

Taumarunui Halls

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 considering the eventual closure and divestment of Taumarunui War Memorial Hall, Miriama Centre and Manunui Hall, provided suitable alternative facilities remain available to meet community needs.

This review now includes Manunui Hall. While earlier engagement focused on the Taumarunui War Memorial Hall and Miriama Centre, Council considers all three facilities part of the same network of community facilities serving the wider Taumarunui area.

What we deliver

Council currently owns and operates three community halls in the Taumarunui area:

Taumarunui War Memorial Hall

The Taumarunui War Memorial Hall is a heritage facility and is capable of hosting events of around 150 people. The facility includes a stage, kitchen and multiple meeting spaces. In the previous year it had 69 bookings.

Miriama Centre

The Miriama Community Centre is Taumarunui's largest facility with capacity for up to 275 people and extensive kitchen facilities. The facility is showing its age, has accessibility issues, and requires work to complete a property subdivision. In the previous year it had 66 bookings.

Manunui Hall

Manunui Hall supports a range of community activities and events, and is regularly used for community gatherings, classes and functions. In the previous year it had 104 bookings.

- The hall facilities provide indoor spaces for community events, meetings, classes, celebrations, and other activities. They can also be used during emergencies.
- Booking numbers indicate the number of recorded bookings during the period and do not reflect attendance levels, duration of use, or the broader community value of each facility.
- **Council currently funds the operation, maintenance and renewal of these facilities through general rates, with a portion of these costs offset by revenue from hall hire and user charges. However, the majority of funding is provided by ratepayers, meaning all ratepayers contribute to the ongoing costs of these halls.**

Alternative venue options

These facilities form part of a broader network of community and event venues available to residents, alongside schools, marae, community organisations, churches, sporting groups and private providers.



What you told us

Previous consultation found that community halls are valued by residents and community groups but that there is a range of views about the best way forward.

Feedback also highlighted affordability, value for money and interest in alternative ownership or management arrangements that maintain community access.

Known issues

All three halls require upgrades and improvements within the next ten-years.

Facility	Known issues
Taumarunui War Memorial Hall	- Significant renewal requirements and potential seismic-related works. Estimated in 2020 at around \$1.4 million* <i>*Recent changes to the Earthquake Prone Building legislation may change the need for this work.</i> - Roof renewal required. Estimated cost \$127,500.
Miriama Community Centre	- Accessibility issues for the site generally, as well as for the toilet facilities. Estimated cost \$50,000 - Property subdivision and compliance works are also required. Estimated cost \$150,000
Manunui Hall	Roof renewal required. Estimated cost \$127,500

Even if Council decides to transfer ownership of these halls, it will likely need to invest in building renewals, compliance work, accessibility improvements or other property obligations before a transfer can proceed.

Council would only consider this if suitable alternative facilities are available for community use. It may also consider supporting organisations that provide spaces for meetings, events and activities. No options have yet been developed or assessed.

What you could save

The three halls operate as a single activity, and operating costs cannot be reliably allocated between individual facilities. Estimated costs and revenue for the coming 2026/27 year are:

Operating revenue:	\$208,463	
Revenue	(\$38,252)	
Net cost to ratepayers	\$170,211	(\$1.7 million over ten-years)

Over the next ten-years based on these estimated costs and identified upgrades and improvements ratepayers could save approximately **\$2.2 million*** from Council divesting itself of all three halls.

*Excludes potential earthquake strengthening cost estimates for the Taumarunui Memorial Hall.

Questions

- Do you support the eventual closure and sale or transfer of ownership of the Taumarunui War Memorial Hall, Miriama Centre and Manunui Hall, provided suitable alternative facilities remain available to meet community needs?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐
- If Council could only continue operating one hall, which hall would you choose?

Taumarunui War Memorial Hall ☐

Miriama Centre ☐

Manunui Hall ☐
- Where do you live?

☐ Taumarunui ☐ Ohura ☐ Ongarue ☐ Owhango ☐ Ohakune

☐ Waimarino ☐ Rangataua ☐ Raetihi ☐ Waioru ☐ Other