Meeting Dates

Havelock North
4 APRIL
Wednesday 1-6-8pm
Porters Hotel, Te Aute Road

Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga
5 APRIL
Thursday 1-6-8pm
R21 Orchard Road, Hastings

Napier Conference Centre
9 APRIL
Monday 1-6-8pm
Marine Parade, Napier

Waipawa Town Hall
11 APRIL
Wednesday 1-6-8pm
18 Kenilworth Street, Waipawa

Taradale Town Hall
10 APRIL
Tuesday 1-6-8pm
Harley Business Park, Taradale

Karamu High School
12 APRIL
Thursday 1-6-8pm
Windsor Avenue, Hastings

Wairoa War Memorial Hall
19 APRIL
Thursday 1-6-8pm
97-103 Queen Street, Wairoa

Have we focused our efforts in the right areas?
Tell us what you think and if we’ve missed anything important.

Let’s fix this now

Many of our rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries are a mess. It’s clear to us that fixing the issues in our environment needs a step-change approach. Our community is impatient for change. And so are we.

Our legacy can’t be unsustainable practices on land, silt from forest harvesting, inefficient water use, underperforming storm and wastewater systems, polluted streams, rivers and estuaries, and problems amplified by climate change. To be successful, our whole community has to pull together.

In 200 years we have transformed our landscape faster than any other country. We need to restore our wetlands, plant trees on the most erosion-prone hill country and the banks of our rivers and streams – the arteries that feed our lakes and estuaries.

Let’s fix this now
Our Proposals

Land, Water & Biodiversity

He whenua, he wai, he tāiao

If our region continues with a business-as-usual approach, we can only expect further decline, and this is not acceptable.

Given the scale of the challenges, limited progress and the rate of global change, we need to face our future now. Some landowners are leading the way, but we need to act with more urgency and effort to help the region to be more sustainable and resilient. These two proposals include a range of land and water initiatives to make change at a scale and speed that meets all of our expectations. So we can get things done.

Incentives to Change

We want to support communities to solve their local challenges, with the benefit of Council’s science knowledge. Our staff will work – catchment by catchment – as a partner with communities to achieve practical change. This relates to farm plans, riparian fencing, planting and maintenance of planted areas, and planting trees on step-erodible land.

Partnerships for Change

We can only achieve change at scale and pace in partnership with others. Working with our community is at the heart of everything we do. A new Future Farming initiative, along with our focus on biodiversity and biosecurity are either new or a significant increase in our existing level of activity. These are designed to take full advantage of local and national knowledge and funding opportunities to make the Council’s funds go substantially further.

Sustainable homes

He Kāinga Toitū

HeatSmart started in 2009 and has delivered 12,771 financial assistance packages so far. That's 3,277 loans, 6,758 grants to help fund replacing open fires or non-compliant wood burners, and 2,743 insulation grants for warmer, healthy homes. The current HeatSmart programme will have met its air quality objectives and cease in 2023. So we propose to extend HeatSmart’s focus on clean heat and insulation (currently just in the Napier and Hastings areas) to help homes across the region to become more sustainable, such as solar heating, Photovoltaic cells, domestic water storage and septic tank replacement.

Have your say:

Do you agree with HeatSmart extending into a Sustainable Homes programme?

Civil Defence

Te Rākau Whakamarumaru ki Te Matau-a-Māui

The Regional Council proposes to take full responsibility for collecting a regional rate for Civil Defence. We believe this is a sensible way to collect rates for what is now a regionally delivered activity and to deliver a better service. The Hawke’s Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is collectively accountable to our communities for natural disaster preparation, response and recovery, and consists of the five councils in Hawke’s Bay.

Have your say:

Do you agree with the proposed single regional Civil Defence rate, collected by the Regional Council?

Working with Tāngata Whenua

We propose to increase our capability to partner with Tāngata Whenua to do more to protect and enhance our environment and to better meet our statutory obligations, including internal appointments and strengthening the cultural competency of staff.

Have your say:

Do you agree with our proposal to increase funding to work more effectively with Tāngata Whenua?

Hawke’s Bay Tourism

Ahumahi Tāpoi o Te Matau-a-Māui

In the last planning cycle, the Regional Council committed to increased funding of $1.8M over 3 years to Hawke’s Bay Tourism. We believe this has paid off. The sector now has the momentum to sustain strong visitor numbers. Therefore, this plan proposes to step back the funding of Hawke’s Bay Tourism to an annual spend of $900,000 by year 4 as we return our focus to environmental priorities.

Have your say:

Do you agree with our proposed changes to the economic development rate?

Local Government Funding Agency - LGFA

The LGFA is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and we are therefore required to consult on joining this scheme. The Regional Council intends to join as an Unrated Guaranteeing Borrower but is not bound to use the LGFA for its borrowing. However if we join the scheme, Council has the flexibility to benefit from savings on interest expenses.

Have your say:

Do you agree with the Regional Council joining the LGFA scheme as an unrated guaranteeing borrower?

Rates Breakdown

This is an overview of the total proposed rate increase for the 2018-19 year, the main areas where your rates will help us to achieve more.

- Civil Defence* (5.3%)
- Land, Water & Biodiversity (2.0%)
- Partnerships for Change (Future Farming, Biodiversity and Biosecurity) (4.7%)
- Incentives to Change (Farm Plans, Riparian and Reforestation) (1.9%)
- Regulation (Planning, Consents, Compliance and Science) (2.9%)
- Base level Service increase - includes coastal hazard rate for Napier Hastings and inflations, partly offset by cost-savings and Hawke’s Bay Tourism reduction (2.3%)

Have your say:

Do you agree with the Regional Council joining the LGFA scheme as an unrated guaranteeing borrower?

* This replaces what you have previously been charged in your city/district council rates.

Have your say:

Do you agree with our proposed changes to the economic development rate?

Have your say:

Do you agree with our proposed incentives to improve land, water and biodiversity?

Have your say:

Do you agree with our approach to these partnership areas to improve land, water and biodiversity?

Have your say:

Do you agree with our proposed rate increases?