

Regional Council Rates

2019-2020



Welcome to your rates newsletter

Accelerating our environmental action

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, tēnā koutou katoa

This year marks 30 years since the Hawke's Bay Regional Council was formed. In celebrating this milestone, we have been reflecting on what we have achieved, but also how much more we need to do.

Our state of environment monitoring tells us that Hawke's Bay still has a long way to go to before all of our streams, rivers, lakes and coast, and our threatened native biodiversity, are in good health. As such, we are continuing to grow our capability to do more on your behalf to achieve a healthy environment, a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

Our recent 2019 Resident Survey showed that three-quarters of you see us as the region's main environmental organisation. It's a big responsibility to lead our community's careful management of natural resources, but with your help we are up for the challenge. Thanks to the funding from your rates, as well as user charges, borrowing, investment income and government grants, we've been able to increase our ability to regulate and reduce the activities that can harm our environment.

The Regional Council declared a climate emergency in June. Our region has always been prone to soil erosion. Every year we lose millions of tonnes of soil from our land at the expense of our streams, rivers and the ocean. Climate change is expected to worsen these issues and adds to the urgency of the challenges we face. We are developing a comprehensive programme of work in response to climate change, building on work we've already started accelerating our environmental focus. You will hear from us more about this work in the year ahead.

You will notice that your rates have increased again this year, on average by 7.9%. This increase is as we forecast and consulted on in our 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. We are very conscious that your rates come from your hard-earned income, and therefore we have a responsibility to use it wisely and for greatest impact and community benefit. Thank you for your contribution to protecting and enhancing our beautiful and bountiful region.

James Palmer
Chief Executive

What we do

*We are a council with a focus on the Hawke's Bay region as a whole, and particularly on our natural environment - the **air, land, lakes, rivers, aquifers and the marine areas** that sustain us all.*

Our region

*Hawke's Bay covers a total land area of **1.42 million hectares** of diverse geography. It stretches from the foothills of major mountain ranges in the west, seven major river systems and extensive plain areas, to coastal hills and a 350km eastern coastline with a wide variety of environments to manage.*

"We're well into the work we need to do to enhance our environment for our community, now and for the future."

Te whakapakari tahi i tō tātau **taiao**.
Enhancing our **environment** together.

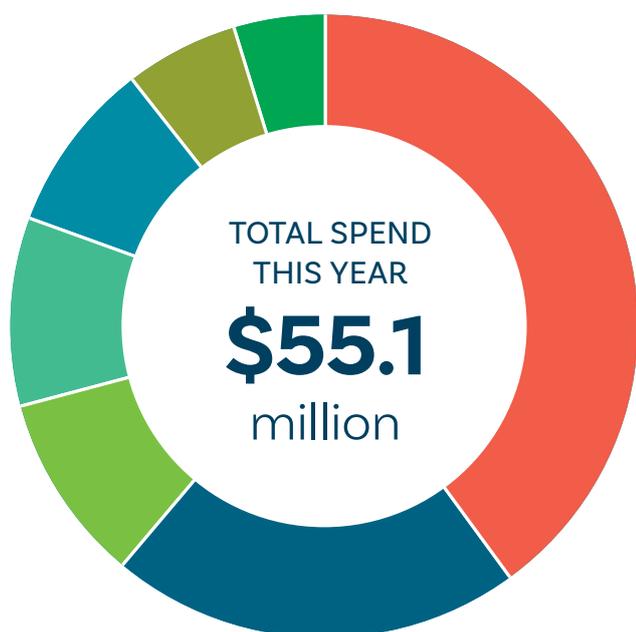
Working with our community



“The influence of climate change is increasingly reflected in the Regional Council’s work programmes, such as erosion control, water security, coastal hazards and our long-standing flood protection schemes.”

Expenditure at a glance

38% of the total funding for the Annual Plan 2019-20 is through general rates and targeted rates. Grants, reserves, loans, fees and charges, and investment income make up the balance required for expenditure.



- **Land, water, biodiversity & science (Integrated Catchment Management)**
\$22.3 million (40%)
- **Flood protection & drainage, regional parks & trails (Asset Management)**
\$11.9 million (22%)
- **Consents & Compliance**
\$5.0 million (9%)
- **Transport**
\$5.4 million (10%)
- **Strategic Planning (including Economic Development)**
\$4.9 million (9%)
- **Governance & Partnerships**
\$3.2 million (6%)
- **Civil Defence**
\$2.4 million (4%)

2019-20 rates highlights

Hawke's Bay Regional Council rates are used for managing natural resources – water, land, air and coast – and other regional functions like transport and Civil Defence.



Water Security

We're working on a regional freshwater assessment and new water security solutions for the Heretaunga and Tuketuki catchments.



Integrated Catchment Approach

We've grown our teams in Wairoa and Waipawa. Staff are helping landowners with farm plans and erosion control.



Erosion Control Scheme

We've introduced a subsidy of up to 75% to encourage our farmers to carry out large-scale planting on erosion prone land.



goBay Public Transport Network

Our community took 645,297 trips on goBay buses in the past year – that's nearly 54,000 trips every month!



Regulation

We've got more staff working to protect our environment, including our 24-hour pollution hotline phone 0800 108 838.



Plant to Protect

We're well on the way to planting 365,000 more trees in the region this year. This keeps soil on the land and protects our waterways.



Māori Partnerships

We're enhancing engagement with iwi, hāpu and whānau. Our staff engage the right people, at the right time and in the right way.



Enviroschools programme

We coordinate the Enviroschools programme in the region. We have 59 schools and early childhood centres who have committed to a long-term sustainability journey for their tamariki.



Regional parks and trails

Locals and visitors enjoy our four regional parks and more than 300 kilometres of Hawke's Bay Trails. We're also developing two new regional parks with tāngata whenua.



Predator Free Hawke's Bay

We're working with iwi and landowners to develop the largest possum eradication programme in NZ.



Future Farming Initiative

We're establishing a local hub of knowledge, research, education and opportunity for profitable and resilient farming.



Flood control

Your rates fund the operation and maintenance of our stopbanks, 25 pumping stations, drains, and river control works to keep us safe in floods.



Sustainable Homes

Over 13,500 homes are healthier and warmer thanks to our Sustainable Homes programme.



Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

They're working hard to make sure we're all prepared when a disaster strikes. The rebuild of the regional Emergency Coordination Centre is progressing well and expected to open later this year.



Coastal hazards

Climate change is predicted to see sea levels rise by up to 1.5m in the next 100 years. We're looking at ways to support our communities to respond to this change in our erosion prone coastline.

Stay up to date! Are you interested in occasional updates from the Regional Council on the work we do for you? Go to hbrc.govt.nz, and search #keepmeposted to sign up.

Payment Options

Rates are due for payment on 1 October 2019. The final date for payment to avoid a 10% penalty is 31 January 2020.

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

Direct Debit: Sign up online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #rates 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 2020, or pay a single instalment.

Credit card: Either pay online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #rates (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, 2020 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 postponement

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 #rates. Please contact our Rates staff for a confidential discussion. Your rates must be paid by 31 January 2020 to avoid a 10% penalty charged from 1 February.

Find your rates online

Check out more information about regional council rates online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #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 sign up to get your rates account my email. Visit our website hbrc.govt.nz, search #rates then click on your local city or district council.

HB Power Consumers' Trust

Dividend payment – cheque or direct credit?



Your choice is coming soon.

Watch out for registration details from mid-October.

We're here to help

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

Be in the draw to win a water tank!

Switch your rates payments to direct debit.

Direct debit is the easy way to pay your rates. We do all the work for you!

Sign up to pay your rates direct debit online at hbrc.govt.nz, search #rates or complete the enclosed form and return it to us.

There are two draws each month to win one of 24 water conservation/emergency water tanks for your home! One is for new direct debit customers and one for existing customers.



Thank you!

We're saying thanks with a tank to help make your homes and gardens more sustainable.

New due date for Regional Council rates next year

A heads up that there will be a change to the due date for your rates from next year. Regional Council invoices are currently sent out in September each year, with final date for payment 31 January.

From July 2020, rates will be invoiced in early August and due by 20 September. We've included a separate letter with more information.