

Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau 2026/27  
Additional Information for Consultation

# Do you support what is being proposed?

If not, then please tell us what...



Open for  
submissions  
17 April to  
18 May 2026

**Our aim is to deliver the best  
value services to our community**

Kō Pūtauaki te Maunga  
Kō Te Aotahi te Tangata  
Kō Te Takanga i o Apa te wai  
Kō Tūwharetoa te Iwi  
Kō Te Arawa te Waka  
Tihei Mauri Ora

Pūtauaki is the mountain  
Te Aotahi is the guardian  
Te Takanga i o Apa is the water  
Tūwharetoa is the tribe  
Te Arawa is the canoe  
There is Life



## **Our Vision**

**To create a  
resilient and  
sustainable  
Kawerau District  
that can meet  
the needs of the  
future.**

# Contents

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive	4
What we are proposing 2026-27	5
Consultation topics	5
What we did in 2025-2026	6
Challenges and future opportunities	7
Our key activities	8
Consultation topic 1: Proposed rates increase of 5.8%	10
Consultation topic 2: Keep the Uniform Annual General Charge at \$900 or reduce to \$850 per property	11
Financial overview	12
Other Council Updates	14
Engaging with Council	17
Elected Members of Council	18
Submission form	19

## Key dates

### Feedback and Submissions

**17 April to 18 May 2026**

#### Community Engagement Meetings

22 April, 11am - 12noon	Public Meeting, Rautahi Marae
28 April, 11am - 12noon	Public drop-in session, Rangi Delamere Centre
30 April, 10am - 12noon	Public drop-in session, Kawerau Community Markets
6 May, 5:15pm - 6:15pm	Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
8 May, 2pm - 3pm	Public Meeting Grey Power, Concert Chamber

#### Consultation Timeline

<b>17 April 2026</b> Consultation period opens
<b>18 May 2026</b> Closing date for submissions
<b>3 June 2026</b> Hearing for submitters to talk with Mayor and Elected Members
<b>24 June 2025</b> Council adopts Annual Plan 2026/27 Setting of Rates 2026/27 Fees and Charges

# Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive

**Tēnā tātau katoa | a warm welcome to you all, our community on behalf of Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau to the proposed Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau 2026-2027.**

This is year two of the Mahere Iwa Tau | Long Term Plan 2025-2034, which sets our clear direction for a prosperous and resilient district.

Our focus remains on delivering the best value services to our community. In balancing affordability with essential investment, we are proposing a rates increase of 5.8%.

We continue investing into Three Waters infrastructure. In the coming two years, we are scheduled to complete the final stages of our district-wide drinking water pipe replacement programme.

Following robust community support, we kept the in-house delivery of water services as part of the Local Water Done Well reforms. This also requires the gradual nine-year transition to targeted water and wastewater rates, so that those who use these services pay their fair share over time.

Financially, we remain committed to prudent management and sustainability. This year marks the first planned 3% increase in our funding of depreciation for strategic assets, moving us to 100% funding by 2037-38 to protect future generations.

Enabling economic and community growth remains a priority including delivering the residential development at Stoneham Park.

Thank you for your continued engagement as we work together to create a resilient and sustainable Kawerau.



Kahika  
Her Worship the Mayor  
Faylene Tunui



Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive  
Morgan Godfery





# What we are proposing 2026-27

- ▶ **Council proposes an overall rates increase of 5.8%.** This falls just outside the rates affordability framework of estimated inflation of 3.1%, plus two percent, but well below last year's increase of 8.5%. See page 10 for details.
- ▶ **Water renewals project:**  
By 30 June 2026, Council will have borrowed \$8 million to fund the water pipes renewals via the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA). Of this total, \$400,000 was invested with LGFA debenture stock. The proposal is to bring forward the next loan of \$2.7m in the coming year 2026-27 year (and keep to the total \$12m planned loan by the end of the water renewal project).
- ▶ **Continue the gradual nine-year transition to targeted water and wastewater rates** (as required by legislation).
- ▶ **Consider the level of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)** that every rateable property pays (minimum charge per property). Keep the UAGC at \$900 or reduce to \$850. See page 11 for details.

*\*The weekly increase will vary for each property depending on the value of residential, commercial and industrial properties.*

## Consultation topics

Open for  
submissions  
17 April to  
18 May 2026



5.8%  
Rates increase



Keep the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) for all properties at \$900 or reduce to \$850?

**Our aim is to deliver the best value services to our community.**

Have your say at [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz)

# What we did in 2025-2026

A lot has happened, the following are updates of what we said we would do in 2025-2026. There's too much to include everything here. You can find more details in our Annual Reports on our website.

- ✔ Waste Management and Minimisation Plan approved by Ministry for Environment until 2031
- ✔ Transfer Station upgrades for the collection of sorted recycling diverted 1,725 tonnes from landfill in the six months from 1 July to 31 December 2025
- ✔ A glass recycling contract with Visy saved money and recycled more than 43 tonnes in the six months from 1 July to 31 December 2025
- ✔ Completed Local Government Elections 2025
- ✔ Poll during Local Government Elections approved keeping Kawerau Māori Wards for the 2028 and 2031 elections
- ✔ Shade sails installed at the skate park
- ✔ Focus on roading and footpaths
- ✔ Successful building compliance audit with IANZ
- ✔ Reopening of the Tarawera River walkway
- ✔ Completed planning and consenting to progress residential development at Stoneham Park



# Challenges and future opportunities

- Delivering the best value for money with core services water, wastewater, stormwater, regulatory and planning, roading and footpaths.
- 'Ring fencing' our in-house business unit to continue delivering water services to the district while introducing targeted rates for water services. This entails separating water-related financing and reporting from other council activities.
- With a longer-term focus, Kawerau is working with Rotorua, Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki councils and technical expertise to investigate the risks, benefits and opportunities of delivering water services together from 2029. In late 2026, each council will consult with their own communities as to the outcomes of the report, and preferred future options.
- Simplifying Local Government legislation proposes setting up Combined Territory Boards governed by Bay of Plenty council mayors instead of the incumbent elected members of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.
- There are uncertainties of the impacts of the proposed Simplifying Local Government legislation including the proposed rates capping between 2% and 4% by 2029. The only certainty is that there will be change.
- Managing costs in an increasing climate of increases, especially with the current war and impacts on fuel costs.
- Focusing on increasing economic and community development including a Kawerau-centric economic development strategy.
- Funding investigations into the development of a new Community Library and Research Centre are proposed in the coming years.
- Delay installation of a manganese removal plant at Te Wai o Marukaa which requires an investment of approximately \$1.072 million. Testing during the past year of Te Wai o Marukaa shows manganese levels have significantly decreased.
- Reviewing and streamlining services as we prepare directions and decisions for the future in the Long Term Plan 2027-2037.

# Our key activities

## Democracy

- Representation
- Policy
- Democracy
- Community engagement

## Economic and Community Development

- Economic Development
- Residential Development
- Events Management
- Information Centre
- Community Development
- Youth Development

## Environmental Services

- Resource Management
- Building Control
- Environmental Health
- Dog Registration and Control
- Civil Defence

## Roading

- Roads and Footpaths
- Street lighting

## Three Waters

- Drinking water supply from source to delivery
- Stormwater drainage and flood protection and control works
- Wastewater: sewerage and sewage treatment and disposal

## Solid Waste

- Refuse Collection and disposal
- Recycling collection
- Greenwaste collection and processing

## Leisure and Recreation

- Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre
- District Library and Museum
- Firmin Lodge
- Public halls and facilities
- Skate park and playgrounds
- Parks and reserves
- Sports fields and facilities
- Cemetery

For more information about our activities see our website [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz)



# A day in Kawerau

How Council services support your every day life.



**Parks and Reserves**

**7am**

Rise and shine, start your day going for a walk down the Tarawera River walkway to Boyce Park and back

**Roads, streetlights and footpaths**

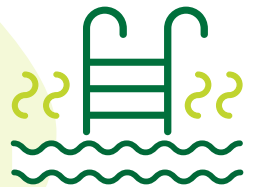


**9am**

Drop the kids at school and drive into town

**9:30am**

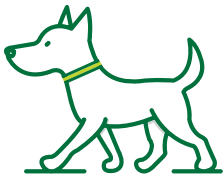
Have a relaxing soak at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre



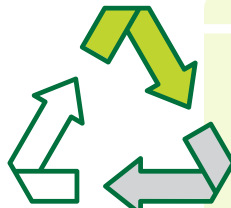
**Swimming pools**

**1pm**

Pick your dog up from the pound



**Environmental and Regulatory Services**



**Solid Waste**

**12noon**

Recycle your washing machine at the Kawerau Transfer Station



**Library and Museum**

**10:30am**

Take your preschooler to pick out some new books and hook into the internet at the Kawerau District Library



**Public halls and toilets**

**3pm**

Take the kids to play netball at the Rangi Delamere Centre



**Water Supply**

**4pm**

Have glass of water straight from the tap



**Representation, Democracy, Policy**

**5:15pm**

Attend a public meeting at the Concert Chamber and find out what Council is consulting on... maybe even make a submission



**Storm Water**

**9pm**

Go to sleep listening to the sound of rain, knowing the drains will do their thing



**Wastewater**

**8pm**

Have one more toilet break before you go to bed for the night

**Economic and Community Development**



**6:30pm**

Apply for one of Council's community grants



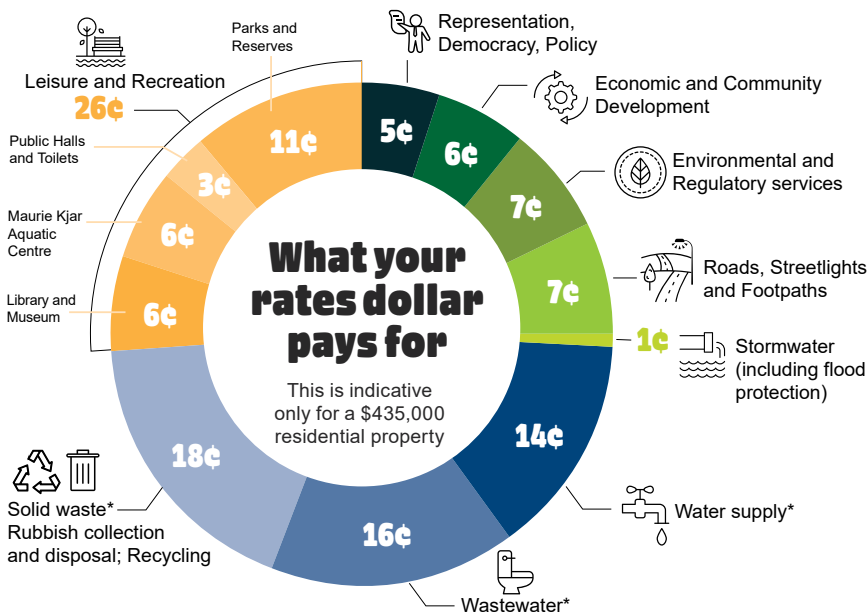
# Consultation topic 1

## Proposed rates increase of 5.8%

Proposed rates increase of 5.8%. This is the overall rates increase proposed, based on keeping the same level of services for the community. The actual rates increase per property will depend on the value of the property.

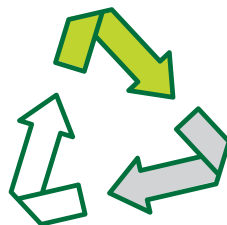
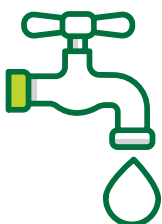
The drivers of the 5.8% rates increase:

- Personnel and government-mandated KiwiSaver % increases to 3.5% (1.9% impact on rates).
- Depreciation expense increases due to value of Council assets rising by \$29.9 million, and the increase in depreciation funding to 68% (2.1% impact on rates)
- Setting up in-house business unit to continue delivering water services and compliance (0.3% impact on rates).
- Roading costs increases (0.2% impact on rates).
- Financing (loan interest) costs (0.2% impact).
- Audit fee for Long Term Plan (0.7% impact).
- Refuse disposal fee increases (0.2% impact).



**Tell us if you support the 5.8% rates increase, or if you don't, what you would like to see changed or removed to reduce the costs to provide services.**

*\*These rates comprise a uniform annual charge per property and the remainder of this charge is based upon property value.*



# Consultation topic 2

## Keep the Uniform Annual General Charge at \$900 or reduce to \$850 per property



The Uniform Annual General Charge or UAGC is the minimum rates charge per property.

Capital Value	Rates 2025/26	OPTION 1				OPTION 2			
		Proposed Rates 2026/27 UAGC = \$900	Increase in Rates (\$)	% increase	Weekly increase	Proposed Rates 2026/27 UAGC = \$850	Increase in Rates (\$)	% increase	Weekly increase
<b>Residential</b>									
\$305,000	\$3,040	\$3,244	\$204	6.7%	\$4	\$3,233	\$193	6.3%	\$4
\$390,000	\$3,455	\$3,686	\$231	6.7%	\$4	\$3,686	\$231	6.7%	\$4
\$435,000	\$3,675	\$3,920	\$245	6.7%	\$5	\$3,926	\$251	6.8%	\$5
\$520,000	\$4,090	\$4,362	\$272	6.7%	\$5	\$4,379	\$289	7.1%	\$6
\$650,000	\$4,725	\$5,038	\$313	6.7%	\$6	\$5,072	\$347	7.3%	\$7
<b>Commercial</b>									
\$240,000	\$8,421	\$8,914	\$493	5.8%	\$9	\$8,871	\$450	5.3%	\$9
\$405,000	\$13,352	\$14,118	\$766	5.7%	\$15	\$14,081	\$729	5.5%	\$14
\$1,010,000	\$31,433	\$33,202	\$1,769	5.6%	\$34	\$33,182	\$1,749	5.6%	\$34
<b>Industrial</b>									
\$11,693,000	\$350,694	\$370,176	\$19,481	5.5%	\$375	\$370,477	\$19,783	5.6%	\$380
\$19,300,000	\$578,030	\$609,957	\$31,927	5.5%	\$614	\$610,485	\$32,455	5.6%	\$624
\$34,750,000	\$1,039,623	\$1,097,295	\$57,672	5.5%	\$1,109	\$1,098,288	\$58,665	5.6%	\$1,128
\$46,250,000	\$1,383,081	\$1,460,040	\$76,959	5.6%	\$1,480	\$1,461,377	\$78,296	5.7%	\$1,506

\*Important note: when comparing the rates between 2025-26 and 2026-27, there are varying impacts on individual properties due to the gradual increase of the targeted water and wastewater rates. Targeted rates are a set amount per property, which does impact lower value properties more than higher-value properties.

**Should we keep the UAGC at \$900 or reduce it to \$850 due to the impact of the increased targeted water and wastewater rates?**



# Financial overview

## Rates Affordability

Council has set its rates affordability benchmarks at

- Total rates will not exceed 88% of total revenue and
- Annual rates will increase will not exceed the average rate of inflation plus 2%

The following table shows the annual rates increase compared to the limit:

	2025-2026	2026-2027
Budgeted Increase	8.5%	5.8%
Rates Limit	4.7%	5.1%
Estimated Inflation	2.7%	3.1%*

\*Consumer Price Index inflation to 31 December 2025

The proposed rates increase does exceed the rates affordability limit of the average rate of inflation plus 2%. If council decides to keep the overall rates increase as budgeted at 5.8%, an explanation will be included in the Annual Plan.

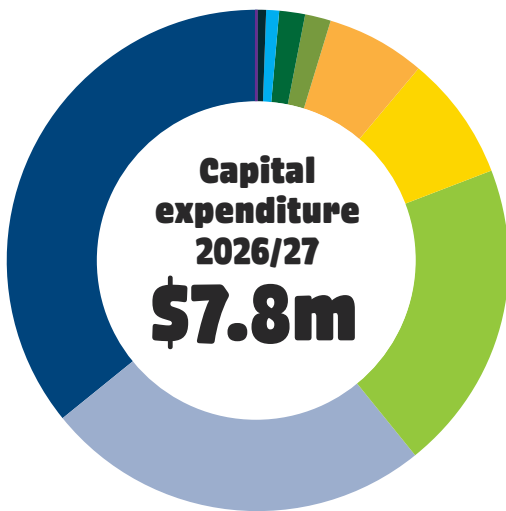
Total rates income in the proposed draft budget equates to 68.5% of Total Revenue, which is within the rate (incoming) affordability limit of 88%.



# Big ticket items

Council remains committed to maintaining and investing in capital assets. In the coming 2026/27 year we will continue our focus to renew the drinking water pipes in the district. This project is 60% completed. A further \$2.78m will be spent on pipe renewals and drinking water infrastructure upgrades.

The economic development budget contains the Better Off Funding allocated by Central Government for the council development at Stoneham Park. Part of this expenditure requires the construction of a water detention bund in the upstream catchment. Council wishes to acknowledge Tangata Whenua Ngati Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust and Ngati Tuwharetoa Holdings Limited as the landowner who has permitted the bund to assist with flood protection of the development and areas downstream from the farm.



### Asset renewals planned for 2026/27

● Stormwater (incl. Flood Protection)	\$0
● Overheads	\$52,850
● Solid Waste	\$70,720
● Buildings	\$120,060
● Plant	\$136,280
● Leisure & Recreation	\$507,780
● Economic Development	\$615,410
● Roothing	\$1,565,650
● Waste Management	\$1,963,070
● Water	\$2,780,070



# Other Council Updates

## Local Water Done Well

Local Water Done Well is the current government's legislation, that built on the Three Waters Reform of the previous government.

Government's Local Water Done Well legislation required Council to:

- Develop and submit a Water Services Delivery Plan in September 2025
- Community support endorsed Council's plan to proceed with an in-house business unit. Council must now implement this plan while reporting back to DIA quarterly on progress
- Council must also explore a potential multi-council water services entity with Kawerau, Rotorua, Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki councils
- Waters Working Group set up in late 2025 with Mayor and two Councillors, Chief Executive and technical specialists from each council

The Water Working Group comprising Kawerau, Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne and Rotorua councils have agreed on the following scope for exploring the risks and opportunities of a shared water services entity.

### Local Water Done Well strategic objectives



### Local Water Done Well options to be assessed

OPTION	DESCRIPTION
1	<p><b>Internal business unit</b> (status quo)</p> <p>Creation of a financially ring-fenced unit within council.</p>
2	<p><b>Rotorua/Eastern Bay of Plenty water organisation - asset owning</b> (WSCCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council jointly establish a water services council controlled organisation (WSCCO).</li> <li>• Councils transfer ownership of assets and responsibility for delivery of services.</li> <li>• Will assume three waters for initial assessment but investigate Stormwater as part of the process.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Rotorua/Eastern Bay of Plenty water organisation - service delivery only</b> (WSCCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils jointly establish a water services council controlled organisation (WSCCO).</li> <li>• Councils retain direct ownership of assets and ability to set budgets, and WSCCO delivers services under management services agreement.</li> </ul>

## Local Water Done Well summary of water services by council

	Rotorua Lakes	Whakatāne	Kawerau	Ōpōtiki
Drinking water connections	27,185	13,200	2,917	2,834
Wastewater connections	25,964	12,240	2,922	1,851
Stormwater connections	24,989	10,674	2,922*	1,851
Networks/ catchments	RLC has 10 defined water supply areas, 13 wastewater areas and 14 stormwater catchments.	WDC has nine residential water supplies, seven rural water schemes, six wastewater schemes, and eight stormwater catchments.	KDC has one drinking water and one wastewater scheme. Stormwater only comprises road run-off as all properties dispose of stormwater to soakage on-property.	ŌDC has three drinking water schemes, two wastewater schemes and one stormwater scheme.
Serviced population	73,373 (96% of the population have at least one water connection)  Connected properties DW – 87%; WW – 83%; SW – 80%	DW – 30,145 (76%); WW – 24,196 (61%); SW – 30,939 (78%)	8000 (all)	DW – 8,219 (79%); WW – 5,368 (48%); SW – 5,368 (48%)
Anticipated growth in connections (10 years)	9%	7%	4%	10%

DW = Drinking Water, WW = Wastewater, SW = Stormwater

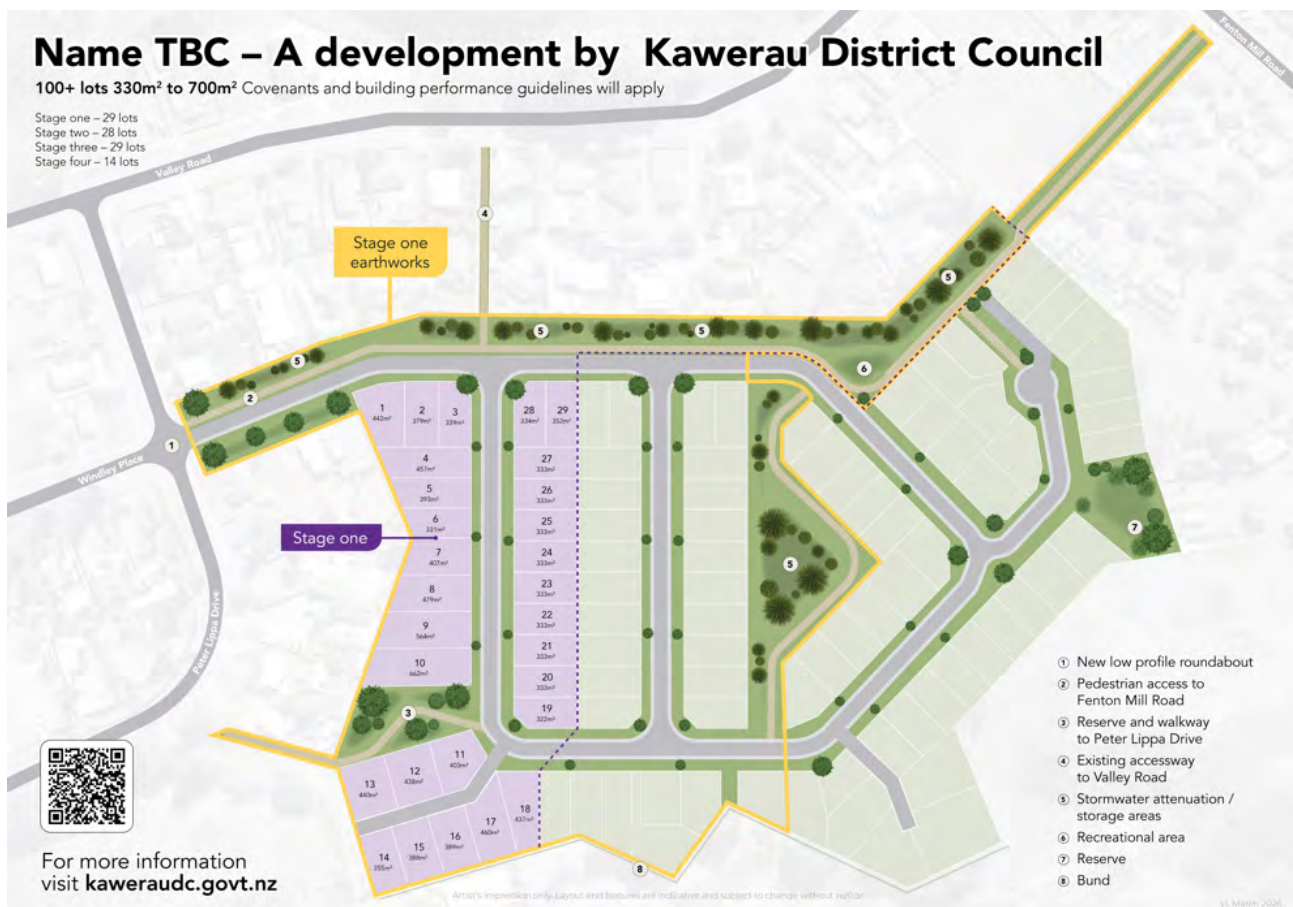
\*no direct connections, wastewater number used as proxy.

All four councils want the same outcome:

- Delivering the best future water services for our districts in a way that meets the needs and values of our individual communities and the Government’s requirements
- Rotorua Lakes Council, Kawerau District Council, Whakatāne District Council and Ōpōtiki District Council have committed to work together to investigate a joint operating model for delivering water services to their communities
- We each have our own Water Services Delivery Plan
- We have a regional waters working group meeting monthly
- Together we are preparing a report which will compare risks and opportunities
- We will be engaging with our communities through this process in 2026

# Residential development

- Acknowledgement of Ngati Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust and Ngati Tuwharetoa Holdings Ltd for approving upstream bund to be constructed on Otarahanga Farm
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council approved earthworks for resource consent approved in March
- Next stages: tree removal, earthworks, marketing and sales, civils, surveying and titles of Stage 1 (29-lots)
- Name for the development and streets required
- Family of the late Roy Stoneham requested Council honour and retain the Stoneham Walk, but change the name of the residential development
- Council Iwi Liaison and Cultural Advisor with support from Council's Iwi Liaison Committee proposed new name for the development, streets and lanes. Currently going through Council Naming Policy (2024) process.



# Engaging with Council

This consultation document aims to start a conversation with our residents.

## Want to find out more?

We have not put in all the details behind the Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau 2026/27. However, we are happy to provide more information as requested and will also be talking with community groups at various Community Engagement Meetings.

If you want to know more or discuss any of these options (or others) with Councillors and the Leadership Team please:

- **Talk to us** at one of the consultation sessions planned (see page 3 / Contents)
- **Contact us** to arrange a meeting to discuss the options and provide more detail
- **Visit our website** [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz)
- **Facebook** – join in the discussion on the Council Facebook platform

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## How to let us know what you think

You can make a formal submission, which will be tabled with the Councillors and be considered in the decision-making process. The closing date is 18 May 2026.

If you wish to, you can present your submission to elected members at the hearing on 3 June 2026.

### You can make a submission:

- **Online** – visit our website [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz) and use our online submission form.
- **Facebook submissions** – if you wish to make a formal submission, you will need to do so via messenger or inbox.
- **Email** [submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz)
- **Drop in** the hard copy submission form from this consultation document to the Council Offices, isite or library weekdays.
- **Post** the submission form to us.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kawerau District Council  
Private Bag 1004, Kawerau 3169

Let's talk about Annual Plan  
Mahere ā Tau 2026/27

**Do you support  
what is being  
proposed?**

If not, then please tell us what...

# Elected Members of Council



**Faylene Tunui**  
Mayor | Kahika

P 07 306 9009 (office)

022 320 8840

E Mayor@kaweraudc.govt.nz



**Sela Kingi**

Deputy Mayor  
Chair, Regulatory and Service  
Committee.  
District-Wide Councillor |  
Kaikaunihera

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District-Wide  
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E Mal.Dowie@kaweraudc.govt.nz



**Gloria Leokava-Taani**

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Kaikaunihera

P 027 901 7680

E Gloria.Taani@kaweraudc.govt.nz

# Submission form



NOTE: As part of the consultation process, Council must make all submissions available for public inspection.

.....  
**Name**  
.....  
**Organisation (if applicable)**  
.....  
**Postal address**  
.....  
**Telephone**  
.....  
**Email**  
.....  
**Signature**  
.....

**Submissions close 18 May 2026**

- Tick if you are a Kawerau resident.
- Tick if you wish to speak in support of your submission on 3 June 2026.



## Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau 2026/27

CONSULTATION TOPIC	FEEDBACK AND IDEAS (Tick your preferred option)
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### 5.8% Rates increase

Tell us if you support the 5.8% rates increase. Or let us know how we can reduce or change services to lower the rates increase.

[See page 10 for details](#)

- Support 5.8% Rates increase
- Do not support 5.8% Rates increase

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.....

### UAGC

Tell us if you support keeping the Uniform General Annual Charge (UAGC) at \$900 or reducing it to \$850 due to the impact of increasing targeted water and wastewater rates.

[See page 11 for details](#)

- Keep UAGC at \$900
- Reduce UAGC to \$850

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**Other feedback or ideas regarding Council – attach extra pages as required.**

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Kawerau District Council, Ranfurly Court, Kawerau

Waea **Phone** 07 306 9009

Īmēra **Email** [kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz](mailto:kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz)

Pukamata **Facebook** [KawerauDistrictCouncil](#)

Pae Tukutuku **Website** [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz)