

# Our future

and how we are planning to get there



## Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive

**Tēnā tātau katoa | warm greetings to you all, our community on behalf of Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau to the proposed Long Term Plan consultation summary document for 2025 to 2034.**

We completed an enhanced annual plan last year due to the changes and uncertainty with the three waters' legislation, Local Water Done Well. We must now complete our long-term plan for the next nine years. At the same time we will be consulting with you our community regarding the Water Service Delivery Plan for the delivery of drinking water, wastewater and storm water. More information, is detailed in the insert with this summary consultation document.

With costs at an all-time high, reviews of our services and projects has resulted in a short-term plan that sticks to 'business as usual'. This includes continuing with the renewals of the drinking water pipes and other strategic asset replacements.

Putting it simply, the cost to provide the same level of services has increased by 8.5%.

We look forward to engaging with you, our community about the nine-year long term plan in the coming weeks.

**Faylene Tunui**  
Mayor | Kahika

**Morgan Godfery**  
Chief Executive | Tumu Whakarae



## What we are proposing 2025-2034

**Council proposes an overall rates increase of 8.5% in the coming year that maintains our current levels of service.**

The weekly increase (see table overleaf) will vary depending on the individual value of residential, commercial and industrial properties and the proposed change in targeted rates.

The drivers of the 8.5% overall rates increase for year one of the Long Term Plan are:

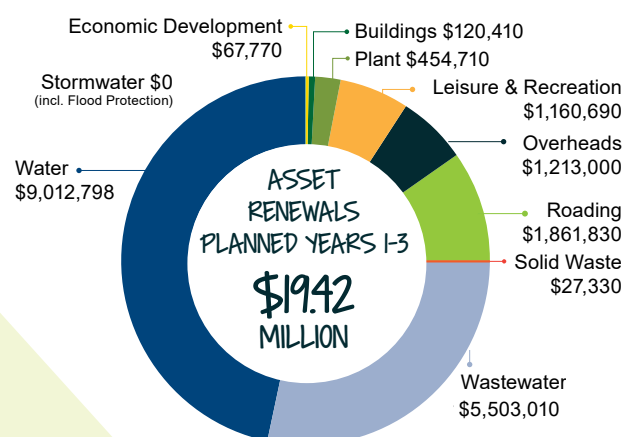
- **Personnel costs** \$456,060 or 3.1%
- **Operating costs** \$412,160 or 2.8%
  - Solid Waste \$174,000
  - Water implementation \$82,000
- **Depreciation expense** \$297,250 or 2.0%
- **Finance costs** \$110,500 or 0.8%
- **Increase in Interest Income** (\$33,500 or 0.2%)

## BIG TICKET ITEMS

### Asset renewals planned for 2025-34

Council's infrastructure strategy outlines the key projects and asset renewals needed during the next 10 years.

### Total Capital Expenditure 3 years (2025-2026 to 2027-2028):



# What we have been working on since 2021

A lot has happened, there's too much to include everything here. You can find more details in our Annual Reports on our website.

- ✓ Completed water reticulation renewals in area 00, area 1 town centre, River Road, area 2 and 3
- ✓ Completed stormwater and wastewater pipe renewals (town centre)
- ✓ Upgrade of Water Treatment Plant pumps
- ✓ Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre Upgrade and reopening in 2022
- ✓ Completion of Porritt Glade Lifestyle Village in 2023
- ✓ Rangi Delamere Centre rebuild and opening in 2024
- ✓ Wastewater Treatment Plan upgrades in 2024 and 2025
- ✓ Progressing Residential Developments

We want your feedback for our future plans

More details are outlined in the Long Term Plan 2025-2034 Comprehensive Consultation Document, available online [kaweraudc.govt.nz](https://kaweraudc.govt.nz) or copies at the Council office, iSite and library.

## 1. Moving to targeted rates for water and wastewater 9 years or 5 years?

Local Water Done Well legislation requires Council to review the way we deliver water services to the community.

*(More information about whether to keep delivering water services in-house or via a multi-Council controlled organisation is contained in the Local Water Done Well consultation document).*

The Long Term Plan has been prepared on the basis of continuing with the in-house business unit (Council's preferred option), with all revenue and expenditure on the basis it being delivered in-house.

The requirements of Local Water Done Well mean Council needs to start transitioning towards the targeted water rates funding the total delivery of water and wastewater services. The Long Term Plan proposes increasing the targeted rates gradually over a nine-year period. This is Council's preferred option.

Is the community happy with this transition (which will have a lower rates impact) or would the community prefer this to be over a shorter five year period?

## 2. Funding of Depreciation

The Long Term Plan has been prepared with 65% of depreciation being funded on Strategic Assets in 2025-2026, with a gradual increase in this funding of 3% each year over the next 12 years back to 100%.

There is an option to increase depreciation to 70% for strategic assets in 2025-2026; and keep raising depreciation funding levels by 5% back to 100% each year after. This rebuilds the depreciation reserves quicker – but does impact rates.

## 3. Planning for the future – Community Library and Research Centre

Council wants to investigate and develop concept plans for a Community Library and Research Centre for our community. We aim to invest money into a plan, but would seek external funding to assist with delivery of the project.

Do you support the idea of a new centre in the future?

If you do support this vision, we need your feedback to shape the plans for a centre that can cater for our future needs:

- What do you think is important?
- What do you want to see in a Community Library and Research Centre?
- For example, do you want more digital resources like computers, internet access, online learning spaces and e-literacy for all ages? Spaces to enjoy book and resources onsite?
- How can a centre provide for our community to learn, research, meet, relax and even work?

## 4. Policy Reviews

The following policies are being reviewed:

- Draft Rates Remission Policies
- Draft Financial Contributions Policy
- Draft Revenue and Financial Policy
- Draft Significance and Engagement Policy

# What your rates might look like

Important note when comparing the rates between 2024/25 and 2025/26 the new capital values apply when calculating the rates. This does result in variable changes in property rates, as it depends on the movement in the revaluation.

There were no significant changes in Residential values, however various revaluation movements within Commercial and Industrial Properties, has had varied impact on the these property examples provided.

Also varying the rates impact on individual properties is the gradual increase of the water and wastewater targeted rates. As targeted rates are a set amount per property this does impact lower value properties more than higher value properties.

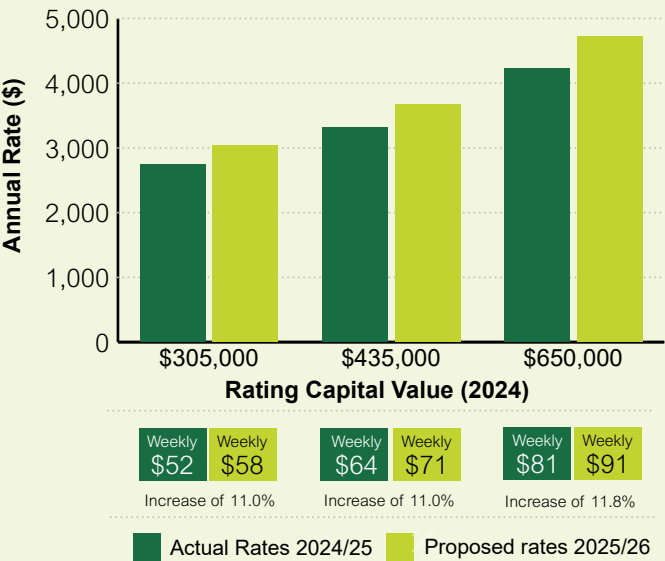
Capital Value 2024	Rates 2024/25	Proposed Rates 2025/26	Rates Change		Weekly Increase
			\$	%	
Residential					
\$305,000	\$2,739	\$3,040	\$301	11.0%	\$6
\$390,000	\$3,121	\$3,456	\$335	10.7%	\$6
\$435,000	\$3,312	\$3,675	\$363	11.0%	\$7
\$520,000	\$3,673	\$4,091	\$418	11.4%	\$8
\$650,000	\$4,225	\$4,725	\$500	11.8%	\$10
Commercial / Industrial					
\$240,000	\$7,961	\$8,422	\$461	5.8%	\$9
\$405,000	\$12,641	\$13,352	\$711	5.6%	\$14
\$1,010,000	\$31,417	\$31,433	\$16	0.1%	\$0
\$11,693,000	\$332,764	\$350,565	\$17,801	5.3%	\$342
\$19,300,000*	\$579,485	\$578,030*	-\$1,455*	-0.3%*	-\$28*
\$34,750,000	\$986,650	\$1,039,753	\$53,103	5.4%	\$1,021
\$46,250,000	\$1,312,813	\$1,383,430	\$70,617	5.4%	\$1,358

\* These decreases reflect a reduction in the capital values due to the 2024 revaluations.

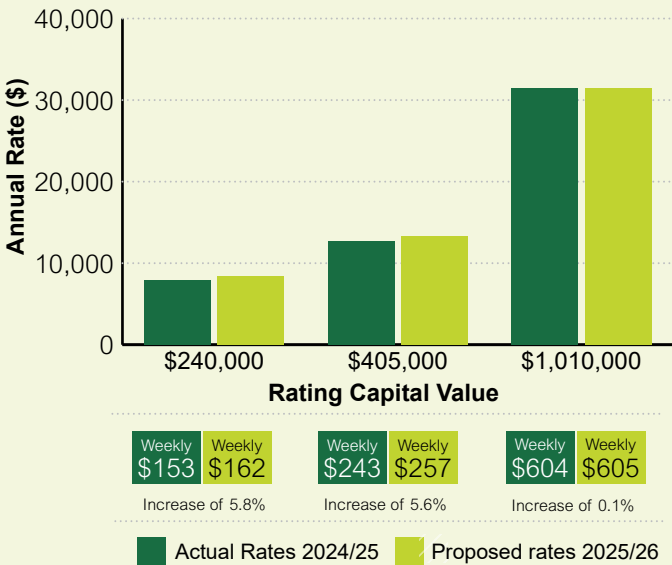
## PROPOSED RATES

These graphs show what your rates increases are for 2025-2026. Your rates increase will vary depending on the type of property you have and the capital value. These are only indications, as if we need to make any changes following the consultation process, these figures will change.

### Residential properties



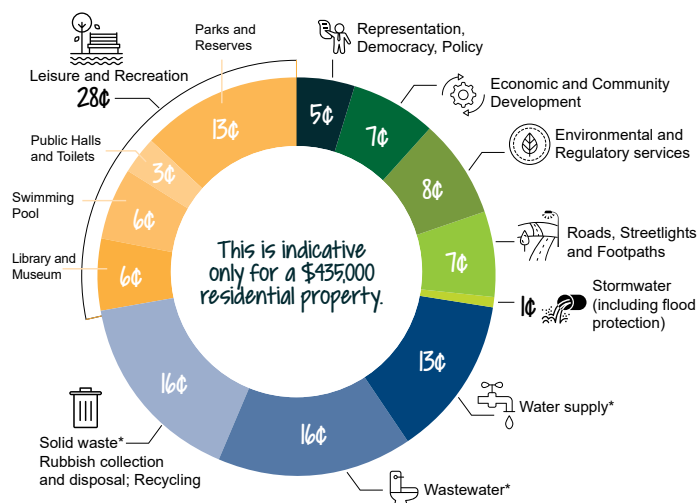
### Commercial properties



For more information check our website [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz) or attend a community engagement meeting.



# WHAT YOUR RATES DOLLAR PAYS FOR



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

## Future Issues and Opportunities

- Local Water Done Well – finalising a water services delivery plan for water, wastewater and stormwater by 3 September 2025.
- Growing our district – continue to enable and support economic development.
- Solid Waste review – the cost to collect and transport refuse (recycling, green waste and refuse) costs the community \$3 million each year. This is the single biggest operational cost for the community. Increasing levies to transport refuse (rubbish) to the Tirohia Landfill and higher transport costs mean huge cost increases will continue.
- Resilience issues including climate change.
- Ensuring the security of drinking water supplies for the community by investigating in a manganese removal plant to source water from Te Wai o Marukaa.
- Legislative Reforms
- Leveraging from the Regional Economic Deal partnership with Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils.
- Utilising partnerships and Spatial Planning work to enhance and enable economic and community development.
- Ensuring maintenance and availability of community facilities.



Please check the Council website, social media, and Council pānui for updates and more detailed information.

## Long Term Plan 2025-2034 Key dates

**Feedback and Submissions**  
11 April to 12 May 2025

### Community Engagement Meetings

<b>11 April</b> 1:30pm–2.30pm	Grey Power / Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
<b>15 April</b> 12noon–2pm	Business Forum / Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
<b>15 April</b> 5.30pm–6.30pm	Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
<b>17 April</b> 10am–12noon	Public Meeting, Rautahi Marae
<b>8 May</b> 9am–1pm	Public Drop In Session, Kawerau Markets

### Consultation Timeline

<b>11 April 2025</b>	Consultation period opens
<b>12 May 2025</b>	Closing date for submissions
<b>28 May 2025</b>	Hearing for submitters to talk with Mayor and Elected Members
<b>25 June 2025</b>	Council adopts Long Term Plan 2025-2034

For more information and the submission form, please visit [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz) or drop by the Council office, library or isite for a copy.

Kōrero mai  
Let's talk

## GIVING YOUR FEEDBACK

- Email [submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz)
- Website [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz)
- Facebook Messenger
- Drop your submission to Council office, isite or library



**KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau

# LOCAL WATER DONE WELL.



Kōrero  
mai  
Let's talk  
wai

Open for  
feedback  
11 April - 23 May  
2025

Councils must consult  
on their Water  
Service Delivery  
Plans and we want  
your feedback on the  
options.

## What is Local Water Done Well?

**Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges.**

Local Water Done Well covers drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and is split into three legislative parts:

1. Councils must establish a corporate structure to deliver water services with an:
  - Internal business unit OR
  - Single-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) OR
  - Multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) OR
  - Consumer trust
2. Councils must demonstrate financial sustainability with the preparation of a Water Services Delivery Plan
3. Establishes the Commerce Commission as the economic regulator of water services in New Zealand

# The options

## Option 1

### Internal – an in-house business unit

Council's preferred option

**This means we keep delivering water services with our internal (in-house) business unit. This is our preferred option.**

Operationally, the most significant changes are in finance. All rates revenue from water must be “ring fenced”.

For the three waters team, the focus will remain on maintaining excellent service delivery to the community.

There will be an increased reporting requirement. Council currently reports to Taumata Arowai, but it would also need to supply data to the Commerce Commission.

## Option 2

### Multi-Council Controlled Organisation

Join with our neighbours Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Rotorua Lakes District Councils to form multi-Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and deliver water services to our districts. **This is our alternative option.**

## Pros and cons for internal vs multi-CCO

**Here's how our internal business unit stacks up against the multi-council controlled organisation...**

	In-house business unit	Multi Council company (CCO)
Upgrade new drinking water infrastructure faster and cheaper	✓	—
Complete an \$11.5 million upgrade of wastewater network using depreciation reserves over coming nine years	✓	—
Maintain better value for ratepayers	✓	✓
Maintain excellent service response	✓	—
Meet the demand for growth in the district	✓	✓
Independent organisations monitor water quality and charges	✓	✓
Ability to sell off water assets (privatise)	✗	✗
Elected Members keep decision-making authority of water services delivery	✓	✗
Requires targeted rates for waters in 2025-2026 and beyond	✓	✓

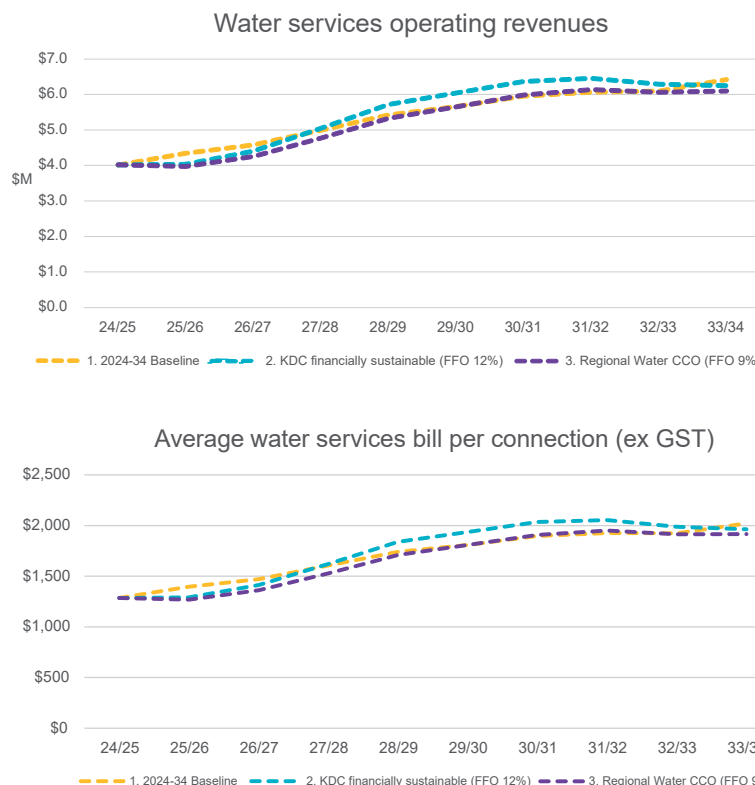
✓ YES — SOMEWHAT ✗ NO

# Revenue and pricing requirements under proposed scenarios

The 2024-34 baseline financial projections shows water services revenue will increase from \$4.0 million in 2024/25 to \$6.4 million in 2033/34 (+60% over nine years).

This results in average charges per property increasing from \$1,285+GST in 2024/25 to \$2,020+GST in 2033/34 (+57% over nine years).

The revenue required to fund water service delivery internally (in-house) are in line with the minimum revenue requirements under a regional Multi Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). This modelling was provided by Internal Affairs.



## Our Plan

By 3 September 2025, Council must submit its Water Service Delivery Plan to the government having:

- Consulted on a preferred and alternative delivery model;
- Council decision to confirm business structure to deliver water services.

The Department of Internal Affairs then assesses Council's Water Service Delivery Plan to ensure it demonstrates "financial sustainability".

The Plan must demonstrate financial sustainability by 2028, and amendments to the plan can be made before September 2027.

**"Financial sustainability"** means:

1. **revenue sufficiency** – can Council or the CCO raise enough money for operations;
2. **investment sufficiency** – is Council or CCO planning to invest enough; and
3. **financing sufficiency** – can Council or CCO raise enough debt for the required investment?

## Internal business unit proposed plan - Council's preferred option

### 1. Revenue sufficiency Internal business unit: Targeted Water Rates

Our Long Term Plan 2025-2034 models an increase in the targeted water rate over 9 years. This increase helps remove the cross-subsidization from the general rate to the targeted.

*See the Long Term Plan Consultation Document on our website.*

### 2. Internal business unit: sufficient investment capacity

Council is renewing the District's entire drinking water reticulation network. The drinking and wastewater network has capacity for a population of 10,000 people (significantly above what Infometrics predicts in population growth for Kawerau).

*See the Infrastructure Strategy on our website for details.*

### 3. Does an internal business unit have financing capacity and debt levels?

Council's debt-to-revenue ratio will remain below the maximum allowance as per the Local Government Funding Agency (the debt-to-revenue ratio for Councils without a credit rating is 175%).

*See the Long Term Plan Consultation Document on our website.*

## Come and talk with us at one of our community engagement events

11 April 1:30pm–2.30pm	Grey Power / Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
15 April 12noon–2pm	Business Forum / Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
15 April 5.30pm–6.30pm	Public Meeting, Concert Chamber
17 April 10am–12noon	Public Meeting, Rautahi Marae
8 May 9am–1pm	Public Drop In Session, Kawerau Markets

Kōrero  
mai  
Let's talk  
wai

23 May - Last day to have your say on  
Local Water Done Well (submissions close)

For more information check our  
website [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://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

☐

Tick if you are a Kawerau resident.

☐

Tick if you wish to speak in support of your submission on 18 June 2025.



Submissions  
close  
23 May 2025



scan to make  
an online  
submission

### Local Water Done Well

TICK YOUR PREFERRED OPTION	SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS
<input type="radio"/> <b>Option 1</b> Internal – an in-house business unit to deliver water services.	
<input type="radio"/> <b>Option 2</b> Join a Multi-Council Controlled Organisation to deliver water services.	
<b>General Comments:</b>	

**Email:** [submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz) **Drop off:** Council Office, isite or library.

**Post:** Chief Executive Officer, Kawerau District Council, Private Bag 1004, Kawerau 3169 [www.kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz)