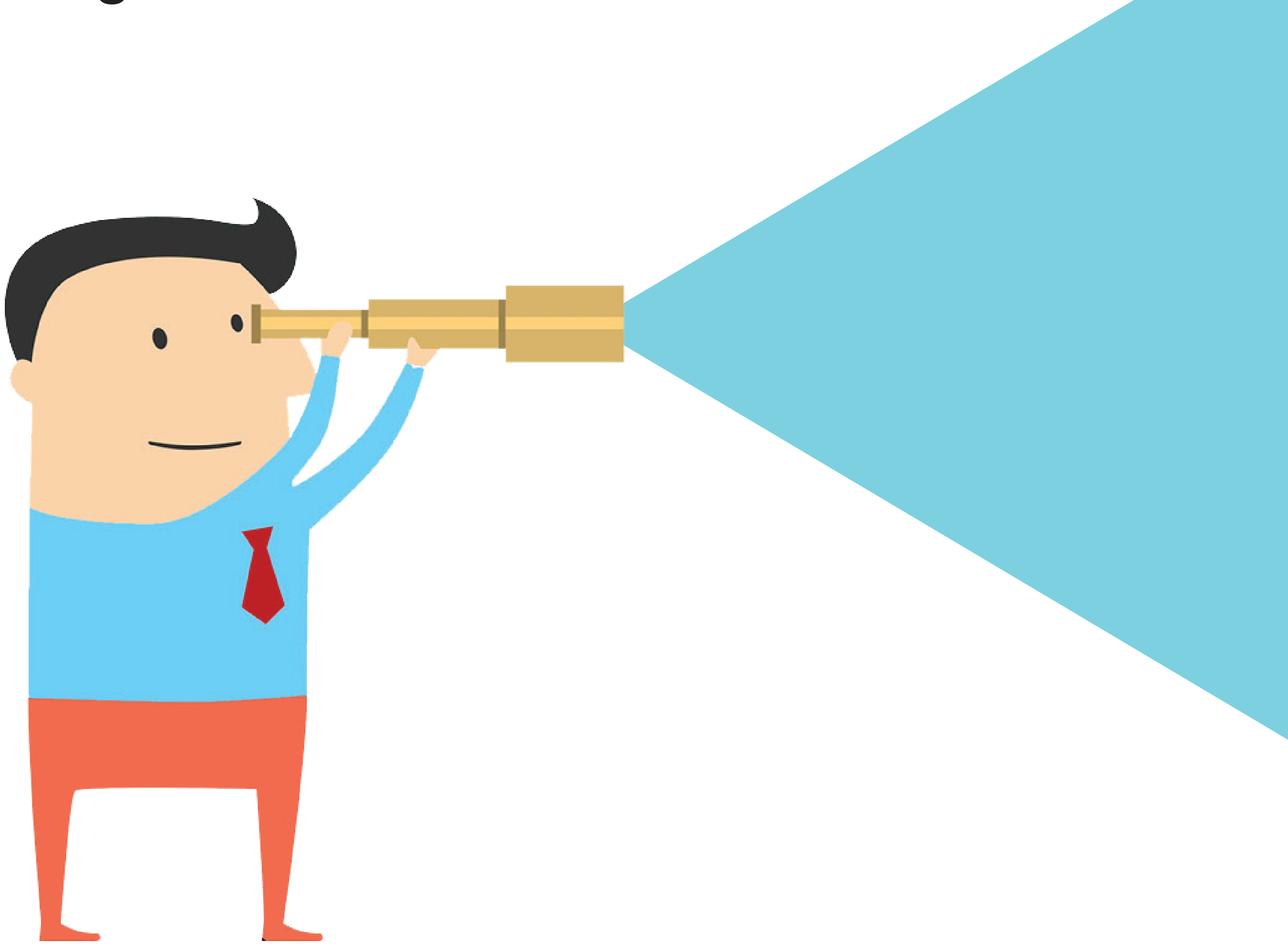
Ruapehu District Council
Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu

Annual Plan 2026/27

Looking to the future :

Long-Term Plan 2027/37



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Mayor’s message

I am pleased to advise that Council is aiming for an average 8.7% rate increase for 2026/27 – under the 9% as planned for in the current ten-year 2024/34 Long-Term Plan.

Achieving an average rates increase of 8.7% for the third year of the Long-Term Plan on top of the 9% for each of the first two-years of our Long-Term Plan (2024/25 and 2025/26) will be no small feat.

Over this period Council has been operating in an environment where costs have continued to rise sharply, Government funding support has been reduced in many areas, and the sector has been navigating significant local government reforms.

Since the Long-Term Plan was adopted, a number of key cost pressures have intensified beyond what was originally forecast.

These include rising infrastructure construction costs, contractual increases in operational services, higher depreciation charges, changes to KiwiSaver requirements that increase staffing costs, significant increases in electricity prices – particularly for new water treatment plants – and higher interest costs associated with debt.

When Council began work on the 2026/27 budget, the initial funding requirement to maintain existing services and deliver the work programme was closer to a 15% rates increase.

Much of that pressure reflects costs that are largely outside Council’s control and cannot easily be avoided.

To bring the increase back to the 9% level signalled in the Long-Term Plan, Council undertook a detailed review of expenditure across the organisation.

This has involved carefully rephasing some planned works, deferring selected maintenance activities, moderating some previously planned service improvements, identifying operational savings, and making strategic use of higher Government co-funding available for emergency road recovery following recent severe weather events.

Decisions such as deferring maintenance are never taken lightly. Council recognises that postponing work can lead to higher costs later if asset condition deteriorates.

However, the adjustments made for the coming year have been carefully assessed and are considered manageable without creating unacceptable risk to our infrastructure or services.

It is important for ratepayers to understand that a 9% increase as planned for represents the minimum level required to sustain current service levels and meet our legal and contractual obligations.

Options to reduce rates further were examined, but they would have required significant service cuts or financial decisions that would create larger costs and risks for the community in the future.

As the changes we have made remain within the framework of the Long-Term Plan, formal consultation is not required. However, Council will still hold community information sessions and welcomes feedback from residents on the proposed adjustments.

Looking ahead, the development of the new 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan will involve a full review of Council’s services, costs and priorities.

As Government reforms continue and financial pressures remain, those conversations will be critical in deciding how we balance affordability with the services and infrastructure our district relies on.

I strongly encourage people to involve themselves in the process and take the opportunity to help shape Council’s future service levels and spending priorities.

Weston Kirton
Mayor - Ruapehu District Council

Balancing affordability, services, and financial sustainability

Council committed to a 9% average rates rise over the first three years of the current 2024/34 Long-Term Plan as part of a financial strategy to balance the demand for services and manage debt with rates affordability.

Why was 9% needed?

Council set a commitment to a 9% average rates rise over the first three years* of the current 2024/34 Long-Term Plan. *2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27

In doing so it was noted that 9% was the absolute bare minimum required to maintain service levels and meet our legislated and contractual obligations.

It would not fund community expectations for increased services and would require Council to 'sweat' assets as we could not afford to borrow and invest more in infrastructure.

The 9 + 9 + 9% over three-years has been critical to Council's financial strategy to enable the balancing of levels of service with funding infrastructure debt and rates affordability.

Smoothing out rate rises

Whereas many other rural or predominantly rural districts saw rates increases in the range of 12-17%* in 2024/25 (year 1) and 8-11%* in 2025/26 (year 2) Ruapehu selected to even out increases to 9 + 9 + 9. *Taxpayers Union

Staying within 9%

Since the adoption of the Long-Term Plan core costs have increased significantly above the assumptions we originally made changing Council's financial landscape dramatically.

To keep rates within 9% Council has been required to juggle our work programme including project, depreciation, and maintenance deferrals, leveraging capital subsidies, and other cost-cutting in order to maintain services at an affordable cost to ratepayers.

Targeting 8.7% in a difficult environment

If Council is able to land an average rates increase of 8.7% - under the target 9% - it will reflect a significant achievement by Council in an extremely challenging environment where cost increases and sector reform has been stressing our work programme.

While Council looked carefully at how we could make rates even lower this would have required some trade-offs where the downsides were felt to outweigh the benefit of a marginally lower rate rise. These would have significantly impacted the land transport area predominately in the south of the district.

The reality behind the numbers

Since the Long-Term Plan was adopted, Council's cost base has increased well beyond original assumptions.

Starting point 15%

To maintain services and deliver the work programme as per the Long-Term Plan, plus accommodate new Council resolutions, would have required a rates increase close to 15%. Underpinning the need for a 15% rate requirement are a range of cost increases beyond Council's control. These have included:

- Increased infrastructure costs
- Higher operational and contractual costs
- Increased depreciation
- KiwiSaver legislative changes
- Rising electricity costs (particularly for new water treatment plants)
- Higher borrowing and debt servicing costs

How will 8.7% be achieved?

Council is proposing targeted and considered adjustments in four key areas.

1. Targeted maintenance deferrals

Some maintenance has been deferred in the following areas:

- **Local roads**
- **New water treatment plants**
- **Additional cycleway maintenance**

Key points:

- Deferrals may increase future costs
- There is some risk of asset deterioration
- Most maintenance will still proceed
- Deferrals are temporary and rephased, not cancelled

Council is cautious about deferrals and has ensured risks are manageable in the short term. Other planned maintenance will still be undertaken as budgeted for.

As such, Council felt that these deferrals could be safely managed without adding undue risk to the assets in the 2026/27 year.

All deferred works are still intended to be completed at a later time, but have been rephased for affordability reasons.

2. Targeting dangerous tree management

- **Previous funding addressed widespread risk**
- **Budget has now been reduced to focus on highest-risk trees only**

Following a report on dangerous trees within the district that posed a serious risk to people and property Council approved additional funding to manage the situation. This budget has now been reduced targeting only the highest risk trees.

3. Organisation and operational savings

Council identified a range of internal savings. These include:

- **Lower legal expenditure**
- **Deferral of the Regional Spatial Plan / Land Use Plan**
- **Pausing targeted community kaupapa Māori grant funding**
- **Reduced building pest control costs**
- **Reduced consultancy spending**

Note: The Regional Spatial Plan/ Land Use Plan must proceed by the 2027/28 financial year as current Government expectations are that it will be notified at the end of the first quarter (September 2027). Deferring it further carries the risk that Council will not be able to meet its statutory commitments.

4. Maximising Government road funding

Council has increased use of emergency-funded works where possible:

- **Emergency works:** 95% Government funded
- **Standard works:** 75% funded

Key points:

- This reduces the cost to ratepayers from 25% to 5%.
- Some standard works have been deferred and will be completed later.

Damage to local roads from severe weather events benefit from Government co-funding of 95% compared to standard road works which are 75% funded.

Council has redirected part of our local share into emergency works over standard road works to take advantage of the higher Government co-funding.

This will see ratepayers paying 5% of the cost rather than 25%.

Why not reduce rates further?

The decision to maintain an average rates rise inline with the Long-Term Plan was only undertaken following an in-depth analysis of Council's business and the minimum viable revenue we needed.

Short-term relief vs long-term consequences

Council explored multiple options to reduce rates further but determined these would lead to greater long-term costs and risks.

Available options considered

- Reducing service levels significantly
- Not funding depreciation (especially in roading)
- Replacing planned works with emergency-funded works

On analysis all these options had significant downsides where the risks and future cost implications were seen too outweigh the short-term benefit of a rate reduction in one year. These included:

- Increased future costs
- Asset deterioration
- Reduced service quality

Providing a sound financial footing for Long-Term Plan 2027/37

A significant benefit of maintaining an average rate rise as per Council's current Long-Term Plan financial strategy is that it puts Council in a sound financial footing coming into the new 2027/37 Long-Term Plan year.

A rate rise under the 8.7% target will impact on Council's debt management and if rates capping is introduced make it impossible to catch-up on deferred works further stressing our infrastructure.

Service reductions between Long-Term Plans

Between Long-Term Plan renewals Council has a limited range of options to reduce levels of service (and costs) without:

- Full public consultation
- A formal Long-Tern Plan amendment
- Audit costs of approximately $400,000 (1.5% of rates)

It is also important to note that contractual, legislative, and community commitments also limits the range of options for reducing rates in any given year.

With the Long-Term Plan being renewed next year Council felt that an amendment this would be an expensive and unwarranted cost at this stage of the cycle.

Looking ahead : a full reset in next year's Long-Term Plan

The new 2027/37 Long-Term Plan will be the most substantial and consequential Long-Term Plan adjustment Council has ever undertaken.

Long-Term Plan 2027/37

The removal of water services and other Government sector reforms is reshaping how councils will operate, deliver services, and engage with communities.

The Government message is clear - they expect councils to adopt a "back to basics" approach and prioritise essential infrastructure and service delivery over broader community development or advocacy roles.

On top of this Government has cut back on the funding Council used to rely on to support our work programme.

Although there is a national election later this year which could potentially see a change in central government Council believes that the pressures for change will see local government sector reform continue.

An eye to the future

As part of this Annual Plan 2026/27 we are asking ratepayers to think about the services Council currently provides including what is important to them and what is not – and significantly what trade-offs in services they would be happy with to keep rates affordable.

Although this will not impact on this Annual Plan and Council's services and work programme for 2026/27 it will help to inform decisions about our future services and work programme in the new ten-year 2027/37 Long-Term Plan.

Needs vs Wants

Ruapehu ratepayers will need need to make some hard choices about the level of services it wants and what it can afford to pay for.

Rising costs, limited revenue options, and growing demands on infrastructure mean it is no longer possible to continue delivering everything at the same level without increasing financial pressure on households.

This challenge could become even greater if the Government proceeds with its proposed rates cap, which would keep annual rates increases within a 2% to 4% range.

Future decisions will increasingly involve trade-offs between affordability and the services and investment our community wants Council to provide.

Major review of services

Next year's LTP will include a comprehensive review of:

- **All services**
- **Levels of service**
- **Associated costs**

A new and evolving environment

The review will need to consider:

- **Removal of water services**
- **Rates capping or limiting rates increases**
- **Changes to the Local Government legislation**

Refocusing on core services

Government direction is prioritising:

- **Infrastructure**
- **Public services**
- **Regulatory functions**
- **Enabling economic growth**

Maintaining affordability will require:

- **Clear priorities**
- **Trade-offs**
- **Community input**

Some tough choices will need to be made to ensure we can continue to provide essential services while being mindful of our communities' ability to pay.

Background issues to 2027/37 Long-Term Plan

As we begin planning for the next ten-year 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan, it is important that residents and ratepayers understand the context, challenges, and trade-offs facing Council.

A complex organisation with a big job

Despite being a small, rural council with limited financial capacity, we manage complex infrastructure and regulatory responsibilities on par with much larger councils delivering a wide range of essential services to residents and visitors.

Council must:

- Manage major reforms
- Respond to rising costs
- Meet increasing community expectations
- Operate within limited financial resources

Despite our size, we:

- Deliver a wide range of essential services
- Manage infrastructure and regulatory functions comparable to larger councils

Our organisation includes:

- Around 90 staff, including Visit Ruapehu and the i-SITE network
- Specialist contractors and partners supporting roads, parks, waste, tourism and economic development.

Purpose and direction

Everything we do is guided by a clear strategic direction grounded in our values and responsibilities.

Our framework is based on:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Strong leadership and governance
- Financial responsibility
- Inclusive decision-making

Our priorities focus on:

- Building resilient communities
- Supporting self-determination
- Protecting the environment
- Maintaining infrastructure
- Enabling economic growth

Financial pressures and rising costs

Council is operating in a financial environment that has become significantly more challenging in recent years.

We are balancing:

- Increasing service demands
- Rising infrastructure costs
- The need to keep rates affordable

Key pressures include:

- A small rating base with high visitor demand
- Inflation and escalating construction costs
- Reduced government funding
- Limited ability to raise new revenue

This means:

- Not everything can be funded
- We must prioritise essential services and investments

Limited revenue options

Unlike larger councils, our ability to generate income is limited, which increases our reliance on a narrow funding base.

Our major revenue sources are:

- 62% from rates
- 30% from government subsidies

We do not have major revenue-generating assets like ports or airports to offset rates and fees and charges.

Additional constraints include:

- Central government limits on rates increases
- Limited opportunities to diversify income

This makes us more exposed to economic shifts and policy changes.

Infrastructure affordability challenges

Maintaining infrastructure is one of our biggest long-term challenges—and one of the hardest to fund.

Over time:

- Costs have increased significantly
- Available funding has not kept up

The reality is we cannot currently afford to maintain and renew all infrastructure to desired standards

This results in:

- Increasing risk of asset failure
- Reduced network resilience
- Lower levels of service for our communities

Land Transport – our biggest cost

Land Transport is Council's largest expenditure, accounting for 38% of our operational budget.

Key challenges include:

- Current funding is not sufficient to maintain the network at desired levels
- Audits indicate underinvestment in maintenance
- Increased pressure from forestry activity and heavy vehicles

Council has raised rates on exotic forestry land, but significant funding gaps remain.

Broader sector and regulatory reform

Council is also needing to adapt to wider government reforms which will have a profound impact on what we do and how we do it.

Reforms impacting Council include:

- Resource Management Act reform
- Changes to the building consent system
- Civil Defence and Emergency Management reform
- Increasing push to share services across regions

These changes will:

- Alter the role of Council
- Change how services are delivered
- Affect local decision-making

Economic and community resilience

In recent years Ruapehu's economy has faced major setbacks, including the closure of the WPI mills, Chateau Tongariro Hotel, and disruption to the ski industry.

While agriculture remains our largest economic sector tourism has been identified as offering the best prospects for growth and job creation.

Council has been working to lessen our historic dependence on the winter snow through our cycling and hiking trail network which includes the Timber Trail and the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono.

We are working to complete the network that with continued government support, could deliver $60 million per year in economic activity and over 400 jobs.

We are also working to ensure that Ruapehu has the necessary infrastructure to support our economic and community development aspirations.

While we have developed policies and strategies to help deliver these aspirations we lack the financial resources to fully implement them without Government support.

Iwi and hapū relationships

Council recognises the importance of strong relationships with iwi and hapū. This includes:

- A commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Working in partnership on shared priorities

A new Māori Engagement Strategy is being implemented to:

- Support meaningful engagement
- Strengthen collaboration

Climate Change – managing risk and opportunity

Climate change poses real risks to our communities, from:

- Floods and droughts
- Infrastructure stress,
- Biodiversity loss, and
- Impacts on our traditional economic base of agriculture and tourism.

Responses to climate change such as carbon farming are posing an additional risk as we lose valuable productive land to pine trees, losing rural jobs and threatening community viability.

Council is focused on adaptation and resilience and through the Toitū Carbon Reduce programme as we work to lower our emissions and power consumption and model sustainability.

Be part of the solution

Local government is facing unprecedented change and challenge.

In this environment, Council's role as a trusted, effective advocate for our communities is more important than ever.

While we remain focused on delivering essential services and supporting long-term sustainability for Ruapehu we must make significant changes to do so at an affordable level for ratepayers.

Despite a degree of uncertainty about the future form and function of local government and Ruapehu District Council our focus remains on serving our community, advocating for their needs, and ensuring Ruapehu's resilience and sustainability.

As we work through this next period and into next year's new Long-Term Plan we encourage you to engage with the process and contribute your perspectives.

Providing your views will help us determine where we can best focus our limited resources.

Future water services and costs

The 2026/27 Annual Plan is planned as the last where Council will supply and rate for water services with the new two-council Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) with Whanganui District Council assuming control from 1 July 2027.

New Water Services Organisation with Whanganui District Council

Under the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms, the previous Council decided to establish a two-council Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WS-CCO) with Whanganui District Council for delivering drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

The Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) for the new WS-CCO was accepted by the Secretary for Local Government in November 2025, confirming that it met legislative requirements and passed the required tests for financial sustainability.

Response to Ruapehu affordability concerns

In approving the WSDP, the Secretary for Local Government highlighted the pricing strategy of the joint WS-CCO and its impact on projected water charges for Ruapehu would need to be closely monitored during implementation.

The Secretary also noted that, to access the benefits of greater scale and help address affordability issues facing Ruapehu, the WS-CCO is expected to explore options such as:

- Price harmonisation
- Joining with other neighbouring councils or council groupings

Until any price harmonisation is introduced, water users in each district will remain responsible for the costs of their own district's water services.

Establishment progress

Both councils are now working together to meet their legal obligations to establish the new WS-CCO. This includes:

- Appointing a Chief Executive and Board of Directors
- Planning for the transfer of services, staff, and assets

From 1 July 2027, the WS-CCO will take full responsibility for delivering water services in the district and for meeting new water quality and economic regulations.

WS-CCO assets and services

The new WS-CCO will deliver drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to around 25,000 connections across the two districts.

- Of these, around 5,000 connections are in Ruapehu.
- The water assets will remain in public ownership.

Mayoral commitments

Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton and Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe have agreed that commitments to affordability and equitable pricing should be reflected in the foundational documents of the new WS-CCO.

The documents include the Constitution (how the WS-CCO will operate), the Shareholders Agreement (how the councils will govern it), and the Statement of Expectations (the priorities and outcomes expected).

Together, these set the WS-CCO's direction, which will be put into effect through a Water Services Strategy by 30 June 2027, confirming fees and charges for the following year.

These commitments still need to be formally confirmed by both councils.

Water cost concerns

The Department of Internal Affairs Assessment Report on the WS-CCO Water Services Delivery Plan estimates that Ruapehu water costs could increase by around 92% by 2034, the end of the current Long-Term Plan period.

While from 1 July 2027, Council will no longer control water charges once responsibility transfers to the WS-CCO we are however very aware of the impact rising water costs could have and recognise the concern this creates for ratepayers.

Why costs remain a challenge

To help keep rates at a more affordable level during the current 2024/34 Long-Term Plan, Council deferred funding around 63% of the required depreciation on water assets.

This is close to two-thirds of the amount that would normally have been funded.

In the 2026/27 Annual Plan, this deferred funding amounts to around $2.5 million in total or about $500 per water user.

Over the past four years, the cumulative deferred depreciation on water assets will reach almost $9.4 million in total or about $1,800 per water user.

The new WS-CCO will need to find efficiencies to help lower costs, while also addressing this deferred depreciation and funding future asset upgrades.

Fees and charges

In recovering costs Council favours using fees and charges where possible as they provide a transparent and accountable way to fund services, aligning the cost burden with usage, and encouraging more responsible and sustainable behaviours.

Council aims to ensure the cost of our services are shared fairly and even-handily across all users on the basis of the services they use or have access to.

For this Annual Plan we are proposing to introduce some new fees and charges along with increases to some existing fees and charges.

- In setting new charges or increases we have been mindful of the cost of living pressures on our communities.
- While we work to keep fees and charges as low as possible we need to recover the cost of services otherwise the costs would fall on the general ratepayer rather than the specific user.
- Any increases to fees and charges reflect the increased cost of providing the services.

New charges

Resource Management	Compliance monitoring	$180
Building inspections	Project Information Memorandum for small standalone dwellings	$650
Cemeteries - Manunui	New grave digging and reinstatement fees	$280
Reserves	Fee to cover any damage if reserve being used at no charge	$500
	Bond for commercial use of a reserve	$5,000 to $10,000 depending on event size
	Taumarunui Domain Grandstand hire to cover cleaning costs of rooms including toilet and shower blocks	$225.55
	Taumarunui Domain Grandstand to cover rubbish removal	Cost will vary depending on contractor costs
Wastewater connections	Installation of new 100mm water main lateral	$6,754 (actual cost)

Charge increases

Hall hire	New booking system costs - hourly rate increase	$4 per hour increase (now $16 per hour)
	Increase in refundable bond	$50 increase (now $150)
Housing	Weekly rental increase on some housing to more closely align across the district	$10 increase on affected properties
	Solar system cost recover on flats that benefit	$10
Land Transport	Temporary road closure not requiring inspection	$40.30 increase (now $443.30)
	Temporary road closure requiring inspection	$45.80 increase (now $655.30 plus any costs for damage)

Fees and Charges manual

You can find a copy of Council's complete Fees and Charges Manual on our website: **ruapehudc.govt.nz**

Alternatively scan the QR code:

New and retained works

Council is considering including the following projects that were not part of the Long-Term Plan 2024/34 in the Annual Plan 2026/27 works programme. Any additional projects could impact the average rate rise depending on how they are funded and their timing in the work programme.

Waimarino Rest Home Refurbishment - $710,000

Council had been using Government funding (Better-off Fund) to upgrade the Waimarino Rest Home which were well below healthy home standards.

High construction cost inflation has meant that the original budget was not enough and additional funding is needed to complete the project.

This will be used to improve accessibility where practical within the existing building footprint (as extensions have been excluded to reduce costs).

District Wide Social Housing Minor Works - $40,000

Additional funding is required for minor renewals on Council's social housing stock.

Park n Ride Shower Replacement - $10,000

High demand is requiring the replacement of the showers at the Park n Ride in Waimarino (National Park).

Please note that to assist with Park n Ride running costs Council now requests a $10 per night koha which is being well supported by travellers.

Ohakune Gateway Entry Signs Project - $54,000

This was a long-awaited project which the community has been working on over a number years. The funding allowed the project which is expected to have a positive and lasting impact on the township, the wider district and its visitors, to proceed before key consents were set to expire.

Ohakune Swimming Pool Development Community Proposal Options Study -$10,000

Joint funded project with Sport Whanganui and Lotteries to evaluate options for a Ohakune Governance Group proposal to develop the Ohakune pools into a year-round, all-weather aquatic facility.

If the joint funding from Sport Whanganui and Lotteries does not eventuate the Feasibility Study will not proceed. Decisions on the joint funding are expected within six-months.

Alongside this assessment Council is also undertaking a wider review of all Council owned pools in Ruapehu. The community will have the opportunity to have their say on the future of Council pools in next year's Long-Term Plan.

Raetihi Recycling Bins - $60,000 - included in 2026/27 work programme

The Raetihi Recycling bins had initially been withdrawn from the 2026/27 work programme to help minimise the rates increase as it is an additional local specific service on top of township kerbside recycling and refuse collection and the near-by Ohakune Transfer Station and Resource Recovery Centre.

In recognition of the strong local support for the service to remain Council has decided to maintain the service for 2026/27 and relook it at it as part a full review of all levels of service as part of next year's Long-Term Plan 2027/37.

Finding out more and having your say

Although Council isn't formally consulting on the 2026/27 Annual Plan we will be holding a series of community engagement events around the district to discuss the issues and hear people's views.

At these events we will also be discussing and seeking feedback on the Draft Speed Management Plan 2026 and proposed changes to the Land Transport Bylaws and Policy 2026.

- **Draft Annual Plan 2026/27**
  Feedback period is from **Monday 30 March to Monday 4 May**

- **Draft Speed Management Plan 2026**
  Affects six rural schools and any neighbouring marae.
  Consultation is open from **Thursday 26 March – Monday 11 May**

- **Land Transport Bylaws and Policy 2026**
  Consultation is open from **Monday 30 March – Monday 4 May** on proposals for:

1. **Draft Stock Movement on Public Roads Bylaw 2026**
2. **Draft Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2026**

Alongside this Bylaw change Council is proposing to update its Land Transport Policy, renaming it to the **Use of Council Roads and Road Reserve Policy.** The new Policy sets out how we manage activities on Council roads and the road reserve, setting out permitted activities and on what conditions. We would welcome feedbacl on this new Policy alongside the Bylaw proposal consultation.

Community meetings:

Council is holding a series on community meetings in support of the Annual Plan and Bylaw and Policy reviews.

- **Raetihi**
  Wednesday 1 April - 5.30pm
  Baptist Church Hall, 14 Seddon Street

- **Waimarino (National Park)**
  Wednesday 8 April - 5.30pm
  Emergency Management Centre, Buddo Street

- **Taumarunui**
  Wednesday 15 April - 6.00pm
  Memorial Hall, Hakiaha Street

Queries:

If you have any questions and are unable to attend one the community meetings please either email: **consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz** or call Todd Livingstone on 07 895 8188.

Feedback Form

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu
Ruapehu District Council
Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027

- Thank you for taking the time to consider the issues raised in our Annual Plan 2026/27 information document including on our proposed Fees and Charges and Council's future direction and services in next year's 2027/37 Long-Term Plan.
- While we are not formally consulting on the Annual Plan we are interested in your views that could still influence Council's thinking.
- Please note that any new works or services added to the Annual Plan over and above what has been proposed will impact on rates unless it is offset somewhere else.

Please note that you can provide feedback on-line - see: www.ruapehudc.govt.nz or use the QR code link

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal address:

Best daytime contact number:

Email:

1. Draft Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on Council's draft Annual Plan 2026/27 including on the decisions on:

- Targeting an average 8.7% rate increase
- The services that were dropped or deferred to achieve 8.7%
- Any other issue

2. Fees and Charges 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on Council's proposed Fees and Charges for 2026/27 including on:

- Any of the proposed new charges
- Any of the proposed charge changes
- Any other issues or thoughts

3. Long-Term Plan 2027/37

Next year's new ten-year Long-Term Plan 2027/37 will be the most consequential yet. Ratepayers will need to think carefully about the services they need or want to keep rates affordable.

We would be interested in your initial thoughts on what you consider Council's core services and how you feel they should be paid for.

Note: Council will be seeking further feedback on the 2027/37 Long-Term Plan throughout the year as we plan Council's future role and direction with the community.

Submit your feedback before Mon 4 May via:

1. **Drop into one of Council's offices in:** Taumarunui, Ohakune or Raetihi
2. **Email to:** consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz
3. **Via mail:** Freepost 492, Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946
4. **In person:** attend one of the community hui