

# Annual Plan 2025-26

## Te Mahere ā-tau 2025-26

# FAQs

## Ngā Putuputu Pātai

### What is the Annual Plan?

#### He aha te Mahere ā-tau?

The Annual Plan outlines the Council's budget, work programme, and priorities for the year ahead. It's based on Year Two of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and allows for adjustments to respond to current needs and circumstances.

### Why isn't there a formal consultation this year?

#### He aha te uiuinga e kore ai e tū?

Because the changes we're making don't significantly differ from what was set out in the Long Term Plan, formal consultation isn't required under the Local Government Act. Instead, we're focusing on sharing key information with the community.

### How can I have my say if I have questions or concerns?

#### Mā hea au e tono atu aku pātai, aku āwangawanga rānei?

Even though we're not running a formal consultation, we're always keen to hear from you. You can contact us online, give us a call, or visit one of our service centres to share your thoughts or ask questions.

### What are the biggest changes in this year's Annual Plan?

#### He aha ngā panonitanga matua i tēnei Mahere ā-tau?

We've made some adjustments to reflect inflation, supply costs, and changing priorities. You can see a breakdown of key changes on our website or in our summary document at [whakatane.govt.nz/annual-plan](https://whakatane.govt.nz/annual-plan)



### How are you keeping rates affordable?

#### Me pēhea te noho ngā tāke kaunihera kia ea?

We've reviewed our work programme and made some tough calls to delay or reduce non-essential spending, including pausing hiring some new roles. Some transport projects are also on hold due to our NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi funding being withdrawn.

### What's the proposed rate increase for 2025/26?

#### He aha te pikinga tāke kaunihera kua tūtohungia mō ngā tau 2025/26?

The proposed average rates increase is 11.7%, lower than the original 12.7% forecast in the Long Term Plan.

### What support is available if I'm struggling to pay my rates?

#### He aha ngā taunakitanga mēnā e raru ana au ki te whakaea i aku tāke kaunihera?

There are support options available, including payment plans, rebates for low-income households, and support for superannuitants. Visit our website or contact us directly to learn more at [whakatane.govt.nz/rates-rebate](https://whakatane.govt.nz/rates-rebate)

### Where can I find more information?

#### Kei hea ngā pārongo whānui?

You can view the Annual Plan summary, FAQs, and other updates on our website, in community newsletters, or by visiting our service centres.