



**GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ**  
Taupō District Council



**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

---

**ANNUAL PLAN**  
**2022-23**

# CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE	3
TE TIRITI O WAITANGI	4
YOUR COUNCIL	6
WHY WE WANT YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY	8
WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU	9
WHAT COUNCIL DOES	10
HOW COUNCIL PLANS	11
ONGOING EFFECTS OF COVID-19	15
HOW WE WILL DECIDE ON PROJECTS	16
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY RATES?	18
CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY	20
WATER	20
TRANSPORT	22
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	24
WASTEWATER	26
INVESTMENTS	28
CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S FEES AND CHARGES	30
REFRESHING COUNCIL'S SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY	34
TOWNCENTRE TAUPŌ MANAGEMENT RATE INCREASE	36

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**Over two years on from the first outbreak of Covid-19, we are still very much feeling the effects of this worldwide pandemic. As a result of this ever-evolving landscape we find ourselves in, we must continue to adapt and find ways to move forward as a district.**

Last year, we set out our long-term vision and plans for the Taupō District. As part of this, we needed to look at how we could support our economic recovery in a post-lockdown environment. A key piece of this puzzle has been delivering a significant programme of investment in our core infrastructure – to create local jobs and support our economy. Much of this has been government-funded – an opportunity that we have been fortunate to take up on projects district-wide.

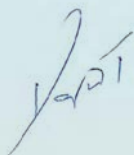
Now, six months on from setting that plan, we are re-looking at how we are delivering for our district as part of our Annual Plan. We are reviewing what is achievable in the current climate, looking at how we can be nimble in our approach, and thinking about both the immediate concerns of our community alongside the district's medium- and longer-term needs.

What we aim to achieve is balancing affordability for ratepayers with maintaining the levels of service and investment that our district needs to thrive. At the moment, it is well-known that inflation is increasing at rates not seen for over three decades. That has significant ramifications on affordability and in turn deliverability.

In this Consultation Document, we have set out the major projects we had planned for year two of our Long-term Plan, and how the current climate has affected these – primarily in terms of costs – and what we are proposing for these.

Alongside this, we are also asking for feedback on a couple of policies – our fees and charges and our significance and engagement policy which we have recently updated.

Please take the time to read through this Consultation Document and the issues we have highlighted in it. We want to hear from you – our community – on whether you think we have this right, whether we have prioritised appropriately, and what is important to you.



**David Trewavas**  
Mayor



**Gareth Green**  
Chief Executive

# TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

**Kei te hāngai tika atu Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Taupō ki ngā ture o Te Tiriti o Waitangi me te mau mōhio ko te honongatahi te pūtake o Te Tiriti. E ai ki tēnei kia mahi tahi tātou ki runga i te whakaponu me te ngākaunui ki te whakamana i tēnei hononga. Kei te mōhio mātou he rerekē ngā takohanga kei waenganui i te Karauna hei kawenga ma te Kaunihera a Rohe o Taupō.**

Ka hāngai tika atu Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Taupō ki ngā mātāpono mo te honotahi (ki te mahi tahi i tenei whakakotahitanga) kia uru tahi (te Māori ki ngā mahi a te Kaunihera), te tiaki (te whakatakoto i ngā tikanga me te tiaki i ngā tāonga o te iwi Māori) ki roto i a mātou whakaritenga mahi, ngā manahau me te whakatakoto kaupapa.

Ka mahitahi Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Taupō ki te iwi, me ngā hapū ki te whakamana i te ture mo ngā whakataunga o Te Tiriti me ētehi atu kaupapa ka puta mai i ēnei mahi.

Kei te mau uara Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Taupō mo to mātou hononga ki te iwi Māori kei roto i to tātou rohe. He roa ake te wā e piritahi pēnei, ka mau ponō mātou ki te whakarei me te atawhaitia ki roto i ā mātou mahi me ngā wā ka hui tahi mātou ki ngā hapū, me te iwi Māori.

Ki te mau mārō o tātou honotahi, ka taea te Kaunihera ki te tukutuku ngā hua ki runga ake o ērā ka taea te tuku me ko te Kaunihera anahe.

E rua ngā rēanga e tika ana ki o mātou hononga ki te iwi: ko te rangatira ki te rangatira, me te āpiha ki te āpiha. Ka mau hoki tēnei tikanga ki roto i ngā mahi katoa, kia whakawarea te iwi me ngā hapū i mua i te tīmatatanga o te mahi mo te whakatakoto kaupapa, ehara kei waenganui, kei te mutunga rānei o aua mahi.

# TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

**Te Reo Māori translation provided by Te Kanawa Pitiroi.**

**Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory Tiriti O Waitangi obligations and acknowledges partnership as the basis of Te Tiriti. This requires both parties to treat and work with each other in good faith and show good will to reflect the partnership relationship. We acknowledge these responsibilities are distinct from the Crown's Treaty obligations and lie within a Taupō District Council context.**

Taupō District Council will give effect to the principles of partnership (the duty to act in good faith in the nature of a partnership), participation (of Māori in council processes), protection (the duty to actively protect the rights and interests of Māori) in our services, activities and planning work.

Taupō District Council will work in partnership with iwi and hapū to give effect to Treaty settlement legislation and any provisions that result from these.

Taupō District Council values our relationships with Māori in our district. We have long standing relationships that we commit to enhance and foster in our day-to-day business; and when we engage hapū, iwi, Māori. Strong strategic partnerships can help the council to deliver outcomes that exceed what it can deliver alone.

Council relationships with our iwi partners operates at two levels: rangatira ki te rangatira (chief-to-chief) and officer-to-officer. This also includes our engagement processes - we will engage iwi partners right from the early stages of projects and planning.

# YOUR COUNCIL



**MAYOR DAVID TREWAVAS**

Email: [mayortrewavas@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:mayortrewavas@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 570 7918



**DEPUTY MAYOR CHRISTINE RANKIN**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorrankin@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorrankin@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 582 4804



**KYLIE LEONARD**

Taupō East Rural Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorleonard@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorleonard@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 257 7338



**JOHN BODDY**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorboddy@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorboddy@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 021 128 7704



**KATHY GUY**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorguy@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorguy@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 449 4090



**ANNA PARK**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorpark@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorpark@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 234 4568



**KEVIN TAYLOR**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillortaylor@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillortaylor@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 273 9817



**YVONNE WESTERMAN**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorwesterman@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorwesterman@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 573 3844



**JOHN WILLIAMSON**

Taupō Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorwilliamson@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorwilliamson@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 310 8013



**TANGONUI KINGI**

Turangi-Tongariro Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillorkingi@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorkingi@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 021 253 3343



**JOHN MACK**

Turangi-Tongariro Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillormack@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillormack@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 275 1950



**KIRSTY TRUEMAN**

Mangakino-Pouakani Ward Councillor  
Email: [councillortrueman@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillortrueman@taupo.govt.nz)  
Phone: 027 335 5267

“

# Whakapūpūtia mai ō mānuka, kia kore ai e whati.

Cluster the branches of the mānuka, so they will not break. (Together with a shared vision, we know which direction to go.)

”



# WHY WE WANT YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY

**Council's Annual Plan outlines the services, key projects, and initiatives we intend delivering for our community in the coming financial year. This document outlines the key issues we want your feedback on. It's just as important to let us know the things you support as well as the things you don't as what you tell us will guide our future decision making.**

You can have your say in the following ways:

- Visit [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay)
- Email [annualplan@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@taupo.govt.nz)
- Call into your nearest council office
- Come and see us at a consultation drop-in session - dates and venues for these sessions will be made available on Council's website once they are confirmed.

All submissions have to be received by 4.30pm on 14 April 2022.

## WHAT HAPPENS WITH MY FEEDBACK?

When you make a submission, you will be given the option on whether you want to present your view to the Council in person. If you do, we will book a time for you to attend a public meeting which will be held on 23 and 24 May 2022. You will be given up to five minutes to present your submission and answer any questions. Hearings in Turangi and Mangakino will be arranged if there are enough people wanting to present. Alternatively, you could choose to present your view to the Council through a video call - please let us know if you would prefer to present this way, and we will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

All submissions will be considered by Council regardless of whether you want to be heard or not. Final decisions will be made at the end of the public meetings and the Annual Plan 2022-23 will be adopted at the end of June 2022.

Kindly note that all submissions will be made available to the public via the Council website, including your name, but not contact details. This is in accordance with our Privacy Statement, which is available through [www.taupo.govt.nz/privacy-policy](https://www.taupo.govt.nz/privacy-policy).

**Find out more ways to have your say by heading to [taupo.govt.nz](https://taupo.govt.nz).**



# WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Through this consultation document, we would like update you about our plans for the coming financial year. In particular, we want to talk to you about the following:

CHANGES TO OUR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME

ALIGNING OUR LOCAL WATER SCHEMES

UPDATES TO SOME OF COUNCIL'S FEES AND CHARGES

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

TOWNCENTRE TAUPŌ MANAGEMENT RATE

# WHAT COUNCIL DOES

**We deliver a diverse range of services for and on behalf of our community that affect how we play, live, work and engage with our environment. These are the things that help make Taupō District a great place to live and enhance our reputation as a destination of choice for tourists.**

The services we provide are not just those that are mandated by the Local Government Act 2002, but equally importantly, reflect the aspirations of our community and the things you have told us that you would like to see or have across our district:

- Community Services
- Water
- Transport
- Community Facilities
- Wastewater
- Solid waste
- Stormwater
- Democracy and Planning
- Investments
- Economic Development

# HOW COUNCIL PLANS

**The law requires councils in partnership with their communities to prepare Long-term Plans every three years. These Long-term Plans set out everything we intend to deliver for the Taupō District community over the next ten years and how we will pay for them.**

The Long-term Plan sets out the community outcomes we hope to achieve, the projects and activities we will undertake to achieve these community outcomes and the level of service the community can expect.

The plan also includes how much we expect things to cost, how we'll pay for them and what it all means for the rates you pay and the money we borrow to make up the difference.

Long-term Plans are designed to provide a long-term focus by looking a decade ahead. But they are also reviewed and consulted on every three years; and an annual plan is prepared for each of the years in between.

Council calendars run from 1 July of the first year to 30 June of the following year.

You may recall that we came to you about this time last year with our draft Long-term Plan and talked about these same things with you. The feedback from the community helped us to finalise that draft document and our final Long-term Plan came into effect at the end of June 2021.

**You can view our Long-term Plan at: [taupo.govt.nz/LTP](https://taupo.govt.nz/LTP)**

We are now halfway through the first year of our Long-term Plan and are in the process of preparing an annual plan for the second year of the Long-term Plan.



OUR PLAN.  
OUR TAUPŌ DISTRICT.





# ONGOING EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND A FAST-CHANGING ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

**There is little doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has had devastating health, economic and social impacts on businesses and communities across Aotearoa. Lockdowns and movement restrictions that have been put in place to limit the spread of Covid-19 have sharply disrupted the way we live and work, changing the very nature of our social fabric.**

Work had only just begun in earnest on our Long-term Plan when the pandemic began, and very quickly, the plan became not just about shaping our community's aspirations for the next decade, but also about taking immediate actions to support the local economy. Council was not alone in taking this approach, other councils across New Zealand and the Central Government adopted a similar tactic.

Across the nation, there was a steadfast commitment to work together with our communities, businesses, and all levels of government to respond to this crisis and create a better future. The strategy to limit the damage caused by the pandemic was two-pronged. The first, to mount a resilient public health response and the second, by introducing a raft of economic measures to cushion the effects on livelihoods and well-being, as well as support New Zealand's economic recovery.

As an organisation responsible for undertaking many infrastructure related projects, Council has the ability to help stimulate the economy through undertaking capital projects and renewals. Our Long-term Plan was developed with these considerations in mind and scenarios on the likely impacts of Covid-19 on Taupō's local economy were factored into our economic assumptions. As a result, adjustments were made to bring forward the timeframes for undertaking capital projects, upgrades and renewals that had been identified as critical to maintaining access to fundamental services and facilities needed for everyday living.

A key consideration has always been the need to balance our community's ability to pay, while progressing key capital projects that are instrumental in maintaining and improving Council's services and delivering these within an expected time-period. We also worked to ensure that Council's Covid-19 response, while ambitious, did not deviate significantly from the course set out in previous financial and infrastructure strategies.

We also considered possible risk factors. At that time, the risks we identified were the possibility of supply chain disruptions overseas and limiting the ability of the local supplier market to deliver required materials in the needed volumes. There was also the risk of future lockdowns delaying projects.

Since the Long-term Plan was prepared, it has become increasingly clear that the nature of the challenges posed by Covid-19 to the economy differs from what was anticipated. In the wake of the global Covid-19 response, the construction sector is facing an unprecedented level of pressure in supply and demand for building materials both domestically and internationally, resulting in a sharp surge in costs and delays and disruption in construction and infrastructure projects.

In a matter of months, we have seen supply chain-related risks evolve from a minor peripheral issue to a key risk consideration for parties entering a construction contract. While supply chain risks are not unknown in the construction industry, the impacts of Covid-19, as well as the surge in demand for materials overseas have worsened some of the key factors that are leading to the current supply constraints. These constraints include shortages in raw materials and competition in manufacturing slots, low shipping container availability, congestion in ports and delayed port clearance and a restriction in the ability to move materials through domestic travel routes.

At a local level, Council is also having to grapple with human resource constraints, both within our own staffing pool and our contractors having staffing shortages as well. Again, we are not alone in facing these challenges, and across the country, a number of councils are citing similar constraints in finding staff with the relevant technical and/or project management skills and retaining them in their workforce.

The result of these constraints is that projects are now costing far more to complete than they would have as recently as a year ago. Even where it is possible to recruit appropriately qualified technical staff, the challenges posed by supply chain problems, and periodic Covid-19 lockdowns are working in tandem to draw out the project delivery timelines far beyond what was planned and cost significantly more than anticipated.

# HOW WE WILL DECIDE ON PROJECTS

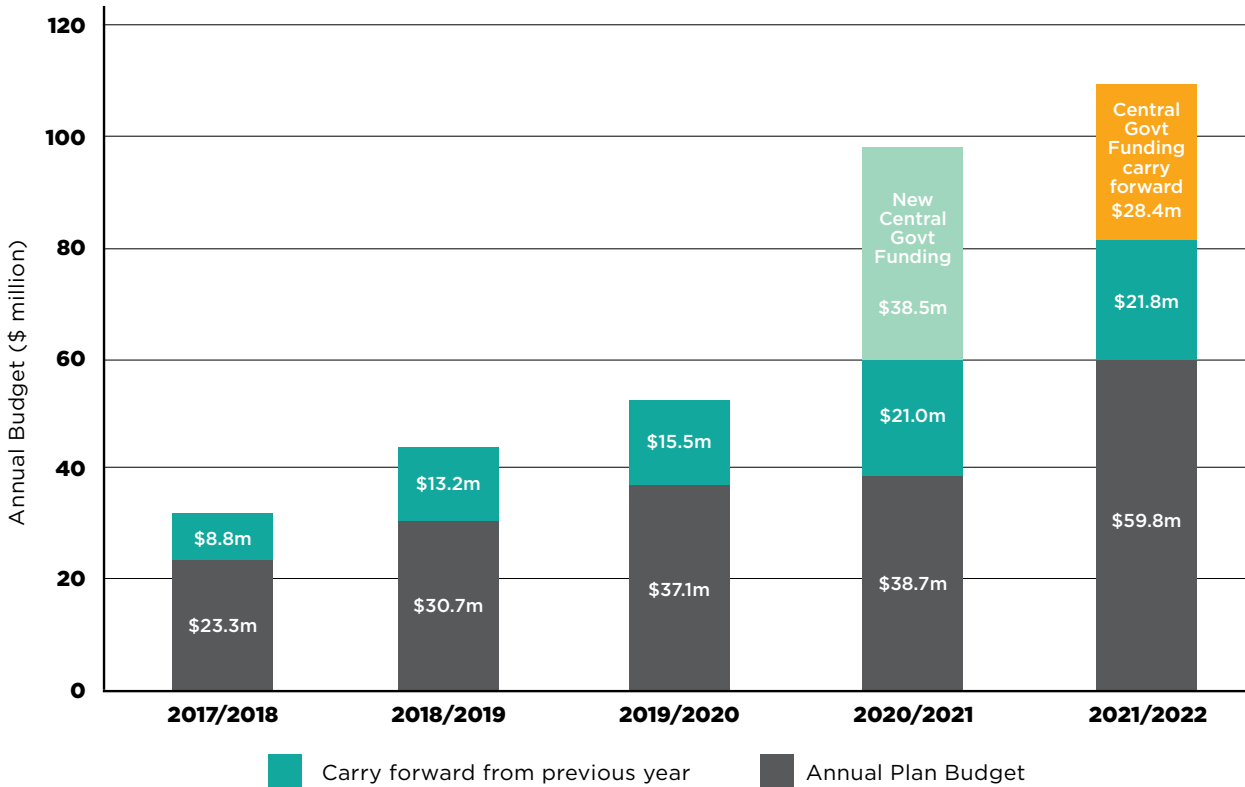
**As a result of the challenges discussed in the previous section, it is increasingly clear that our operating environment has changed and the project planning and implementing approach that was decided on as part of the Long-term Plan process will no longer serve us well.**

The identification and funding approval process that all projects go through before being confirmed as viable is rigorous and underpinned by considerations of value to the community and statutory regulations. We are therefore confident that the projects identified in our Long-term Plan remain vital to the ongoing wellbeing of our community. Council remains committed to delivering these projects, however there will need to be changes to the delivery timeline.

We know that our project delivery pipeline is ambitious, but it would be deliverable within a 'normal' operating environment. These are however not 'normal' times and there is every possibility that our operating environment will change even more in the coming year – although the nature and severity of those changes are hard to predict. Therefore, there is every possibility that Council may need to delay the delivery of some projects, bring others forward or adjust the scope and cost of some projects to get best value for money.

In the following sections of this consultation document, we will talk about what changes – either in cost, scope, or delivery timeline that we will be making to some of our

Council budget and carry forwards build up over the past five years





key projects. These are projects that have been identified as being of major interest to the community or central to Council fulfilling its legislatively mandated roles.

However, Council does a great many things in the community and not all of them meet the threshold of key projects. It is therefore not practical to list the details of every single Council activity and considerations around their delivery here.

When deciding whether to modify the scope or delivery of a planned project, Council's decision-making will be guided by:

1. the need to maintain a balance across the four pillars of well-being – cultural, environmental, economic, and social
2. prioritisation in line with the eight strategic priorities that we identified and developed as part of the Long-term Plan
3. resource considerations such as the availability of materials, contractors, and appropriately skilled staff

Alongside these considerations is the fact that Council has a number of carry forward projects that we are still delivering, and which also continue to require materials, staffing and financial resources.

Our carry forward projects are the largest they have ever been, and this is further compounded by the delivery of Central Government funded shovel-ready projects. Council's choice of what uncompleted projects from the 2021-22 financial year to carry forward to 2022-23 will be limited to:

- Projects for which Council has received funding and is committed (in writing) to completing; and/or
- Projects where there is a legal or contractual commitment in place which needs managing through to completion.

All other projects not commenced by the close of the 2021-22 financial year will only be considered for delivery in 2022-23 in accordance with the decision-making criteria set above. No work will commence on these projects until a decision has been made to continue the project. If a project no longer exists in the form originally intended or approved, it will be set aside and not carried forward.

---

**“Carry forwards refer to an allocation of funds that hasn’t been fully used by the end of the financial year but is expected to be used in the next financial year.”**

---

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY RATES?

**The 2022-23 average rates increase forecast in Council's 2021 - 2031 Long-term Plan was 7.35%, however that is likely to rise by around 1%. The increase is largely being driven by rising costs in the solid waste management part of our operations.**

The most significant cost impact in our solid waste operation has been the cost of carbon units which we purchase to offset our greenhouse gas emissions. We look to purchase those units at the lowest price possible and budget for future increases. Unfortunately, the market price of those units has been increasingly volatile and has risen dramatically, more than doubling in the last 12 months.

We have also seen rising general inflation across the economy applying significant upward pressure to many of our costs, particularly materials and labour costs. This mirrors the impacts we have seen across our capital investment programme. Despite this volatility, we are working hard to keep a limit on operating

expenditure in the 2022-23 year. Our primary approach to dealing with inflation is to seek operating efficiencies and improvements to offset its effects.

While there is some uncertainty around which capital projects the market conditions will enable us to deliver in 2022/23, we still expect the total capital invested to be broadly aligned to the Long-term Plan. This means that the cash required to apply to interest and depreciation will remain at a similar level.

It's important to remember that rates for individual properties are not restricted by the rates increases limit of LGCI +2.5% average rates increase limit signalled in our Financial Strategy. They will vary depending on a range of factors including property revaluations and whether the property is used for business, residential or farming purposes.

---

**“The most significant cost impact in our solid waste operation has been the cost of carbon units which we purchase to offset our greenhouse gas emissions.”**

---



# WATER

## CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY

### WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

Water is essential for life, health, recreation, and the environment. Across our district, water is also essential for economic development - there are many businesses who rely on us to provide a safe, reliable water supply. Without it, there may be significant disruptions to our tourist operations and economic development

We supply treated drinking water to 18 schemes throughout the district. This involves taking water from lakes, rivers and bores and treating it, storing it, and then distributing to our customers. The water supply activity involves maintaining water treatment plants, water storage reservoirs, pump stations, hydrants, and water pipes.

### VARIATION BETWEEN THIS ANNUAL PLAN AND THE LONG-TERM PLAN

The Central Government-led Three Waters Reforms are underway, with the expectation that Council's responsibility for these assets will cease in July 2024 and be transferred to a newly created entity. Pending the conclusion of this reform process, Council continues to have a responsibility

to ensure that we operate and invest in these assets in a prudent manner in order to protect people's health and the environment.

We are required to ensure that the water that we supply complies with the Drinking Water Standards New Zealand (DWSNZ) to make sure our water supply is safe. We have a number of projects underway to help ensure that all the drinking water we provide meets the performance requirements of all parts of the DSWNZ all of the time.

The costs for completing these projects are now known to be higher than we had anticipated in the Long-term Plan. This is due to several factors including the ongoing economic environment that we have talked about in previous sections, but also the nature of Taupō's pumice soils and the added reinforcement the infrastructure will require. The budgets were set based on preliminary soil investigations, however detailed geotechnical investigations at each site has since revealed considerably worse ground conditions.

Funding to complete these projects will be met through external borrowings and responsibility for the debts will be transferred to the new three waters entity upon its creation.

### ALIGNING ALL OUR LOCAL WATER SCHEMES

**As part of the Long-term Plan 2021/2031, council, in consultation with the community, decided to ensure a consistent approach for water rates across our communities. Currently, Five Mile Bay ratepayers pay an additional water rate of \$112.75 (incl. GST) each year. This was funding half of the cost of a new water main that was put in place in early 2021 to connect Five Mile Bay to safe council-treated drinking water.**

Following further consultation with the community, council is now pursuing a shared district-wide water funding approach. This new way shares the costs of providing our communities with reliable and safe water - with all across the district paying the same fixed water rate. This means greater flexibility to fund the necessary investment across various water systems at different times. It also makes it more affordable for smaller

communities and makes for much greater stability of water rates - offering more certainty for ratepayers.

Through this new approach, we don't believe that the targeted Five Mile Bay water rate should continue. We want to remove this as part of the 2022 Annual Plan. Instead, the costs of the 2021 new main water pipe to Five Mile Bay will be shared across the whole district - just like all other required new investment. To make this change, the annual impact on the district-wide water rate will be an added 50 cents for each ratepayer per year.

This reflects the shared funding approach to providing our communities with high-quality, safe drinking water, which the community endorsed (68.4% of submissions in favour) when consulted on in the Long-term Plan 2021/2031.

## KEY PROJECTS

These are the key projects that we have planned for the coming year are:

PROJECTS	YEAR(S)	TOTAL COST	COMMENTS
<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>			
Tauhara Ridge reservoir and airport connection	2022-24	\$4.02 million	No anticipated changes. Will proceed as planned
Bonshaw Park Drinking Water Standards upgrade	2021-23	\$2.37 million	No anticipated changes. On track as planned
Centennial water scheme Drinking Water Standards NZ upgrade	2022-25	\$7.2 million	Cost increase by \$3.7 million due to reasons touched on above
Hatepe water scheme Drinking Water Standards NZ upgrade	2022-24	\$5.5 million	Cost increase by \$2.7 million due to reasons touched on above
Kinloch Drinking Water Standards NZ upgrade	2021-23	\$9.9 million	Cost increase by \$4.6 million due to reasons touched on above
Motuoapa Drinking Water Standards NZ upgrade	2022-24	\$6.6 million	Cost increase by \$3.9 million due to reasons touched on above
Omori Drinking Water Standards NZ upgrade	2021-23	\$6.0 million	Cost increase by \$3.9 million due to reasons touched on above
Implementation of the Water Loss Strategy	2021-24	\$1.5 million	On track as planned
Whakamoenga Point Drinking Water Standards NZ upgrade	2021-24	\$1.5 million	On track as planned
<b>NEW PROJECTS</b>			
UV Plant Upgrades - Atiamuri, Whareroa, Waihaha and Tirohanga	2022-24	\$4.0 million	Work on these is already underway. It was planned to be fully funded by Central Government, but a funding shortfall means Council funding is now required to complete the upgrades.
UV Plant Upgrade - Motutere	2022-23	\$1 million	Ongoing upgrade. Increased cost by \$500k
Water Network Renewals	2022-23	\$5.7 million	Budget increased by \$1 million to ensure level of service can continue to be maintained.
<b>PROPOSED PROJECT</b>			
Motuoapa Extension of Water Network	2022-23	\$0.9 million	Project to extend water network for residents of Motuoapa. The details of which areas will be serviced will be finalised through consultation with ratepayers and residents of Motuoapa in the coming months
<b>CANCELLED OR DEFERRED PROJECTS</b>			
Construction of a new water reservoir in Kinloch	2021-24	\$4.8 million	Deferred: not able to be delivered within the timeline as the land acquisition is taking longer than expected and there are staffing challenges

# TRANSPORT

## CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY

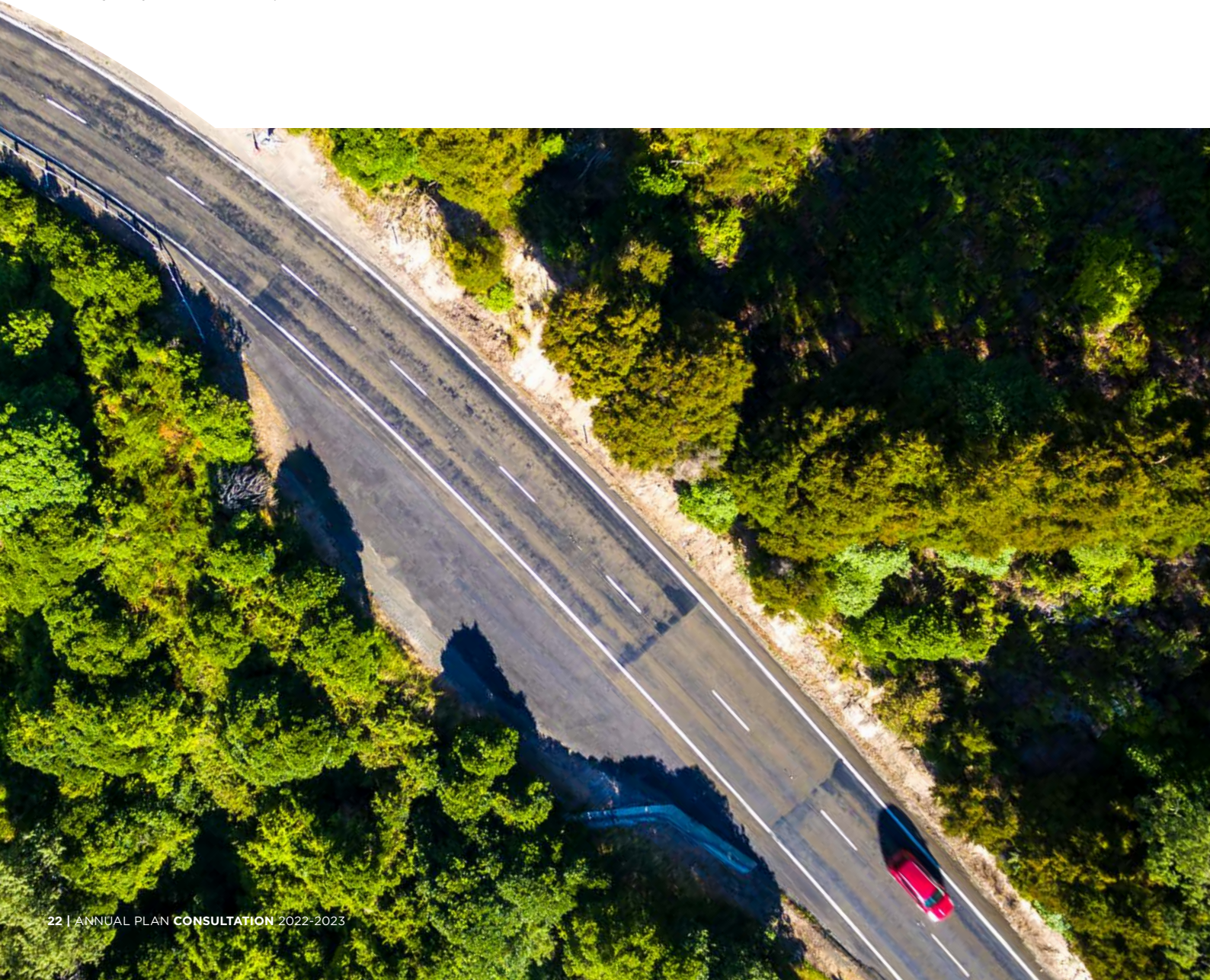
### WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

Our transport network provides for the efficient movement of people and goods which is essential for the economic and social wellbeing of the community. We provide a comprehensive local transport network which includes local roads, footpaths, streetlights, cycle paths, bridges, bus shelters, traffic signals, carparking and signage. We also work on improving road safety and ensuring people enjoy easy access to different modes of transport, such as walking and cycling.

Waka Kotahi bears responsibility for managing the state highways within the Taupō district.

### VARIATION BETWEEN THIS ANNUAL PLAN AND THE LONG-TERM PLAN

A lot of the work we do is done in partnership with Waikato Regional Council and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), especially those that focus on road safety, or economic development. In the coming year, there are a number of low-cost, low risk, road widening projects that Waka Kotahi hasn't funded as planned. These projects are in the Long-term Plan 2021-31 but the funding shortfall for year two of the Long-term Plan is approximately \$1.3 million; and in year three it is approximately \$1.4 million. These will need to be met by Council if they are to proceed as planned.



**KEY PROJECTS**

These are the key projects that we have planned for the coming year are:

PROJECTS	YEAR(S)	TOTAL COST	COMMENTS
<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>			
Whangamata Road improvements	2021-24	\$2.7 million	
Poihipi Road seal widening	2021-27	\$2.7 million	These are the shortfalls touched on above.
Tirohanga Road improvements	2022-26	\$1.3 million	
Broadlands Road widening	2021-23	\$0.8 million	
Minor improvements	2021-31	\$2.8 million	
Seal extension	2021-31	\$6.3 million	On track as planned
Pedestrian facilities	2021-31	\$2.3 million	
<b>NEW PROJECTS</b>			
	New projects	New projects	New projects
Town Centre Transformation	2022-23	\$2.0 million (total is \$4.4 million across transport and community facility projects)	These projects are already underway as part of government funded shovel ready projects. The additional cost is so that Council can take the opportunity to complete them to the desired standards
Turangi Kerb and Channelling	2022-24	\$4.4 million	
Tauhara Ridge Drive/Lake Terrace intersection	2022-23	\$1.0 million	Roundabout proposed to help with traffic management
Waikato River bridge crossing investigations	2022-23	\$300,000	Investigative work on the possibility of a new bridge downstream from the Control Gates Bridge. This work was originally scheduled for 2025-26, but higher than anticipated growth rates are already leading to heavier traffic flows, which will only intensify if left unaddressed
Wairenga Rd footpath	2022-23	\$150,000	Installation of a new footpath along Wairenga Road to provide safer access to the RSA in Mangakino.
Huka Falls footpath (stage 3)	2022-24	\$1.19 million	To continue Huka Falls Road concrete path from Huka Falls carpark to the Hub carpark. This project is fully funded by Waka Kotahi.

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY

### WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

We offer a range of leisure and recreation opportunities for the benefit of both residents and visitors across the district. These are in the form of parks, reserves, playgrounds, open spaces, multi-purpose sports, entertainment, and event venues, as well as pools, gyms and sports grounds throughout the district. These facilities help to provide for the physical and mental well-being of everyone who spends time in our district.

### VARIATION BETWEEN THIS ANNUAL PLAN AND THE LONG-TERM PLAN

Some extra funding is needed from Council to complete work on the central government funded Taupō Town Centre Transformation project and modifications are planned for the delivery of the asbestos removal from Council's elderly housing for the elderly stock project.

### KEY PROJECTS

These are the key projects that we have planned for the coming year are:

PROJECTS	YEAR(S)	TOTAL COST	COMMENTS
<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>			
New neighbourhood reserves	2021-31	\$13 million	
Turangi Recreation and Events Centre	2021-25	\$15.9 million	On track as planned
New library books	2021-31	\$3.4 million	
Playground improvements	2021-31	\$2 million	
<b>NEW PROJECTS</b>			
Town Centre Transformation	2022-23	\$2.4 million (total is \$4.4 million across transport and community facility projects)	This project is already being funded \$20.6 million by central government as a shovel-ready project. The additional cost is to enable us to take the opportunity to complete this landmark town centre project to the desired standard.
<b>DEFERRED PROJECTS</b>			
Deferred Projects			
Housing for the Elderly asbestos removal and insulation improvements	2021-22	\$1.4 million	Project scope has changed, and more work is needed to improve Council's housing stock beyond what was planned through this project. Some asbestos remediation work will be undertaken instead





# WASTEWATER

## CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY

### WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

We collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial properties located in our urban areas. We do this through the 12 wastewater schemes we operate across our district and maintain the pipe network and pump stations associated with each network.

The safe treatment and disposal of wastewater is essential to protect the health of our environment and communities. We are required to obtain resource consents from Waikato Regional Council to ensure that we are treating and disposing of the wastewater in a way that protects our environment.

### VARIATION BETWEEN THIS ANNUAL PLAN AND THE LONG-TERM PLAN

There are no material variations forecasted between our key wastewater activities for the coming year and those forecasted in the Long-term Plan.

Just like with the water projects, funding to complete these wastewater projects will be met through external borrowings and responsibility for the debts will be transferred to the new three waters entity upon its creation.

### KEY PROJECTS

These are the key projects that we have planned for the coming year are:

PROJECTS	YEAR(S)	TOTAL COST	COMMENTS
<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>			
Taupō wastewater southern trunk main upgrade	2021-24	\$10.2 million	On track as planned

# SOLID WASTE

## CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY

### WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

We provide a solid waste management system for refuse and recyclables. Our waste services include operating a landfill and resource recovery centre at Broadlands Road, five transfer stations and street litter and recycling bins. We manage solid waste to reduce the likelihood of harm to people and the environment, and to retain the districts attractive appearance for residents and visitors. Our solid waste services also contribute to the community's environment and economic outcomes.

We are required to obtain resource consents from Waikato Regional Council to ensure that we are treating and disposing of the waste in a way that protects our environment.

### VARIATION BETWEEN THIS ANNUAL PLAN AND THE LONG-TERM PLAN

The Broadlands Road Landfill is operated with individual "cells" with its own liner and reticulation system for leachate. When a cell is full, it is capped with soil so that decomposition does not cause adverse environmental effects (odour, methane, uncontrolled toxic leachate etc.). The existing cells have been assessed as having sufficient space and the project to build new cells has been deferred for delivery.

Similarly, the landfill gas flare and liner cover project has also been deferred, pending the renewal of the existing resource consent by Waikato Regional Council. The consent expires in 2027 and work on renewing it has started. If the consent is unable to be renewed, then work on the gas flare will not be able to proceed. A \$100,000 grant has been received from the Government for this work, which will now go towards funding a weigh bridge at the Turangi transfer station.

### KEY PROJECTS

These are the key projects that we have planned for the coming year are:

PROJECTS	YEAR(S)	TOTAL COST	COMMENTS
<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>			
Build new cells at the Broadlands Road Landfill	2021-23 and 2026-28	\$2.2 million	Deferred as not yet required
Broadlands Road Landfill gas flare and liner cover	2021-31	\$4 million	Deferred pending consent renewal

# INVESTMENTS

## CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME DELIVERY

### WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT

Council holds a number of investments where there is a community, social, physical or economic benefit from holding the investment.

The type of investments that we have include property and cash which we invest to generate a return. Many of the investments generate income which can be used on projects and initiatives which benefit our residents without impacting on rates. This group of activities contributes to the economic community outcome.

### VARIATION BETWEEN THIS ANNUAL PLAN AND THE LONG-TERM PLAN

The major variation between the Annual Plan and Long-term Plan is the bringing forward of the civic administration building fit-out. Although it is in the Long-term Plan, it was not scheduled to start till 2024-25. The project has been brought forward by two years and the budget has also increased. Bringing forward the fitout process will allow us benefit from efficiencies accruable by having the workers doing the construction also installing the required fitout materials.

### KEY PROJECTS

These are the key projects that we have planned for the coming year are:

PROJECTS	YEAR(S)	TOTAL COST	COMMENTS
<b>ONGOING PROJECTS</b>			
Waioara House rebuild	2021-23	\$5.9 million	On track as planned.
<b>NEW PROJECTS</b>			
Civic Administration building - fit out	2022-25	\$4.9 million	Now scheduled to begin earlier than planned to align with the completion of the build. Te Whare Hono o Tūwharetoa Limited Partnership will construct the building and Council will lease part of it. Fit out costs have increased by \$1.1 million due to the rise in construction costs.



# CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S FEES AND CHARGES

**We provide a wide range of services and functions to the community that carry costs. Some of these costs are paid for out of general or targeted rates and others are recovered from government. However, where a service or activity benefits an individual customer (e.g., a dog registration benefits an individual dog owner, or a resource consent benefits the individual applicant), Council applies a fee to cover the cost of delivering that service.**

Setting fees and charges on a user-pays basis helps to ensure that costs are distributed fairly and that rates increases are kept to a minimum where possible. Council reviews these fees and charges every year as part of our annual budgeting process.

The majority of our fees and charges were set for three years as part of the Long-term Plan process and these remain largely unchanged. However, in a small number of cases we are proposing some changes to those set fees.

Additionally, the unknown effects of Covid-19 on events meant that most of our venue hireage fees were not set for three years either. Those figures have also now been updated.

We recommend you view the full schedule of fees in Appendix One which is online at [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay). However a summary of some of the main proposed changes are set out below:

## BUILDING SERVICES

- Charges for Demolition/Removal Application (includes one inspection) have been increased from \$200 to \$350 to better reflect the actual time spent processing each application
- Building consent authority (BCA) fees have now included a number of services which were previously excluded. This provides greater transparency around the full charges associated with those services.
- A new category has been introduced for processing code of compliance certificate applications for commercial buildings.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES

- The rate for other staff involved with development engineering applications has been reduced to better reflect the skillsets and experience levels that are covered by the charge.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- All registration renewals for hairdressers, campgrounds, undertakers, and offensive trades require a site inspection, therefore the option for a registration renewal without an inclusive site inspection fee has been deleted.
- Introduction of a "Significant Amendment to Food Control Plan Registration" fee in response to increasing demand for this service.

## SOLID WASTE

- Council's landfill charges are influenced by the Government's waste disposal levy and the requirement to purchase carbon units under the Emissions Trading Scheme. As we've noted earlier in this document, the amount charged under these initiatives have risen sharply and will likely continue to do so for some time. These changes have in turn impacted on our landfill user charges.
  - The per tonne refuse disposal charge will increase from \$140 to \$170 in 2022/23
  - Small load charges will increase from \$14 to \$17 in 2022/23
  - Medium load charges will increase from \$35 to \$42 in 2022/23
  - Large load charges will increase from \$56 to \$68 in 2022/23
  - Special waste requiring immediate charges will increase from \$145 per tonne to \$178 in 2022/23

### PARKS AND RESERVES

- The hourly rate for community groups to hire a corporate lounge at Owen Delany Park has been increased from \$18 to \$36 per hour
- The daily hire charge for the Kaimanawa cricket pavilion has been set at \$180 which is the same as the fee for 2021/22 (this year)

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- A number of minor typographical errors have been corrected
- The adult age has been set at 16+ years and standardised across all venues. Discounted entry for people 16 years and above is available either under a senior or student entry
- Fees for a joint fitness studio and pool membership at the AC Baths / Taupō Events Centre have been reduced by five percent below the original amounts projected for 2022/23
- Venue hire fees for Taupō Events Centre and the Great Lake Centre are now set for 2022/23 and 2023/24
- Charges for a six-week booking of the exhibition space and the gallery space at the Taupō Museum have both been increased by 2%



# REFRESHING COUNCIL'S SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

**Council is committed to making informed and sustainable decisions in the best interests of our communities. We want to ensure the decisions we make made reflect the aspirations of tangata whenua, residents, ratepayers, community groups and business. To help us to make the best decisions, we engage with our communities daily using a number of tools. Sometimes, this is simply to provide information, and other times we seek input into our decision-making processes.**

In line with legislative requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA), Council has a Significance and Engagement Policy that helps us identify how and when our communities can expect to be engaged or consulted on decisions about issues, proposals, assets and activities. The current policy was adopted in 2014 and is now being reviewed.

The Significance and Engagement Policy enables us (as Council) and our communities to understand the significance that we place on certain issues, proposals, assets, decisions, and activities. It also explains how and when the community can expect to be engaged in, or specifically consulted on, decisions about issues, proposals, assets, decisions and activities.

## WHAT CHANGES ARE WE PROPOSING TO THE POLICY?

Across the entire policy, we are making changes to refine and simplify the existing text. This will strengthen the policy as a whole, as well as make it user-friendly and easier to understand.

The full text of the draft policy can be found in Appendix Two, which is online at [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay), but below is a summary of the main proposed changes.

## INTRODUCTION OF A BACKGROUND SECTION

We have included a background section to the policy to set out Council's commitment to inclusive localism and introduced the tool we will be using to guide our engagement towards achieving it.

Our engagement will be in line with the provisions of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum. IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation has been designed to assist with identifying the appropriate level of participation to complement the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used widely both internationally and within New Zealand, and it is found in the public participation plans of many other councils.

This proposal represents a departure from our current binary approach in which any decision to engage is guided by the flow chart process in schedule two of the current policy. Rather the new approach better reflects the fact that engagement is along a spectrum and sometimes engagement might simply be about providing an update to the community or stakeholders and other times it may be a more involved and detailed process.

## UPDATES TO THE SIGNIFICANCE SECTION OF THE POLICY

The main update in the significance section of the draft policy is about the assessment of significance. We are proposing to introduce criteria to help clarify the determination of significance. This assessment is along a continuum flowing from none through to high, with illustrative examples.

We also want to clarify that where a number of proposals or decisions are to be taken together, as part of a project for instance, significance should be assessed on the cumulative impact of the whole package.

## UPDATES TO ENGAGEMENT SECTION OF THE POLICY

Council has long committed itself to engaging with Māori, and this approach is evident in the work we do and how we do it. Under the engagement section of the draft policy, we are proposing to introduce a new subsection that details out this commitment and how we give effect to it. The proposed change simply puts into writing the ethos that already underpins the work Council does with tangata whenua.



We are also proposing to introduce some guidance around Council's methods of engagement in the policy. These have been set out in table form to help show how the nature of a matter under consideration will determine how we make decisions on it and also guide how we will go about communicating and/or engaging with the community.

Table 2 in the draft policy illustrates the various of engagement in the IAP2 Spectrum that may accompany a matter; while Table 3 shows the correlation between project planning and engagement and examples of what forms of engagement may occur at the different stages of a project cycle.

#### **UPDATES TO THE SCHEDULE OF STRATEGIC ASSETS**

Strategic assets, as defined under the Local Government Act 2002, are assets or groups of assets that the council needs to continue to own in order to achieve outcomes that are important to the current or future well-being of the community.

We are proposing to modify the list of strategic assets in accordance with the following key principles:

- assets which are not used for the delivery of services are not considered strategic,
- identifying assets as groups or networks to better reflect the way in which they deliver services and enable us to respond to changing needs.

In line with these principles, our list of identified strategic assets better reflects their importance to Council's ability to deliver services and are protected accordingly.



# TOWNCENTRE TAUPŌ MANAGEMENT RATE INCREASE

**Towncentre Taupō (TCT) is a member-based organisation established to promote the development of Taupō's Central Business District as a safe and vibrant space, while retaining our town's unique identity. All businesses operating within Taupō's town centre are therefore members of TCT by default. Council supports TCT in its work through a dedicated target rate which is paid by TCT members as part of their annual rates.**

The Towncentre Taupō management rate is set under section 16 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002; and is used to fund services to enhance and develop the social and economic wellbeing of the Taupō central business district. The TCT management rate is assessed on each separately used or inhabited part of industrial or commercial rating units within

the defined central business district part of Taupō town (refer to the map on page 37).

As part of the Long-term Planning process, the TCT management rate for 2022/23 was set at \$174,590 and rising to \$179,010 in 2023/24 - representing a 2.5% annual increase for each year. However, for many of the same reasons we have talked about through this consultation document, Towncentre Taupō's operating costs have increased while the sponsorship they would normally secure for some of their events has also dwindled.

Due to these constraints, TCT is requesting for an additional \$8,500 increase to their 2022/23 budget - representing a 4.9 percent increase to the rates.

## INCREASE TCT BUDGET (GST EXCLUSIVE)

RATING YEAR	TCT BUDGET	LONG-TERM PLAN FORECASTED BUDGET	INCREASE	% INCREASE ABOVE LTP FORECAST
2022/23	183,113.46	174,590.00	\$8,523.46	4.88%

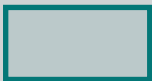
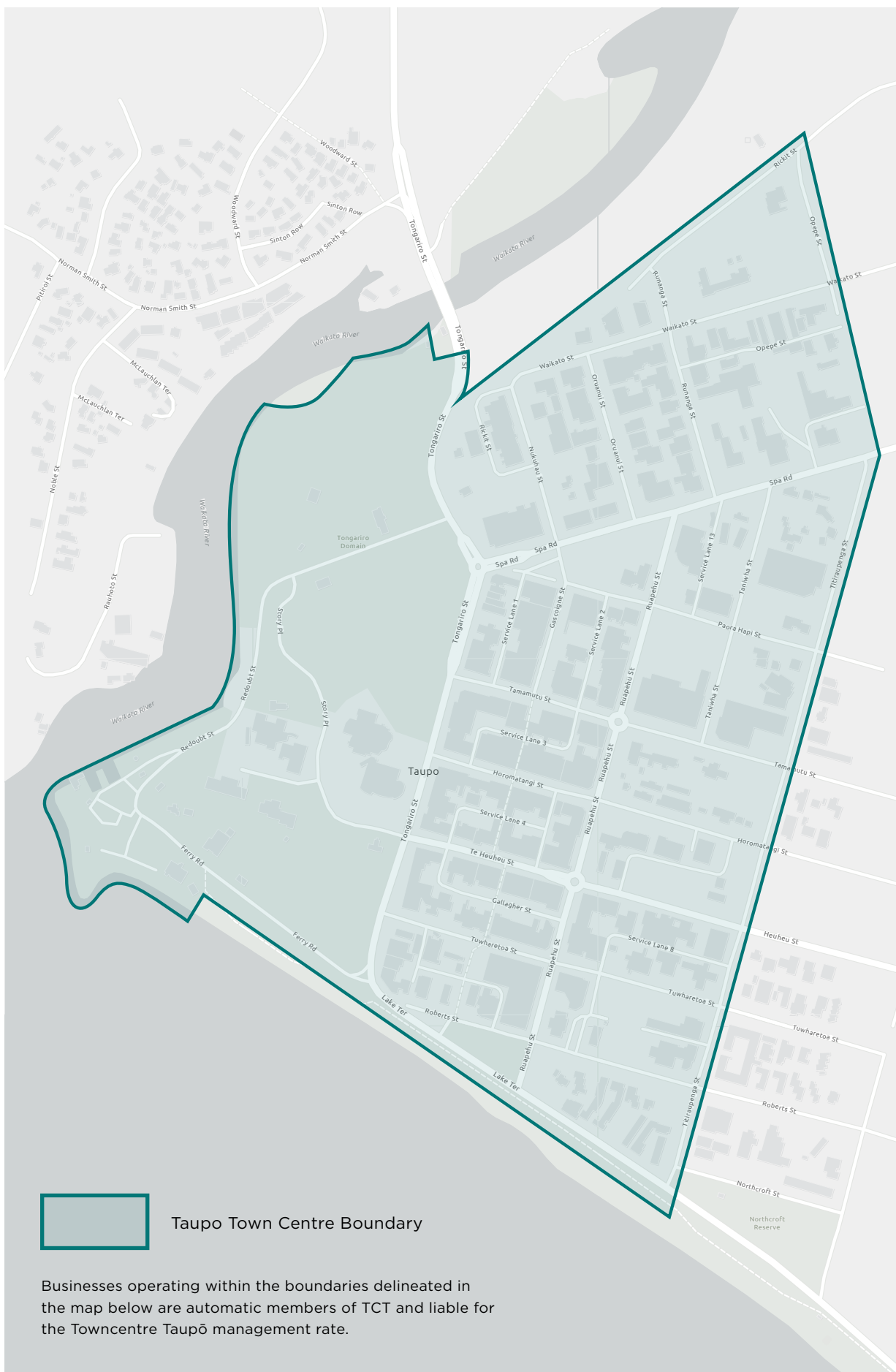
## ESTIMATE IMPACT ON TARGETED RATE ASSESSED ON EACH SEPARATELY USED OR INHABITED PART

INCREASE	FACTOR * (SUIP)	GST EXCL	GST INCL
\$ 8,523.46	533	15.99	\$18.39

\* Note - The divisor factor may change as it depends on the number of separately used or inhabited parts (SUIPs) within the rating area as of 1 July 2022. In commercial situations, a SUIP will apply for each individual tenant or lessees, using a trading premise.

## ESTIMATE OF INCREASE TO THE TARGETED RATE FOR 2022/23 (GST INCLUSIVE)

RATE	2021/22	ESTIMATED INCREASE PER SUIP	ESTIMATED RATE FOR 2022/23 BASED ON 533 SUIP'S
TCT Rate (GST inc.)	366.79	18.39	\$385.18



Taupo Town Centre Boundary

Businesses operating within the boundaries delineated in the map below are automatic members of TCT and liable for the Towncentre Taupō management rate.





FOLD HERE

Freepost Authority 112497 Taupō NZ



Taupō District Council  
Private Bag 2005  
Taupō 3352  
New Zealand



FOLD HERE

TAPE HERE

Have your say.







# SHAPING OUR FUTURE.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23

[TAUPO.GOVT.NZ/HAVEYOURSAY](https://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay)