



# 2015-25 Hauraki Consultation Document

Hauraki District Council has released its Consultation Document for the proposed 2015-25 Hauraki Long Term Plan and the submission period is now open. The Council wants to hear your feedback on its proposed approach for the next ten year period.

The Council encourages you to browse its Long Term Plan focussed web pages at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp) where you can download a copy of the Consultation Document and view the background information that supports the proposed direction for 2015-25.

## Key highlights of the Consultation Document

### What's happening to our population

The current District population of 17,811 (2013 Census) is not projected to change much in the next 30 years. Our population is also ageing; Hauraki has a higher proportion of residents in the 50-64 and 65+ age groups than the rest of the country. The number of people aged 65+ could increase to 43% of the population by 2045. For people in the District aged 15 years and over, 44% have an annual personal income of \$20,000 or less. These, and many other factors, mean that Council must give careful consideration to the demographics of our communities when it plans for the future. Affordability could be an issue for some, with less of our population still of working age, a high proportion of our residents on low or fixed incomes, and the everyday costs of providing our services will continue to rise regardless of efficiencies realised. In the future it will be increasingly important for the Council to provide its essential services in a cost effective way.

### Our financial situation now and into the future

Just like running a household, the Council needs to prepare budgets, and think about what is coming up so that it can best prepare itself financially for what lies ahead. The Council has given thought to its approach for the future, to ensure the business is run in the most efficient and financially prudent way possible.

Overall the focus on Council's recent infrastructure upgrades, and the associated debt and interest costs, has placed some pressure on rates. **Rates** (excluding water) **increases** are projected to **average 3.7%** over the life of the Long Term Plan, with a **3.6% increase in 2015/16**. For **water rates**, the average projected **increase is 2.0%** over the life of the Long Term Plan.

The Council has detailed its proposed financial approach in what is called the Hauraki Financial Strategy 2015-25. Go to [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp) to view.

### Options for the future development of the District's economy

The Council would like to help change our outlook and shape a different future by investigating and possibly funding new initiatives that will attract new business development to the District, facilitate the growth of our existing businesses and attract more people to visit, live and work in Hauraki District. The Council may reprioritise existing programmes to ensure anything it spends on economic development initiatives is the best value for money possible and will deliver the results the District needs.

The Council currently spends approximately \$1 million per year on various economic development initiatives. How that current funding is spent is detailed in the Consultation Document. To move forward the Council would like to invest in new initiatives such as the development of a **'Food Hub' at the Kerepehi Industrial Park** - to encourage and assist new business to move to Hauraki, and the **Kaiaua to Kopu section of the Hauraki Rail Trail** - completing the Trail and making it a true multi day ride to maximise economic benefits to the District. There are various options for how the Council may invest in new initiatives; funding those new initiatives solely through rates is not a preferred approach for the Council. **We would like your feedback on those options.** For further information, view the Consultation Document and supporting information online at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp).

## Additional Consultation

As part of the consultation occurring alongside the Consultation Document for the Proposed 2015-25 Long Term Plan, the Council is proposing to amend its Development Contributions Policy, Revenue and Financing Policy, Rates Remissions Policies, and Fees and Charges.

### Draft Development Contributions Policy

The Council has reviewed its Development Contributions Policy. The purpose of the policy is to determine the parameters around the charges Council can impose on a developer to recover some of the capital costs incurred by the Council when providing infrastructure services for development. The major changes to the policy proposed include:

- Aligning the catchment areas for which development contributions are charged. Development contributions are now proposed to be charged on a localised catchment basis, not district-wide, for all networks except Roding.
- The addition of a remission section to demonstrate the intention of Council to put the Policy into remission in the future.

### Proposed Fees and Charges for 2015/16

Each year, the Council reviews its fees and charges. For 2015/16 a number of fees and charges are proposed to change. The amendments are predominantly in the areas of Solid Waste Services, Community Services and Corporate Services.

### Draft Rates Remission Policies

Council is proposing to alter some of its 13 rates remission policies. The main changes proposed include:

- Remission of Excess Water Rates**  
Generally Council remits 50% of excess charges where there has been a leak, however there are certain circumstances when the ability to remit differently would be helpful. Criteria has been changed to provide greater flexibility, with the inclusion of a range for remissions (0-50%).
- Remission of Rates on Multiple Owner Maori Freehold Land**  
A change is proposed to allow for the remission of previous years' rates.
- Rates Remissions – Rating Low Value Land Units**  
Currently a condition of this remission policy is that rating units have a capital value less than \$5,000. This is proposed to increase to \$10,000.

### Draft Revenue and Financing Policy

Councils is seeking feedback on its reviewed Revenue and Financing Policy. A number of changes to rating mechanisms are proposed:

- The Ward Business rate is proposed to change from an annual charge based on separately used or inhabited parts of a commercial and industrial rating unit to capital value.
- Funding for information centres is proposed to be collected through two different rates: Information Centres District (Local) and Information Centres i-Site (Regional).
- Council introduced a rate in 2013/14 for the Taramaire Drainage District and subsequently investigated, with the landowners, the introduction of a Flood Protection rate to fund the operation of the Taramaire flood protection assets. In November 2014 Council resolved that a proposed Flood Protection rate be included in the 2015-25 Revenue and Financing Policy.
- An urban stormwater targeted rate (uniform charge) has been introduced for the Kaiaua Coastal Area.

# what do you think ?

## have your say!

Hauraki District Council welcomes your feedback on the Consultation Document, supporting information and the additional Statements of Proposal currently out for consultation.

The submission period closes  
22 April 2015 at 4.30pm.

For further information, a copy of the submission form, or to submit online, go to [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp) or phone Council staff on 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or 07 862 8609 for more information.



## Online Rates Calculator

To find out what the Council's proposed approach will mean for your property in 2015/16 **check out our online rates calculator at** [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Consultation Document for the Proposed 2015-25 Hauraki Long Term Plan

Pursuant to sections 83 and 93 of the Local Government Act, 2002, notice is given that Hauraki District Council's Consultation Document for the Proposed 2015-25 Hauraki Long Term Plan has been prepared.

### Statements of Proposal on Additional Consultation

Pursuant to sections 82, 83, 83A and 102 of the Local Government Act, 2002, notice is given that Hauraki District Council has prepared the following Statements of Proposal:

- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Draft Rates Remissions Policies
- Proposed Fees and Charges for the 2015/16 year.

Public submissions and comments are now invited on the Consultation Document and the Statements of Proposal.

### Submission Process

Copies of the Consultation Document, the supporting information to the Consultation Document for the proposed 2015-25 Hauraki Long Term Plan, and the full Statements of Proposal will be available from Friday, 20 March 2015 on the Hauraki District Council website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp) and at the Hauraki District Council Offices in William St, Paeroa, Seddon St, Waihi and Orchard Rd, Ngatea.

Council staff and Elected Members are available to discuss the proposed content of the Consultation Document and the Statements of Proposal, during the submission period. Workshops with interested groups or individuals can be arranged by telephoning 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

**Submissions close at 4.30pm on Wednesday 22 April 2015.**

### Hearing of Submissions

Submissions will be considered by Council at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to be held at the Paeroa Council Chambers, William St, Paeroa on Wednesday 27 May and Thursday 28 May 2015 (if required).

LD Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council