

Pools

In July/August we asked which services matter most, and where changes could be made, to help keep rates affordable. Your feedback has helped shape proposals to reduce service costs and the amount funded through rates.

This proposal includes potential savings and other details that may change your views.

Please tell us what you think.

YOUR RATES YOUR SERVICES YOUR PLAN

LONG-TERM PLAN 2027/37



What we are proposing

Council is looking at whether it can continue providing swimming services through fewer facilities.

In South Ruapehu, Council is asking whether swimming services should continue to be provided through both the Ohakune and Raetihi pools, or whether one facility could provide swimming services for the area.

In Taumarunui, Council is asking whether it should continue supporting both the Taumarunui Pool and the Trust Waikato Community Pool, or focus on one facility.

These proposals are not about stopping people from being able to swim. It is about whether Council can keep providing swimming opportunities while reducing costs for ratepayers.

If Council decides it can no longer fund a pool, it will then consider other options, including whether community organisations could own or operate the facility in the future.

What we deliver

Swimming pools help people learn water safety skills, learn to swim, stay active and spend time with family and friends. Council currently owns and operates three public pools during summer:

- **Ohakune Pool** - a heated outdoor pool, a learner pool.
- **Raetihi Pool** - a covered pool, a learner pool, with solar heating and diving boards.
- **Taumarunui Pool** - an outdoor pool with six lanes, a learner pool, diving boards and community programmes.

Council also helps fund the **Trust Waikato Community Pool** at Taumarunui High School. This is the district's only indoor, year-round public pool and the only pool that is fully accessible for people with disabilities. It provides swimming lessons, lane swimming, club activities, school use and community recreation.

How does our level of service stack up?

Ruapehu supports four public swimming facilities, giving us one of the largest pool networks of any small rural or provincial council in New Zealand. Only South Taranaki (8 pools) and Central Otago (6 pools) have more publicly accessible pool facilities.

What makes Ruapehu different is not just the number of pools, but how close some of them are to each other.

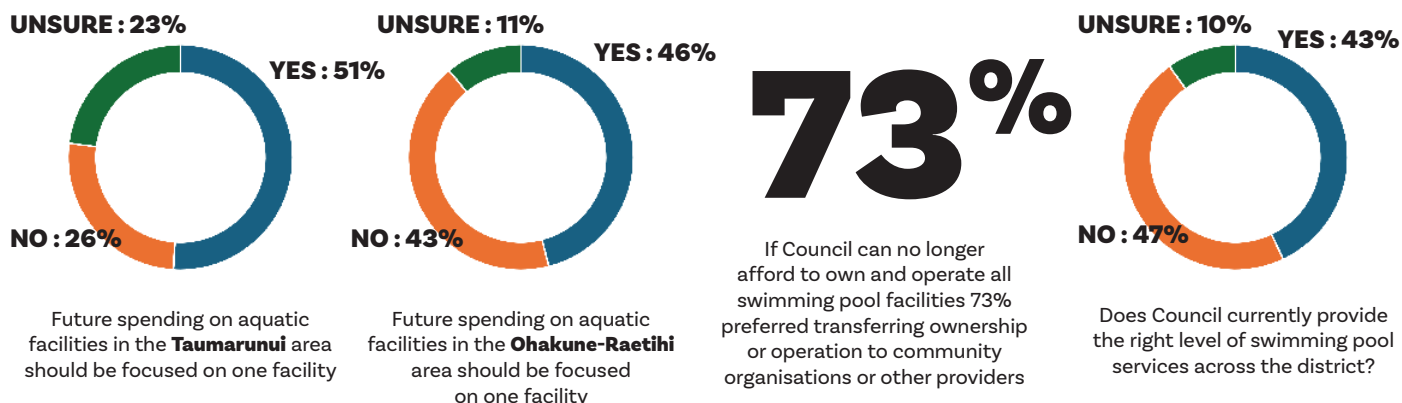
- **The Taumarunui Pool and Trust Waikato Community Pool are only around 4-5 minutes apart.**
- **The Ohakune Pool and Raetihi Pool are only 11 minutes (11.5km) apart.**

Many similar councils operate fewer pools that are much further apart. For example, the closest two pools in Mackenzie District are around 70 minutes apart, while in Buller District they are around 55 minutes apart.



What you told us

In the July/August survey we asked a number of questions on what you felt about your local pool services.



What you could save

The table below shows the estimated operating costs that could be avoided over ten years if Council no longer operated or funded a facility, along with some of the major upgrades currently identified.

Pool	Estimated operating saving over ten-years	Identified upgrades and improvements needed
Taumarunui Pool - Turaki Street	\$1.2 million	\$460,000
Trust Waikato Community Pool (High School)	\$450,000	N/A
Ohakune Pool	\$1.2 million	\$430,000
Raetihi Pool	\$1.5 million	\$7.4 million (refit subject to external funding)

The Trust has indicated it may be unable to continue operating the Trust Waikato Community Pool without Council grant funding. This would likely mean returning the pool to the High School (Ministry of Education), which may impact community access to learn-to-swim programmes, lane and recreational swimming, swim clubs and holiday opening.

Questions

- Do you think the Council should continue to operate both the Raetihi and the Ohakune Pool? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
- If NO, then which pool do you think the Council should retain?

Ohakune Pool ☐

Raetihi Pool ☐
- Do you think the Council should continue to operate the Taumarunui Pool and provide grant funding for the Trust Waikato Community Pool? Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
- If NO, then should the Council:

Continue to operate the Taumarunui Pool ☐

Continue to provide grants funding for the Trust Waikato Community Pool ☐
- Where do you live?

☐ Taumarunui ☐ Ohura ☐ Ongarue ☐ Owhango ☐ Ohakune
☐ Waimarino ☐ Rangataua ☐ Raetihi ☐ Waikouru ☐ Other