



# HDC NEWS



## Rates instalment changes

We've recently made some changes to the frequency of rates payments

From August, you'll receive a rates invoice from us four times a year, instead of three times a year. Rates instalments will now be due in August, November, February and May, but the amount of each instalment will be less because the total is being spread over four payments instead of three.

The changes won't affect you if you pay by direct debit or automatic payment.

**Rates payments will be easier to manage.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Rates instalment 20<sup>th</sup> August**

There's lots of options to make rates payments easier to manage

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rates instalment 20<sup>th</sup> November**

Contact our friendly customer service staff to discuss which payment option is best for you.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Rates instalment 20<sup>th</sup> February**

If you're on a low income you may qualify for a rates rebate.

**4<sup>th</sup> Rates instalment 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Many of our customers say paying by direct debit is the most convenient option because they're always up to date and never get charged any late payment fees.

**Reminder**  
the last day to apply for a 2016/17 rates rebate is 30 June 2017!

## Sounds like a plan

It might be mid-winter but our year is just beginning. Council's rating year runs from 1 July to 30 June. Every three years we create a Long Term Plan (LTP) and every year we update our programme to match our progress and any unforeseen changes.

For the 2017/18 year the services you receive from us will stay the same. Our focus will be on working towards completing some major capital projects, like the ones shown below. A summary of the changes we've made within our 2017/18 Annual Plan is available on our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/annual-plans](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/annual-plans)

**Rooding**  
sealed road resurfacing and improvements (\$1,909,000)

**Water works**

- increasing treated water storage on the Hauraki Plains (\$2,800,000).
- connecting the Kaimanawa water supply with Paeroa (\$1,995,000).
- upgrading the Waitakaruru water treatment plant (\$1,000,000).

**Land drainage**  
increasing the height of our stopbanks on the Hauraki Plains (\$502,000).

**Wastewater**  
renewing wastewater pipes in Paeroa (\$1,257,000).

**Community growth**

- completing the Wharf/Mackay streetscape in Paeroa (\$567,000).
- further development of Karangahake Reserve (\$517,000)

**We're keeping the rates down**

4.20% LTP  
3.69%  
2.0%

We've been able to reduce the general rate rise we had signalled in our LTP, from a 4.20% increase to a 3.69% increase.

We've kept our water rate increase in line with what we signalled in our Long Term Plan, which means a 2.0% increase in water rates.

**Cost of operating for 2017/18**

- Governance and leadership \$3,096,000
- Roads and footpaths \$8,152,000
- Water supply \$5,924,000
- Wastewater \$3,188,000
- Land drainage \$1,026,000
- Stormwater \$785,000
- Solid waste \$548,000
- Community services \$5,886,000
- Community development \$2,100,000
- Regulatory services \$3,666,000

## Are you a Responsible dog owner?

It's dog registration time. Dog owners with a good history can apply for a Responsible Owner Licence, which means you pay less to register your dog.



A good history means your dog has stayed out of trouble (and the pound) for the last 12 months



You will also need a securely fenced section!



And to pass a simple test to show you understand your obligations as a dog owner i.e. how to care for your dog.



If you think you've got what it takes, you can apply for your Responsible Owner Licence from now until 15 July 2017. The last day to pay your dog registration for 2017/18 is 31 July.

## Funding for business

Can you tick one of these boxes?

- High growth aspirations
- Export focus / export enabler
- Innovative products or services
- Technology driven or
- Considering a Business Mentor?



Waikato Innovation Park offers a free business needs assessment to support your growth plans. Business growth advisors are available at the Paeroa office of the Hauraki District Council on the first Tuesday of every month (or by appointment).

Make the smart choice now by calling 07 857 0538 or email [businessgrowth@wipltd.co.nz](mailto:businessgrowth@wipltd.co.nz) to connect with a Waikato Innovation Park business growth advisor.