

## Let's talk about rates

Rates invoices will have arrived via email or in the post. For most households your rates will have increased. Why are rates going up? We get it - nobody loves seeing rates go up, especially when everything else seems to cost more too. We don't take this lightly, and we want to explain what's driving the increase:



### Roads need more investment

New valuations for cost of renewal and maintenance means our focus is on ensuring the 621kms of roads in our district have the correct funding to stay safe and usable.



### Fixing footpaths that need addressing

We're accelerating footpath repairs in Paeroa, Waihi, and the Plains. Footpaths are part of the everyday journey for our communities. These aren't nice-to-haves, they're about keeping people safe when they're walking around their towns.



### Meeting tougher national water standards

The government's raised the bar on water quality and wastewater treatment. We're doing major upgrades - including a significant investment in the Paeroa wastewater treatment plant - to meet these new requirements, keep our water safe and plan for future demand as our regions grows.



### Storm damage and making sure we're ready for next time

The big weather events over the last few years have done serious damage to our infrastructure. We're fixing what's broken and strengthening things, so our communities are better protected.

### Our focus this year

It's about maintaining essential core services, improving safety, and ensuring that we can meet the true cost of keeping our infrastructure working properly. We're focused on keeping Hauraki running responsibly, not spending on things that can wait.

### Plus everything costs more

Think about the cost of filling the car or the increases to power bills. Council faces exactly the same increases. When fuel costs rise, it costs more to mow parks, run rubbish trucks, and get contractors out to maintain roads and footpaths. When electricity prices go up, it costs more to heat swimming pools, run libraries and service centres, power water treatment plants, and keep streetlights on.

And when materials get more expensive like pipes, roading supplies, safety equipment, playground parts, those costs flow straight through to council budgets.

Just like your household, we can't avoid these increases. We can make sure we plan for them carefully and spend money responsibly.

For more information about where your rates money goes, ways to pay, when instalments are due, rates rebates and what to do if you might need help, check out our handy "Let's Talk About Rates" info page <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/letstalkaboutrates>



## Kerbside Recycle Right What goes in your bin matters!

Kerbside Recycle Right is now underway across the Hauraki District, helping our community understand what belongs in the yellow recycling bin. If you're getting it right, no changes. If we find items that don't belong, we'll provide information to help you get it right next time.

It's an educational approach to help improve recycling across our district, keeping our kerbside recycling service working well for everyone.

### Right items. Right bin. Right result.

To find out how you can recycle right visit

<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/kerbside-recycle-right>



## Save the dates - Ward Meetings

Join us for a cuppa, a catch-up and a kōrero

Hear what's happening in your area, ask questions and have a chat about what matters to you.

### \* Paeroa Ward

Thursday 22 October 2026 | 5.30-7 pm  
Paeroa War Memorial Hall

### \* Plains Ward

Wednesday 28 October 2026 | 5.30-7 pm  
Hauraki Plains Library and Community Centre |  
He Pātaka Kōrero

### Waihi Ward

\* Thursday 12 November 2026 | 5.30-7 pm  
Waihi Memorial Hall

Pop the dates in your calendar, keep an eye out for more info! We'd love to see you there.

## Got a great idea for your community? COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT **APPLY NOW!**



The grant supports community groups in our district whose projects or initiatives contribute to business growth, connection, vibrant communities and a strong sense of local pride.

**Applications close 9 October 2026**

<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/community-development-grant>

## Conservation and Heritage Fund

Do you own a heritage building, natural area, or significant tree that's identified in the Hauraki District Plan? Got a conservation or heritage project in mind?

You may qualify for funding to help with active maintenance or enhancement, such as painting, repairs, restoration, fencing, pest control, or conservation planting.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER 2026**

To see the fund guidelines and to apply, visit:  
<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding>

