

For Our Community

Regional Council Rates 2018 -19



Step Change in Regional Approach

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is accelerating its work across the region and you will see better results in river and stream quality, in wetlands, on land, in the marine environment and in a healthier biodiversity.

We have been really encouraged by the positive responses to our Long Term Plan proposals.

To safeguard our land, water and biodiversity for future generations, and prepare for a changing climate, we need to invest much more into our environment, which is what this Long Term Plan does.

We can't do this alone. To be successful we need our whole community to pull together, and we are heartened by the strong support we've received from the people of Hawke's Bay to improve our region's environment.

This year you will notice your rates have increased. But we have not relied on this, as we are aware of the pressure this puts on many households. Funding is also coming through increases in user-charges, borrowing, investment income and Government grants. However 71% of our ratepayers will pay no more than a

dollar a week more for the increase in the regional effort to protect and enhance our environment.

Ratepayers in Central Hawke's Bay and Wairoa will see more regional council staff on the ground, as we are increasing the numbers of staff in our district offices to help these communities achieve more. We will also be working more in partnership with tangata whenua to achieve common goals.



Rex Graham
Chairman



James Palmer
Chief Executive

How are we doing?

71% of ratepayers pay no more than \$1 a week more for stepped up focus on land and water.

Predator Free HB
\$4.8m for biodiversity gains, starting with Mahia.

270,000 native plants added at community events and farmers' riparian projects this year.

666,000 trips were made on the goBay bus network in last 12 months.

Enhancing Our Environment Together
Te Whakapakari Taki o Tō Tātau Taiao

Working with our Community

This is a snapshot of how your regional council rates are used in Hawke's Bay. Many of these programmes are supported with central government funding, community funds, donations and volunteer support.



Working to enhance Lake Whakakī

Controlling feral cats, stoats and ferrets will increase biodiversity



Incentives for farm plans, planting by streams and on steep land will help improve water quality in rivers and the coast.

Water quality, safety & certainty

Kia kounga, kia haumaru, kia pūmau te pai o te wai

Smart, sustainable land use

Kia koa, kia ukauka te whakamahinga o te whenua

Hawke's Bay Regional Council is scaling up and accelerating work in land and water management, working with landowners and other councils.

Last year's extra hotspot rates helped speed up work in Ahuriri, Karamū, Tūtira, Tukituki and Whakakī and showed what could be achieved. Additional rates this year will take this to the next level.

New planting to enhance wetlands and stream margins continue to be part of the important work we do with our communities, landowners and schools.

We are also putting stronger regulation in place for activities that cause pollution or risk to our community, and more incentives to support positive change. A 2.9% increase in rates will cover increased costs in regulation (planning, consents, compliance and science).

Farm Plans

The Council is accelerating farm environment plan completion with loan assistance for qualifying farmers. Farm plans are an effective way to prioritise on-farm actions to improve water quality.

Riparian and Reforestation

Council will borrow \$30M over the next 10 years to fund fencing, planting and maintenance of stream areas and for planting trees on steep land unsuitable for commercial forestry or farming. This improves water quality and reduces erosion, and benefits our biodiversity.

Future Farming

We are establishing a 'future farming' initiative to lead on-farm research and innovation, with funding of \$650,000 over 3 years.



Healthy and functioning biodiversity

Kia ora, kia mahi tika te kanorau koiora

Biodiversity and biosecurity go hand in hand.

The Regional Pest Management Plan has been reviewed and an additional \$117,000 has been added to the budget to put the plan into action.

Predator Free Hawke's Bay is adding the control of feral cats, stoats and ferrets to the existing Possum Control Area programme over 200,000 hectares of farmland, starting with Mahia Peninsula. This work is supported by Government funding.

Biodiversity Hawke's Bay gets \$200,000 for four years to kick start an endowment fund which will fund community projects. Central Hawke's Bay and Napier councils are also supporting this charitable trust.

Coast & Marine

We are increasing our coastal marine monitoring and research covering 65 sites and 8 programmes to meet the needs identified in the HB Marine and Coastal Group's research roadmap.



A bus trip costs less than the price of a cup of coffee, and can be even cheaper with a goBay smartcard

Sustainable Services & Infrastructure

Kia ukauka ngā ratonga me ngā hanganga ā-rohe

Beautiful Regional Parks and Trails

We manage four regional parks and Hawke's Bay Trails for local people and visitors. We keep improving these special areas to provide great outdoor spaces for everyone.

Working with Tāngata Whenua

The Council will use \$384,000 this year to grow capacity and partnerships for co-governance and co-management with tāngata whenua.

Hawke's Bay Tourism

Funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism reduces by \$300,000 this year and will stay at \$1.52 million for the next 3 years.

Buses around our cities

Napier and Hastings people pay targeted rates to support GoBay bus services (funding also comes from the NZ Transport Agency and passenger fares). Thanks to the District Health Board, if you are going to the Hospital or Napier Health Centre bus travel is free - just show the bus driver your valid appointment card/letter/text.

Sustainable Homes

Solar water heating, better insulation, water storage and septic tank replacement will help 1300 homes in Hawke's Bay to become more sustainable. We will borrow up to \$13 million to provide financial assistance under this scheme, which pays for itself and will only be a cost to the ratepayers it benefits.

Flood Control

Climate change means an increase in the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall. We are continuing to upgrade and review the flood schemes and stopbanks to make sure they will work to protect your property, homes and livelihoods into the future. These have a total replacement value of \$185 million.

Coastal Hazards

The sea level is predicted to rise up to 1.5 metres over the next 100 years. Napier and Hastings ratepayers have a new targeted rate to meet the cost of planning for coastal hazard management. This funding will help us work with Napier and Hastings councils to prepare for the future.

Civil Defence Emergency Management

From this year, you will pay only once for the region's Civil Defence Emergency Management Group through a uniform charge in your Regional Council rates. Your local council should be reducing their rates to reflect this change.

All rates for the HB Civil Defence Emergency Management Group are now collected by the Regional Council

Switch To Direct Debit & Win A Water Tank!

Direct Debit is the convenient way to pay your rates. Sign up now to pay your regional council rates by Direct Debit and be done with the hassle of trying to remember where you put the account - before January comes around!

Be in the **monthly draw** to win one of 10 water conservation/emergency water tanks for your home!

Between September and January there will be 2 draws each month, one for new Direct Debit customers and one for existing customers. Let's thank you with a tank to help make your homes and gardens more sustainable.

Sign up online at hbrc.govt.nz search #ratesdd or complete the form enclosed and return it to us now.

11,040
ratepayers
already pay by
Direct Debit

Payment Options

Rates are due for payment on 1 October 2018. The final date for payment to avoid a 10% penalty is 31 January 2019.

We offer a number of payment options to help you ease your budget. If you own more than one property, a separate payment must be made for each one, noting each Valuation number.



Direct Debit - choose to have your bank account debited with 1 payment on 31 January, or in 3 equal instalments in November, December and January. Sign up online (search #ratesdd) or complete and return the form enclosed with your rates account now.



Internet banking - set up your own payment plan throughout the year, ensuring you clear your rates by 31 January, or pay a single instalment.



Credit card - either pay online at hbrc.govt.nz search #payrates (note: there is a surcharge) or in person at our Napier rates counter (no surcharge).



Pay in person - take your rates account with you to pay at any BNZ branch, or at our Napier office rates counter (cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card).



Mail - your payments must be posted at least a week before 31 January 2019 to ensure we receive it in time to avoid a penalty.

IMPORTANT! Always use the Valuation number as a reference in all internet and cheque payments, along with your surname and address to ensure your payment can be verified.

Remissions and Postponements

HBRC has policies for: rates remission for special circumstances; for postponement in cases of financial hardship or natural disaster; and remissions/postponements for Māori freehold land. More information on hbrc.govt.nz, search #payrates. Please contact our Rates staff for a confidential discussion.

Your rates must be paid by 31 January 2019 to avoid a 10% penalty charged from 1 February.

Find Your Rates

Rates Information on hbrc.govt.nz, search #rates Check out more information about regional council rates online at hbrc.govt.nz #rates - including the property database (My Property), how to pay and how rates are used, and sign up for rates by email. If you need more information or personal rates advice, please phone our Rates team on (06) 835 2955.

Rates Invoice by Email

It's easy to get your rates account by email. Sign up at your local city or district council's website - search for '**rates invoices by email**'.

YOUR REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

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HERE TO HELP:

Phone our Rates Service Desk on **835 2955** (8am - 5pm) or email rates@hbrc.govt.nz