



HEALING  
**OUR REGION**  
FOR OUR FUTURE



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Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti  
**GISBORNE**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Tō tātau tirohanga whakamua

## Our vision

**Oranga wai**  
**Healthy water**



**Oranga tangata**  
**Healthy people**



**Oranga whenua**  
**Healthy land**



**Oranga mo āpōpō**  
**Healthy future**



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## Te Whakaora i Te Tairāwhiti Healing Tairāwhiti

**This Three Year Plan (3YP) deals with the far-reaching damage and impacts of severe weather in 2023 which left scars on our environment and our people.**

Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted major vulnerabilities in the infrastructure we all use every day - from 3 waters to roading, flood protection and even managing our waste.

We estimate our infrastructure alone suffered \$1.1 billion in damage, that includes \$725m for roading and \$172m to clear large wood debris.

This is huge and the future resilience of our infrastructure requires significant investment. We won't be able to do this alone and will continue to partner with government to ease the financial burden.

Our focus for this plan is balancing recovery with our community's needs and aspirations while maintaining, restoring and reconnecting in a way that's affordable and financially sustainable.

Work hasn't stopped and we have a lot more to do to repair and heal as we keep Tairāwhiti moving forward.

The government's decision to repeal Three Waters means we continue to own and deliver wastewater, stormwater and drinking water services. Going forward we'll look at how this is managed and put together a plan guided by the policy and tools provided to us.

Despite tremendous challenges we have come up with a sound financial strategy, outlining how we pay for the day-to-day core services while building back stronger. We simply cannot tackle all of the issues, if we did it would mean a rates increase of more than 20%.

To do everything in this plan, within the timeframe with the resources we have - we propose an 11.4% rates rise in the first year, 9.8% by year two and 8.4% in the third. It's up to you to look at what we propose - the options show what we can deliver within our budget constraints versus what we could achieve with more money.

We have pulled every financial lever in our power to address the affordability issues we face with recovery, but the reality is this hard road will stretch out long beyond the next 3 years.

I encourage you to read on - your input helps us to see if we're on the right track. We must carefully navigate the path ahead to enable our people and our environment to heal.

Mayor Rehette Stoltz  
Te Koromatua  
Gisborne District Council

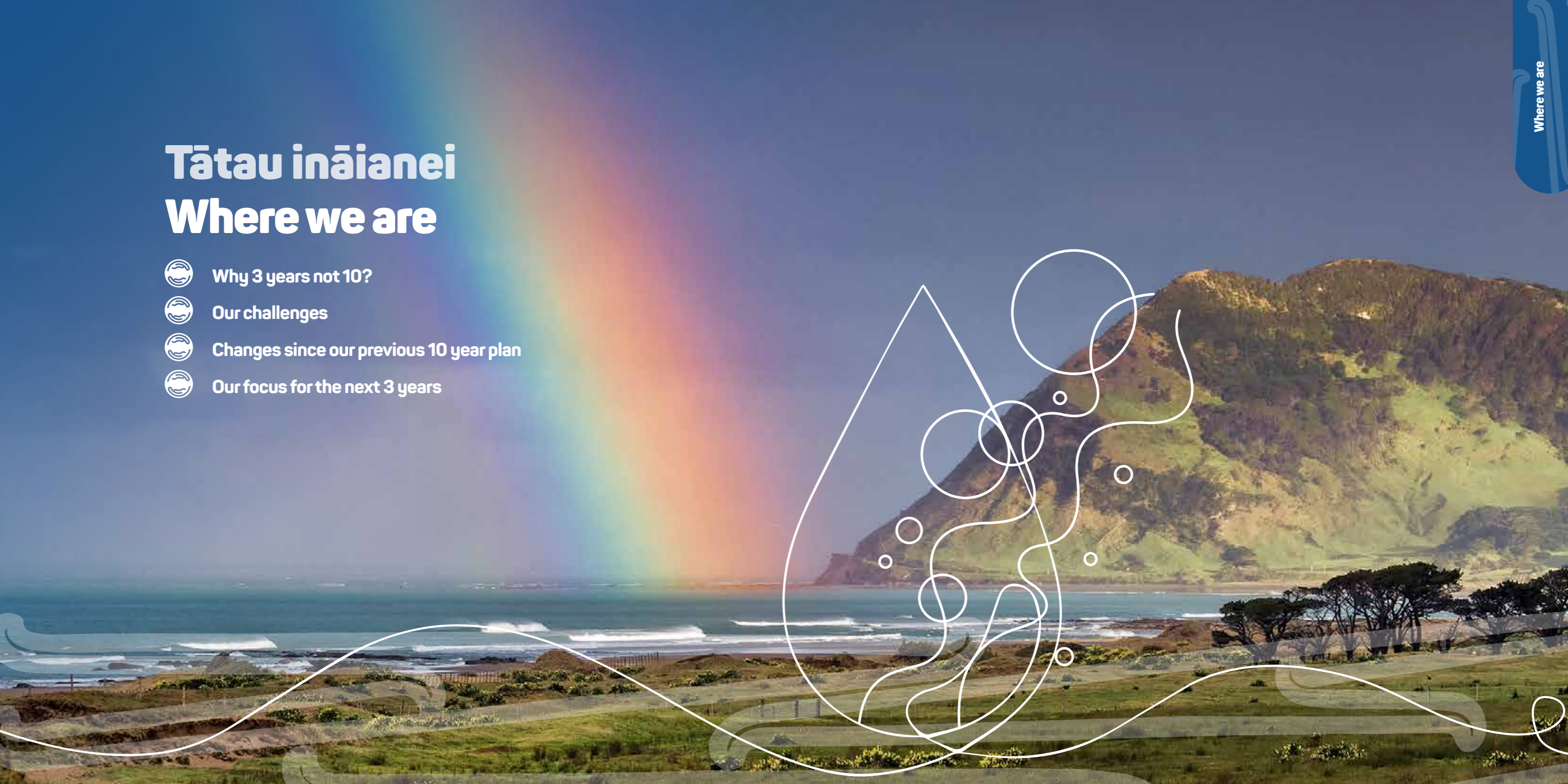


**Rising costs and a huge workload means we can't fix everything and it's going to take longer than 3 years to fix.**

# Tātau ināianeī

## Where we are

- 🌊 Why 3 years not 10?
- 🌊 Our challenges
- 🌊 Changes since our previous 10 year plan
- 🌊 Our focus for the next 3 years





**3YP**  
**THREE YEAR**  
**PLAN**

## He aha ai ko te toru tau ēhara i te tekau tau? Why 3 years not 10?

This 2024-2027 3YP outlines what recovery work and services Gisborne District Council will focus on, how we'll pay and what it means for rates and debt.

Due to the disruption caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, the government changed the legislative requirement for us to produce a Long Term Plan with a 10 year scope.

Instead, they've allowed us to prepare a plan for 3 years with a focus on recovery, recognising that cyclone damage has created uncertainty around costs, funding and timing. The extent of work ahead also impacts our ability to deliver previously planned projects.

## Ō tātau tauwhāinga Our challenges

We have to balance our business-as-usual core services with major projects and an enormous amount of recovery work.

This 3YP faces the harsh reality of a \$1.1 billion recovery bill for our infrastructure alone. That's mostly for damage to our local roading network and the clean-up of large wood debris.

Every service we deliver to our community has in some way been affected by the cyclones – from our parks and reserves, cemeteries, public toilets, walkways, boat ramps and playgrounds to our 3 waters.

We also have to increase flood protection and factor in voluntary buyout of damaged homes and lifting homes in flood risk areas under the government's Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) framework.

We've received government funding of \$204m towards helping us fix and repair, but to recover back to what we previously had means there's a lot we can't afford to do.

*We have around \$2.6 billion in assets, mostly infrastructure that needs to be maintained. We still need to deliver core services – from the water we drink to the roads we drive and even the slide at your local park.*

### Did you know?

FOSAL is government's land categorisation process to deal with the risks of properties affected during severe weather events.

# Ngā wāhanga hou mai te mahere tekau tau o muri

## Changes since our previous 10 year plan

As we begin the healing journey for Tairāwhiti, we know costs, resources and the need to keep rates as low as possible will affect our ability to build back stronger.

We must focus on fixing what's broken and reinstate critical infrastructure.

Inflation and rising interest rates pose significant hurdles for our 3YP, while the scale and cost of work post cyclones continues to stretch our already limited resources.

### There's more work than we can do

As we enter the next 3 years we know there is more to do than we can achieve with the resources available.

Like many other cyclone-affected councils this billion-dollar repair bill is one no community wants. The workload created by recovery not only impacts our budgets, but places a strain on contractors, who are limited by their capacity to deliver more.

### Rising costs

We have been impacted by rising interest rates and inflation which now seriously affects our ability to keep rates down.

Higher all-round expenses and not receiving dividends for 3 years from Gisborne Holdings Limited (GHL) means we can no longer hold rising costs back from ratepayers.

### Affordability stretched

We understand many are struggling which is why we've looked closely at what we need to do and what we can afford, alongside keeping the impact on ratepayers as low as possible.

We propose to delay any major projects that are not externally funded. We will also introduce additional rate remissions to help property owners facing significant hardship.

In doing this we hope to support the current needs of our communities, without over-burdening future generations.

To ease the cost of recovery on our region, we continue to seek support from funding agencies.

### Did you know?

Gisborne Holdings Limited is our main investment vehicle. It is a 100% Council owned and Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) – with a primary focus on providing an income stream to Council through its commercial operations.



Learn more on our website, see the Draft Financial Strategy and Rates Remission and Postponement Policy



# Tō tātau aronga mō ngā toru tau whai ake nei

## Our focus for the next 3 years

Over the next 3 years we will establish some of the key building blocks for our region's future. To do this we will keep in mind that everything we do is in line with our vision for **healthy water, healthy land, healthy people and healthy future.**

### Resilient and healthy waters

- Improving waterways with accelerated fixes and replacements in our wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.
- On-going development of freshwater and catchment plans to protect our waterways.
- More resilient water supply infrastructure – increase our backup supply of pipes and parts for quicker fixes.
- Increased resources for drainage management, silt and wood debris removal.

### Safe and healthy people

- Accelerate the Waipoa River Control Scheme, alongside additional infrastructure investment for new schemes protecting communities from future flooding.
- Completing the voluntary residential property buyouts for Future of Severely Affected Land Category 3 properties where there's an intolerable risk to life from flooding or landslide and it's not possible to reduce the risk.
- Continue with township improvements for the wellbeing of our people.

### Effective regulatory functions

- Increasing resources for statutory obligations and the protection of our environment.
- Reviewing our Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) to ensure best management practices for land use in our region including:
  - New restrictions on forestry harvesting to minimise the amount of slash and sediment impacting our waterways.
  - Work to develop a Catchment Forestry Plan template which can be applied across Tairāwhiti. These plans integrate best-practice management tailored to the threats, pressures and issues of each catchment.
  - Mapping our region's worst eroding land which is unsuitable for clear-fell harvest and farming to update land overlay data to manage erosion risk. This land will be transitioned to permanent vegetative cover. To do this, we will work alongside our Treaty partners, foresters, farmers and government agencies to create transition pathways.
  - Wider policies and rules to reduce erosion risk from rural land uses on our waterways and coastal areas.

### Building back our damaged roading network

- Repairing and adding resilience to the network over the next 3-5 years. This includes about \$250m of emergency work, and recovery of which \$125m is government funded.

### Sustainable and resilient waste management

- Delivering a new resource recovery centre.
- Improving kerbside collections to better separate our waste.
- Improving our landfill management to cope with receiving waste.





# Tō mātau whakaritenga mō ngā rēti

## Our plan for rates

- 🌀 Our budget to heal and repair
- 🌀 Rates increase explained
- 🌀 Dealing with debt
- 🌀 What your rates will pay for
- 🌀 What we do every day
- 🌀 Proposed rates changes



## Tō tātau pūtea whakaora me te whakapai Our budget to heal and repair

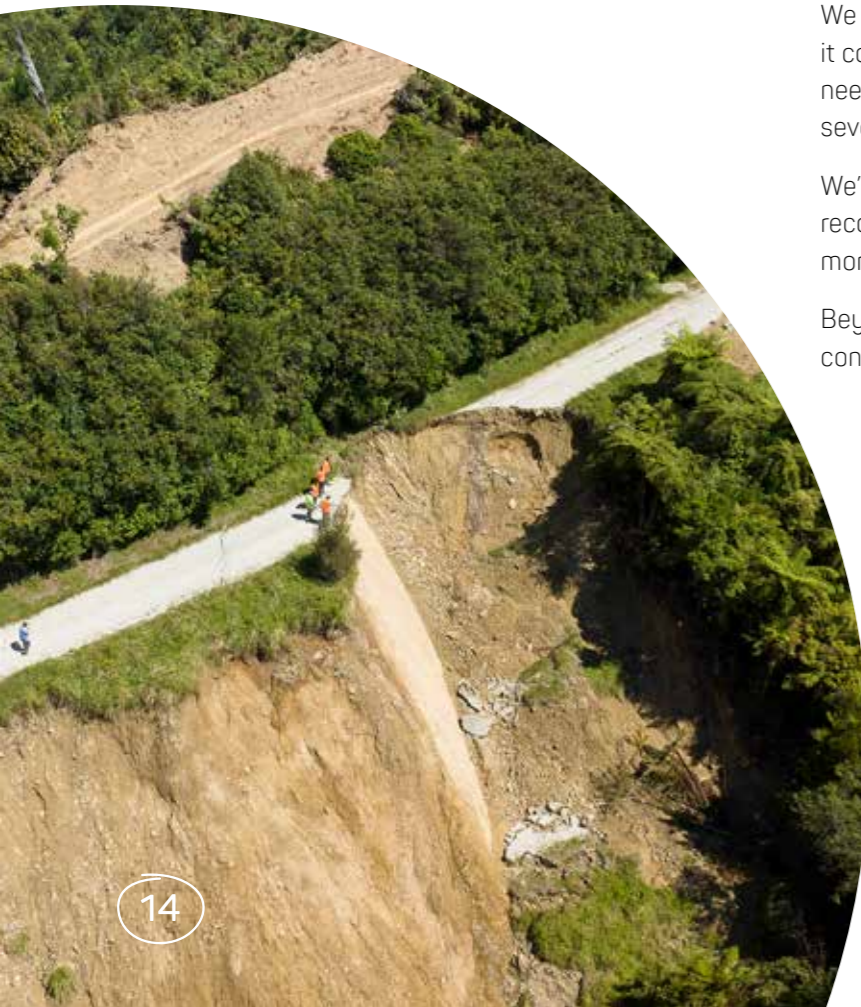
This is a no-frills budget focused on delivering our core services along with paying for the big-ticket items as we build back stronger for the future.

We've done this by carefully managing debt and spending. We've been mindful of affordability by smoothing the impacts of rate rises to future years as much as possible.

We also don't want to 'max out the credit card' when it comes to the amount we're prepared to borrow. We need to save for a rainy day and be prepared for more severe weather events to come.

We're spending the government's funding on our recovery projects, and we'll continue to apply for more money.

Beyond the life of this plan we still require considerable investment in our broken infrastructure.



## Whakamāramatanga i ngā rēti eketia Rates increase explained

We're proposing a maximum rates increase of 11.4% in the 2024/25 financial year.

The total revenue we will collect from rates will be: \$84.3m in 2025, \$92.9m in 2026 and \$101.2m in 2027.

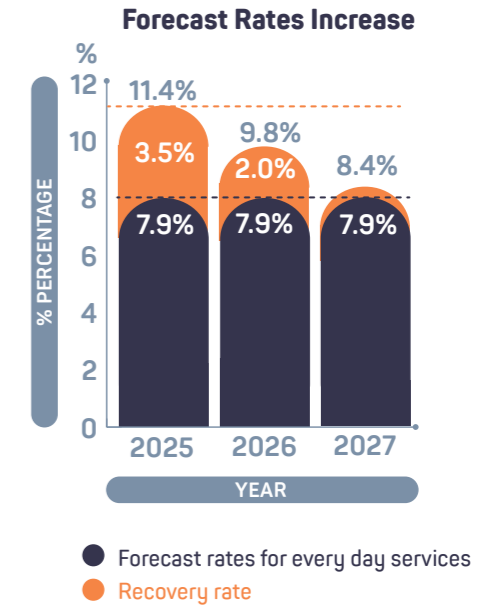
**7.9%** keeps up with the rising cost of inflation to pay for the core every day services such as roading, water services, township upgrades and clearing drains.

**3.5%** is an additional recovery rate to cover costs arising from Cyclone Gabrielle. For most ratepayers this equates to an additional \$82 in 2024/25.

### The new recovery rate includes:

- Future of Severely Affected Land (FOSAL) costs for the voluntary property buyouts for homes identified in this category.
- Increased flood protection across our region.
- Increased response for silt removal from our drains and large wood debris from the water catchments.

Average household rates are set at the lowest level possible to keep Tairāwhiti moving forward, while responding to our significant recovery issues.



## Te whakarite i ngā nama Dealing with debt

Our strategy is to set our debt cap at 175% of our income. We'll only borrow what's required to fund our major projects, and only when it's needed.

Debt is set to peak at \$248m over the next 6 years. This is up from \$150m projected in our previous Long Term Plan.

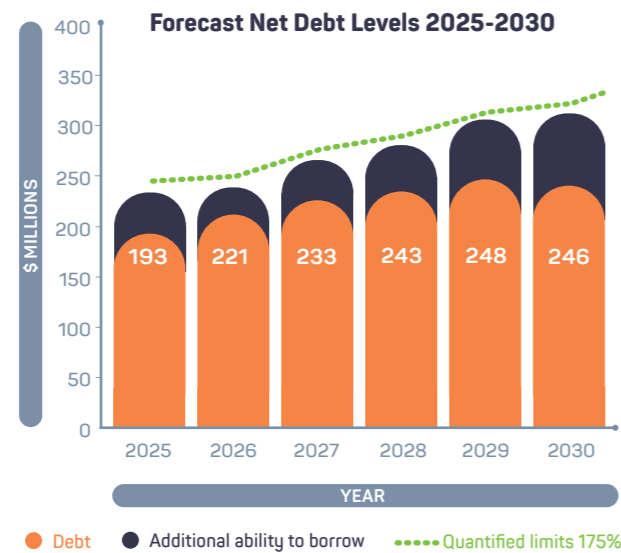
Most of the increased debt has been driven by recovery infrastructure projects, such as FOSAL Category 2 and 3, roading and resilience for our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

In forecasting debt over the next 6 years we've assumed Three Waters services remain within our control.

### Did you know?

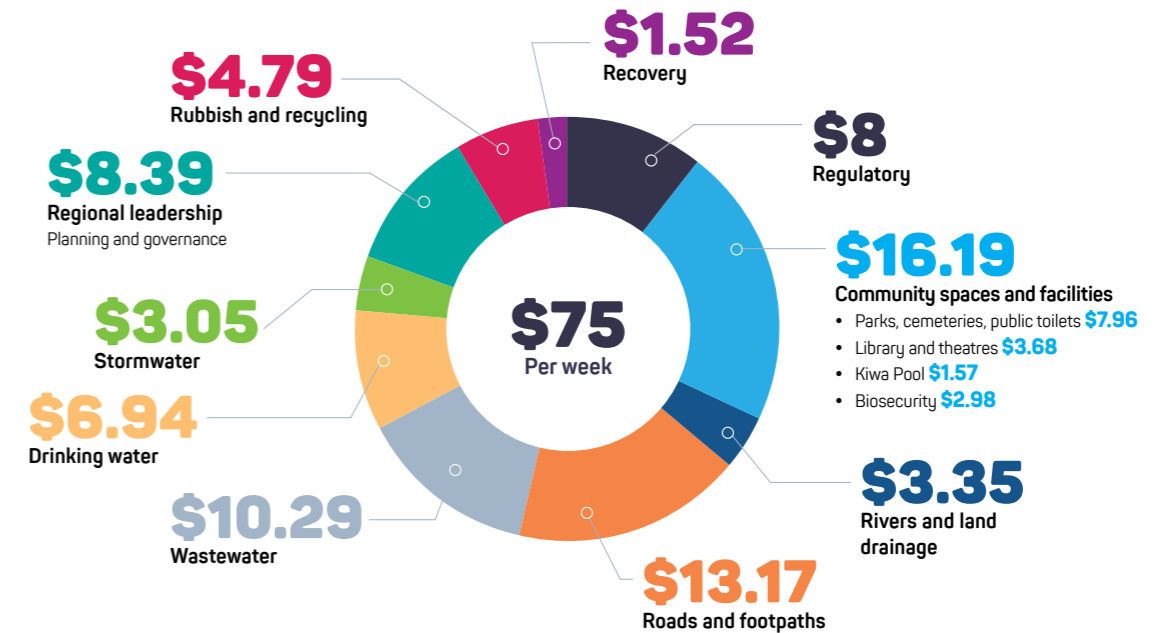
Our debt cap is what we've allowed ourselves to borrow from the bank.

Our debt cap leaves some borrowing headroom to respond to emergencies should it be required.



## Ka utu i te aha ōu rēti What your rates will pay for

With a maximum rates increase of 11.4%, on average, a household will pay around \$75 per week for activities and infrastructure we provide every day.



### Did you know?

How much you pay depends on a number of factors such as:

- Any change to the value of your property. Rate revaluations were completed in 2023.
- Services your property is rated for.
- Changes to the amount we charge for services.

# A tātau mahi ia rā, ia rā

## What we do every day

We provide all the services of both a regional and district council. These are core services and facilities that keep Tairāwhiti ticking along every day.

### Community facilities

- 13** cemeteries
- 53** public toilets
- 40** playgrounds
- 35** sport parks
- 2500m<sup>2</sup>** gardens
- 4000** street trees
- Library**
- Kiwa Pools**
- 2** theatres
- 9** boat ramps
- 9** rural transfer stations



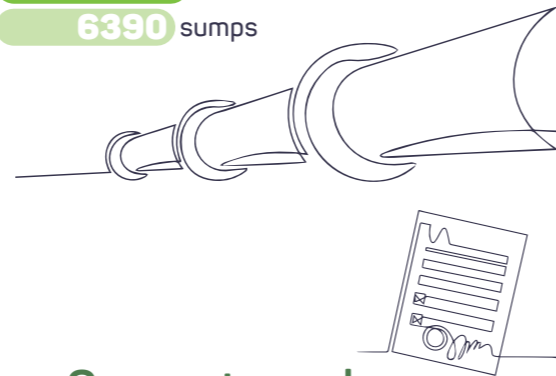
### Flood protection

- 277 km** rural land drains
- 303 km** rivers and streams
- 67.3 km** stopbanks



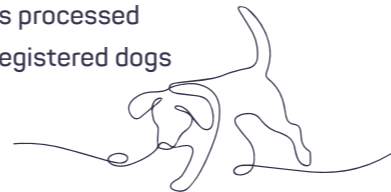
### Stormwater

- 170 km** stormwater pipes and drains
- 6390** sumps



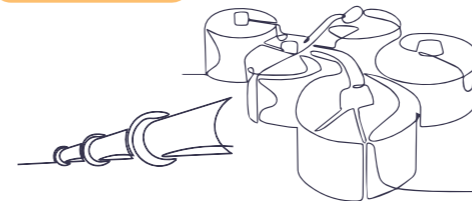
### Consents each year

- 6390** open environmental consents
- 1524** building and resource consents
- 176** LIMs processed
- 9800** registered dogs



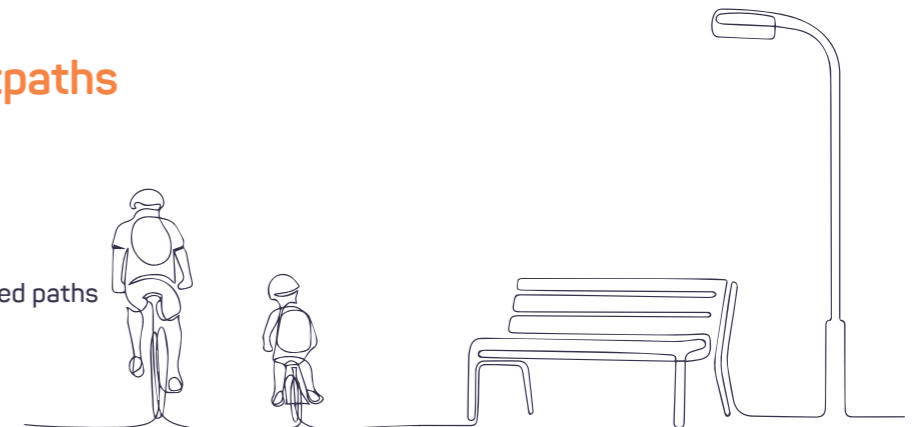
### Drinking water

- 4** water treatment plants (Waingake, Waipaoa, Te Karaka, Whatatutu)
- 7** water reservoirs
- 250 km** water pipes



### Roads and footpaths

- 1899 km** roads
- 413** bridges
- 3703** streetlights
- 239 km** footpaths
- 10.9 km** cycleway shared paths
- 21** roundabouts



### Wastewater

- 228 km** wastewater pipes
- 2910** wastewater manholes
- 42** pump stations
- 2** wastewater treatment plants, 1 oxidation pond (Te Karaka)



### Services

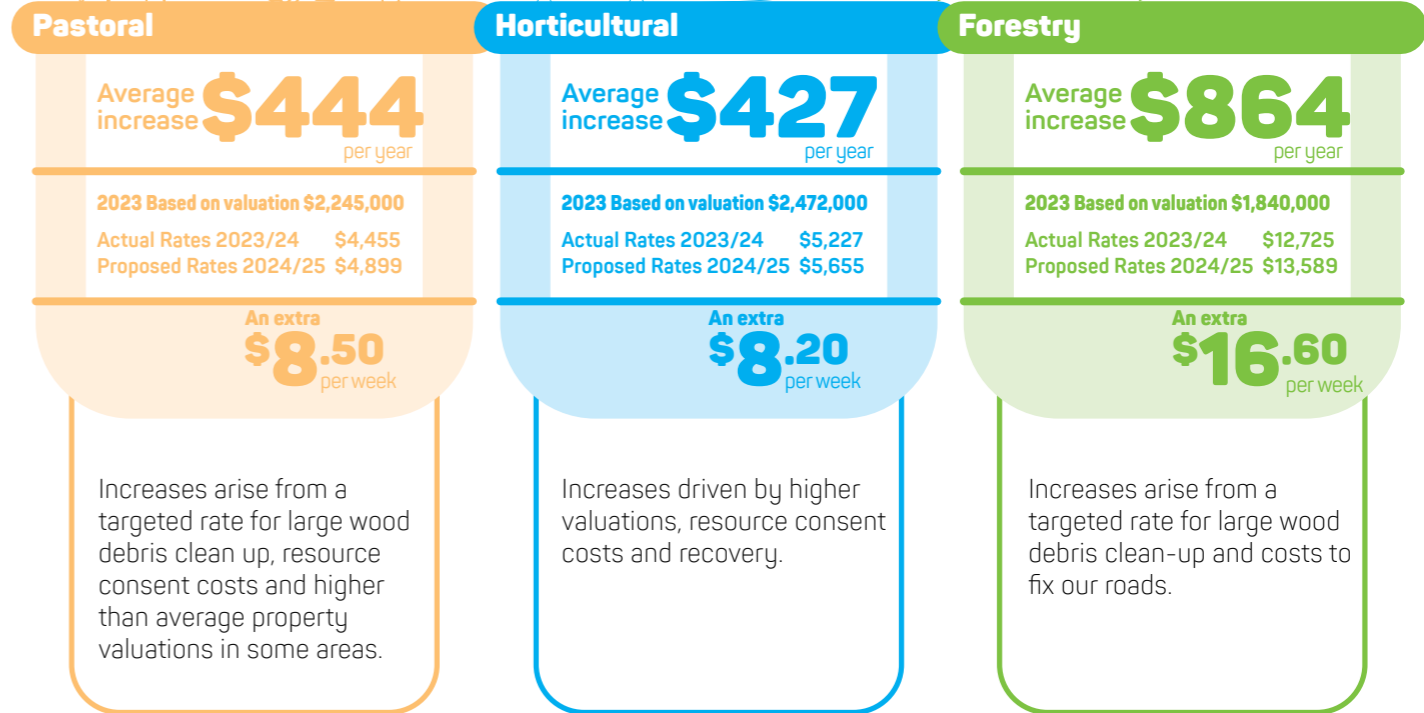
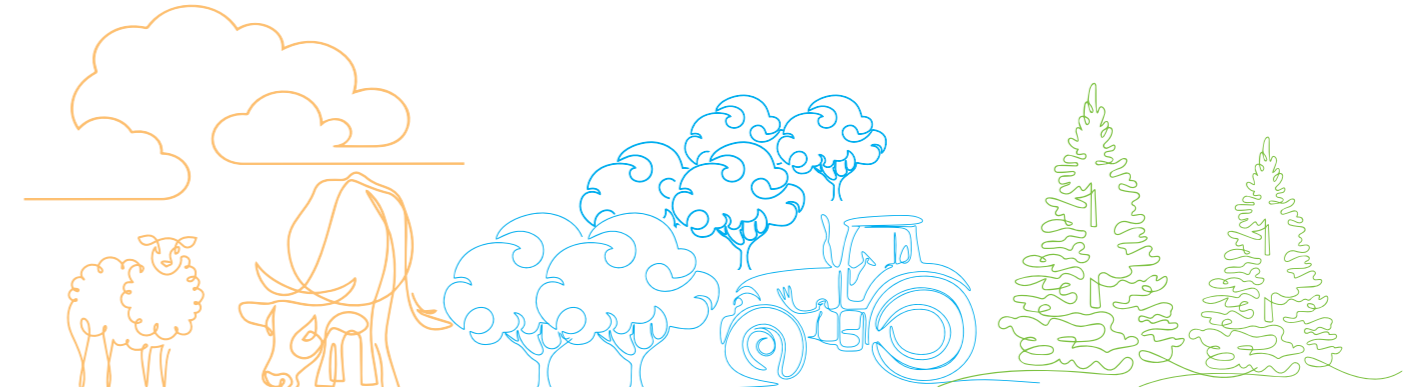
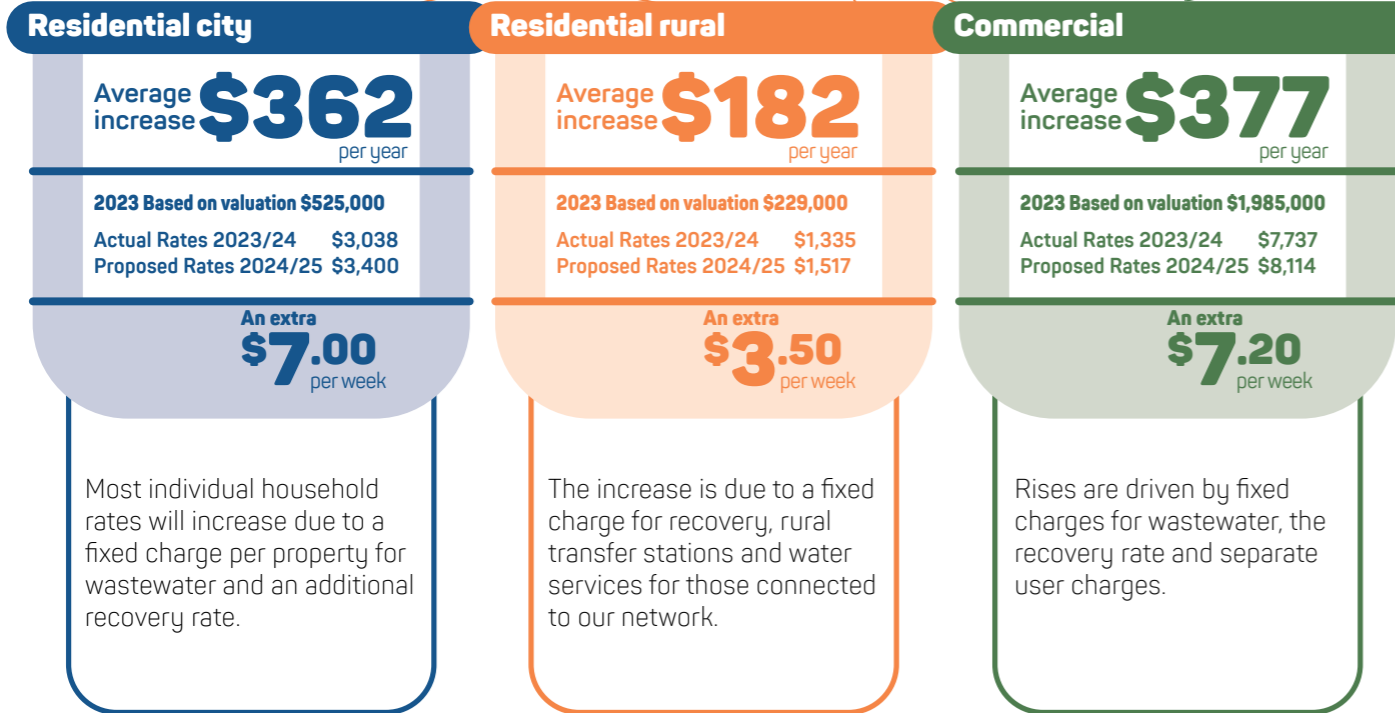
- 56** parking meters
- 590** litter bins
- 14851** houses on kerbside collection



# Ngā āhua whakahou rēti

## Proposed rate changes

Examples of average rates per type of property\*



\*Examples are based on average valuations for each sector

# Ka ahatia tātau nāianeī

## What we need to do



### Our recovery

- What we've done
- Where we'll be by 2027
- Safer communities
- Roads to recovery
- Flood protection
- Community-led plans



### Major projects



### Our other projects



# Te whakaoranga Our recovery

Cyclone Gabrielle hit when our critical infrastructure was already in a fragile state following 9 severe weather events since 2021. Now we're faced with about 1800 recovery projects to deliver as well as our everyday business.

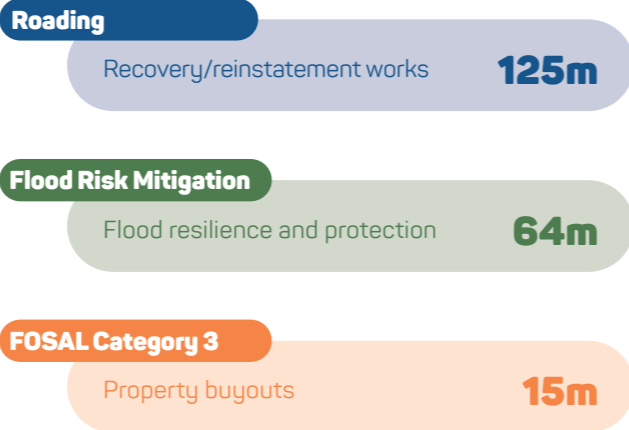
Our recovery plan prioritises infrastructure repairs with building back stronger to be prepared for potential future risks. The recovery plan estimates we need about \$1.1 billion for recovery efforts over several years.

In November 2023 we secured a \$204m cyclone support package from government. This funding is for specific recovery projects across the region.

If we don't focus on the recovery projects, we leave ourselves open to a worsening situation with future storm events.

## Government's cyclone support funding package of \$204m

This funding package will be spent beyond this 3YP plan.



 [Learn more about recovery on our website.](#)

# Ngā mahi kua oti i tēnei wā What we've done so far

**45 days**  
To repair 10 major breaks in the water pipeline

**193k tonnes**  
Wood debris removed from our waterways

Slash removed from  
**77 bridges**

Over  
**65,000m<sup>3</sup>**  
of silt removed

## Where we'll be by 2027

We'll have established some of the building blocks for our region's future, but this work will also stretch out beyond 3 years.



What we need to do

## Future of Severely Affected Land – FOSAL

Nearly 2,000 properties across our region experienced devastating impacts from flooding, silt inundation or land erosion. In response, central government launched the FOSAL framework.

This involved mapping the affected properties to pinpoint those at the highest risk of property damage or loss of life during future severe weather events. Properties have now been categorised according to risk as either Category 2 or 3.

Government funding has enabled us to buy out properties that are at the highest risk and to support mitigations for other properties. This funding does not cover the costs of house demolition or on-going maintenance from the buyout and will need to be funded through rates.

### Category 3 buyouts

This is the **highest risk** category and means those homes are no longer safe to live in due to an unacceptable threat to life and future potential of

flooding or landslide. Homes in these areas cannot be rebuilt on that site. We continue to work with those individual property owners.

### Category 2

This is the **managed risk** category – the risk to life can be mitigated by raising nearby stopbanks, improving drainage or property level interventions such as raising the house.

#### House lifting

We will work with eligible homeowners to raise houses above the water level seen during Cyclone Gabrielle. The goal is to reduce the likelihood of flooding inside the home in future severe weather events.

### Our focus for the next 3 years

By 2027 we aim to have:



Our roads are our lifelines and without building in long-term resilience, our community's economic and social wellbeing will be significantly affected.

Our rural network was closed during cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. Some communities were cut off for weeks with 8 bridges destroyed, 54 with major damage and significant slips and dropouts, leaving a repair bill stretching into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The total damage to our roading network has been assessed as \$465m to get it back to where we were, but to build back stronger we need \$725m. We also spent an additional \$85m on the initial emergency response.

This still leaves us with a significant shortfall, so we will be working in partnership with government to try and get more funding.

### Our focus for the next 3 years

Our work programme is focused on the greatest risk and the highest priority in terms of people's safety.

These priorities were consulted on in October 2023 as part of the support package.

We have secured \$125m for roading repairs from the government's \$204m cyclone support package.

8 destroyed bridges **\$23m**

We will fix 4 bridges with the government funding

51 severely damaged bridges **\$17.5m**

41 out of 51 severely damaged bridges will be repaired

Bridges **\$1m**

We will replace safety guardrails

Tiniroto Road **\$45m**

Assessing an alternative to SH2 south and addressing risks at the Bluffs

Slips and dropouts **\$8.5m**

Fix major slips and dropouts

Resilience **\$27m**

Provide greater resilience on Mata-Ihungia, Te Wera and Wharekopae roads as alternatives to the state highway



## Whakamaru waipuke Flood protection

Flood protection networks across our region have been impacted by ongoing heavy rain events and 2 cyclones. A major consequence was the reduced drain channel capacity caused by silt building up. This left many residents vulnerable to compromised drainage and heightened risk of future flooding.

### Our focus for the next 3 years

Flood protection work will speed up over spring and summer months.

We won't get through all the work in 3 years, realistically it may take up to 7 years. We will focus on the highest priority flood-prone areas.

We will continue to remove silt and large wood debris around structures, as well as advancing our stopbank projects to ensure resilience for the future.

### Did you know?

One excavator can clear 200m of drain each day. It's estimated to take 25 days to clear 5km of drains, weather permitting.

One kilometre of stopbank construction costs on average about \$0.3 - \$0.5m.

*In addition to the Waipaoa major project we've secured \$64m for flood protection from the government's \$204m cyclone support package.*

We will plan, review and model what can be built where, to reinstate, reinforce and improve the flood protection infrastructure and increase resilience of the networks.

A specific focus on the Waipaoa River's middle reaches, especially around Te Karaka to identify why flooding occurred. This will be used to develop future flood protection solutions for the area.

### Rural land drainage network

We are prioritising clearing drains in flood-prone areas such as Patutahi, Muriwai and Manutuke.

### Mangahauini River stopbank repair

Staged work of the Mangahauini River stopbank and erosion protection will help protect Tokomaru Bay township from flooding.

## Mahere aratakina e te hapori Community-led plans

We're supporting 25 communities across our region with their community plans identifying recovery priorities. These will take into consideration their aspirations as we plan and prioritise work for recovery.

These plans focus on our rural communities so we can improve efficiencies and increase resilience as we build back stronger for the future. We're also working with urban communities on the best approach to facilitate opportunities for recovery in the city.

While working in different communities we're also supporting groups such as Pasifika, sports and recreation and whaikaha (disability and accessibility).

### Our focus for the next 3 years

This is a new process and aims to create meaningful connections with our communities.

*Once the plans are complete, we will take key findings and use them to help prioritise recovery work in different areas.*



# Ngā mātua kaupapa mahi

## Major projects

As we focus on recovery, we must also remain committed to advancing our critical infrastructure projects and those that are externally funded. Projects like these help our communities to thrive.



### Waipaoa flood control



Following the completion of the city side of the Waipaoa stopbank flood control upgrade, we're advancing 25km on the western side of the river over the next 3 years. Stopbanks will be both higher and significantly wider to provide more flood protection accounting for climate change impacts of greater rain events and sea level rise.



### DrainWise



Our DrainWise programme is about continuing to work together with property owners to prevent wastewater overflows on private property and into our rivers during heavy rain. To prevent this, we inspect gully traps and downpipes on private properties to check they are in good condition and connected to the right outlet.

We also have an on-going renewal programme for old wastewater pipes to reduce groundwater leaking into these pipes.



### Wastewater treatment plant



We're upgrading the infrastructure of our treatment plant to improve water quality in partnership with key stakeholders and iwi representatives. We're exploring alternative use and disposal with wetlands to progress the use of treated water.

To begin the process of building a city wastewater wetland a further \$2.6m is budgeted beyond this 3YP. This will be the final stage of wastewater disposal, rather than the marine outfall.



### Walking and cycling



Our walking and cycling network consists of footpaths, shared paths, footbridges, bike lanes, mountain bike tracks and boardwalks. We're working on a plan to encourage different choices on how we travel.

Other related projects include speed reductions near schools and in townships, Streets for People, and a road safety campaign to support safer walking and cycling.

The only project in the next 3 years is extending the Taruheru River shared path from Mitre10 to the Botanical Gardens.



### Waingake transformation



We will continue with the programme of work to restore the natural eco-system to 1100ha of the Waingake Waterworks Bush in partnership with mana whenua Maraetaha Incorporation and supported by Ngāi Tāmanuhiri. We've planted thousands of natives; placed willow and poplar poles in erosion prone areas to protect our main water pipeline; removed wilding pine regrowth and kept pest numbers down including goats, deer, pigs, rats, possums, stoats and feral cats.

This provides meaningful training and employment, our biodiversity flourishes and our water supply remains high quality.



### Waste minimisation



We have an important role in managing waste, reducing the harm it can cause, and encouraging communities and businesses to reduce waste. By doing this we can reduce waste disposal costs to ratepayers.

Our project is a resource recovery and disposal centre. This will have an increased focus on recycling, recovery of our waste, and move towards zero waste.





## City centre revitalisation



Over the next year we'll work with our economic partner Trust Tairāwhiti to take a closer look at what needs to be done to revitalise our city's central business district (CBD).

Later we will ask you what you would like to see improved in the CBD to make it an even better place to live, work and play.



Budget for 3 years:

\$3m

## Kiwa Pools



As part of our plan for the next 3 years we will apply for external funding of \$3.5m to complete the outdoor area. This is a committed project and is the second stage of the Kiwa Pools project, enhancing our recreational facilities.

We require external funding of \$3.5m



Budget for 3 years:

\$6.5m

## A tātau ake mahi Our other projects

**We must also continue to manage shifting legislation and address the impacts of central government reforms.**

**We're working on these projects:**

### Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) review

Our region has changed due to increased development, population growth and changing demands on natural resources. Developing a new TRMP will protect what's important and provide a strategic view and direction that reflects the voice of mana whenua and our communities. This is a community-driven vision to address future challenges such as urban growth and development, outlined in the Tairāwhiti Future Development Strategy.

### Improving the quality of our freshwater

We're reviewing our freshwater plans to improve the water resources in our 7 catchment areas. This will include new freshwater targets and allocation limits.

Overall we will continue to work with community groups, agencies, iwi and hapu on a number of freshwater projects including:

#### Freshwater Improvement Fund

- Focussing on riparian planting, wetland restoration, removal of fish passage barriers, enhancing fish spawning and reducing erosion in our urban and peri-urban waterways.

#### Freshwater Farm Plan – Regional Pilot

- Tairāwhiti has been selected as one of 3 regions to test the freshwater farm planning process with a small selection of farms. The pilot will inform better planning practices in the future.

#### Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP)

- Under the TRMP, the ICMP will be completed alongside freshwater planning by 2025.

## Our places and spaces

We will continue to fix cyclone-damaged walkways and erosion prone areas in our reserves. At the same time we'll make sure the right asset is in the right place to future proof our facilities.




#### We'll take a look at:

- The number of public toilets and playgrounds across the region.
- Our main cemetery, we need a new site that's not affected by high groundwater tables.
- Ageing playground equipment for replacement.
- Planting natives as natural buffers in coastal areas.
- A feasibility study for a multi-purpose indoor court centre. This will be used to support a request for external funding.



# Kōrero mai Have your say

## Your options:

-  Our waters
-  Our roads
-  Land drainage
-  Large wood debris
-  Our townships
-  Future proofing waste disposal



# Kōrero mai Have your say

**We have some tough decisions ahead as we need to recover and keep investing in our region.**

The plans we make will touch the lives of everyone in our region – that’s why we want to know if we have the balance right.

We’ve talked about our recovery plans, some of which are funded by central government, and some aren’t. We also have to absorb rising costs from inflation in providing our much-needed every day services.

We are working hard to keep rates affordable while still doing what needs to be done.

**We’re asking for your feedback on the options for:**

- Our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater
- Our roads
- Land drainage
- Large wood debris
- Our townships
- Future proofing waste disposal

We understand it’s about balance – what needs to be done and what we can afford to do now, without placing too much financial burden on our future generation.



# Ō tātau wai Our waters



Managing our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater is the most important responsibility we have.

Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the vulnerability we face with our city’s water supply. Multiple breaks in the pipeline caused major water restrictions for residents and businesses for months.

We have a lot of work to do including removing large wood debris in the Te Arai catchment threatening our water pipeline.

We also need significant investment to make our water supply even more resilient in the future.

## What we can achieve in 3 years

The government announced a new direction for water services called ‘Local Water Done Well’ after repealing the Three Waters legislation, which recognises the importance of local decision-making.

The exact details of the new rules and structure remain uncertain.

By the end of 2025 government will provide direction to all councils on the requirements for setting up council-controlled organisations – banding together means we would have more borrowing power.

We will continue to improve and protect our 3 waters by:

- Replacing and renewing pipes across the network.
- Increasing resources for silt and wood debris removal near our water pipeline to prevent future damage.

### Water supply

- Comply with the recently enacted NZ Water Services Act.
- Improve capacity and resilience from the dams to the city.
- Increase our back up supply of pipes for faster fixes.

### Wastewater

- Continue our DrainWise programme working with property owners to reduce wastewater overflows.
- Continue replacing ageing pipes and infrastructure.

### Stormwater

- Continue to improve public network to reduce surface flooding.

# Ōu kowhiringa mō o tātau wai Your options for our water



## Our preferred option

This will give us a budget of \$43m over 3 years

- We will increase repairs and renew the infrastructure network of pipes, pump stations and treatment plants for more resilience.
- We will continue with our DrainWise programme.
- We can increase our backup supply of replacement pipes for immediate fixes across our networks.



## Spend more, do more

This will give us a budget of \$53m over 3 years

- Plan and model for alternative water supply sites.
- Increase the work required to reduce number of emergency wastewater overflows into our waterways.
- Making our water supply more resilient, quicker.

## Ō tātau rori Our roads



Our roads are our lifelines and our single biggest cost.

Our network of roads and bridges goes over unstable and highly erodible land that's prone to slips and dropouts making it fragile. Ongoing storms and more frequent flooding have magnified existing damage and without significant investment will remain challenging.

We need to make sure that the network connects Tairāwhiti safely, but we also need to look at the affordability of what we do now, and how we will do it in the future.

### Our challenges

Our road maintenance and construction budget has been stretched due to multiple storms, heavy freight and rising costs of fuel and materials.

We know potholes are an issue but the reality is there's not enough money to fix them all - to do that rates would need to increase by a further 16%.

We know that's unaffordable so we're reviewing our extensive 1899km roading network, to see where we need to build stronger roads, where to pull back and where to change the levels of service. This may mean we transition to unsealed roads in some areas.

### What we can achieve in 3 years

Our maintenance is behind schedule as we've had to reprioritise our resources and funding to reopen and repair roads following multiple storm events.

The maintenance programme will be done alongside the huge amount of Cyclone Gabrielle work across the network.

### Maintenance of our roading network includes:

- Chip seal – 879km sealed roads
- Metalling and grading – 1020km unsealed roads
- Mowing and vegetation control – 1,899km roads
- Fixing potholes – 887 roads
- Roadside drains
- Streetlights - 3703
- Footpaths and footbridges – 263km
- Bridges - 413
- Shared pathways – 10.9km

#### Did you know?

Our geology is soft like porridge and heavy rain events are predicted to increase in intensity. This makes our job to repair our roads increasingly difficult.

## Ōu whakaaro mō o tātau rori Your options for our roads



**Maintain our existing budget to meet rising costs of inflation.**  
**Our preferred option**

This will give us a budget of \$84m over 3 years.

Road maintenance will continue to be challenging.

- We won't be able to maintain some roads, but we will prioritise school bus and freight routes for stock trucks etc.
- We will plan and model for a resilient, safe and affordable network.
- Tauwhareparae Road will be reopened.
- We will continue with staged reinstatement of cyclone-damaged roads and bridges over 5 years.



**Spend even more, do more**

This will give us a budget of \$125m over 3 years.

As well as the work listed above, we will be able to increase our level of service on fixing potholes, maintaining roads and clearing drains.

# Whakaawa wai whenua Land drainage



We construct and maintain a network of open drains, across private land to provide land drainage.

The urban network consists of pipes, open drains, creeks and streams forming drainage systems across the district.

The rural network consists of 277km of drains spanning 14 drainage districts. We spray twice a year to keep weeds down.

Clearing drains would not completely stop flooding in extreme storm events, but increased maintenance could potentially provide more protection for properties.

## What we can achieve in 3 years

- We will continue to model effects and impacts of our drainage network to determine the best and most effective maintenance programme.
- We will prioritise clearing drains as part of a wider plan to protect homes and properties, particularly those in FOSAL Category 2 and 3 areas.
- We will continue to provide a flood protection warning service for some rivers.



# Ōu whakaaro mō te whakaawa wai whenua Your options for land drainage

▲ Rates increase	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>More money in the budget Our preferred option</b>
▬ Impact on debt	<b>\$ 0</b>	

This will give us a budget of \$4.1M over 3 years

- This will double our previous budget to clear sediment from drains and maintain our drainage network in flood-prone areas based on the flooding we have seen in previous rain events.

▲ Rates increase	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>Spend even more, do more</b>
▬ Impact on debt	<b>\$ 0</b>	

This will give us a budget of \$6.2m over 3 years.

- We will be able to do more drain clearing faster and increase our maintenance on clearing and spraying drains more frequently, particularly in flood-prone areas.



## Tāwhaowhao kaitā Large wood debris



We have increased our forestry team to better monitor forestry practices for compliance, throughout the region.

The team also carry out aerial mapping and on-the-ground inspections to identify key areas where large wood debris could mobilise causing potential risk.

### Large wood debris (LWD) removal

Unprecedented volumes of wood debris were mobilised during Cyclone Gabrielle causing widespread damage. LWD impacted and threatened bridges, roads, our water pipeline, residential homes, waterways and beaches.

It's estimated that around 1.4 million tonnes of large wood debris is within our hill and water catchments, costing over \$172m to remove. By February 2024 we had removed 193,000 tonnes in the waterways and there's still a lot more work to do. Forestry companies have estimated they have removed approximately 300,000 tonnes from hillsides and waterways.

Government funding of \$54m still leaves a shortfall of over \$100m to remove the wood debris still in the catchments threatening our waterways and infrastructure.

### What we can achieve in 3 years

There is a significant shortfall in funding to clear large wood debris in the hill and water catchments. We are likely to see the mobilisation of large wood debris for a number of years to come.

The approach we have taken is to rate for some of this work around protecting our critical infrastructure. At \$2.7m over 3 years, we won't have enough to do everything and we've never rated for this before.

The priorities for cleanup are based on risk to life, protection of communities and critical infrastructure including the main water pipe, bridges, roads and residential properties.

### Catchments

Waimata, Hikuwai/Uawa, Te Arai, Waiapu and Waipaoa.

### Beaches

Midway, Waikanae, Kaiti, Uawa and Whangara.

## Ōu whiringa mō ngā tāwhaowhao kaitā Your options for large wood debris



This will give us a budget of \$2.7m over 3 years.

With the government's funding and additional rate funding, we will continue to prioritise clearing large wood debris threatening critical infrastructure.



This will give us a budget of \$5.3m over 3 years.

This will boost the budget for clearing large wood debris meaning we can do more clearing faster.

We will also continue to spend the government's cyclone support funding, with a priority to clear large wood debris impacting and threatening waterways, beaches and critical infrastructure.

# Ō tātau taone Our townships



Our townships are vital in supporting the health and wellbeing of our people in rural communities.

We spend \$700k per year to work alongside communities to create their township plans that reflect their vision for their environment and outdoor spaces.

### Improvement work includes:

#### Wellbeing

- New and improved playgrounds
- Community facilities
- Streetscape improvements

#### Infrastructure

- Walking and cycling improvements
- Street plantings
- Welcome, cultural and historic signage.

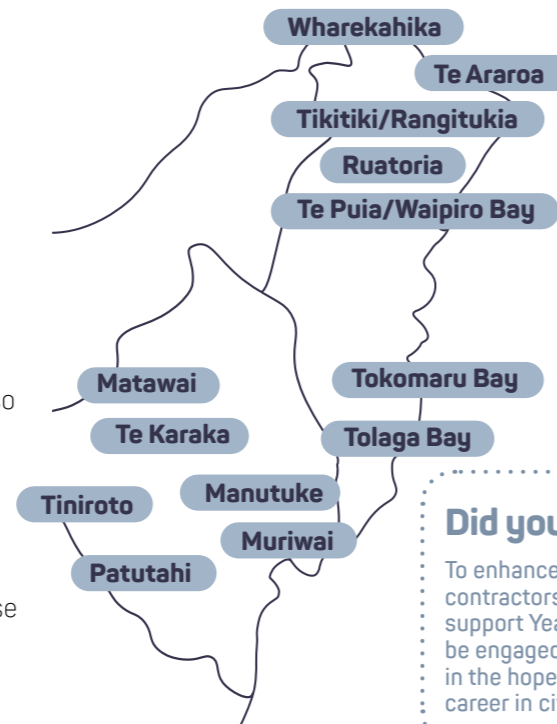
We have 239km of footpaths across our region, 29km are within our townships. These upgrades also aim to encourage the use of alternative transport, provide safe traveling routes, reduce gas emissions and support overall health and wellbeing of our communities.

We're working with local contractors to help increase the skills and knowledge of their workforce.

## What we can achieve in 3 years

We will continue to do 2 township upgrades per year.

External funding from central government of \$1.4m allows for further work on safety enhancements including footpath and crossing upgrades in Wharekahika, Ruatoria, Matawai, Tikitiki, Rangitukia and Te Araroa.



### Did you know?

To enhance our workforce, contractors are required to support Year 13 students to be engaged with the projects in the hope they'll consider a career in civil infrastructure.

# Ōu whakaaro mō o tātau taone Your options for our townships

▲ Rates increase **0.3%**

▲ Impact on debt **\$2.1m**

## Our preferred option

This will give us a budget of \$4m over 3 years

This budget will meet the rising costs of upgrading 2 townships per year, including footpaths, outdoor spaces and planting schemes.

▲ Rates increase **0.7%**

▲ Impact on debt **\$3.9m**

## Spend more, do more

This will give us a budget of \$6.2m over 3 years

We can increase the number of township upgrades per year, with more money we can focus on more safety, walking and cycling improvements.

# Te whakareinga whiu para Future proofing waste disposal



Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the issue we have with transporting waste out of the district. We need to be more prepared to deal with possible future events where our region may be cut off from the rest of the country if the state highways close.

We're also working in line with the national plan to improve waste management across Aotearoa by 2030, which includes separated food scraps, greenwaste and standardised kerbside recycling collection.

## Our plan for the 3 years

- By 2025, improve household kerbside collection to separate our waste.
- Deliver a new Resource Recovery Centre.
- Improve waste management locally to control our own waste.
- Increase awareness and education around managing waste, illegal dumping and expanding recycling services to be more accessible.

In doing this work, we will reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time it will increase our resilience.

## Tell us what you think

Do you agree with our plans to future-proof our waste disposal?

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# Kua tika a mātau mahi? Have we got it right?

Tell us if our focus and priorities are right for these services.

Do you agree with our preferred options or would you prefer to pay more to get more.

**Here's how you can have your say:**

## Fill in a submission

The form is on our website [www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz)

## Face to face

See the calendar of Community Conversation events near you. They will be advertised on:

- Our website [www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz)
- Our Facebook page @GisborneDC
- The Gisborne Herald
- Or phone us on 0800 653 800 to find out more.

**Have your say on the decisions  
for our future.**

[www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz)

## What else we're consulting on

- Draft Fees and Charges 2024/25
- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Draft Rate Remission and Postponement Policy
- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy

## Supporting documents include:

- Tairāwhiti Piritahi: Fostering Māori Participation in Council Decision-Making Policy
- 2024-2027 Draft Financial Strategy
- Draft Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2027

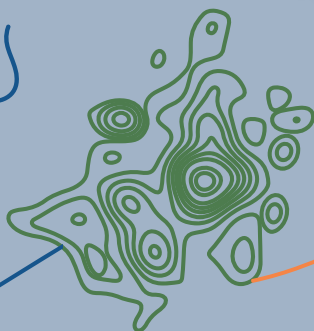
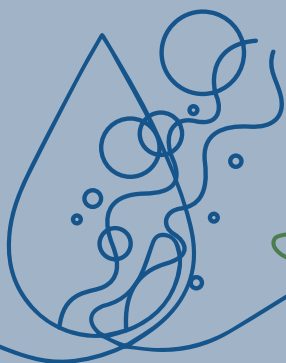
## Consultation coming soon

- Waste Minimisation and Management Plan
- Water allocations

**It's important we receive  
your submission by  
Friday 19 April 2024**



TE WHAKARAUORATANGA  
**O TŌ TĀTAU ROHE**  
MŌ ĀPŌPŌ



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti  
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