

Our Long Term Plan Tō Mātou Mahere Roa

2018
2028

Hey, thanks
for the korero!

Thanks, for your feedback on the route we will navigate for the next ten years.

We've been on a road trip over the last few months to gather your thoughts about our proposed plan for the future. Overall we received 288 written submissions, plus a significant amount of feedback via social media, our website, community events and at our hearings. We've taken this all into account and the end result is that our Long Term Plan was finalised in June and we now have a great road map to follow.

We had some tough decisions to make. Increasing infrastructure costs, population growth and the need to be prepared for the effects of things like climate change have all contributed to an average rates increase of 4.4% over the next ten years. The increase in the first year will be 6.4%.

"The biggest contributing factor to this increase is the effect of inflation. In other words, even if we do nothing new, our costs will go up based on our predictions around the likely general increase in prices over the next ten years. If our predictions are wrong, and inflation isn't as high as we expect, then the rates increases will be lower."

Mayor, John Tregidga

Here's where we ended up on our three main issues...



What we heard from you

Overall, we heard that you're comfortable with the route we proposed. Support was received for most of our proposals, so we haven't detoured too far from our planned route. However, you raised some concerns with a few of our plans so we've made some changes. We've taken a 'detour' on a few proposals, or we've parked some projects as we will need to do more work or talk with you again before we progress any further.

Issue 1

Maintaining our roads: how smooth should our roads be?

We heard that many of you are happy to increase investment in our roads to get things back on track. This would mean a smoother ride, but not a luxury cruise in a late model Rolls Royce. We agree with you that this is the most prudent approach given the other financial challenges we have up ahead.

Issue 2

Projects in your patch

What's the story with the Ngatea library? You browsed the options

We heard you have some concerns about our preferred option for the Ngatea library and community hub project; which is to partner with the Haurakian Trust, or newly formed Trust, to deliver a joint community space. You've made some good points. So we've decided to park this project while we look further into the issues you've raised, such as access and parking, the protection of Council's investment and the proposed governance structure.

The ending is still unwritten

Rest assured we won't make a final decision until we've completed further work and talked to you some more. If there are still too many roadblocks to overcome, we'll look at upgrading the existing building instead.

Waihi berm mowing: to mow or not to mow, that was our question

We heard that you take great pride in keeping your town looking tidy, which is great!

We will continue to mow berms in Waihi on roads wider than 20 metres, as well as berms in front of our parks and reserves. This will bring berm mowing in Waihi in line with the services we offer in other towns. We didn't think it was fair that all ratepayers in the Waihi Ward, including those in Whiritoa and Waikino, were paying for standard berms to be mowed in Waihi; and that some Waihi residents were getting their berms mowed while others weren't. We don't believe that Waihi streets will become overgrown, as

when we reduced berm mowing in Paeroa a few years ago the streets stayed ship-shape.

"We understand that some of you are worried about being physically unable to mow your own berm. Please remember help is available from WINZ if you are on a low income and can't physically mow your berm yourself."

Mayor, John Tregidga

Wharf Street go or Wharf Street no? Should we continue to develop this Paeroa streetscape?

We heard that you're happy for us to get rolling down this road so we will develop Wharf Street to include plantings, improved pedestrian access to the town centre, and a link to the Hauraki Rail Trail.

We also planned to provide a grant of \$400,000 to the Paeroa-based Historic Maritime Park which will go towards future park development, including wharf construction and the construction of a new community jetty at the end of Wharf Street in Paeroa. This grant will provide base funding, and the Park project team will be applying elsewhere to gain the required funds to complete the project.

Some of this funding had already been put aside by the Paeroa Ward for a similar project.

Streets ahead or put it to bed? Should we upgrade the Ngatea main street?

We heard your thoughts on the proposed revamp of the Ngatea main street. We'll pursue a partial upgrade of the main street, but not before we've had a further chat with you about the details when the time comes.

Keeping rates affordable

We know paying rates is already as stretch for some.

We heard that you agree it would be fairer to change the way we fund some things.

- We'll phase these changes in over the next three years
- Ratepayers with higher value properties will pay slightly more
- Ratepayers with lower value properties will pay a little less

We'll lobby central government for higher rates rebates.

Other changes we'd like to signpost

User pays fees and charges

Some of our services, such as dog registrations and building consents, are paid for by the people that use them rather than ratepayers. The cost of providing these services is going up. To cover these costs, we've had to increase some of our fees and charges. This includes some building related and dog registration fees.

Find out more about these changes on our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/fees-charges

Town promotional organisations

We're looking at what our town promotional organisations are doing well, and what could be done better. Town promotional organisations include Positive Paeroa, Go Waihi and Positively Promoting the Plains.

We have a responsibility to ensure ratepayer money is invested wisely and it would be irresponsible of us to overlook how the funding we provide is being managed. So we're looking more closely at the performance of all these organisations over a six-month period to ensure that appropriate financial management, accountability and governance oversight is being exercised with our communities' funds.

Funding will also be reduced to all these organisations by 25% to lessen the load on ratepayers and encourage the exploration of other avenues of funding. The majority of Council funding will continue, and support will also be offered in other ways, such as providing independent advice around governance and alternative fundraising if this is needed. Full funding may be continued after six months, following the results of this assessment.

The town promotional organisations have worked well in the past, but this doesn't mean we should ignore new ideas and improved ways of doing things.

Keen to know more?

Get the full tour of our finalised 2018-28 Long Term Plan | Tō Mātou Mahere Roa on our website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hauraki-long-term-plan

Other detours from the proposed route

After listening to your feedback, we made a few changes to our plans...



No petrol in the tank for Hutchinson Reserve

We heard that you don't use this reserve a lot, and that this project is not a priority at this time. We've decided to remove this project from our plans.

Railway Reserve skate park

We proposed to update this skate park to make it suitable for bikes and scooters as well as skateboards. You had lots of other ideas about what you'd like to see at this reserve. So we decided to reallocate this money to general improvements, which may include the development of a basketball court and parking. We'll do more work on this and look at it again when we develop our next annual plan.

Swimming pools

We heard that you'd like a covered, year-round swimming pool. We'd love this too but unfortunately, we can't afford it. However, we can afford to put some money towards minor necessary upgrades at all three pools, and extend the swimming season at one of our pools.

Refuse and recycling

- We heard you're really interested in minimising waste and we're really interested in this too. We're going to do more to promote and enable recycling and waste reduction.
- We'll consider a change to biodegradable rubbish bags, and investigate the possibility of providing a recycling station in Ngatea.
- We also support the concept of a community recycling and resource recovery facility somewhere in the district, like the Seagull Centre in Thames.

Whiritoa projects

We heard you want more support for local projects in Whiritoa so we're going to assist with an emergency generator, resurfacing of the Whiritoa tennis court, and tanks for rural fire fighting purposes.