

Charting a new course together

We are in year three of Hutt City Council's 10 Year Plan 2024–2034, which sets out the services and projects we will fund over the next decade.

Financial pressure on ratepayers, Government direction on rates capping and upcoming legislative changes have highlighted the importance of the work we're already doing to contain rate increases for our communities.

In February 2026, Hutt City Council approved Adjusting Our Sails, a target operating model report that responds to dealing with the unprecedented change facing local government. It outlines a programme to reduce Council's costs to reduce the rates burden, respond to cost-of-living challenges and prepare for rates capping. This will guide our decision-making over the next three years as we engage with our community about service reductions and asset divestment. No decisions have been made at this stage.

This draft Annual Plan begins charting that new course with ongoing savings and efficiencies, while we develop proposals for future community engagement. It is grounded in careful financial management, ensuring every dollar is aligned to what matters most. These measures, and the transfer of water services to Tiaki Wai, have enabled us to reduce the proposed rates increase to \$4.33 per week or \$225 per year for an average household.

The overall proposed rates revenue increase of 9.5% (after growth) is less than the 12.9% (after growth) signalled last year. Rates rises vary across the different rating categories.

We want to hear from you about whether this strikes the right balance between affordability, continued investment and meeting the needs and expectations of our communities.

Want to know more?



You can view the full draft Annual Plan at hutt.city/draftannualplan



Our current situation



Many strengths to build on

Council has modernised systems, strengthened financial discipline, and invested in digital capability. We are a trusted central government partner and a regional leader in water renewals.

We have tripled our investment in water services over the past few years.

Our people are one of our greatest strengths, supported by strong partnerships with Mana Whenua and constructive regional collaboration.



A difficult economic environment

Cost-of-living pressures continue to increase, placing real strain on household budgets. At the same time, the cost of delivering council services continues to rise.

We have made savings of \$55 million recent years as part of the 10 Year Plan and Annual Plan processes and are implementing smarter, more cost-effective ways to deliver services, including through AI and technology.

In February 2026, Council approved Adjusting Our Sails, a target operating model report, showing we need to save approximately \$24 million annually by 2034 to meet the Government's proposed 4% rate cap. Savings of this scale cannot be made without fundamental changes to the services we provide, and we anticipate reducing the number of assets we own.



Managing our infrastructure and assets

Infrastructure remains one of Council's most significant challenges. While water services will transfer to Tiaki Wai on 1 July 2026, Council will continue to face substantial infrastructure pressures across transport, community facilities, parks, and resilience assets, with many requiring upgrades.

This draft Annual Plan prioritises investment in maintaining safety, compliance and service reliability while managing affordability.

\$100 rates spend on average over the next 8 years*

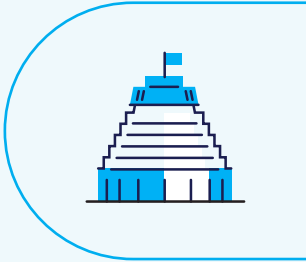


* We expect to receive \$4.50 credit from the landfill. This will help to offset costs and is reflected in the figures for all these other services shown here.

Impact of Government reforms

Should Government reforms like rates capping go ahead, this would significantly restrict councils’ ability to fund rising costs, renew ageing infrastructure, and respond to growth or climate resilience demands.

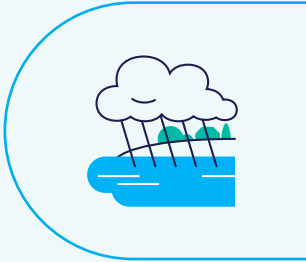
The Government is also progressing major changes to the local Government system, including the potential amalgamation of local councils and the replacement of the Resource Management Act. Council is engaging constructively with these reforms to ensure they can be implemented effectively while continuing to deliver essential services.



Changing climate and weather events

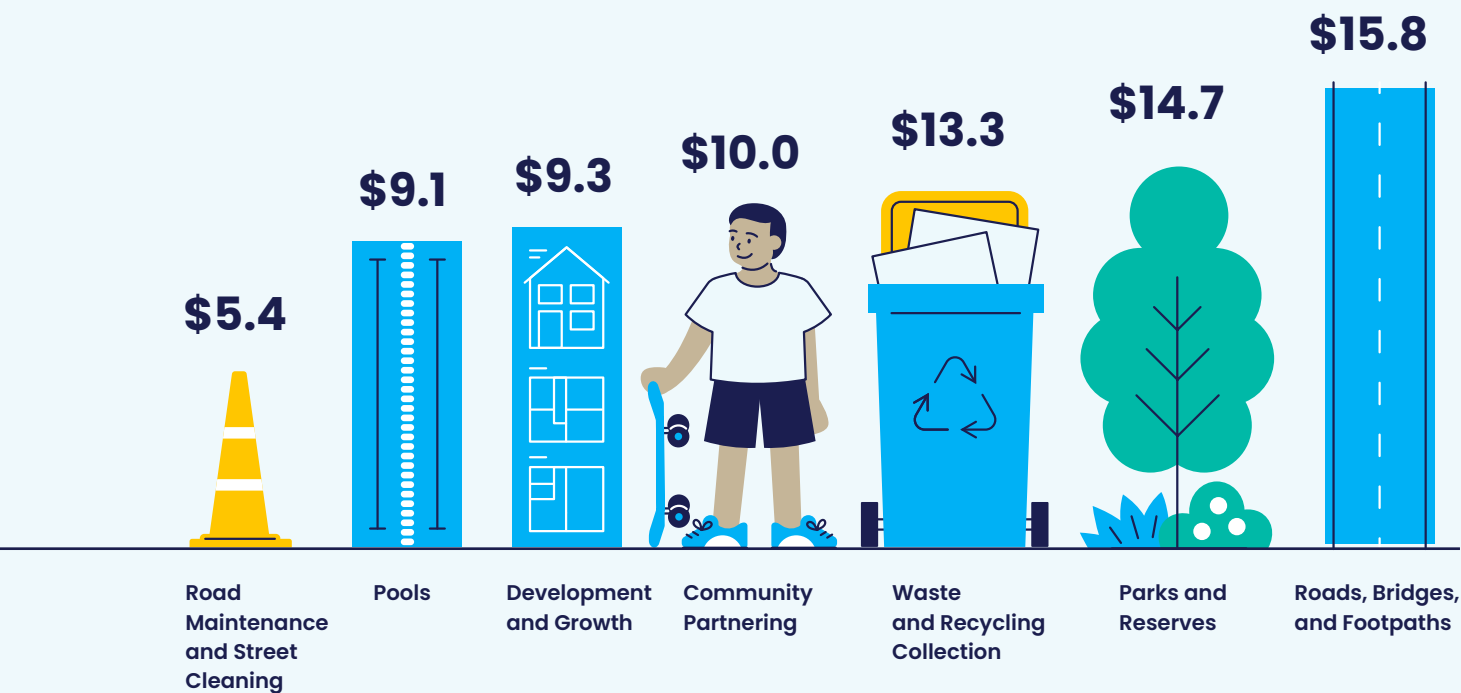
Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of weather events. Council is responding by delivering Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi (RiverLink), a major project in partnership with Mana Whenua, Greater Wellington and central government.

We are also building capacity into our budgets to respond to increasingly frequent weather events.



Changes in this draft Annual Plan

This year we are proposing to largely deliver year 3 of the 10 Year Plan 2024–2034. Other than the transfer of water services to Tiaki Wai, we are not making any significant changes to previous financial decisions on assets, services and projects.



** Sustainability engagement represents spending on community activities, along with facilitation of projects across council activities, including investment in decarbonisation of council facilities, healthy urban waterways, etc.

What else is changing?



Water services

The water services revenue, costs, assets and liabilities have been removed from Council's budget from 1 July 2026. Property owners will receive a separate invoice for water services from Tiaki Wai. The Tiaki Wai Water Services Strategy is open now for public feedback until 22 May at tiakiwai.co.nz.



The Revenue and Financing Policy

The upcoming transfer of water services prompted a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy to ensure it remains accurate once these services are no longer delivered by Council. Most of the policy remains appropriate and continues to apply. Changes are limited to removing references to water services, and a proposal to introduce a new "water utilities" rating category. Refer to the separate consultation to learn more and have your say at hutt.city/RFconsultation.

What do you think?

This year we are seeking feedback on:



Rates increase

The proposed rates increase of \$4.33 per week or \$225 per year for an average household.

The overall rates revenue increase proposed is 9.5% (after growth) and varies across the different rating categories. Note that the increase will apply to the portion of your Hutt City Council rates bill that remains after water services charges are transferred to Tiaki Wai on 1 July.



Fees and charges

We are proposing to increase fees and charges to reduce the impact on ratepayers, and ensure users pay for the services they receive. Check out the full list of proposed fees and charges in the draft Annual Plan at hutt.city/draftannualplan.



Investing in a programme of change

To make savings and minimise future rates increases, Adjusting Our Sails, our target operating model report sets the direction for a structured programme of change over time. Council has approved an initial \$2M investment for the change programme in 2026–27. Find out more about this at hutt.city/aos.

We have a handy tool at hutt.city/ratescalculator where you can see what your estimated Hutt City Council rates would be for 2026–27, and see hutt.city/watercalculator for your estimated Tiaki Wai water charges.

Your feedback helps us understand what matters most and gives elected members the confidence to make decisions that reflect the priorities of our resident and business communities.

Have your say:

-  hutt.city/draftannualplan
-  Scan the QR code
-  Or fill in a feedback form at one of our neighbourhood hubs



Feedback closes at 5pm on 1 May 2026.