

# Riding the tide of change

2021/2031 Long-Term Plan  
Consultation Document





**Have  
your say**

**He aha tou  
whakaaro**

**Here's your chance to help us finalise the  
Taranaki Regional Council's new 10-year plan.**

On these pages you can read about the key issues facing the regional community (especially in the next three years), our options for dealing with them, and what those options may mean for you.

**[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)**

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**'Right now the TRC is riding an incoming tide of far-reaching change that's bringing challenge and excitement on many fronts.'**

David MacLeod, Chairman

# Riding the tide of change

## Ekea te huringa tai ki uta

### Message from the Chairman

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all.

None of us needs reminding about how challenging change can be. But of course it can also be exciting. And right now the TRC is riding an incoming tide of far-reaching change that's bringing challenge and excitement on many fronts.

One of these is the health of our waterways, which is of vital importance to all in Taranaki. Freshwater has always been a major focus for this Council. And thanks to long-term efforts and investments right across the community, good progress has already been made.

But along with the rest of the country, Taranaki is now being called upon to do more and do better. New Zealanders clearly want to see big improvements, and the Government has started rolling out new standards, requirements and regulations that aim to achieve just that. To meet these new requirements, the Council must make significant new investments in skilled staff, specialist equipment and expanded monitoring programmes.

The freshwater reforms also include requirements for greater Māori involvement in environmental management – and we can expect more national initiatives along these lines as the Government gets down to business this year.

Again, this is adding impetus and urgency to efforts we have already been making. Expect to see deepening and more effective partnerships at all levels of the Council.

All these changes are far from complete, but we must still get on with charting a way forward. Clearly, we need to be nimble and resilient.

Other issues on our radar include:

- The future of our bus network. Do we want greener buses? Do we want them to cover more communities and/or run more often?
- How should we work together with other councils and agencies to support the development of the region and its recovery from the impacts of COVID-19?
- What should we do about the TRC's offices, which are no longer fit for purpose?
- What does the community feel about the ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd. Is it time for a change?

We'd welcome your feedback on any or all of these issues. They're all summarised in this document, along with the different ways you can let us know your opinions and thoughts.

We look forward to hearing from you.

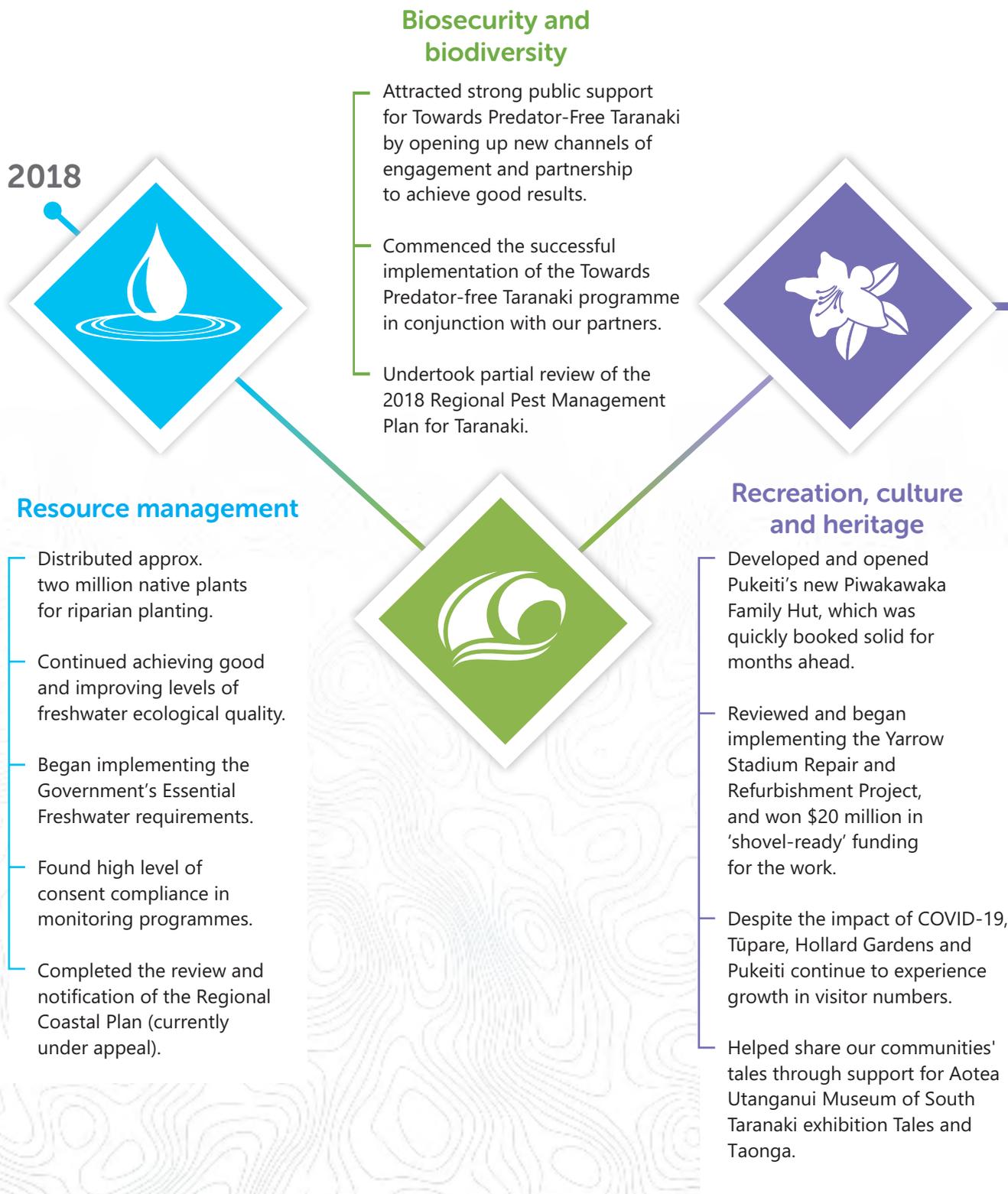


David MacLeod  
Chair, Taranaki Regional Council



# Where have we come from?

I haere mātou nō hea?



## Hazard management

Introduced new River Control and Flood Protection Bylaw to protect the region's flood protection assets.

Completed the Ōpunake flood protection scheme to eliminate risk of the township being flooded from the Hihiwera Stream and its tributaries.

Contributed to the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management group planning and oversight to ensure efficacy of regional response and recovery in an emergency.

2021

## Transport

Successfully introduced the Bee Card, a nationally coordinated fare-payment system that makes Citylink and Connector bus services easier to use and to manage.

Completed the review of Regional Public Transport Plan and commenced a review of the Regional Land Transport Plan.

Facilitated safe navigation within Port Taranaki's harbour waters. It is notable that there have been zero significant navigation safety incidents in the last 10 years.

Took part in multi-agency marine spill preparedness exercises to build response capacity in the event of an incident.

## Representation, advocacy & investment management

Maintained a stable financial position through COVID-19 lockdowns and disruption.

Prepared more than 40 submissions on issues affecting Taranaki, including comprehensive responses to various Government-led consultations on healthy waterways and managing freshwater quality.

Continued delivery of environmental education programmes to preschool, intermediate and high school students throughout the region.

Maintained the contribution of Port Taranaki to the regional economy through holding the shares as a strategic regional investment.



# Where are we now?

Kei whea mātou inaianei?



**Implementing the freshwater regime will be the largest single project in Council's history**

# Challenges

## Ngā mahi uaua

The world has become quite a different place since the last Long-Term Plan was prepared in 2018.

Environmental issues like climate, waste reduction and energy efficiency have taken on increased importance. They've found their way on to social and economic agendas alongside gender and racial inequalities, decentralisation and the decline of globalisation.

These factors are feeding into New Zealand's own disruptive trends and tipping points that are shaping the operating environment. One of the most significant is the evolution of the *Resource Management Act* (RMA).

### Resource Management Act reform

The RMA became law in 1991 but three decades of amendments have resulted in a complex and often disjointed piece of legislation that many see as no longer fit for purpose.

This year the Government is implementing far-reaching recommendations from last year's Randerson review, which was a significant and thorough analysis of the Act and its issues. Among other things, the legislation that replaces the RMA will significantly overhaul local government functions and the work that we do. Regional and district councils will be required to collaborate in the management of the 'natural and built environment' and to set longer-term strategic direction for their regions.

### Three Waters reform

Meanwhile, the Government is also pressing ahead with its 'Three Waters' initiative to restructure the delivery of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater services.

This is all likely to lead to the emergence of new publicly owned multi-regional water management entities to assume responsibility for the management of water and wastewater services, currently delivered by district and city councils, and potentially also stormwater services.

### Essential Freshwater

Changes are gathering pace on related fronts. The Government is already rolling out its 'Essential Freshwater' package. This involves the use of current

RMA provisions to create a new freshwater policy, planning and management regime that impacts everything from farm practices to urban subdivision. Implementing this regime will be the largest single project in Council's history.

### The role of iwi

These reforms also give tangata whenua a greater role in freshwater management by focusing on Te Mana o Te Wai (the integrated and holistic well-being of water) and requiring a partnership approach to developing plans and managing activities.

This increased role mirrors the desire of iwi o Taranaki to exercise Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge, cultural practices and world view) over the resources within their respective rohe, and the resulting need for traditional cultural frameworks to measure ecosystem health. Those frameworks require the Council to understand traditional cultural measures and to find ways to incorporate them alongside Western science. Doing that requires building and strengthening relationships and open, balanced conversation between all parties.

### Climate change

All this change is taking place in the shadow of climate change. For a long time, the RMA prevented councils from considering most climate change effects in rules and consent applications. That's no longer the case, and the issue is set to become, for example, a major consideration in coastal management. A new focus and, in some cases, new skill sets, will be required as the Council grapples with developing a regional response to this global phenomenon.

Taranaki's economic base of dairy and hydrocarbon-based energy is also changing. The decline of oil and gas may have important consequences for Port Taranaki Ltd. While dairying remains strong, we've been constantly reminded that disruptive change can arrive any time and from anywhere. A key question for the Council to consider is how it can contribute to shaping the region's future economy.

All these factors have fed into the development of the draft 10-year plan, which sets out how we intend to deliver on our duty to promote economic, social and cultural wellbeing across the region.

# Our plan for the future

Ngā take ā mua

# Our plan for the future

## Ngā take ā mua

In the next three years, the Council proposes to:

- Significantly increase specialist scientific, technical and cultural capacity – including staff, equipment and contract services – to enable us to meet the new freshwater requirements. The Government is acting on a clear public mandate and the Council must comply to meet our legal obligations.
- Continue and expand our quest for better and more Māori involvement in environmental monitoring and decision-making, in line with new requirements and the expectations of tangata whenua. We are also consulting Māori and the wider community over representation arrangements.
- Review our ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd.
- Examine options for improved public transport services and lower-emission bus fleets.
- Join with other councils and agencies in the region for a coordinated approach to supporting the COVID-19 recovery efforts as part of the broader regional development activity.
- Refurbish our offices in Stratford to ensure they meet our needs today and in the future.

### Māori voices and votes

Of particular relevance to our work is increased effort across the board to recognise and include Māori perspectives and practices in decision-making and everyday activities. The Government and iwi alike are keen to advance this trend, and the next section discusses what this might mean for our work. We invite your feedback on the way forward, because as a community our answers to these important questions have far-reaching impacts.

### Port Taranaki ownership review

The Council's investment in Port Taranaki Ltd (PTL) has provided steady and reliable dividends that have offset rates over many years, but it is wise to review investments from time to time. We plan to launch a formal review of PTL ownership, but in the meantime it would be helpful to gauge community feedback because any changes to ownership would have implications for the region's ratepayers and businesses. Please take the time to tell us what you think.

### What will it cost?

To deliver on our plan for the future, our budgets must rise.

The single largest driver of budget increase is the additional investment in specialist scientific, technical and cultural staff and resources. This investment will enable us to deliver on the government-led programmes to drive improvements in freshwater quality.

To a significant extent the proposed budget increases are offset by the \$20 million 'shovel-ready' grant for the Yarrow Stadium Repair and Refurbishment Project.

We will also be utilising the Dividend Equalisation Reserve to partially offset the budget increases.

Our overall rates rise can be measured in terms of tens of dollars over a year. Residential ratepayers with a property worth \$500,000 will pay an extra \$27 to \$29 more a year in total TRC rates. Commercial and industrial ratepayers will see a similar rise, with North Taranaki and New Plymouth farm owners paying around \$60 extra per year.

Yarrow Stadium targeted rates are reducing by 44% as a result of the shovel-ready funding.



#### LEARN MORE...

For detailed information about the impact on your rates, see 'What does this mean for my rates?' pg 29

Learn more about the Council's plan for income in 'Where will the money come from?' pg 27

Learn more about the Council's plans for spending in 'How will we spend the money?' pg 28

# Ensuring Māori voices and votes will count

## He mana nui tō te tirohanga Māori

New Zealand has had many lively national conversations about the way the Treaty of Waitangi partnership works 'on the ground', with attitudes and expectations evolving as discussions continue.

Recent years have seen greater efforts to recognise and include Māori cultural perspectives and practices in decision-making as well as everyday activities.

Currently the TRC is seeking feedback on whether to create a Māori constituency for the 2022 local body elections. Have your say by 19 March – go to [www.trc.govt.nz/MaoriVote](http://www.trc.govt.nz/MaoriVote).

With the Government keen to further develop the treaty partnership, change is already under way. The Essential Freshwater reform includes requirements for greater Māori involvement. The Council must 'consider and recognise' Te Mana o te Wai in freshwater management, and identify and reflect tangata whenua values and interests in freshwater management and planning.

In consultation with iwi, we've already started working to develop a Māori cultural freshwater monitoring framework, to sit alongside the existing Western science-based framework.

This work builds on joint and continuing efforts by

the region's iwi and local bodies to reach participation agreements known as Mana Whakahono a Rohe, as set out in a 2017 amendment to the Resource Management Act.

And as a result of treaty settlement legislation, there are Māori representatives on two key TRC committees.

A post-election priority for the Government is a complete overhaul of resource and environmental legislation, with new statutes to replace the RMA. This is expected to further strengthen Māori involvement in the process.

The Council believes it's crucial for Māori perspectives to be fairly represented and understood at its decision-making table, alongside those of the wider community.

The relationship between local government and Māori is in a period of profound change. Here's an opportunity for all in the community to share thoughts as new arrangements take shape.

**The relationship between local government and Māori is in a period of profound change.**





## QUESTION

In terms of Māori involvement in Taranaki Regional Council decision-making processes, what would your ideal outcome look like?



### LEARN MORE...

Working together with Māori (TRC Annual Report):  
[www.trc.govt.nz/working-together](http://www.trc.govt.nz/working-together)

Constituency proposal and feedback form:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/MaoriVote](http://www.trc.govt.nz/MaoriVote)

TRC statement on Māori representation (February 2021):  
[www.trc.govt.nz/representation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/representation)

Should the Council establish a Maori constituency? Go to [www.trc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.trc.govt.nz/haveyoursay) and make a submission by 19 March

**Have  
your say**

[www.trc.govt.nz/  
LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

## What do you think?

Let us know what you think of these developments, bearing in mind that most are in response to Government directives.

# Port Taranaki Ltd ownership review

## Te arotake o ngā mana whakahaere o Port Taranaki

The Council's major investment by far is its 100% ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd (PTL). While PTL has provided steady and reliable dividends that have offset rates over many years, it is wise to review our ownership from time to time.

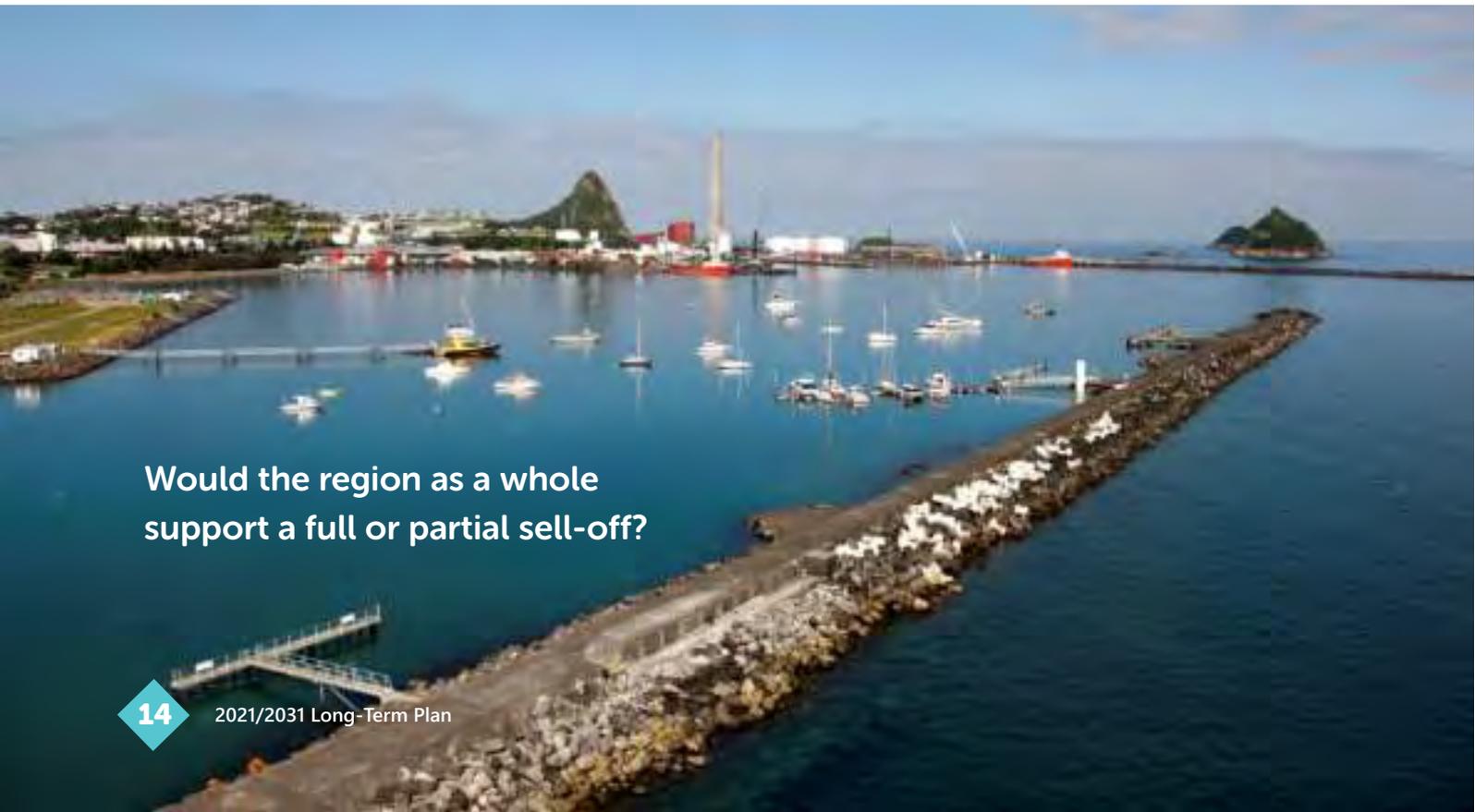
A review is now due, and it's particularly relevant in these times. The questions we need to ask include:

- **Should investments be more diversified, given current risks?**
- **Would the region as a whole support a full or partial sell-off?**

Before we commence a full review, we'd like to find out how these issues are viewed in the

community. The port is a vital economic and social asset for the region, so let us know what you think.

We are interested in your views on the future of Port Taranaki specifically, as well as investment in general. The review itself has no budget or rating implications. We'd need to come back and consult the community again if we want change to the status quo as a result of the review.



Would the region as a whole  
support a full or partial sell-off?



### QUESTION 1

#### Port Taranaki Ltd ownership

Should investments be more diversified, given current risks?



### QUESTION 2

#### Full or partial sell-off

Would the region as a whole support a full or partial sell-off?

**Have  
your say**

[www.trc.govt.nz/  
LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

### Which option do you prefer? Why?



#### LEARN MORE...

Economic impact of Port Taranaki (2017):  
[www.trc.govt.nz/port2017](http://www.trc.govt.nz/port2017)

Port Taranaki Ltd statement of corporate intent 2020-2023:  
[www.bit.ly/port2023](http://www.bit.ly/port2023)



# What decisions do we need to make?

He aha ngā tikanga?

## Consultation Issue 1

# Delivering on NZ's freshwater aspirations

## Ngā whakapuakitanga o ngā wawata mō te wai Māori o Aotearoa

New Zealand is undergoing the largest change in freshwater management since the Resource Management Act was passed in the early 1990s. The Government has a clear mandate to continue its Essential Freshwater reforms and regional councils are on the front line.

We need to make considerable investments to ensure Taranaki meets today's expectations in the management and monitoring of its waterways.

Thanks to major efforts across the community, this region had already been making good progress, particularly in the overall ecological health of our rivers and streams. Our waterways have also stacked up pretty well against the national standards set before these latest reforms.

But under the Essential Freshwater package that began rolling out in September 2020, the Government has:

- Set more stringent environmental standards for freshwater. And these need to be included in our proposed new Natural Resources Plan, making it an urgent priority for the Council.
- Tightened the resource consents process for activities with or affecting freshwater.
- Introduced requirements for greater Māori involvement in monitoring and decision-making.
- Required more extensive scientific monitoring and data analysis.

More changes are expected.

The Council is obliged to implement these requirements. Despite our good starting position, this is still a step change, with significant financial cost to ratepayers, consent holders and resource users.

We're budgeting for a considerable increase in specialist scientific, technical and cultural capacity – including staff, equipment and contract services – to enable us to meet these new requirements.

We're also planning to boost our land management services (riparian and hill country) to help farmers and landowners reduce their environmental impacts and support them to help make our waterways healthier. Extra capacity will also be required for consent monitoring, with costs to be met directly by consent holders.

Freshwater is a vital resource for the community on so many levels – cultural, spiritual, environmental, economic. Everyone has a duty to look after it so that future generations will also enjoy its benefits. Please take this opportunity to tell us what you think.

The Council is also consulting on the freshwater vision and is seeking your views and expectations for freshwater management for future generations.

**Under its Essential Freshwater package, the Government has set more stringent environmental standards for freshwater.**





1

**OPTION 1**  
Improving water quality



Boost capacity so that we can advance the improvement of water quality across the region in line with the Government's requirements and public aspirations.



Additional spend

Year 1: **\$1.98M**  
Year 2: **\$0.51M**  
Year 3: **\$0.39M**

Nearly all of these increases are funded by general rates. No impact on debt or service levels.\*

**OPTION 2**  
Gradual improvement

Do only what is needed to meet the statutory requirements.

\*Noting that the overall ecological health of our rivers and streams already stacks up well against national standards, investment is directed to compliance with the Government's Essential Freshwater monitoring requirements. Current water quality service levels will remain unchanged.

Year 1: **\$1.76M**  
Year 2: **\$0.51M**  
Year 3: **\$0.39M**

Nearly all of these increases are funded by general rates. No impact on debt or service levels.\*

**Our preference: Option 1**

*This puts the region in the best position to meet the new requirements, bearing in mind that further Essential Freshwater reforms are expected.*

**Have your say**

[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

**Which option do you prefer? Why?**

What's your long-term vision for freshwater? Tell us at [www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

**Freshwater Vision:**

Take part in a community survey  
[www.trc.govt.nz/vision](http://www.trc.govt.nz/vision)



**LEARN MORE...**

What new freshwater regulations may mean for you: [www.trc.govt.nz/freshwater-quality](http://www.trc.govt.nz/freshwater-quality)  
Updates on the proposed Taranaki Natural Resources Plan: [www.trc.govt.nz/draft-plan](http://www.trc.govt.nz/draft-plan)  
Read more about freshwater ecological quality: [www.trc.govt.nz/waterways2020](http://www.trc.govt.nz/waterways2020)

# Consultation Issue 2

## Bus services

When revising our Public Transport Plan last year, we heard strong calls for a switch to alternative fuels for the bus fleet and for more frequent and comprehensive bus services.

The Council is commissioning an investigation of alternative fuel sources for the bus fleet and we're looking closely at the experience with different fuels in other centres.

Bus services in a small region like Taranaki cannot be viable without taxpayer and ratepayer support. We provide this through targeted public transport rates, while Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency provides taxpayer-funded support. Together these meet about 60% of the cost of these services, with bus fares covering the rest. Clearly, any increase in coverage and/or frequency of services will impact on rates.

It's worth noting, too, that the size and number of buses in the current fleet is tailored to maximum

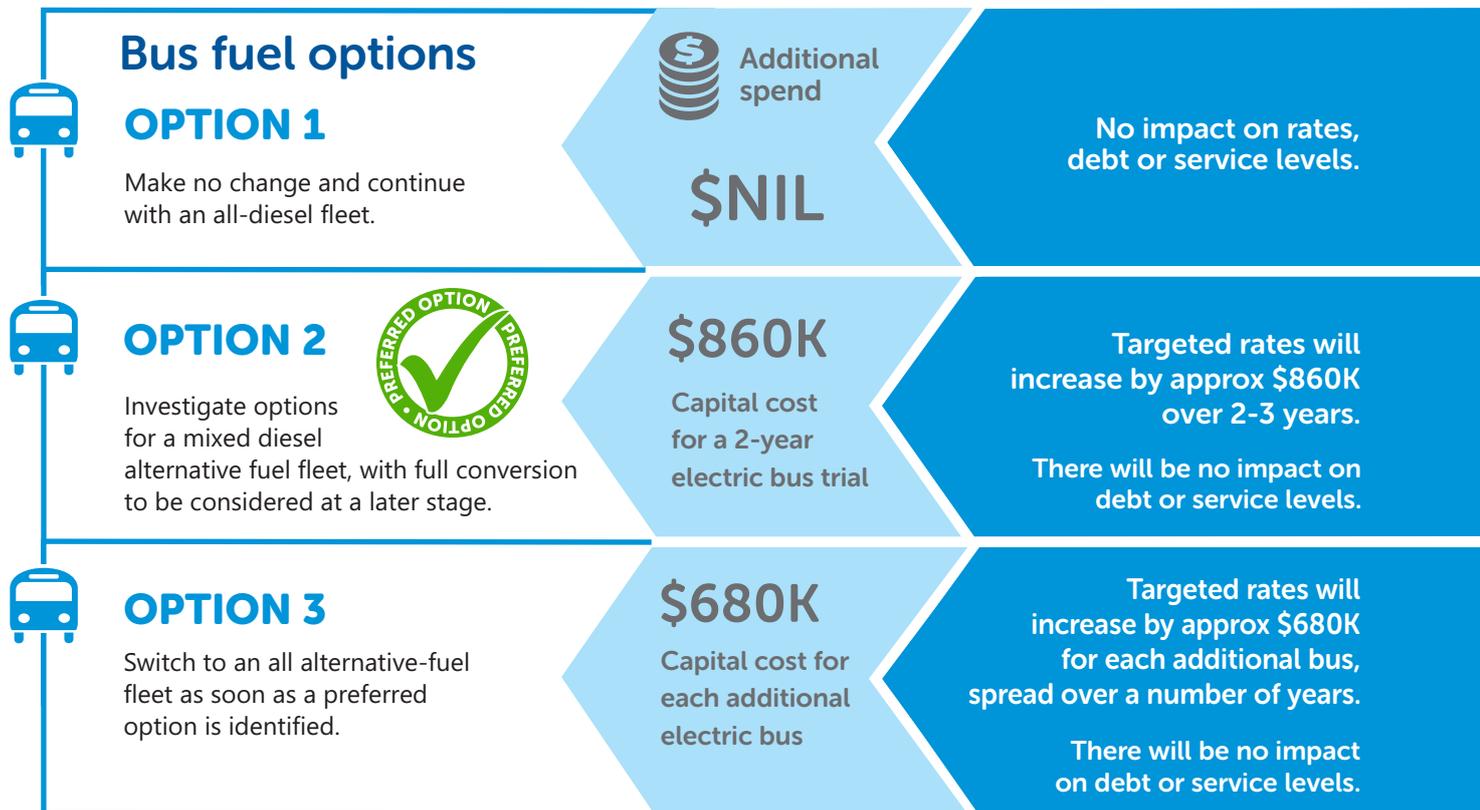
school-bus demand. Using smaller, more fuel-efficient buses on suburban worker/shopper services would require two separate fleets and costs would rise, not fall.

Following the trials we are proposing in Option 2 for bus fuel options, Council will evaluate the outcomes and re-engage with the community to build a way forward for the future of bus services in Taranaki.

It's worthwhile having your say, whether or not you're a bus user. Public transport services are publicly funded, so tell us if you have any ideas for making them better and more efficient.

**Our preference: Option 2**

*Begin the journey to low- or zero-emissions fleet while being mindful of burden on ratepayers.*





## Bus service options

### OPTION 1

Make no change to current routes and timetables. The current spend on bus services is \$4.77M and targeted rates are \$1.4M.



Additional spend

**\$NIL**

No impact on rates, debt or service levels.

### OPTION 2

Trial two new Citylink routes, requiring extra buses and drivers.

Approx. \$600K to trial two new Citylink routes.

### OPTION 3

Provide extra services on existing Citylink routes, including after-hours and weekend services, requiring extra buses and drivers

Cost will increase dependent upon the level of new routes and route frequency introduced.

Option 2 and 3: Targeted rates will increase by approx. 30% of rise in expenditure, provided the Government funding and fare targets are met.

Improved levels of service and no impact on debt.

### Our preference: Option 1

To increase bus coverage and/or frequency, the Council needs to be confident that extra services would be well patronised and that Government funding support was assured.

**Have your say**

[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

If you want new routes, tell us where

**Which options do you prefer for bus fuel and services?**



**LEARN MORE...**

Taranaki Regional Public Transport Plan 2020: [www.trc.govt.nz/transport2030](http://www.trc.govt.nz/transport2030)

Bus routes & timetables: [www.trc.govt.nz/routes](http://www.trc.govt.nz/routes)

## Consultation Issue 3

# Regional Recovery Plan

## He māhere whakarauora i ngā kaupapa ā-rohe

The Government continues to make financial support available for COVID-19 recovery efforts and it expects regions to present a united and coherent case for funding assistance across multiple projects.

So Taranaki's four councils and other agencies are working together on a Regional Recovery Plan incorporating a range of projects across all three districts, including iwi-led initiatives. It's an opportunity to demonstrate how Taranaki can work together for the betterment of the region.

All four councils in the region are proposing a joint fund to cover development of the plan, which will include assessment and prioritisation

of individual projects, as well as making a comprehensive case for Government assistance. TRC has provisionally agreed to meet 20% of the costs.

### **Our preference: Option 2**

*The Council believes it should be part of the regional recovery programme. This option creates a fund that will allow the programme to proceed at a reasonable and cost-effective pace.*



### **OPTION 1** No TRC contribution

Do not contribute to the fund, which would have the impact of making it more difficult for the TRC to access any COVID-19 recovery funds.



Additional  
spend

**\$NIL**

No impact on  
rates, debt or  
service levels.



# 3



## OPTION 2 \$500,000 fund

TRC contribution \$100,000 to the joint fund.



Additional spend

Year 1: **\$100K**

**\$100K increase in general rates**

No impact on debt or service levels.



## OPTION 3 \$1M fund

TRC contribution \$200,000 to the joint fund.

Year 1: **\$200K**

**\$200K increase in general rates**

No impact on debt or service levels.



## OPTION 4 \$1.5M fund

TRC contribution \$300,000 to the joint fund.

Year 1: **\$300K**

**\$300K increase in general rates**

No impact on debt or service levels.

**Have your say**

[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

**Which option do you prefer? Why?**



**LEARN MORE...**

COVID-19 recovery package (NZ Government):  
[www.bit.ly/regional-covid](http://www.bit.ly/regional-covid)

## Consultation Issue 4

# TRC office accommodation

## Te take ā mua mō te wāhi mahi

The Council operates out of the former Stratford dairy factory, which was converted to office accommodation in the 1980s. Staff numbers have increased since that time as the scope of the Council's activities has expanded.

Minor refurbishments or enhancements have occurred since and the accommodation is no longer fit for purpose.

As outlined in the freshwater section of this document, we're now expecting a significant boost in staff numbers as a result of the new freshwater requirements.

Even allowing for the increasing trend towards remote working, the existing office is too small and no longer fit for purpose.

Our investigations so far point to refurbishment of our existing offices being less expensive than demolishing and starting again. Other options

may include building elsewhere, probably New Plymouth, or renting office accommodation. But the latter is likely to be possible only in New Plymouth.

The Council's work touches the lives of Taranaki people in many ways. We have a duty to the public to work efficiently and to be good employers. We're interested in your views on options for addressing our office accommodation needs.

### **Our preference: Option 1**

*Council prefers to refurbish existing premises because it reuses existing resources and is the lowest-cost option.*

### TRC office options



#### **OPTION 1** Refurbishment

Refurbish the existing building in stages.



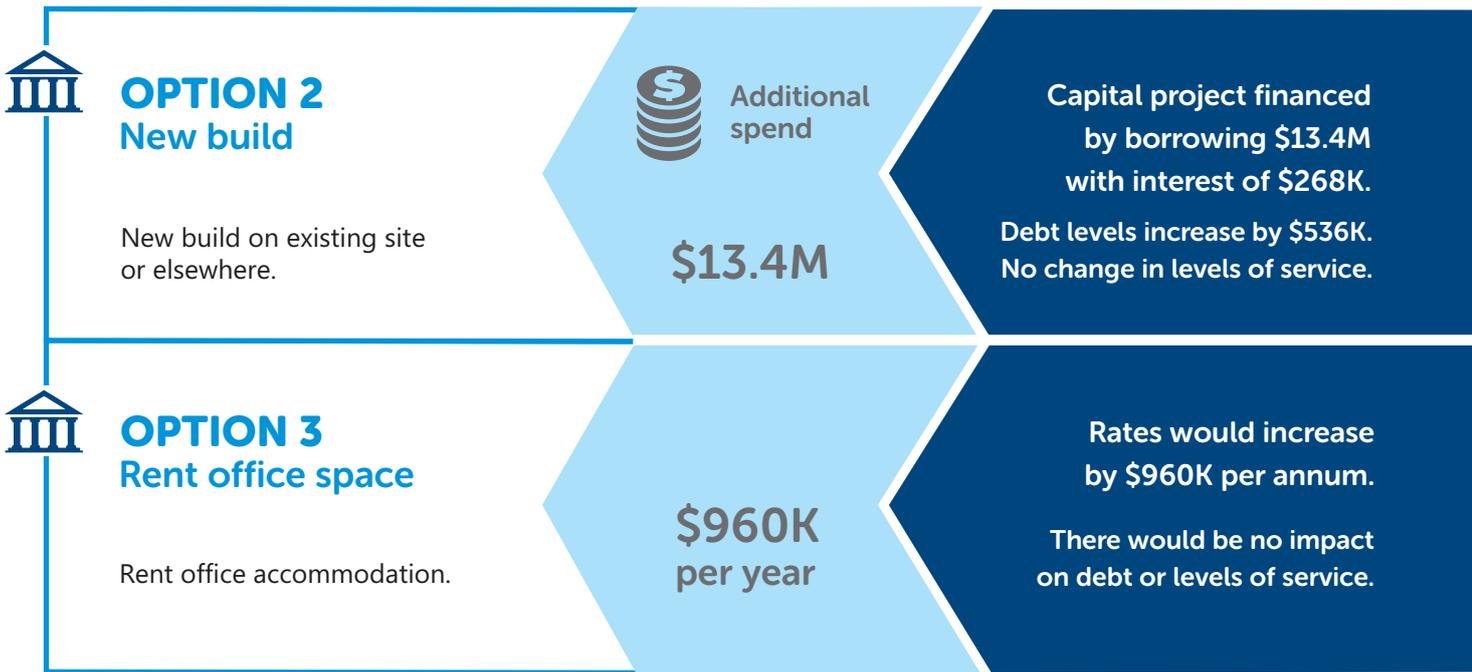
**Additional spend**

Year 1: **\$3M**  
Year 2: **\$3M**

Capital project financed by borrowing. Interest of \$120K and depreciation of \$240K to be funded by general rates. Debt levels increase by \$6M. No change in levels of service.

Refurbishment option less expensive than rebuild





**Have your say**  
[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

Which option do you prefer? Why?

# What will it cost?

He aha te utu?

# Where will the money come from?

## Te mātāpuna pūtea

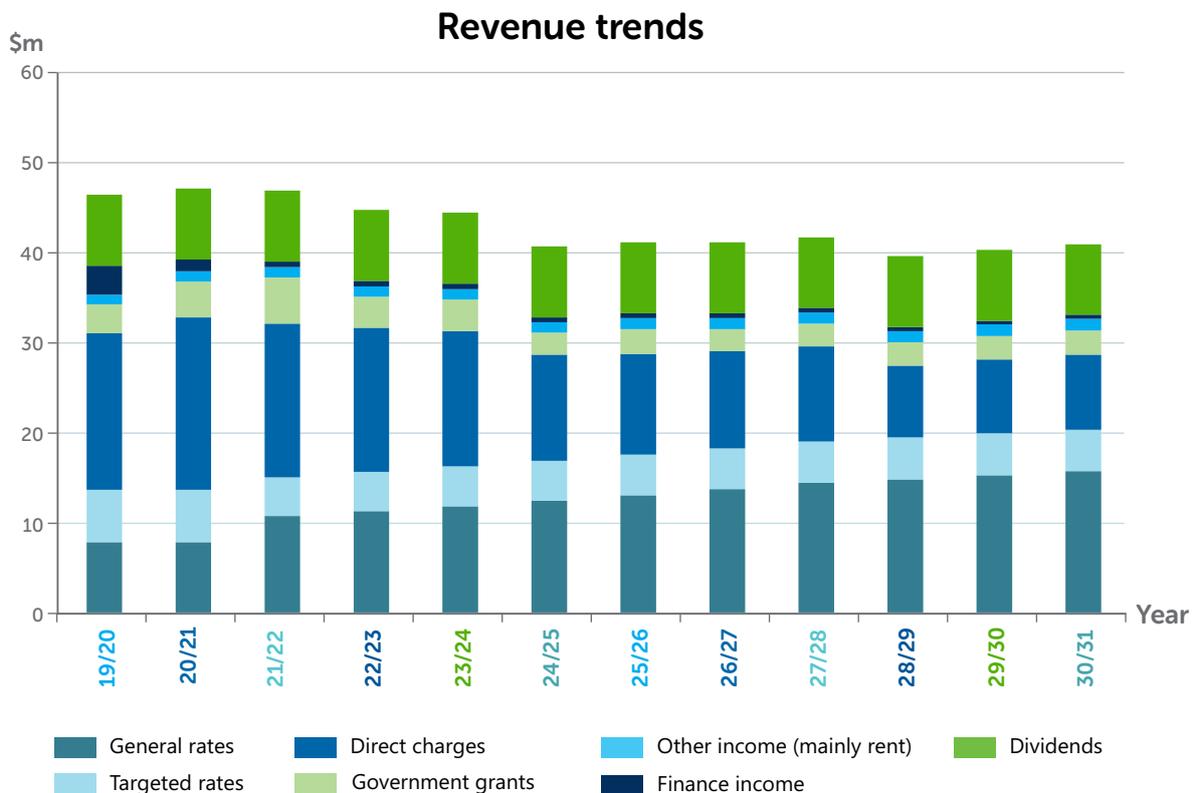
The Council’s work in the community is funded from a variety of sources – rates account for less than a third of our income. Other important income sources are investment returns (primarily dividends from Port Taranaki Ltd), user charges and grants from central government and others.

Given challenging trading conditions, we are conservatively forecasting port dividend returns of \$8m a year over the life of this plan. The Council’s biggest financial risk is port dividends falling below forecast levels.

The Council also intends turning to its Dividend Equalisation Reserve, built up from years when

dividends exceeded forecasts. This fund will be drawn upon to help minimise rates increases in the first few years of this Long-Term Plan. The fund will be replenished in later years.

The graph here shows a breakdown of where the Council’s money comes from for the period of the Long-Term Plan.



**LEARN MORE...**  
 The Long-Term Plan includes detailed financial statements:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

# How will we spend the money?

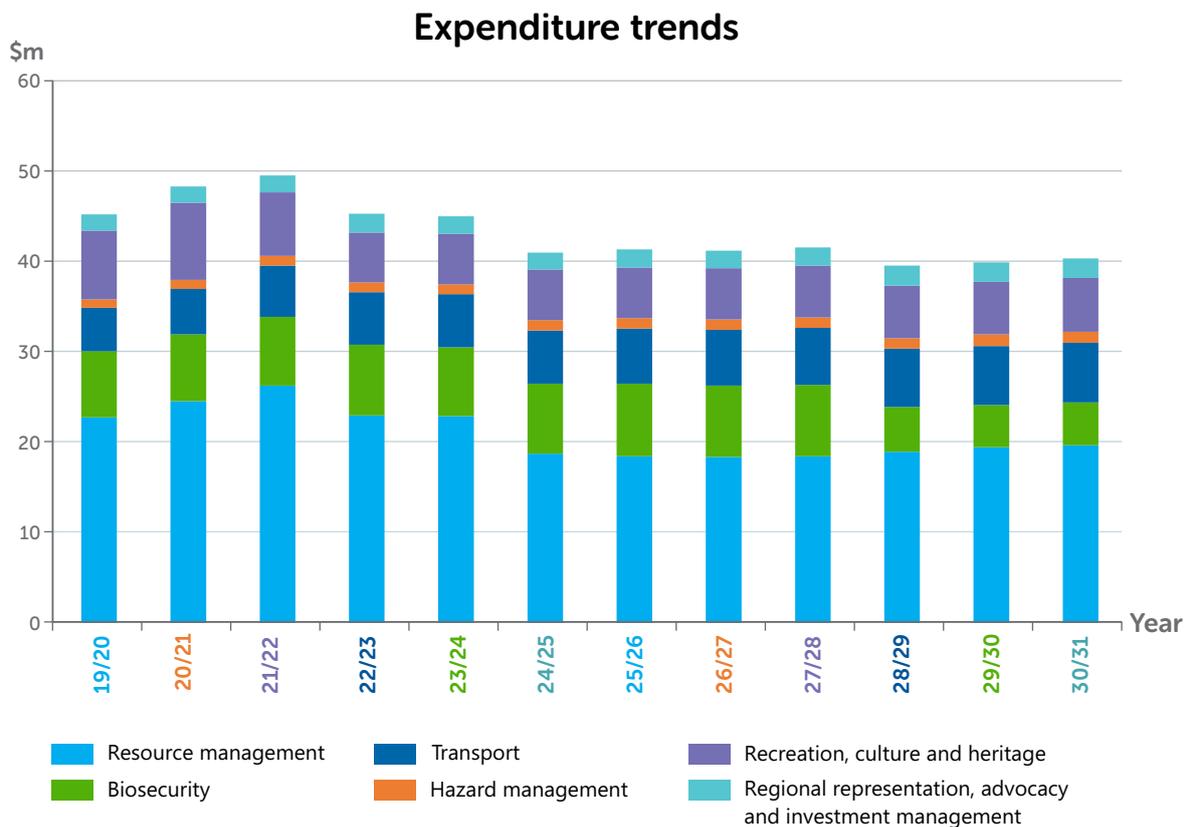
We are working on your behalf to safeguard us all from natural hazards, ensure sustainable development and use of our region's natural resources, represent Taranaki interests on the national stage, as well as overseeing regionally significant amenities and infrastructure.

Bearing in mind these key outcomes, our resources are directed to activities and programmes in six key areas: resource management (around 53% of total expenditure), biosecurity and biodiversity (15%), transport (11%), hazard management (2%), recreation,

culture and heritage (14%) and regional representation, advocacy and investment management (2%).

Alongside our communities we are working hard to achieve a prosperous and thriving Taranaki so that each one of us, our children and grandchildren can enjoy all that the region has to offer.

The following graph gives a longer-term picture of how Council expenditure is forecast to look over the period of this plan.



**LEARN MORE...**  
 The Long-Term Plan includes detailed financial statements:  
[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

# What does this mean for rates?

Despite the Council's costs increasing, we know it's important to keep rates affordable.

The total rate take (general and targeted rates) is planned to increase by \$1.38m or 9.9% for 2021/2022.

For an average residential ratepayer this equates to an increase of tens of dollars - in the vicinity of \$27-\$29 - per annum. The details are:

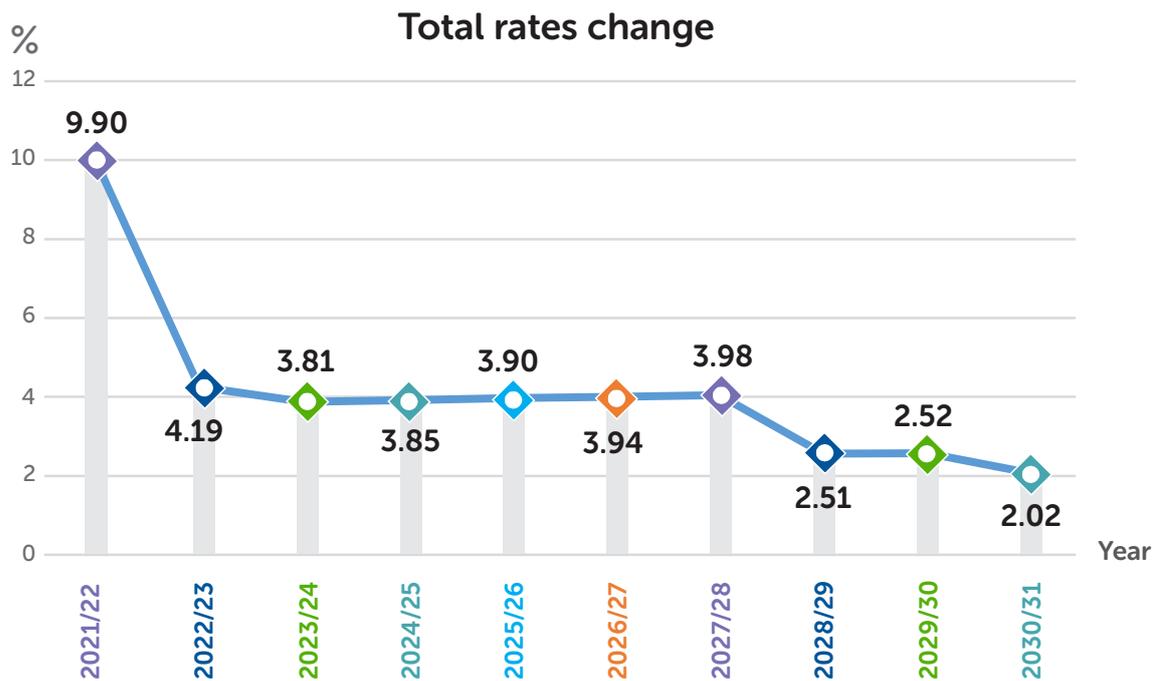
- General rate increases by \$2.98m
- The uniform annual general charge is reintroduced at \$45.
- Total targeted rates decrease by \$1.6m
  - Yarrow Stadium rate decreases by \$1.76m (44.7%)

- River control & flood protection rate increases by \$1,800 shared among targeted ratepayers
- Transport rate increases by \$158,319 to \$1.44m.

These changes are off a low base and the Council remains one of the lowest-rating local bodies in New Zealand.

Rates are forecast to rise by around 4% a year in Years 2 to 7 of this Plan, dropping to around 2.5% in Years 8 and 9, then to around 2% in Year 10.

This graph shows proposed rate changes over the duration of this Long-Term Plan.



## LEARN MORE...

To understand the impact of the proposed rates increase on your property, read **Proposed Rate Changes** overleaf.

# Proposed rate changes

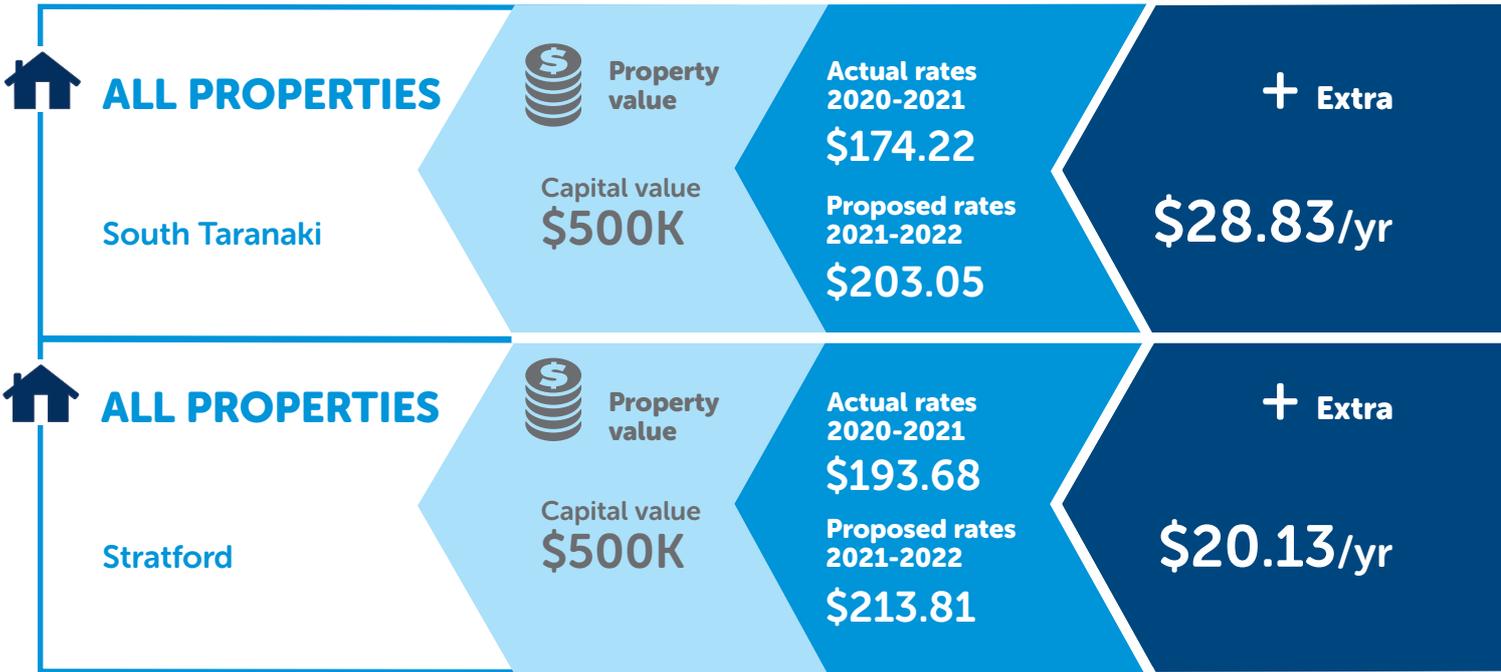
## Ngā tikanga rerekē mō tou tāke kaunihera

For most ratepayers the financial impact can be measured in tens of dollars over the course of a year.

The rates impact on your property might be different as the exact amount varies depending on

where you live within the region, the services at your property, and the type and value of your property.





 **LEARN MORE...**  
 For more examples and how to calculate the estimated rates for your property please refer to the Long-Term Plan supporting documentation [www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

# Supporting information

## He kupu āpiti

### Infrastructure strategy

The Council's flood protection assets (stopbanks and other physical assets designed to prevent flooding) are the only items for which an Infrastructure Strategy is required. There has been no change to the Infrastructure Strategy since the last LTP in 2018.

Flood management and river control schemes make up a relatively minor component of total operations, accounting for approximately 1.2% of total operating expenditure. At 30 June 2020, the Council's flood control schemes were valued at \$13.7m out of total Council assets of \$108m.

There are two significant flood control schemes on the Waitara and Waiwhakaiho Rivers and a number of relatively small and minor schemes to address specific issues.

All flood control schemes are maintained to their design capacity (1 in 100 year flood protection in most cases).

Asset management plans have been adopted for the Lower Waiwhakaiho River Flood Control Scheme, the Lower Waitara River Flood Control Scheme, the Ōpunake Flood Control Scheme and the Ōkato Scheme.



#### LEARN MORE...

There are a number of other specific documents, plans and strategies that help the Council carry out its work.

Draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031:

[www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

Regional Policy Statement:

[www.trc.govt.nz/regional-policy-statement](http://www.trc.govt.nz/regional-policy-statement)

Regional Freshwater Plan:

[www.trc.govt.nz-regional-fresh-water-plan](http://www.trc.govt.nz-regional-fresh-water-plan)

Regional Land Transport Plan:

[www.trc.govt.nz/transport-planning-documents](http://www.trc.govt.nz/transport-planning-documents)

View all plans and reports:

[www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports](http://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports)



To the reader:

## Independent auditor's report on Taranaki Regional Council's consultation document for its proposed 2021-31 Long-Term Plan

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Taranaki Regional Council (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its long-term plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and requires an audit report on the consultation document. I have done the work for this report using the staff and resources of Deloitte Limited. We completed our report on 23 February 2021.

### Opinion

In our opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2021-31 long-term plan, because it:
  - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long-term plan; and
  - identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and region, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

### Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised): *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: *The Examination of Prospective Financial Information* that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

### Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long-term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long-term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

*Independence and quality control*

We have complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the independence and ethical requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board; and
- quality control requirements, which incorporate the quality control requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than our work in carrying out all legally required external audits, we have no relationship with or interests in the Council or any of its subsidiaries.



**Melissa Youngson**

Partner

for Deloitte Limited

On behalf of the Auditor-General, Hamilton, New Zealand



# Making a submission

**Have  
your say**

[www.trc.govt.nz/  
LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)

## He aha tou whakaaro?

We want to hear from you. Check out our website for full details about the ways you can get involved.



### Online

Fill in the submission form online at [www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation](http://www.trc.govt.nz/LTPconsultation)



### Post

Fill in the submission form on pages 36-37 and drop it off or post it to us at:  
Long-Term Plan Submission  
Chief Executive  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
Stratford 4352



### Email us

Fill in the submission form on pages 36-37 and email it to us at: [info@trc.govt.nz](mailto:info@trc.govt.nz).  
Please include 'Long Term Plan Submission' in subject field.



### Social media

Have your say at:  
[www.facebook.com/TaranakiRegionalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/TaranakiRegionalCouncil)



### Timeframes

Submissions open: **8 March 2021**  
Submissions close: **9 April 2021**  
Public hearing on: **10-11 May 2021**  
Adoption of LTP: **18 May 2021**



Do you agree with our preferred option, or do you support another option?  
Need more room to share your views? Attach extra pages.

# Submission form

## Consultation issues

### Submitter details

First name: .....

Surname: .....

Organisation/group: .....

Postal address: .....

Email: .....

I wish to present my submission personally at the hearing scheduled for 10-11 May 2021    Yes     No

*Note that your submission and any information you supply as part of it is considered public information and will be available in reports and documents relating to this process and will be published on our website.*

#### Delivering on NZ's freshwater aspirations



I support:

- Option 1: Improve water quality faster (preferred option)
- Option 2: Gradual water quality improvement
- Further comments attached

#### Regional recovery plan



I support:

- Option 1: No contribution.
- Option 2: TRC to contribute \$100k to the joint fund (preferred option)
- Option 3: TRC to contribute \$200k to the joint fund
- Option 4: TRC to contribute \$300k to the joint fund
- Further comments attached

#### TRC office accommodation



I support:

- Option 1: Refurbishment (preferred option)
- Option 2: New build
- Option 3: Rent office space
- Further comments attached









# Who are we?



Craig Williamson

Elvira Van Der Leden

Tom Cloke

Charlotte Littlewood

David Lean

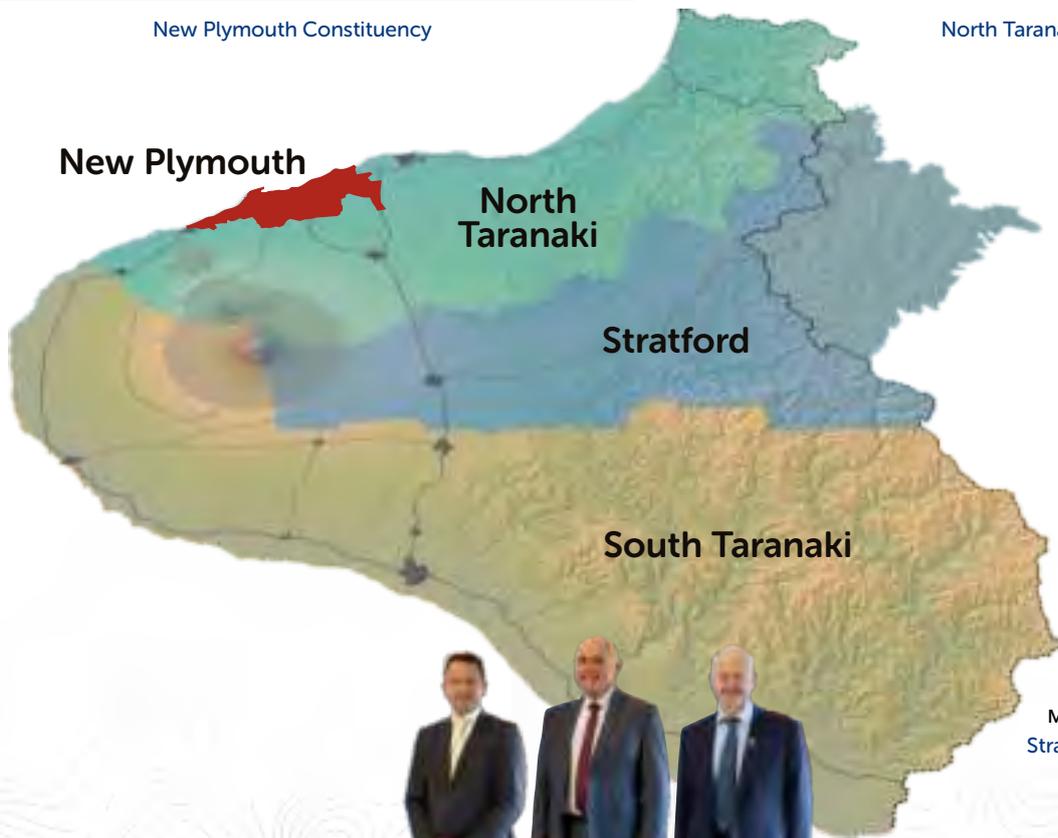
New Plymouth Constituency



Mike Davey

Donald McIntyre

North Taranaki Constituency



New Plymouth

North Taranaki

Stratford

South Taranaki



Matthew McDonald  
Stratford Constituency



David MacLeod  
Chairman

Michael Joyce  
Deputy Chairman

Neil Walker

South Taranaki Constituency

