrating the value of continued reticulation renewal. These district wide upgrades will ensure the community continues to receive high-quality, reliable drinking water, while also supporting compliance with national water regulations and preparing the network for growth.



**Capital Expenditure:
\$3,624,000**

Land Transport

Waioatahe Bluffs (State Highway 2) – Detour Route

State Highway 2 remains one of the district’s most critical transport corridors, yet is highly vulnerable to slips, flooding, and storm damage. Recent closures – such as the Waioatahe Bluffs slip – highlight the essential need for reliable detour routes when the highway becomes impassable. These disruptions have repeatedly left limited options for routes between Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne, impacting daily travel, access to services and freight movement.

To help address this, construction work on the State Highway 2 Waioatahe Bluffs detour route is scheduled to commence over the summer period. The works focus on ensuring detour roads are safe for heavy vehicles, acknowledging concerns raised by Waka Kotahi about the limited suitability of alternate routes during closures. The agency has identified the Eastern Bay as a resilience “hotspot”, requiring upgrades to ensure detour networks can withstand heavy traffic volumes and support emergency access.

Road Safety Improvements and Renewals

The annual plan continues to support ongoing road maintenance and renewal across the district. This includes targeted resurfacing, pavement rehabilitation, and structural strengthening on key local roads. Council has committed to a steady resurfacing programme and emergency works across the district, such as Opape Beach road, where erosion and storm damage required urgent intervention to restore and maintain safe access. These activities support the renewing of assets and addressing immediate safety issues while managing long-term costs.

Ōhiwa Beach Road Resilience

Ōhiwa Beach Road is an important connector linking State Highway 2 to the coastal communities and the wider Ōhiwa Harbour area and will be receiving targeted resilience upgrades. The surrounding environment is prone to erosion, tidal effects, and storm damage. Strengthening this corridor ensures reliable access to our communities and supports wider network aims.



**Capital Expenditure:
\$402,000**

Solid Waste

Ōpōtiki Resource Recovery Centre (RRC)

A significant programme of work is dedicated to the Ōpōtiki RRC, which continues to serve as the district's primary resource recovery facility. Key works planned for 2026/27 include upgrades to workstation flow to create a safer and more efficient operating environment for staff and the public. Renewal works to existing bays, fencing and hardstand pavements are also planned, ensuring that critical infrastructure remains fit for purpose. Improvements to existing greenwaste bay layout are included to better manage material movements and improve site durability during high use periods. Additional renewals such as replacing the tin and can bailer, compacted related infrastructure and general site facilities remain in scope over the LTP period.

Te Kaha RRC

There are several important projects to support both levels of service enhancements and renewals planned for this year. These include an upgrade to the workstation flow, new hard stand and works to maintain compliance requirements. The programme also includes general site renewals and ensuring that facilities continue to function effectively.

Waihau Bay RRC

There are significant upgrades planned for the Waihau Bay RRC. Consent related upgrades are planned to bring the site to compliance and operational requirements. Additional works to hardstand and improvements to layout to allow for increased use. Renewal projects include fencing, upgrades to existing bays will improve traffic management and durability of operating spaces. These works are aimed at the site meeting community needs and operates to the expected standards.



Capital Expenditure:
\$970,000

Parks and Reserves

Playgrounds and recreation

Playgrounds are a vital part of our district's community infrastructure. They provide valuable social, recreational and developmental opportunities for children and families, while also contributing to the vibrancy and wellbeing of neighbourhoods. To ensure these spaces remain safe, accessible, and fit for purpose, a programme of renewal works will be undertaken across the district's playground network. These upgrades will focus on replacing aging equipment, improving surfaces and accessibility to better meet modern safety standards.

Complementing this renewal programme, a brand-new playground will be installed at Waioatahe Drifts. This addition will enhance the districts spaces and places providing for local families and visitors alike.

Public Toilets

The district's public network will continue to be enhanced so that they remain clean, safe, reliable and able to meet community expectations. There will be targeted refurbishments of existing facilities. Planned upgrades to the Waioatahe Surf Club toilet and Hukuwai Beach toilet blocks will ensure these high use facilities continue to deliver an expected level of service. A new toilet facility is planned for the harbour entrance carpark at the end of Snell Road to support increased public use following the harbour completion.

Cycleways

Ongoing investment in the district's cycle network continues to support development of safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable environment for both residents and visitors. This funding enables regular renewal of surfaces, replacement and improvements of signage, and upgrades to key structural components such as bridges, barriers and drainage systems. These improvements are essential to maintaining a high-quality network that supports recreation, active transport, and tourism.

A significant focus for the coming period will be continued progress on the Waioatahe cycleway link. This project will realign the existing route away from State Highway 2, reducing cyclist exposure to fast moving traffic and improving the overall safety and experience. The route will travel through the Waioatahe Drifts and follow the Huntress Creek Stopbank, creating a more scenic and user-friendly trail experience.

Your rates

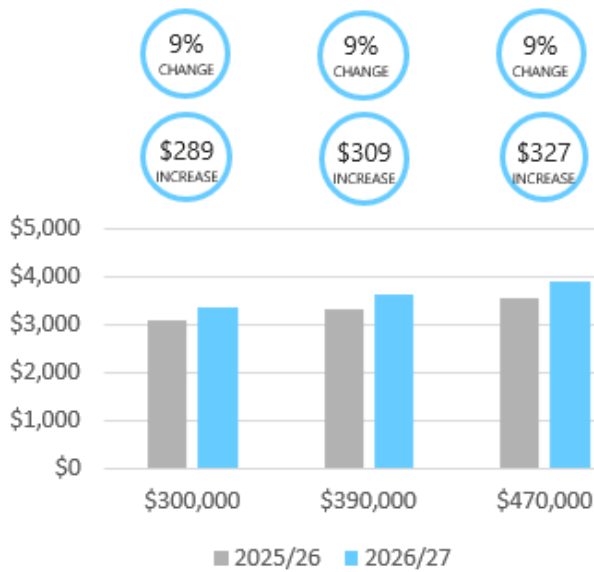
The tables on pages 13-16 give an indication of rates across a range of properties of different values and property types. The values are based on the rating valuations completed in 2025. You will be able to see the expected percentage and dollar movement across each property based on what was set last year, and what is proposed to be set this year.

The numbers include GST and are indications only. They also don't include Bay of Plenty Regional Council rates as they bill you directly. If we need to make changes to our proposed budgets before the final Annual Plan is adopted by Council, it may change these examples.

Rates example charts will differ from headline rates figure as they include targeted rates, communities of interest charges and other variable charges that relate to different areas in the district.

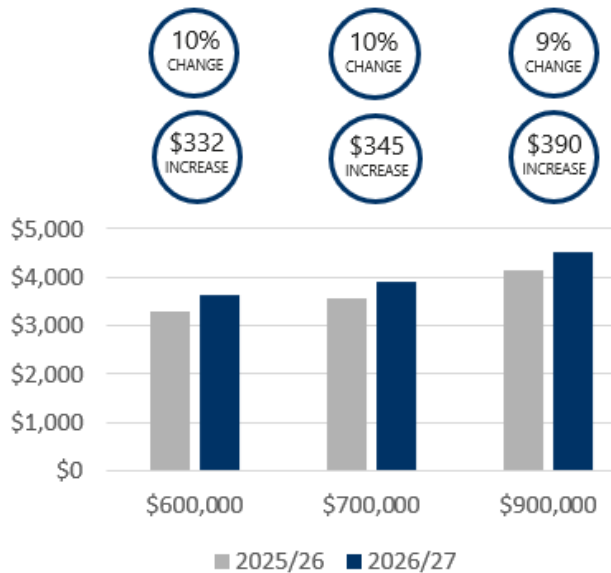


Ōpōtiki house property



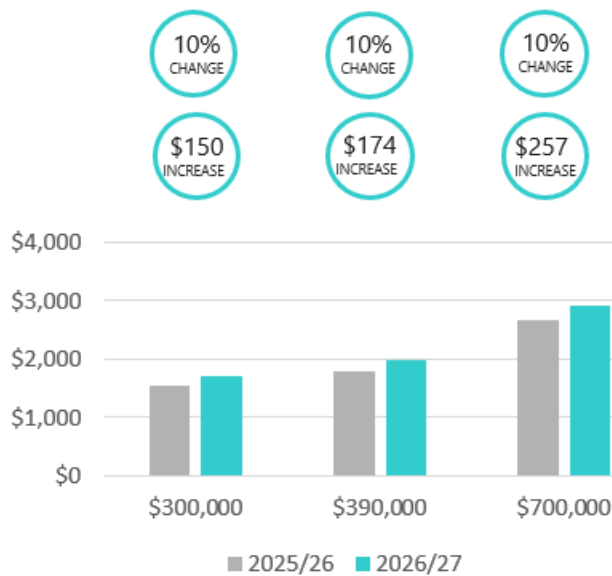
This table shows the expected movement in rates for a property in the Ōpōtiki township that is connected to all the services available.

Hukutaia/Woodlands Property



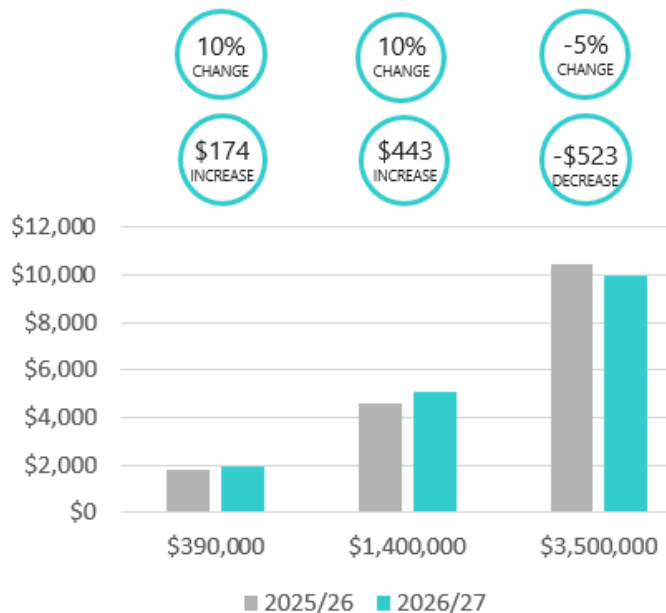
The Hukutaia/Woodlands property table shows the expected movement in rates for properties in the Hukutaia / Woodlands area that are connected to the water supply and receiving the kerbside collection.

Rural Residential Property



The rural residential table shows the expected movement in rates for all residential properties not in one of the other identified areas and not receiving services paid for through a targeted rate, such as water supply or wastewater. This includes properties on the coast.

Rural Property



The rural property table shows the expected movement in rates for all rural properties not in one of the other identified categories and not receiving services paid for through a targeted rate, such as water supply or wastewater. This includes properties on the coast.

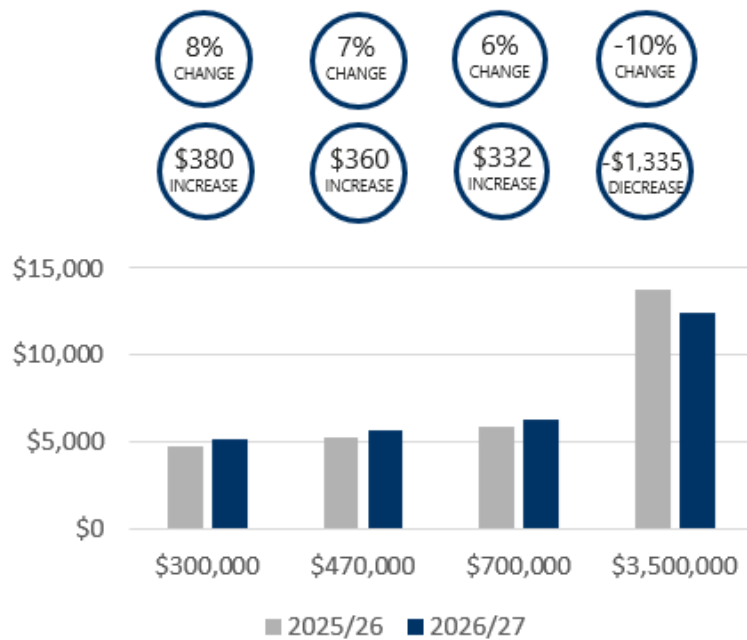
Ohiwa Property



This table shows the expected movement in rates for a property in Ōhiwa that is connected to the water supply.

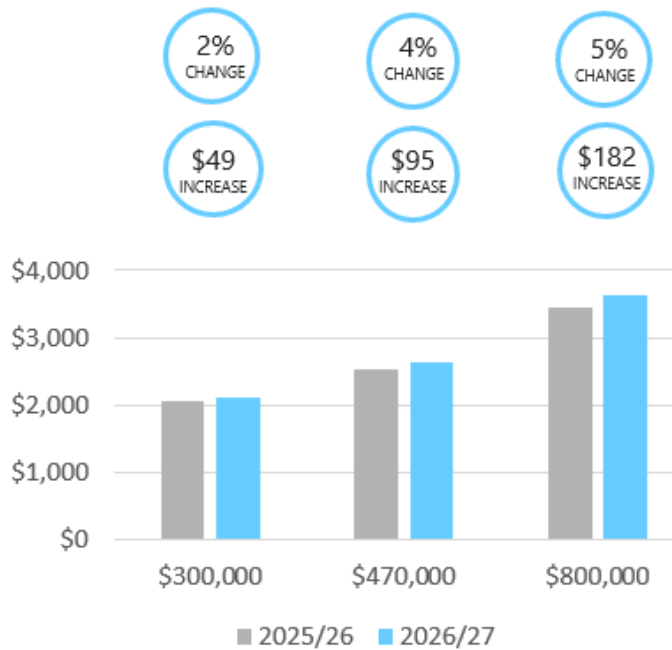
Increase is larger than other areas as the Ōhiwa water supply targeted rate is changing due to water reform compliance requirements.

Commercial & Industrial



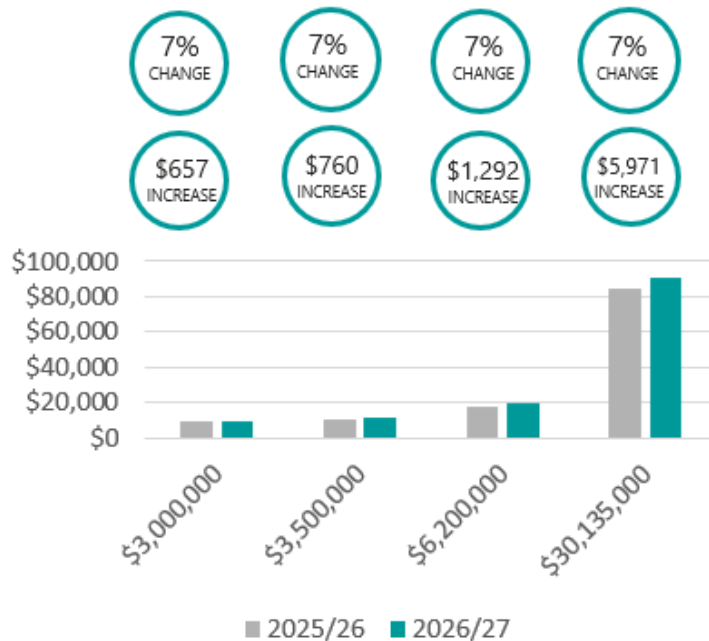
This table shows the expected movement for commercial and industrial properties.

Te Kaha on water



This table shows the expected movement in rates for a property in Te Kaha that is connected to the water supply.

Kiwifruit Property



This table shows the expected movement for commercial and industrial properties.

YEAR 3 FINANCIALS

— July – June —



Financials

In this section read more about our financials and any differences from what we said they might be in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

Forecast Funding Impact Statement

(whole of Council)

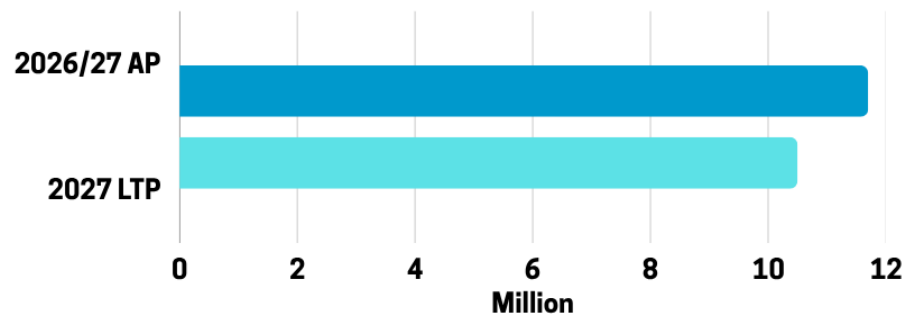
	LTP 2025-26	LTP 2026-27	Annual Plan 2026-27
Sources of operating funding			
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	13,642	16,106	14,721
Targeted Rates	3,697	4,118	4,024
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	3,628	2,967	3,790
Fees and charges	2,944	3,433	2,984
Interest and dividends from investments	-	-	-
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	107	110	156
Total - Sources of operating funding (A)	24,018	26,733	25,675
Applications of operating funding			
Payments to staff and suppliers	21,758	22,783	23,443
Finance costs	1,149	1,361	996
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-
Total - Applications of operating funding (B)	22,907	24,144	24,439
Surplus / (deficit) of operating funding (A-B)	1,111	2,589	1,236
Sources of capital funding			
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	2,385	1,665	2,280
Development and financial contributions	557	468	468
Increase (decrease) in debt	4,737	5,711	7,789
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	-
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-
Total - Sources of capital funding (C)	7,680	7,844	10,537
Applications of capital funding			
Capital Expenditure			
• to meet additional demand	515	620	619
• to improve the level of service	4,423	4,810	5,333
• to replace existing assets	3,852	5,003	5,821
Increase (decrease) in reserves	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) of investments	-	-	-
Total - Applications of capital funding (D)	8,791	10,433	11,773
Surplus / (deficit) of capital funding (C-D)	(1,111)	(2,589)	(1,236)
Funding balance ((A-B) + (C-D))	(0)	-	-

Forecast Statement of Financial Position

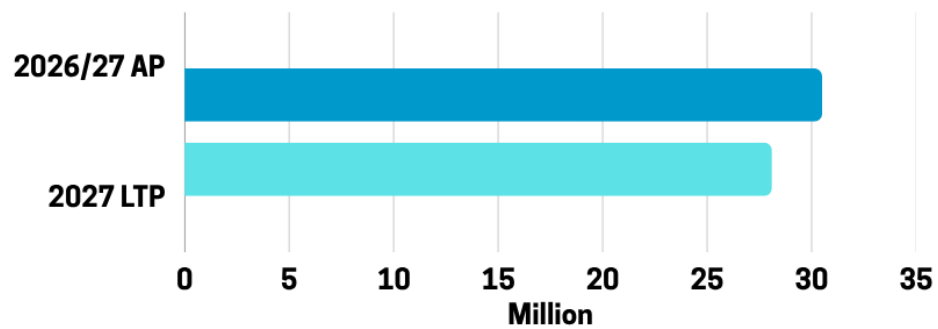
As at 30 June	LTP 2026 \$000	LTP 2027 \$000	Annual Plan 2027 \$000
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4,504	4,504	1,205
Debtors & Other Receivables	3,234	3,297	3,053
Prepayments	202	206	310
Available for Sale Assets	52	53	38
Total Current Assets	7,993	8,060	4,607
Non Current Assets			
Investment in CCO's and Other Entities	211	211	286
Investment in Associate	33	33	33
Investment Property	4,859	4,953	5,518
Property Plant & Equipment	363,246	370,177	388,657
Intangible Assets	36	37	188
Total Non Current Assets	368,385	375,410	394,681
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Other Payables	6,963	7,111	5,216
Employee Benefit Current	567	579	518
Total Current Liabilities	7,529	7,690	5,734
Non Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	22,384	28,095	30,573
Provisions	61	62	53
Total Non Current Liabilities	22,445	28,157	30,626
Net Assets	346,404	347,624	362,928
Represented by Equity			
Ratepayers equity	149,414	148,547	149,622
Special funds reserves	2,562	2,562	2,963
Revaluation reserves	194,427	196,515	210,344
Total Equity	346,404	347,624	362,928



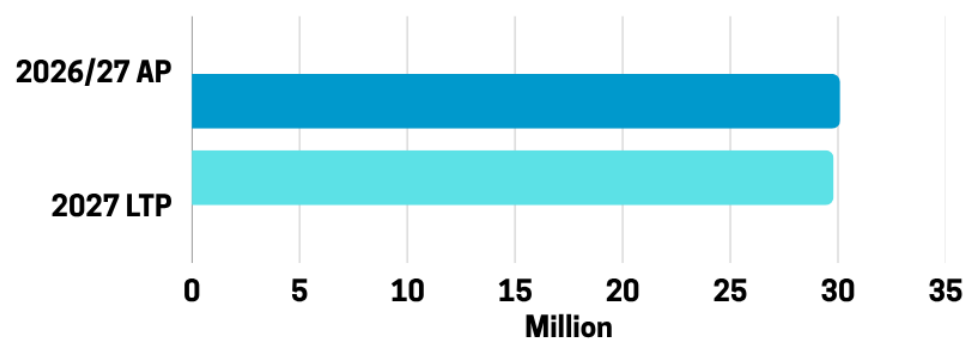
Capital expenditure \$11.7M



Debt \$30.6M

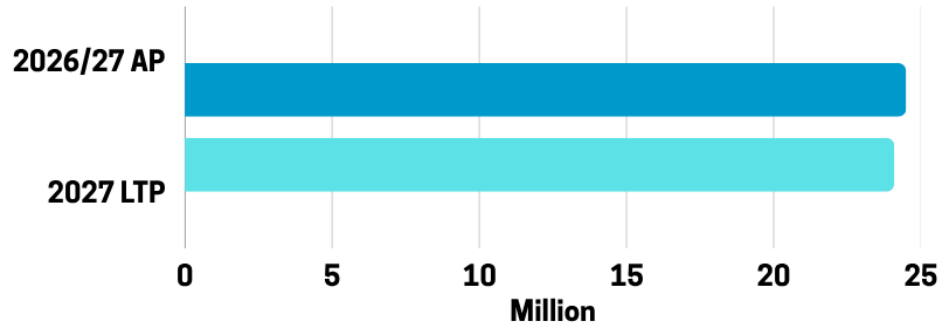


Operational expenditure \$30.1M

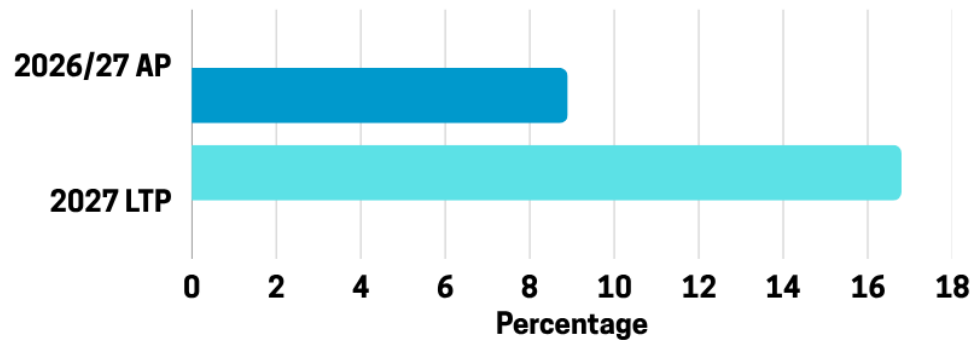




Operating funding \$24.4M



Proposed total rates increase 8.9%





Tell us what you think

As the proposed 2026/27 Annual Plan largely continues what was already set out for Year Three of the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan, a special consultative procedure is not required. However, Council remains committed to hearing from the community and welcomes feedback on what is most important to you, particularly as we look ahead to future planning.

- Are there projects you would like us to consider in the next rounds of planning?
- Are there things we could do better?
- Are there things you would like us to do more or less of in the future?

Ways to give us your feedback

Online connect.odc.govt.nz

Email info@odc.govt.nz

Post PO Box 44, Ōpōtiki 3162

Drop off Main office, 108 St John St or Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi, 101 Church Street, Ōpōtiki



*Our front and back cover photos were taken in beautiful
Ōpōtiki by Esther Wilson*