



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ  
Taupō District Council

# ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION ABOUT?

The law requires councils in partnership with their communities to prepare a Long-term Plan every three years. The Long-term Plan sets out everything we intend to deliver for the Taupō community over the next ten years and how we will pay for them. The Long-term Plan is reviewed and consulted on every three years; and an annual plan is prepared for each of the years in between.

With input from our communities during the consultation period, we will develop the final Annual Plan 2022-23 which will outline the services, key projects, and initiatives we intend delivering for our community in the coming financial year.

In this year's Annual Plan 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.

### WHAT ARE THE KEY AREAS OF CONSULTATION?

The Annual Plan Consultation Document which you can review at [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay), details our plans for the coming financial year. We are proposing the following:

#### 1. CHANGES TO OUR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME

##### A. Taupō Town Centre Transformation Project

The \$20.6 million for this project is 100% government funded. We are proposing a top-up of \$4 million of Council funding to ensure we achieve the full aims of this project. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform our CBD into a world-class area we will all be proud of.

##### B. Significant upgrades to water infrastructure

We have several projects underway to supply water for our communities that meets Drinking Water Standards New Zealand. The costs to complete these projects will be higher than anticipated. Irrespective of what happens to our water infrastructure in the future, we are committed to providing safe drinking water.

##### C. Transport upgrades

We work with Waikato Regional Council and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency on road safety and road improvements. There are several important council roads that need low-cost widening work that Waka Kotahi hasn't funded as planned. These costs will now need to be met by Council.

##### D. Civic Administration Building fit-out

This is a landmark partnership between Council and Te Whare Hono o Tūwharetoa Limited Partnership. Te Whare Hono will construct the building and Council will lease part of it. The fit-out is now scheduled to begin earlier than planned. Fit-out costs have increased by \$2.5 million due to the rise in construction costs.

#### 2. ALIGNING ALL OUR LOCAL WATER SCHEMES

We're aligning all our water schemes to be funded district-wide which means we need to remove the current targeted water rate being paid by Five Mile Bay residents. The impact will be 50 cents per year, per ratepayer.

#### 3. UPDATES TO SOME OF COUNCIL'S FEES AND CHARGES

Increasing government costs and regulations mean our solid waste fees have had to increase. The per tonne refuse disposal charge will rise from \$140 to \$170. In addition, some venue hire charges have been updated and some other minor changes are proposed.

#### 4. SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

This policy helps guide when we consult with our community on decisions and issues. We're hoping the proposed changes will simplify this policy and our decisions around community engagement.

#### 5. TOWNCENTRE TAUPŌ MANAGEMENT RATE

Towncentre Taupo (TCT) is funded through a targeted rate paid by CBD businesses. TCT is requesting an additional \$8,523 over its forecast budget, an increase of just under \$19 (GST inc.) for each eligible business.

HAVE YOUR  
SAY!

# SHAPING OUR FUTURE.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23

## WHY ARE YOU CONSULTING THE COMMUNITY?

Major decisions like these need to be a collaboration between Council and community to make sure we all get the best outcomes. The Annual Plan 2022-23 affects you and your whānau, so it's important you have your say. It's just as helpful 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.

**All submissions will be considered by Council. 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.**

## DO PEOPLE HAVE TO OWN A HOUSE AND PAY RATES IN THE DISTRICT TO HAVE THEIR SAY?

No, anyone who is interested in the future of our district can submit their feedback. We want to hear from as many people as possible.

## HAS COVID-19 CHANGED ANYTHING?

Yes, the ongoing effects of Covid-19, including constraints on the availability of resources, materials and supplies alongside significant inflation, are impacting the affordability of certain projects.

With the fast-changing situation, and to balance affordability, we've had to rethink some of our plans and reprioritise some of our projects and activities to balance what we can afford with ensuring the Taupō District remains a great place to live.

## ARE RATES INCREASING?

The reprioritisation of projects means we have kept the projected capital spend in line with our Long-term Plan and we remain committed to keeping within our projected operating expenditure.

However, the average rates increase for the 2022-23 financial year was forecast to be 7.35%. This is now projected to increase by about 1%, primarily due to a jump in the cost of carbon units which have more than doubled in the past 12 months.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

You can read the information on our website or in our Annual Plan 2022-23 Consultation Document at [taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://taupo.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

You can talk to your Councillors and Mayor. **You can email your councillors at [councillors@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillors@taupo.govt.nz)** or email an individual councillor using the format [councillorsurname@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:councillorsurname@taupo.govt.nz). More information can be found at [taupo.govt.nz/yourcouncillors](https://taupo.govt.nz/yourcouncillors).

You can also head along to one of our **drop-in sessions**. Dates and venues for these sessions will be made available on [taupo.govt.nz](https://taupo.govt.nz) once they are confirmed.

## HOW CAN I MAKE A SUBMISSION?

You can have your say in the following ways:

- Make a submission using our online form at [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 [taupo.govt.nz](https://taupo.govt.nz) once they are confirmed.
- Complete and return the **paper submission form** attached to the Annual Plan Consultation Document

**The consultation period for our draft Annual Plan 2022-23 closes at 4.30pm on 14 April 2022.**

**If you indicate you wish to present your submission in person, you will be contacted directly to arrange a time at the public hearing in May.**