

Libraries



To help lower future rates and keep services sustainable, Council is reviewing whether services should stay the same, change, be reduced or stop.

Council runs three libraries – in Taumarunui, Ohakune and Raetihi and supports Waiouru's community library. Council libraries share a building with our local administration and customer services. Ohakune and Raetihi are approximately a ten-minute drive apart.

Our libraries provide free access to books, magazines, puzzles and games, digital resources, computers, Wi-Fi, printing and other information services. They offer a safe, welcoming place where people can read, study, learn new skills, access online services, attend community programmes or simply spend time.

Library staff also provide wider services for the community, including running programmes with local education centres and community groups, and offer home delivery services.

Who benefits and how is it funded?

Libraries help support reading, lifelong learning, digital access and community connection. They are used by people of all ages, from preschool children through to older residents.

The library service is funded mainly through rates. While we don't currently charge fees to borrow books and resources, we do currently charge for printing, lost books and loaning books from other libraries.

Why are we reviewing library services?

How people use libraries is changing. While many people still value borrowing books, more people are using digital services, online resources, free internet access and community spaces. Like all Council services, libraries are being reviewed to make sure they stay affordable while continuing to meet community needs.

1. Do you think Council should continue operating three libraries?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

2. Do you think Council needs separate libraries in both Ohakune and Raetihi?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

3. Should Council invest more in digital services (eBooks, online resources and technology)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

4. Would you support reducing the annual budget for new books if it helped keep rates lower?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

5. Would you support reducing library opening hours if it helped reduce costs?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

6. Would you support more self-service technology if it helped reduce operating costs while keeping libraries open?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐



7. Would you be open to adding library fees (e.g. charging for new release books) to reduce the cost to the ratepayer?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

8. Should the Council continue to be involved in wider community outreach services, such as home delivery for books or reading programmes at education centres?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

9. Do you have any other feedback about libraries?

10. Where do you live?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Taumarunui | ☐ Ohura | ☐ Ongarue |
| ☐ Owhango | ☐ Waimarino | ☐ Rangataua |
| ☐ Ohakune | ☐ Raetihi | ☐ Waionuru |
| ☐ Other | | |