

2017-18

Regional Council Rates

HOW THEY BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY



Water Quality a Priority

Water quality is a matter of high concern for communities across New Zealand.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is committed to improving the recreational and freshwater quality in the region. Your rates account this year reflects that priority.

Some communities are already well ahead. We congratulate the **Whangawehi Catchment Management Group** at Mahia Peninsula who, this year, won the Supreme Green Ribbon Award, a national award presented by the Minister for the Environment. The Whangawehi community has come together to work on an ambitious plan to improve their stream. The Group has recently been successful with funding from the Ministry for the Environment's Community Environment Fund. This is a great example of the sort of action happening around the region, where Hawke's Bay Regional Council can work in partnership with landowners, other organisations and volunteers.

A significant level of support was indicated in this year's 137 submissions to the Annual Plan for Council's plan to **fast-track cleaning up six environmental hot spots** through an increase in rates. As a result there's an additional 5% increase in rates this year to boost clean up work for Lake Tūtira, Ahuriri Estuary, Whakaki Lake, Tutituki Catchment, the Karamū Stream and the marine environment. We also hope to add financial support from the Freshwater Improvement Fund.

Drinking water continues to be a priority after last year's contamination in Havelock North. The regional council has tightened up on the processes for resource consents for drinking water and on bore monitoring, and has an ongoing programme of science investigations. Councils and the health board are working more closely together to maintain safe drinking water standards.

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How are we doing?

ONLY

1 air quality breach in the region means we are close to getting clean winter air

57,400 bus trips a month (approximately) on GoBus routes around Hastings and Napier

70,000 ha of farmland, forest and bush have active possum control

75,000 native plants have been added by community and school planting days and for farm riparian projects

Water has **80%** less nitrogen after passing through Pekapeka Wetland

51

wells across the region are monitored for groundwater quality

Helping Our Community

This is a snapshot of how your targeted and general rates plus charges are used in the Hawke's Bay region.

Many of these programmes are also supported with central government funding, community funds, and donations.

And a very big thank you to the volunteers and ratepayers who provide helping hands on many of these projects to benefit our community.

Land management

works with farmers to reduce soil erosion and water quality problems. Farmers across the Tukituki catchment are completing Farm Plans. The regional council has also been enforcing rules about feedlots and winter feed paddocks, plus educating through seminars. Through the Regional Landcare Scheme, we support farmers across the region for erosion control projects and biodiversity protection of bush, wetlands and streams through covenants.



More knowledge on air, land, water and coastal resources

is a priority so we can manage these more effectively. We are working hard to improve the recreational and freshwater quality of water in Hawke's Bay. Lake Tūtira is one area where we have done lots of research and land management, but algal blooms still affect the lake. We will be using the kick-start environment fund to make more progress at Tūtira and other areas.

lawa.org.nz is a good 'one source' of accurate information on the state of our natural resources. LAWA stands for Land Air Water Aotearoa. All regional councils (including HBRC) supply monitoring data through this easy-to-read website. Plus this summer, a new mobile-app will help you find great swimming spots - handy on holiday!



GoBay bus service

has routes through Napier, Clive and Hastings. Ratepayers in these areas pay a targeted rate. While you might prefer to drive, buses reduce traffic, parking pressures and air pollution. New routes help people to get around and pre-paid goBay cards makes hopping on easy. If you are going to a hospital appointment, show the driver your appointment card to get a free bus trip.

Coastal erosion

solutions between Clifton and Tangoio are part of the Coastal Hazards Strategy. Community meetings have had excellent input from residents and businesses, who share our concerns for rising sea levels and the impact these have on populated areas of the coast. We will be talking more to these coastal communities and others in the future about the issues and possible solutions.

hbcoast.co.nz



Safer communities

is the goal of our HB Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group. A specific rate helps fund the team - who work regionally but with an officer in each council - to help prepare communities to be safe when an earthquake, storm or flood hits.

We are also involved with East Coast LAB, an important national project working to understand and educate on earthquakes and tsunami generated by the Hikurangi Trough off our coast.

Eskdale School students (photo) are already safer - they practice their earthquake drill and tsunami evacuation every term.

Maintaining 23 flood control and drainage schemes to protect life and property is an important regional council role. Stopbanks, channels, pump stations are managed to ensure these work as expected during floods.

cdemhawkesbay.govt.nz and Facebook



TANK

is our biggest project and will bring about step change in the science, land/water use and community action in the Tutaekuri, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū catchments. This is where 58% of Hawke's Bay people live on the Heretaunga Plains, where 90% of horticulture and fruit is grown, and where most of our economic output originates. TANK involves 30+ local representatives of councils, agencies, tāngata whenua, the primary sector and environmentalists.

Our goals are to reduce contaminants in our rivers and find solutions for urban and industrial stormwater affecting waterways.

Air quality

has improved in our cities. HBRC's HeatSmart programme of grants and dry wood promotion is helping reduce air pollution from domestic fires. While weather definitely plays a part, residents have made the biggest difference by improving home heating and insulation efficiency and comfort.

Our Pollution Response team also acts on complaints about excessive smoke and smells, and take calls 24/7 on **0800 108 838**.



More birds

and healthier farm land is the result of the region wide possum control programme covering 70,000 hectares of farmland, where these pests are at very low levels. Our urban programme won the Air New Zealand Excellence Award for Local Environmental Impact in 2015. We aim to reduce other animal pests too; the Cape to City project is leading the way with research and trialling new techniques. We are also working with the community on a strategy for better biodiversity. **FB:Capetocity**

Regional parks

are popular for walking, cycling and relaxing. We keep improving these areas for you to enjoy: more planting at Tūtira, a new cleared area at Pekapeka, and new dog playground at Pākōwhai. At Waitangi Regional Park near Awatoto, Ātea A Rangī, the star compass, is the newest visitor attraction. This brilliant idea came from Te Matau a Māui Voyaging Trust to teach about navigation using the stars, right where both Māori and Europeans first arrived in this part of the world.





Find Your Rates

Check your rates on our property database online at www.hbrc.govt.nz, Search #my property.



Rates are due on 1 October 2017

Pay by 31 January 2018 and avoid a 10% rates penalty charged from 1 February.



Increase for 2017-18

The base rate increase of 4.88% covers 'business as usual' delivery of Council services, in the Annual Plan 2017-18. An additional 5% rate increase this year is to boost clean-up work for Lake Tūtira, Ahuriri Estuary, Whakaki Lake, Tukituki catchment, Karamū Stream and the marine environment.



NEW for HeatSmart Customers

HeatSmart loan customers have a new style of invoice this year to show more clearly what they need to pay for their rates, as well as the value of their monthly Heatsmart instalment.



Single Rates Account

You get a single annual rates account from the regional council as our rates are, for most properties, lower when compared to city and district rates (for tapwater, sewerage, waste management, civic facilities, etc). There are payment options to help spread the cost.



Types of Charges

Targeted Rates make up the majority of rates covering property-based benefits from specific services in your area - only Napier and Hastings pay for air quality programmes and public bus services. Rates vary according to how much benefit you get.

General Rates are based on your land valuation.

Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC of \$41.74) apply to all ratepayers for services HBRC provides across the whole region such as strategic planning, regulation and governance/democracy.

Emergency Management Uniform Charge (\$17.29) are paid by all ratepayers to help the region plan for, respond and recover from a disaster like a storm, earthquake or tsunami.



Paying your Rates

Rates are due for payment on 1 October 2017, with a number of options to fit with your budget. More details are on www.hbrc.govt.nz, Search #makepayment or phone 835 2955



Direct Debit for one payment or 3 equal instalments in November, December and January. Complete and return the form (enclosed with this newsletter and your rates notice) before 20 November.



Internet banking if you have one or more properties rates for each must be paid separately, or telephone banking can be set up with your bank.



Credit card online (go to the webpage above to make a payment).



Pay in person at any branch of the BNZ (take your rates account with you) or at HBRC's Napier office rates counter where credit card payments are also accepted.

Get your rates by email. Go to your local council's website (CHB, Wairoa, Hastings or Napier) and search on rates by email to follow the instructions.



Remissions and Postponements

HBRC has policies for rates remission in special circumstances, postponement in cases of financial hardship or natural disaster, and remission/postponement for Māori freehold land. Check our policies on hbrc.govt.nz (search #payrates) or contact our rates staff for a confidential discussion.