

Kaunihera | Council

Kaupapataka Wātea | Open Agenda



Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council will be held on:

Ko te rā | Date: Wednesday 4 March 2026
Wā | Time: 9:00
Wāhi | Venue: Council Chambers
35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

NGĀ MEMA | MEMBERSHIP

Tiamana | Chairperson: Koromatua | Mayor
Ash Tanner

Mema | Members: Koromatua Tautoko | Deputy Mayor
James Sainsbury

Kaunihera ā-Rohe | District Councillors

Vincent Andersen

Grace Bonnar

Bruce Dewhurst

Tyrel Glass

Dayne Horne

Greg Marshall

Andrew McGiven

James Thomas

Gary Thompson

Rewiti Vaimoso

Sue Whiting

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1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

Chairperson to open the meeting.

2 Ngā whakapāha/Tono whakawātea | Apologies/Leave of Absence

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

3 Pānui i Ngā Take Ohore Anō | Notification of Urgent/Additional Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
 - (iii) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

4 Whākī pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

5 Whakaaetanga mēneti | Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes, as circulated, of the ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council, held on 25 February 2026

6 Papa ā-iwi whānui | Public Forum

Name	Position/Organisation	Topic
Vicki Black Sam Rosenberg	Property Manager Team Leader, Property Brokers Waikato Region Area Manager, Property Brokers	Management of Elderly Persons Housing and the changing legislation that may impact on Councils obligations

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.1 Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy

CM No.: 3137678

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider and adopt Matamata-Piako District Council's Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The Remuneration Authority set the rules and regulations for Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses and require Council's to have an Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy. This must be available on Council's website.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy as attached be adopted.
3. Staff are authorised to make minor amendments, such as the inclusion of translations.

Horopaki | Background

The Remuneration Authority set the rules and regulations for Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses and require Councils to have an Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy. This must be available on Council's website.

Following each Triennial Election the new Council determine the remuneration and allowances via Council resolution. The resolution following the 2025 Triennial Election is in the appendix of the Policy for ease of reading.

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE	MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION	
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'	
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)	

			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

All of the community outcomes are relevant to this report.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). Elected Members' Remuneration Allowances and Expenses Policy - draft for adoption 4 March 2026

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tamara Kingi Kaiārahi Kāwana Governance Team Leader	
Approved by	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	

Te Reo Translation | Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy



Department: Policy, Partnerships and Governance

Date approved by Council: 4 March 2026

Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

The Remuneration Authority requires Councils to have an Elected Members' Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses Policy (Policy) and to have that Policy displayed on Council's website.

This Policy outlines the remuneration, allowances and expenses allowable for elected members – these are in accordance with the Remuneration Authority rules.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy. Any expenses under this Policy must comply with Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy where applicable.

Audience

Elected members, staff.

Policy

Remuneration

- The Mayor shall receive remuneration as determined by the Remuneration Authority.
- The Remuneration Authority sets a Governance Pool, which is the total amount that can be paid in remuneration to elected members', and a minimum allowable annual total remuneration for each elected member. Council must make a formal decision following the Triennial Election as to how the Governance Pool is allocated according to roles and additional responsibilities held by elected members. The allocation of the Governance Pool as recommended by Council is then forwarded to the Remuneration Authority for approval.
- Elected members who sit on resource management or district plan hearings receive meeting fees as determined by the Remuneration Authority.
- Elected Members will not receive any additional remuneration for their roles on Council Committees and Subcommittees (including Advisory Committees).

Allowances

- **Vehicle Kilometre Allowance**
Elected members can claim a vehicle kilometre allowance to reimburse costs incurred for approved travel.

An elected member's travel is eligible for the kilometre allowance if:

- the elected member is not provided with a vehicle by Council;
- the elected member is travelling in a private vehicle (one claim per vehicle);
- the elected member is travelling on Council business; and
- the most direct route that is reasonable is taken.

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Morrinsville & Te Aroha 07 884 0060 - Matamata 07 881 90 50

The vehicle kilometre allowance is set by the Remuneration Authority and is based on the rate set by the Inland Revenue Department, as set out in the determination. In relation to attendances within the district, if the elected member travels from a place of permanent or temporary residence that is outside of the local authority area, the elected member is only eligible for the allowance after crossing the boundary of the local authority area. There is a set 100km per day limit on any mileage claim (except for Zone 2 meetings, LGNZ events, joint local authority meetings, the Hauraki Gulf Forum and other meetings where you are an appointed or otherwise authorised Council representative).

All elected members' claims for vehicle kilometre allowance are to be approved by two authorisers, one being a member of the Governance Team, the other being the Governance Team Leader or the Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager for auditing purposes.

- Travel Time Allowance

Elected members may claim a travel time allowance for travelling within New Zealand on Council business. The Mayor is not eligible for this allowance because the role is deemed to be full time and remuneration is set accordingly.

Council will pay the travel time allowance set by the Remuneration Authority for all eligible travel claimed by an elected member.

An elected member's travel is eligible for the travel time allowance if:

- the elected member is travelling on authorised Council business; and
- the elected member uses the quickest form of transport that is reasonable in the circumstances; and
- by the most direct route that is reasonable.

Elected members cannot claim for the first hour of eligible travel per day.

In relation to attendances within the district an elected member who resides outside the district boundary is only eligible for a travel time allowance in respect of travel time after the first hour of eligible travel time within the local authority area.

All claims for travel time allowance are to be approved by two authorisers, one being a member of the Governance Team, the other being the Governance Team Leader or the Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager.

- Communications (ICT) Allowance

All elected members are provided with a laptop (or similar) for Council purposes. Full technical support is provided.

The Mayor is provided with a mobile phone for Council purposes and full payment of all expenses related to the use of the mobile phone is covered by Council.

Council does not provide a Communications ICT allowance in addition to the issuing of Council owned laptops with mobile data.

- Child Care Allowance

Elected members may claim a childcare allowance as set by the Remuneration Authority as a contribution towards expenses incurred by the member for childcare provided while the member is engaged on Council business.

Elected members are eligible to be paid a childcare allowance if:

- they are engaged on local authority business at the time of the childcare;
- they are the parent or guardian of the child, or is a person who usually has responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis); and
- the child is under 14 years of age; and
- the childcare is provided by a person who: is not a parent of the child or a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner of the elected member; and does not ordinarily reside with the elected member.

Elected members must provide evidence satisfactory to the local authority of the amount paid for childcare. Evidence must include an invoice, payment details and declaration. All claims for childcare allowance are to be approved by two authorisers, one being a member of the Governance Team, the other being the Governance Team Leader or the Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager.

- Home Security Allowance
Council does not provide for the home security allowance.

Expenses

Actual and reasonable expenses incurred by elected members while undertaking Council business will be reimbursed in line with Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy.

Effects and Risks

Non-compliance with this Policy could result in a breach of the Remuneration Authority rules.

Monitoring, Measurement and Review

This Policy is monitored using two approvers for all allowances as stated above. When the Remuneration Authority releases new determinations this Policy is reviewed for consistency.

This Policy will be reviewed following each triennial election or earlier if required.

Relevant Information

Local Government Act 2002, Sch 7 Clause 6

Authorisation

Authorised by: Manaia Te Wiata
Tumu Whakarāe | Chief Executive Officer
Matamata-Piako District Council

Signed: _____
Manaia Te Wiata
Tumu Whakarāe | Chief Executive Officer

Appendix – Council minutes 5 November 2025

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7.8 Elected Member Remuneration and Allowances

CM No.: 3105598

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to:

- confirm how the Governance Remuneration Pool which is set by the Remuneration Authority should be allocated to the 12 Councillors, and
- confirm availability of any of the allowances as set by the Remuneration Authority.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The Remuneration Authority is the independent body responsible for setting remuneration for elected positions in Councils. Each Council is allocated a Governance Remuneration Pool (Pool), this is the total Pool for all Councillors. Individual Councils are responsible for allocating its Pool to its Councillors and the Pool must be fully allocated. The remuneration for the Mayor is also set by the Remuneration Authority but is separate from the Pool.

The Remuneration Authority also sets the rules for reimbursement of costs or allowances incurred by Elected Members while engaged on Council business.

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WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. Council confirms how the Governance Pool should be allocated and instructs staff to forward this to the Remuneration Authority for confirmation;

Option C: A formula for setting the remuneration is used to recognise roles of extra responsibility and workload.

- i) Deputy Mayor (This position exercises the same roles as other Elected Members and may be called on to attend events where the Mayor cannot attend. In addition, the Deputy Mayor is appointed to additional committees as part of this role. If the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, the Deputy Mayor must perform all of the responsibilities and duties of the Mayor)
Ratio of 1.4 - \$55,032.

Deputy Mayor James Sainsbury declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in voting of the motion.

Resolution number CO/2025/00010

Moved by: Cr J Thomas

Seconded by: Cr S Whiting

KUA MANA | CARRIED

WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA | Council Resolution

That:

- ii) Risk and Assurance Committee Member (This position exercises the same roles as other Elected Members and is also a member of the Risk and Assurance Committee who generally meet four to six times per year and have responsibility for assisting Council in fulfilling its overall responsibilities relating to financial reporting, external audit, internal audit, compliance and risk reporting, and reporting any areas of concern to Council.)
Number of Members 1 (Member of Risk and Assurance Committee only)
Ratio of 1.1 - \$43,239.
(Also see below vii Member of more than one Committee)
- iii) Te Manawhenua Forum Committee Member (This position exercises the same roles as other Elected Members and is also a member of Te Manawhenua Forum who generally meet six times per year and have responsibility for facilitating tangata whenua contribution to Council's decision making.)
Number of Members 1
Ratio of 1.1 - \$43,239.
- iv) Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee Member (This position exercises the same roles as other Elected Members and is also a member of the Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee who generally meet two to three times per year and have responsibility for making recommendations to Council in respect of the Aerodrome land, making decisions on access and parking arrangements that affect Raungaiti Marae and functions regarding the Reserve Management Plan under the Reserves Act.)
Ratio (see below vii Member of more than one Committee)
- v) Hauraki Gulf Forum (this position exercises the same roles as other Elected Members and is also a member of the Hauraki Gulf Forum who generally meet four times per year and have responsibility for the promotion and facilitation of

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<p>integrated management and the protection and enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf. Ratio of 1.1 - \$43,239.</p> <p>vi) Hauraki Scheme Subcommittee (or similar name once confirmed) (this position exercises the same roles as other Elected Members and is also a member of the Hauraki Scheme Subcommittee who generally meet two times per year and have responsibility for the provision of local community advice to Integrated Catchment Management Committee. Ratio (see below vii Member of more than one Committee).</p> <p>vii) Member of more than one Committee (as per above descriptions) Number of Members 2 Ratio of 1.15 - \$45,205.</p> <p>viii) Councillor (all other) Ratio of 1 - \$39,308.</p> <p>Resolution number CO/2025/00011 Moved by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury Seconded by: Cr S Whiting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KUA MANA CARRIED</p>
<p>WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA COUNCIL RESOLUTION That:</p> <p>2. Council confirms its approach to Elected Member Allowances;</p> <p><u>A Vehicle-Kilometre Allowance</u> Council adopts the vehicle-kilometre allowance in accordance with the Remuneration Authority's Determination and Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy</p> <p>Resolution number CO/2025/00012 Moved by: Cr A McGiven Seconded by: Cr D Horne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KUA MANA CARRIED</p>
<p>WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA COUNCIL RESOLUTION That:</p> <p><u>B Travel-Time Allowance</u> Council adopts the travel-time allowance in accordance with the Remuneration Authority's Determination and Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy</p> <p>Resolution number CO/2025/00013 Moved by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury Seconded by: Cr B Dewhurst</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KUA MANA CARRIED</p>

continued on next page...

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<p>WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA COUNCIL RESOLUTION That: <u>C Information or Communication Technology (ICT) Allowance</u> Council does not adopt an ICT allowance in addition to the issuing of Council owned laptops with mobile data.</p> <p>Resolution number CO/2025/00014 Moved by: Cr B Dewhurst Seconded by: Deputy Mayor J Sainsbury</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KUA MANA CARRIED</p>
<p>WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA COUNCIL RESOLUTION That: <u>D Childcare Allowance</u> Council adopts the childcare allowance in accordance with the Remuneration Authority's Determination and Council's Sensitive Expenditure Policy;</p> <p><i>Deputy Mayor James Sainsbury and Councillors Rewiti Vaimoso, Grace Bonnar and Tyrel Glass declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in discussion or voting of this motion.</i></p> <p>Resolution number CO/2025/00015 Moved by: Cr D Horne Seconded by: Cr J Thomas</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KUA MANA CARRIED</p>
<p>WHAKATAUNGA A TE KAUNIHERA COUNCIL RESOLUTION That: <u>E Home Security Allowance</u> Council does not adopt the home security allowance.</p> <p>Resolution number CO/2025/00016 Moved by: Cr S Whiting Seconded by: Cr A McGiven</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KUA MANA CARRIED</p>

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.2 Approval of submission to RMA Reform-the Bills

CM No.: 3141765

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to gain the Council's retrospective endorsement for the submissions on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill (the Bills) which were authored by the Council's RMA Policy Team.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The Council's RMA Policy Team recently made submissions on the Bills and although much of this material has been workshopped with the Council, it has not yet formally endorsed it. The Bills propose to introduce a new system of separate management and regulation processes for the built and natural environments to replace the current Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Both Bills have a top-down, streamlining approach with increased Ministerial powers on a range of matters, reduced timeframes and consultation requirements, and an increased range of permitted activities. Many elements referred to in the Bills, such as the national policy direction, national standards, standardised zones, and specified permitted activities are signalled to be developed at a future time.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

- Council retrospectively endorses the submissions on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill**

Horopaki | Background

The Government has been progressing significant reform to the current resource management system, working towards the replacement of the RMA. On 9 December 2025, the Government introduced the two new Bills to replace the RMA. The Bills were referred to the Environment Committee on 16 December 2025 and opened for submissions until 13 February 2026. Staff lodged the submission, together with the Waikato Mayoral Forum letter on the matter of current legislation changes, which the Council decided they broadly supported, and a copy of the submission was circulated to Te Manawhenua Forum and to elected members.

The replacement legislation proposes two new Acts: The Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act. The key drivers of the reform are to simplify the planning system, reduce duplication, and cut unnecessary red tape, creating a more efficient and streamlined framework for managing New Zealand's natural and built environments.

Staff received comments from Te Manawhenua Forum on the 10 February 2026 as part of the standing RMA update item, and comments from elected members at a workshop on the 11 February 2026. Staff also had the opportunity to engage with Waikato Regional Council and other local Council staff during the development phase of the submission and were able to review the draft submissions from Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Council, Taituarā, and the New Zealand Planning Institute, who all raised similar issues.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The submissions focus on the changes that have significant implications for Council, including but not limited to, the system's architecture and the role of local decision-making, public participation, regulatory relief and ensuring the new system can deliver well-functioning urban environments. Specifically, the submissions sought:

Interpretation. The submission sought for many terms to be defined, for example “significant” historic heritage, “no net loss of biodiversity” and “rural” to assist in future policy development, plan making and administration of the bills.

Consideration of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi. The submission sought the reinstatement of Cl 8 of the RMA relating to the consideration of the principles of the treaty to ensure iwi/ Māori have the same role in decision making and that treaty settlements continue to be given the same consideration.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. The submission sought the inclusion of new agreements in addition to the recognition of existing and initiated agreements, the ability to review these agreements and the retention of measures related to their development.

Goals. The goals set the direction taken under the Bills and staff recommended best planning practice be followed by ensuring matters covered within the Bills were included into the goals, for example subdivision. This enables a robust top-down consideration of a topic through the objective, policy and rule framework.

Consideration of effects. The Bills propose to amend the level of effects that can be considered by lifting the baseline upwards, defining the range of effects that cannot be considered, and not allowing the consideration of effects between the Bills. The submission makes suggestions regarding how the consideration of effects could be approached in a more efficient and effective manner.

Consideration of the relationship between the Bills. The submission seeks that greater clarity is given to the detailed operational nature of the relationship between the two Bills. For example, it is unclear in the Planning Bill whether activities must also occur within the environmental constraints of the Natural Environment Bill. Another cause for concern is the Bills having varying definitions of infrastructure and considering effects differently.

Regulatory Relief System. The Bills have proposed a new regulatory relief system to compensate owners whose properties are subject to a specified rule, for example a scheduled heritage item or wāhi tapu site. The complexity and scale of this proposal, at a time of proposed local government reform and rates capping has made staff seek the proposal be deleted or significantly amended in line with the Taituarā submission. This is consistent with other submitters.

Implications of new permitted activity regime. The Bills propose a range of permitted activities that will require registration, fees, applications, conditions and monitoring. To avoid misunderstandings staff have sought these activities are called controlled activities, rather than permitted activities.

Increased focus on compliance and monitoring. The Bills propose a substantial increase in the numbers of activities to be monitored, which will have implications for resourcing, so staff have sought these proposed activities to be included into the Bills. Clarity was also sought around the proposed requirement for the development of a compliance and monitoring strategy in the context of Ministry statements that a national compliance and monitoring system is to be developed.

Spatial planning. Staff supported the mandatory spatial planning process, however raised concerns around the role of central government, the likely need for a liaison role to be developed to ensure timely processes and other matters such as integration with other statutory processes such the LTP. Significant concerns were also raised around timing, particularly the short timeframe between the gazetting of national standards and the notification of the regional spatial plan.

Preparation of plans. Staff have raised concerns around operational matters in the Bills such as limitations on who can be consulted, for example, in some instances councils are not included in early consultation processes. The timing of certain processes and who can be on a hearing panel has also been highlighted in the submission.

Increased flexibility. While staff supported some of the proposals for increased flexibility, they also sought that greater detail is provided to assist at the time of administration, for example the type, scale and location of activities that could utilise a resource consent to achieve a plan change.

Financial contributions. The submission sought an addition to the transitional provisions of the Bills to ensure the continuation of financial contributions until such time as development contributions are replaced with development levies.

Mōrearea | Risk

The submissions themselves are considered a low risk, with the goal being that their recommendations shape the future iterations of the Bills. As the authority responsible for contributing to spatial plans, developing land-use plans, administering, monitoring and enforcing any resource consents or designations it is important the Council has as much involvement in the formulation of the Bills and resulting related processes as possible.

Should the Bills as proposed by the Environment Committee become Acts (i.e. Council's submission points are ignored), this will have wide ranging implications for Council and their ability to operate effectively within the new streamlined environment.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Given the Council's RMA Policy team has already submitted on the Bills, there are three options available to the Council. These are:

Option 1: Retrospectively endorse both submissions.

Options 2: Retrospectively endorse one submission but not the other.

Option 2: Do not endorse the submissions and direct staff to withdraw the submissions.

Recommended option

Option 1: Retrospectively endorse both submissions. The Bills represent a significant change from the current regime, and it is important that those who will ultimately administer the Bills are able to contribute to the process to shape the Bills to ensure efficient and effective processes and outcomes.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

This proposal will have some form of legal and policy impact on the Council. There are risks associated with the proposed changes in the Bills, including reduced ability of parties to participate in plan making process in a timely and effective manner, and reduced clarity regarding the management of effects between the Acts.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

The timeframe for making submissions was approximately two months from mid-December 2025 to mid-February 2026. Despite the short timeframe, staff received comments from Te Manawhenua Forum on the 10 February 2026 as part of the standing RMA update item, and comments from elected members at a workshop on the 11 February 2026. Staff also had the opportunity to engage with Waikato Regional Council and other local Council staff during the development phase of the submission and were able to review the draft submissions from Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Council, Taituarā, and the New Zealand Planning Institute, who all raised similar issues.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

- A. Submission of Matamata-Piako District Council to the Bills

- B. Appendix 1-Matamata-Piako District Council submission to the Planning Bill

- C. Appendix 2 - Submission of Matamata-Piako District Council to the Natural Environment Bill

- D. Waikato Mayoral Forum Letter


Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Carolyn McAlley Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Matua Senior RMA Policy Planner	
	Fiona Hill Kaiwhakamahere Rautaki RMA Matua Team Leader RMA Policy	

Approved by	Nathan Sutherland Pou Whakamahere Planning Manager	
	Ally van Kuijk Hautū Tipu me te Whakamatua Group Manager Growth & Regulation	



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

12 February 2026

Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: en.legislation@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill ('the Bills'). Please find attached, at Appendix 1 & 2, Matamata-Piako District Council's (MPDC) submission.

The Council supports the overall intention to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the intent to simplify the resource management system. MPDC acknowledges this proposal will change the way in which territorial authorities operate, however MPDC still wants to achieve the best possible outcome for our rural district while protecting the matters that are important to our community. MPDC are part of the Future Proof partnership and seek to maintain enduring relationships across the region at this time of change. The Waikato Mayoral forum, of which our MPDC Mayor is a part, have developed key messages on the Bills, which are broadly supported by MPDC and are attached to this submission. The mayoral forum messaging covers a range of reform areas, not just the Bills. MPDC supports the concern regarding the current level of proposed change in the local government sector, believing that it must be appropriately coordinated to prevent duplication and excessive costs.

MPDC has raised a range of concerns in their submission and highlights the following matters as requiring particular attention.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi. Both bills propose a markedly different approach to the consideration of the Treaty, and to the provisions that relate to Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. Most notably, a provision for new agreements is not included in either Bill. MPDC is concerned that the application of a streamlining process to existing arrangements will not be able to give full regard to settlements developed under the RMA and seeks, subject to matters raised in the submission, that the status quo be maintained with C18 from the RMA being reinstated in the proposed Bills. MPDC is also concerned that the provisions will disproportionately affect iwi who have not settled.

Regulatory relief. Both Bills propose a new regulatory relief system to provide property owners with a possible range of relief if their properties are subject to a specified rule, such as an historic heritage site or a wāhi tapu. MPDC is opposed to this proposal. It increases risk and liability for the council. This approach is also proposed at a time when there is a proposal to cap rates. For MPDC this significant piece of work would involve, with retrospective investigations, consultation with 204 owners in relation to its 152 scheduled historic heritage items, 1700 owners for the 78 scheduled wāhi tapu sites, and over 130 owners for the 130 scheduled trees. MPDC supports the approach of the Taituarā submission in that the regulatory relief proposal is removed from the Bills or if retained significantly amended to reduce its risk and complexity.

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Timing of production of plans and strategies. Another focus of the MPDC submission is the tight timeframes proposed for a myriad of matters such as the reconsideration of treaty agreements within two years of the commencement of the Act, the development national direction in a timely manner to inform spatial planning, the development of regulatory relief proposals and the development of land use plans, and associated hearing and decision timeframes. While MPDC appreciates a focus on timeliness is important, there is a concern that the production of such complex pieces of work, particularly at the time of reform in the local government sector has the potential to compromise the quality and integration of these important processes. The submission suggests where timeframes could be amended to produce enhanced outcomes.

Integration between the Bills. MPDC does not contest the decision to separate planning, and environmental matters into the separate Bills, however, it considers the proposition that effects generated under one Bill cannot be considered under the other Bill is not only unrealistic, but it also does not provide for the best planning or environmental outcomes. MPDC seeks amendments to improve options where matters overlap and joint consideration should occur.

Spatial planning. MPDC supports a mandatory spatial planning process and the integration benefits this will bring the district and the region. The submission emphasises the importance of related processes, such as the development of national policy statements occurring in a timely fashion to enable the spatial plan to give full effect to national direction. The submission also raises concerns regarding the timing for producing spatial plans in relation to the production of other local government documents such as long-term plans, amidst a local government restructure.

Rural environment. MPDC is concerned that while the Goals of the Planning Bill seek to create well-functioning urban and rural areas, there is no further recognition of the rural environment within the Bill. The rural economy of the Matamata-Piako district makes a significant contribution to both the regional and national economies and its effective management is critical to the ongoing success of the district. MPDC has sought greater recognition of the rural environment and how it fits into the new planning regime.

Permitted activities. The bid to streamline planning processes is proposed to be achieved through an increase in permitted activities. While some permitted activities are as they are currently known, other permitted activities are required to be registered, have conditions and be subject to monitoring. MPDC seeks, to avoid misunderstanding, that these complex permitted activities are called controlled activities.

This submission (Appendices 1 & 2) will be endorsed at the next council meeting in early March. While MPDC does not wish to be heard, we look forward to the next steps in the development of the Bills and welcome the opportunity to comment on any issues raised in this submission.

Should you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Fiona Hill, Team Leader, RMA Policy in the first instance, on fhill@mpdc.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully



Manaja Te Wiata
Chief Executive Officer
Matamata-Piako District Council

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Appendix 1 - Submission of Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) to the Planning Bill (PB)		
Additions = <u>underline</u>		
Deletions = Strikethrough		
Clause Number	Support or oppose	Discussion and Relief sought
Interpretation		
CI 3 Interpretation existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Oppose in part	The proposed definition is constrained to existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. MPDC considers this definition is limiting, especially given some iwi have not settled or others who are not yet resourced to start to develop these agreements. MPDC considers the definition should also include new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. Relief sought -The definition of “ <i>Mana Whakahono ā Rohe</i> ” should be expanded to include any new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.
New Additional requirements for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWāR)	Oppose in part	MPDC is concerned there are no transitional measures to follow for already initiated MWāR, no measures around developing new MWāR and no recognition of being an enduring document. MPDC is of the opinion that the PB needs to include such measures. Relief sought -The PB is amended to include transitional measures for already initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, and measures for new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe” as found in RMA s58L-s58U and confirm that Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements are enduring.
CI 3 Interpretation infrastructure	Oppose	MPDC is concerned there is no definition of infrastructure in the interpretation section, given the number of references to the term “ <i>infrastructure</i> ” in the PB. MPDC also notes there are defined terms “ <i>core infrastructure operation</i> ” and “ <i>core infrastructure operator</i> ” and there is a defined term “ <i>infrastructure</i> ” in schedule 5 in relation to infrastructure for a designation or an application to be approved as a designating authority. MPDC believes this does not assist with the efficient administration of the PB and seeks the bill is amended to provide greater clarity given the number of references around the term “ <i>infrastructure</i> ”, particularly as the RMA has a comprehensive definition which is then referred to by the NPS-I.

Appendix 1- Submission of Matamata-Piako District Council to the Planning Bill 1

		<p>Relief sought-The interpretation section is amended to include the definition “infrastructure” as it pertains to many references to infrastructure throughout the bill, and for any consequential amendments as required.</p>
<p>Cl 3 Interpretation</p> <p>New definition required</p> <p>Enjoyment of land</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC seeks a new definition, “enjoyment of land” to assist in the administration of PB. This is of particular importance as this term is part of the Purpose (Cl4) of this Act.</p> <p>Relief sought: A definition of “<i>enjoyment of land</i>” is included in the interpretation section.</p>
<p>Cl 3 Interpretation</p> <p>New Definition required</p> <p>Significant history heritage</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The PB refers to significant historic heritage several times, for example in the Goals (cl 11.1. g. (iii)), however there is no definition of “significant” historic heritage. Given the wide-ranging implications historic heritage will have in terms of future processes such as spatial plans, land use plans and the development of regulatory relief processes, MPDC considers the PB must include a definition of significant historic heritage.</p> <p>Relief sought: The PB is amended to include a definition of significant historic heritage.</p>
<p>Cl 3 Interpretation</p> <p>New Definition required</p> <p>Unreasonably</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned at the use of the term “unreasonably” in the following goal”: <i>Goal- (a) to ensure that land use does not unreasonably affect others, including by separating incompatible land use.</i> MPDC considers the term subjective and likely contestable at the time of consenting and monitoring. It is unclear as to the relationship between the consideration of effects in this goal and the effects regime contained in other parts of the PB.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend the goal to remove the term “unreasonably”. Alternatively, the term is defined in the context of the consideration of effects.</p>
<p>Cl 4 Purpose</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned the purpose of the PB “<i>The purpose of this Act is to establish a framework for planning and regulating the use, development, and enjoyment of land</i>” is ambiguous as it does not refer to subdivision, which can still be subject to a rule in a plan, and refers to the “enjoyment of land” an undefined term.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend the purpose of the PB to include “subdivision”, and that “enjoyment of land” becomes a defined term.</p>

<p>CI 8 Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>The PB materially changes how Te Tiriti o Waitangi will be implemented and MPDC is concerned Māori rights and interests are being diminished. MPDC is supportive of the essence of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi being included into the PB in the same manner it is currently considered in the RMA.</p> <p>MPDC considers fulsome regard needs to be given to Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, rather than the current list of Crown responsibilities. MPDC considers the current and new MWāR agreement processes and iwi management plan could provide mechanisms to address current concerns on matters such as timely responses.</p> <p>Relief sought: MPDC seeks the Treaty provisions in the PB are amended to reflect clause 8-Treaty of Waitangi in the RMA, with any consequential changes as required.</p>
<p>CI 9 Crown to seek to enter arrangements to uphold Treaty settlement redress or arrangements</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC seeks Treaty settlements are upheld as originally intended under the RMA. This will be easier if CI 8 of the PB is amended to reflect CI 8 of the RMA.</p> <p>In the event CI 9 is retained, MPDC considers this clause will materially change how Treaty settlement redress or arrangements operate in practice and could be diminished through processes associated with CI 9. MPDC considers settlement redress or arrangements must have the same or equivalent effect and the clause to the “<i>greatest extent possible</i>” is deleted as it is not appropriate to renegotiate these significant agreements. MPDC is concerned the PB requires the Crown to discuss how to give effect to existing settlements within two years and this is an unrealistic timeframe given the number of settlements to be discussed, just in Waikato alone, and creates a risk the deadline will lapse, potentially impacting Treaty Settlement obligations. In addition, how does this process then relate to the timeframes for the regional spatial plan and land use plans etc.? How can we advance these documents in absence of any agreements as to how settlement agreements are to be upheld?</p> <p>Relief sought: Treaty Settlements are upheld as originally intended under the RMA., or in the event CI 9 in the PB is retained, amend CI 9.1.2.a by deleting “<i>greatest extent possible</i>”, and amend CI 9(1)(2)(3) by removing the two-year timeframe for re-negotiating treaty settlements, and make further amendments with regard timing to reflect the need for regional spatial plan and land use plans etc to give effect to these settlements.</p>
<p>Part 2 Foundation Sub part 1 Core Provisions for decision making</p>		
<p>Goals New</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned there are matters within the PB that will be subject to rules, which have not been referenced in the goals. This does not reflect best planning practice or conceptually represent the ‘funnel’, which is</p>

Appendix 1- Submission of Matamata-Piako District Council to the Planning Bill 3

		<p>essentially a cascade of considerations from matters of national importance and other matters, down through to objectives, policies and rules. The PB makes it clear that a matter must be in a goal to be able to be reflected further down the system. MPDC seeks that the PB is reviewed to ensure all relevant matters that will be subject to an objective, policy and rules framework are included into a goal</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend the goals to ensure that all matters within the PB that are to be subject to an objective, policy or rule are included in the goals.</p>
<p>CI 11 Goals</p>	Support	<p>MPDC is concerned with the mandate to implement the goals: <i>All persons exercising or performing functions, duties, or powers under this Act must seek to achieve the following goals subject to sections 12 and 45</i>, is too weak, particularly given the development of plan and rules are to implement to the goals, and should be strengthened.</p> <p>MPDC is also concerned and would welcome clarity at the reference and intention behind the statement “<i>achieve the following goals subject to sections 12 and 45</i>”. The statement appears to remove the overarching mandate that is expected from the term “goals” and that the content of national direction may not be subject to the goals in every instance.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 11 as follows: All persons exercising or performing functions, duties, or powers under this Act must seek to achieve <u>recognise and provide</u> the following goals subject to.... Amend CI 11 to provide clarity at the reference and intention behind the statement “<i>achieve the following goals subject to sections 12 and 45</i>”.</p>
<p>CI 11 Goals (a) (g) & (i) New matter Subdivision</p>	Support	<p>MPDC considers the Goals are incomplete and need to be amended to also recognise subdivision. Subdivision is a core function of local authorities and affects how land can be used in the future. It can also have significant implications for river access, access to cultural sites and historic heritage in terms of effects on heritage items. The goal related to Māori interests should also provide for the “use” of Māori land. Given the implications of these activities, the goals should be amended as sought in the relief below.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Goal (a) as follows: to ensure that <u>subdivision land use and development</u> does not unreasonably affect others, including by separating incompatible land uses: Relief sought: Amend Goal (g) as follows: to protect from inappropriate <u>subdivision, land use and development</u> the identified values and characteristics of— Relief sought: Amend Goal (i) as follows: to provide for Māori interests through—(iii) enabling the <u>use</u>, development and protection of identified Māori land.</p>

<p>CI 11 Goals (g) & (i)</p> <p>New matter</p> <p>Areas</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned the Goals do not include the consideration of “<i>areas</i>”, only “<i>sites</i>” when discussing historic heritage and places of importance to Māori. Many places of importance to Māori, and important historic heritage sites are best captured as an area as the area contains important collective values that contribute to its significance. The goals need to be amended to reflect this important matter.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend goal (g) to ensure that land does not unreasonably affect others, including by separating incompatible land uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to protect from inappropriate development the identified values and characteristics of— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (iii) sites <u>and areas</u> of significant historic heritage: <p>Relief sought: Amend goal (g) to provide for Māori interests through—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the identification and protection of sites <u>and areas</u> of significance to Māori (including wāhi tapu, water bodies, or sites in or on the coastal marine area); and
<p>CI 11 Goals (a)</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned goal, (a) <i>to ensure that land use does not unreasonably affect others, including by separating incompatible land uses</i>, includes several undefined terms that will affect the ability to implement this goal. Clarification needs to be provided around the terms “<i>unreasonably affect</i>”, “<i>others</i>” and “<i>separating incompatible land uses</i>”.</p> <p>Relief sought: The terms “<i>unreasonably affect</i>”, “<i>others</i>” and “<i>separating incompatible land uses</i>” are either defined and included into the interpretation section of the planning bill or clarified as part of this goal.</p>
<p>CI Goals (b)</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned goal, (b) <i>to support and enable economic growth and change by enabling the use and development of land uses a new term “economic change”</i>, has no defined meaning, with regard the nature or extent of the change, which will affect the ability to implement this goal.</p> <p>Relief sought: The interpretation section is amended to include a new definition of “<i>economic change</i>”.</p>
<p>CI 11 Goals (c)</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned with the goal, (c) <i>to create well-functioning urban and rural areas</i>, as the term “<i>well-functioning urban and rural areas</i>”, has not been defined in the context of the PB, which will affect the ability to implement this goal. The National Policy Statement for Urban Development contains direction on what is well functioning for urban environments but not for rural environments. It would be of benefit to provide national direction on rural environments, which could include the matter of highly productive land.</p> <p>Relief sought: The interpretation section is amended to include the defined term “<i>well-functioning urban and rural areas</i>”, and consideration is given to a national policy statement on the rural environment.</p>
<p>CI 11 Goals (i)</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC has submitted for s8 from the RMA to be rolled over to the PB and seeks that goal (i) is amended to reflect this position. MPDC are concerned goal (i) seeks to narrow the consideration of Māori interests to the small</p>

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		<p>range of defined matters, which is much reduced from that of the RMA and precludes Māori from their role as kaitiaki.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend goal (i) of the PB to give the same regard in the goals as would be expected from the expanded consideration of the Treaty as sought in response to CI 8 of the PB. In the event this approach is not accepted amend goal (i) as sought below.</p> <p>That CI 11(i) is amended as follows: the reference to “participation” is amended to “<u>engagement</u>”</p> <p>CI 11(i)i is amended as follows: the reference in CI 11(1)(i)(ii) to “<i>sites of significance to Māori</i>” is expanded to include areas, and</p> <p>Amend relevant clauses to require statutory acknowledgements, relevant documents recognised by an iwi authority and applicable iwi participation legislation and existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are taken into account when a joint committee prepares a regional spatial plan, not just a Natural Environment Plan or a land use plan.</p>
<p>CI 11 Goals</p> <p>CI 56 National policy direction may restrict how goals may be achieved</p> <p>CI 57 National direction to resolve conflicts between goals in both Acts</p>	Oppose	<p>MPDC is concerned in CI 11 has not provided a hierarchy of the goals, but CI 56 - National policy direction may restrict how goals may be achieved and CI 57 provides to resolve conflicts between goals in both Acts and outlines how the goals are to be achieved. This creates tension between what is in the Bill and how it is to be interpreted.</p> <p>Relief sought: Provide methods to resolve conflicts between goals in the bill/s rather than be the subject of future national policy direction and not be the subject of a minister’s discretion.</p>
<p>CI 12 Relationship between key instruments in</p>	Oppose	<p>MPDC is concerned the consideration of the natural environment is excluded from decisions made under the PB. Land use needs to occur within the environmental limits set by the natural environment plan. We recommend placing natural environment plans above land use plans in the hierarchy.</p>

decision making		Relief sought: Amend Cl 12 to place natural environment plans above land use plans in the hierarchy of key instruments to ensure that development occurs within environmental limits. Consequential amendments to other provisions within the Bill may be required to achieve this outcome.
Cl 13 Procedural Principles	Oppose	<p>MPDC considers “(e) <i>act in an enabling manner</i>” is superfluous to the requirements of this section, given that many councils already operate in this manner. MPDC considers there should be guidance regarding: the relationship between the procedural principles and the decision-making tests within the legislation, and guidance on acting proportionately to the scale and significance of the matter.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 13 by deleting “(e) <i>act in an enabling manner</i>”. If it is retained, then develop guidance on this and the following matters: the relationship between the procedural principles and the decision-making tests within the legislation, and act proportionately to the scale and significance of the matter.</p>
Cl 14 Effects outside the scope of this Act Schedule 11 Amendments to other legislation Part 1 Amendments to RMA commencing 1 month after Royal Assent, Section 104	Oppose in part	<p>MPDC is concerned regarding the lack of clarity within Cl 14 and Schedule 11, particularly as the clause in Schedule 11 comes into force one month after enactment. There is also concern that some of the matters being excluded would contribute to the enjoyment of land such as side yards and height to boundary and the need for a dedicated outdoor space. The “enjoyment of land” forms part of the purpose of the PB and inclusion of these matters would also contribute significantly to the Cl 11-Goal “(c) <i>to create well-functioning urban and rural areas</i>”.</p> <p>With regard (a) <i>the internal and external layout of buildings on a site (for example, the provision of private open space)</i>: it is not clear if this clause also excludes yard setbacks, height to boundary and similar? MPDC is also concerned if the building/site relates to an historic heritage building/site or a site of significance to Māori, how would the impacts on these values be assessed if layout of buildings cannot be assessed? As currently drafted, this clause will lead to implementation difficulties and requires further clarity.</p> <p>With regard (c) <i>retail distribution effects</i>, as currently drafted, it appears to require decision makers to disregard retail distribution effects in all cases. A blanket exclusion risks unintended consequences for the strategic role, integrity, and long-term vitality of town centres and other identified local centres. If retail distribution effects are not assessed, what effect does that have on the existing physical resources in CBDs or business zones and the retail hierarchy and the maintenance of main streets? How does this impact applicants and administrators regarding developing and giving effect to the contents of regional spatial plans and undertaking traffic modelling?</p> <p>With regard, (e) <i>the visual amenity of a use, development, or building in relation to its character, appearance, aesthetic qualities, or other physical feature</i>, MPDC is unclear how effect will be given to the goal “(c) <i>to create</i></p>

		<p><i>well-functioning urban and rural areas</i>” if consideration cannot be given to visual effects. By way of example, how can visual effects in respect of yard setbacks be assessed.</p> <p>MPDC is also seeking a deletion from Schedule 11 - Part 1 Amendments to RMA commencing 1 month after Royal Assent, relating to s104(1) insert (1A). MPDC considers that (1A) should be deleted from the transitional measures as it is considered it will be too complicated to administer this clause given that many of the matters proposed to be outside the scope of effects are still part of the objective and policy framework of the RMA, which will be the primary document for some considerable time.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cl 14 is not to be administered as part of the transitional provisions, and • Amend (a) <i>the internal and external layout of buildings on a site (for example, the provision of private open space)</i> to provide certainty by clearly stating the matters to which it pertains, and • Delete (e) the visual amenity of a use, development, or building in relation to its character, appearance, aesthetic qualities, or other physical feature, or in the alternative provide guidance regarding the consideration of amenity regarding achieving the goals • Amend Cl 14(2) as follows, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) This section does not restrict the management of – (a) (e) <i>the effects of natural hazards;</i> (f) <i>retail distribution effects where those effects are relevant to the function, viability, or strategic role of town centres or local centres within a planning framework,</i> and consequential amendments to give full effect to the amendments.
<p>Cl 15 Considering the adverse effects of activities</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned with Cl 15(1)(a)(i) which includes a diluted threshold in terms of resolving the effects of activities, as “(i) adverse effects are to be avoided, minimised, or remedied, <i>where practicable</i>,”. MPDC considers these terms to be more effective by the removal of the phrase “<i>where practicable</i>”. In the alternative, guidance should be provided as to what “<i>where practicable</i>” means in this context.</p> <p>MPDC considers Cl 15(1)(a)(ii) requires guidance in relation to limits around offsetting or compensation, and instances where this is not acceptable. MPDC is also concerned at the lack of clarity around the proposed lower threshold when considering effects, as a less than minor adverse effect is proposed to be an effect that does not have to be considered Cl 15(4). To arrive at a decision an assessment is required, from both an applicant and the processing planner/engineer etc., as would also be the case for Cl “b) <i>must not consider a less than minor adverse effect unless the cumulative effect of 2 or more such effects create effects that are greater than less than minor</i>”. It is of interest to MPDC how this could be considered if an effect under the PB and the NEB could produce a cumulative effect that are greater than less than minor yet cannot be considered as the effects cannot be considered between the Acts, which is not an appropriate approach.</p>

		<p>In addition, there is also concern around the interaction between the PB and the NEB as effects cannot be considered between the Acts. Post consent there may also be the matter of both Acts being breached, and MPDC suggests that consideration should be given to how this would be managed/resolved.</p> <p>Relief sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend CI 15(1)(a)(i) as follows “(i) adverse effects are to be avoided, minimised, or remedied, where practicable” • Amend CI 15(1)(a)(ii) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide clearer limits on when offsetting or compensation may be relied upon; • Amend CI 15(1)(b) to consider the potential of the cumulative impacts of effects under both Acts • Amend CI 15(5) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide clearer, more objective criteria for determining what constitutes a “less than minor adverse effect”; • reduce reliance on subjective concepts such as “acceptable” and “reasonable”, and provide guidance on their meanings; • clarify how cumulative effects are to be assessed and when “less than minor” effects must be considered collectively; and • provide guidance to ensure consistent application of the threshold across decision-makers to reduce uncertainty and litigation risk, and • provide guidance as to how breaches of both Acts for one activity would be managed.
<p>Classification of activities</p>		

<p>CI 31 Principles for classifying activities</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned at the ambiguity of subclause (a) in particular: <i>an activity should be classified as a permitted activity if—(i) the activity is acceptable, is anticipated, or achieves the desired level of use and development; or....</i> The clause as currently drafted is very broad. For example, if the activity of “mining” was deemed acceptable, anticipated and achieved the desired level of use and development, would that mean that mining was a permitted activity? MPDC suggests as a starting point that a permitted activity typically has a less than minor effect that can be achieved without special management conditions. The permitted activity should be the activity is acceptable, is anticipated, or achieves the desired level of use and development within expected bounds.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 31 by replacing subclause (a) with the wording below: “An activity should be classified as a permitted activity if the activity is acceptable, is anticipated, or achieves the desired level of use and development and: (i) the effects of the activity are less than minor; or (ii) a specific assessment of the activity or part of the activity is not required.”</p>
<p>CI 32 Consequences of permitted, restricted discretionary, or restricted discretionary activity classification</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned, based on their review of the interpretation section, the PB contains two types of permitted activities, which appear to be: a. Permitted activity: Essentially requires a standard to be met, such as a boundary setback. b. Permitted activity rule: Where there are specific conditions to be met for carrying out a permitted activity. This could for instance be landscaping, noise attenuation etc...</p> <p>It would be helpful, if this is the intent, that these two types of permitted activities were recognised as separate subclauses in part of CI 32. This would assist in the development of the nationally standardised zones where these terms will be used</p> <p>MPDC also considers the intent of Permitted activity rules would be clearer if they were called controlled activities as this better reflects the need for the planning process involving registration, conditions, monitoring and fees.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 32 to clearly recognise the two types of permitted activities, and for permitted activity rules to be amended to be termed controlled activities.</p>
<p>Permitted activity rules</p>		
<p>CI 38 Permitted activity rules</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC considers greater clarity should be provided around the types permitted activity rules that are expected, given the anticipated large number of these types of rules. Also, CI 38(4) provides for written approval to be valid for three years unless it is withdrawn. MPDC is concerned how a council monitors this and what happens if a</p>

		<p>person withdraws their approval part way through a project. MPDC questions what liability this may create and how it may affect the status of that project?</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 38 to specify that activities that are to be registered permitted activities rule must be identified in nationally standardised zones and / or any bespoke provisions. MPDC also wants further clarity around a neighbours approval lasting three years, unless it is withdrawn and how this situation would be monitored.</p>
<p>CI 45 Matters to consider when making national instrument</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned at the following clause (5) <i>If the proposed national instrument contains new content.</i> MPDC has assumed this clause applies to new content outside the scope of the goals. MPDC considers creating the ability to bring in new content outside the goals is not democratic and creates uncertainty for parties. MPDC considers this clause should be deleted to ensure new content can only be introduced through a notified process.</p> <p>Relief sought: Delete CI 5) CI 5 If the proposed national instrument contains new content, the Minister must consider all existing national instruments for the purpose of ensuring there is a coherent set of national instruments.</p>
<p>CI 46 Process for making national instrument</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>While MPDC supports CI 46, which provides for iwi to comment on a draft of a national instrument, MPDC seeks other parties including councils to be provided with the same opportunity to review draft documents. It has the potential for undue influence from lobby groups or sectors. Subclause 46(4) should ensure any TAG established by the Minister is made up of experts in a wide range of fields that are of relevance to the matter, and those experts represent a balanced field of knowledge. This would negate any potential criticism of a TAG being populated with members who have a particular bias.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 46(1)(a) to provide for other parties to review a draft national instrument including councils, and amend subclause 46(4) to include an additional subclause 46(4)(a)(iii): "... with membership made up of experts from a wide range of relevant fields that represent a balanced view; and ..."</p>
<p>National policy direction</p>		

<p>CI 54 Purpose of National policy direction</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC have previously, as part of the RMA reform process, requested increased national direction on various matters, and guidance regarding the resolution process when there is a conflict between national direction instruments. MPDC considers the approach outlined in this clause does still not provide clarity around conflicts between the different NPD instruments and only offers to “help” resolve conflicts in clause (b). MPDC is also unclear of the meaning of the word “particularise” in clause (a).</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 54 to provide clearer guidance regarding the resolution of potential conflicts between national direction, and the meaning of the term “particularise”.</p>
<p>CI 56 National policy direction may restrict how goals may be achieved</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned by the lack of integration between the two Bills. The national instruments should be key mechanism to integrate the Bills, yet the Minister is not required to consider effects on the natural environment when making national policy direction relating to the achievement of goals. While CI 67 is explicit in stating that regional spatial plans must implement national instruments under both Acts in a way that provides for use and development within environmental limits and Schedule 2 clause 2 requires regional spatial plans to be consistent with environmental limits, this is strategically constrained by the national instruments they are implementing.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 56(2) by adding a new subclause: <i>“the direction ensures that use and development of the built environment occurs within environmental limits”</i>.</p>
<p>National Standards</p>		
<p>CI 60 What national standards can do</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>MPDC supports the direction the standards will provide and would like to understand the timing of these as the standards outline so many of the requirements for plans and how they will be structured. MPDC is particularly concerned given the timing requirements for the development of a spatial plan, particularly if the standards are directing the development of the spatial plan.</p> <p>Relief sought: Clarity is provided regarding the development of standards in relation to the plan development process.</p>
<p>CI 60 (5) (5) National standards may empower territorial authorities to charge for monitoring any specified permitted</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>MPDC supports the ability to be able to continue to charge for monitoring, however, recognises there will be a substantive change in the scale of what is to be monitored, which will have significant resourcing and skill implications for the district. This clause is related to the development of the monitoring and compliance strategy sought in CI 272 and discussed later in this submission. MPDC considers there would be benefit in identifying the specified permitted activities, proposed to be developed in the upcoming standards, in the PB instead, to better inform councils around resourcing and in the development of the monitoring and compliance strategy.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 60(5) to include the specified permitted activities where charges would be sought for monitoring to better inform council resourcing and the development of the monitoring and compliance strategy.</p>

activities in the standard.		
CI 62 Amendments to national standards without full process	Oppose	MPDC continues to be concerned regarding the ability provided in this clause to allow the Minister to amend national standards without a full process. MPDC has previously submitted against this type of clause as part of earlier RMA reform processes. MPDC considers this to be undemocratic and creates uncertainty. Relief sought: Delete CI 62.
Purpose of spatial plans and other amendments associated with spatial plans		
CI 67 Purpose of regional spatial plans CI 72 Ministerial appointment to spatial plan committee Schedule 1 – Transitional, savings, and related provisions Schedule 2 Spatial plans Schedule 3 Further provisions relating to plans	Support in part	Overall MPDC is supportive of regional spatial plans but has concerns over timing, cost and the relationship between the regional spatial plan and private plan changes. MPDC agrees with the Taituara submission, in that the 15-month timeframe for notification of the regional spatial plan (following royal assent of the PB) is too tight. For the reasons explained MPDC considers it will lead to increased costs and unintended consequences. It is critical that an integrated suite of national direction instruments is in place prior to the Regional Spatial Plan being prepared. As it currently stands there is only four months between when the first suite of national policy direction and national standards is to be published and the notification of the Regional Spatial Plan. It is simply not enough time to understand national policy direction and standards including environmental limits, research where and how they are to be applied, and undertake the administrative tasks to notify the spatial plan. (By way of example, Schedule 2 Cl 2 Contents of Regional Spatial Plans lists the mandatory matters to be included one of which is the spatial implications of environmental limits). Furthermore, the second suite of national direction is to be published after the notification of the spatial plan. This is not an effective way forward and will lead to increased costs and a regional spatial plan that contains inaccuracies. It is important the appropriate amount of time is provided to develop a regional spatial plan that incorporates national direction in a meaningful manner. Whilst supportive of regional spatial plans, MPDC is concerned about the increased cost regional spatial plans and their associated implementation plans will place on the ratepayers of the district. MPDC is strongly of the opinion that ways in which the costs can be managed is through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> revising the timeframes, ensuring there is a representative from central government involved with each regional spatial plan. This will foster greater collaboration between central and local government and assist in sharing of resources.

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<p>Schedule 11 Amendments to other legislation</p>		<p>The person/people may act as an advisor to the Spatial Plan Committee rather than a committee member of the Committee, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reconsidering whether it is necessary for each council to include a statement on the implementation of regional spatial strategy within the Annual Report (Schedule 11 Amendments to Local Government Act). The audit requirements of the Annual Report are a significant cost to ratepayers and using this this mechanism will add to this cost <p>MPDC is concerned that Schedule 3, CI 52 Grounds for rejecting request for a private plan change has no relationship with the Regional Spatial Plan. Whilst MPDC understands the intent of providing a degree of flexibility it is also noted as part of the Regional Spatial Plan process key designation corridors can be identified. It would seem more efficient to include change in land use within a designation corridor as a reason for a Council to reject an application for a private plan change.</p> <p>Relief sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either amend Schedule 1, CI 4 so the notification of the regional spatial plan is six months after the second suite of national direction under both the PB and the NEB or amend the current timeframe from 15 months to 24 months. Amend CI 72 to require the Minister to appoint a central government representative to the spatial plan committee or act as an advisor to the Committee Amend Schedule 3, CI 52 to identify where an applicant is contrary to a Regional Spatial Plan, and designations, in particular, as a reason to refuse a request for a private plan change. Amend Schedule 11 so the Annual Report is not the reporting mechanism to report on implementation of the Regional Spatial Plan. As an alternative, MfE could co-ordinate reporting on the implementation of Regional Spatial plans and these reports could be published on the MFE website. If the Annual Report is retained as the reporting mechanism, it should be clear within the legislation that the requirements only apply once actions have been identified for the local authority within the implementation plan.
<p>CI 88 Requirements for further evaluation report</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned this clause seeks further evaluation reports for a proposed plan only in the instance of a significant change to that plan. Clarification is required as to what constitutes a ‘significant change’. MPDC is concerned that only requiring a further evaluation report when there is a significant change also precludes a record of the reasoning behind a change to the proposed plan document and creates the potential to reduce the understanding of the plan document.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 88 to clarify what constitutes a significant change and ensure an evaluation report is required for all changes to the plan excluding very minor changes.</p>
<p>Regulatory Relief</p>		

<p>CI 92 Obligations relating to regulatory relief</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC has reviewed this clause and the associated clauses in Schedule 3 and has significant concerns related to this proposal given its potential significant impact on both Council funding, and resourcing to manage the development of this type of plan and landowners' consultation. These provisions are also likely to have a significant impact on the scheduling of historic heritage, wāhi tapu, and indigenous biodiversity. Currently MPDC has identified for its 152 scheduled historic heritage items in its District Plan. There are 204 property owners associated with these items. For the 78 scheduled wāhi tapu sites, there are 1700 associated property owners, and for the 130 scheduled trees in the District Plan, most have one to two property owners associated with them.</p> <p>In addition, the provisions in of themselves contain drafting errors, ambiguous terminology, for example “<i>significant impact</i>” and “<i>reasonable use</i>”. They also introduce conflicting requirements for local authorities to compensate owners for places and locations they are required to identify and protect and manage under both the PB and the NEB. MPDC considers if changes cannot be made to these provisions they should be removed from the PB, or in the alternative changes are made to the provisions to avoid the substantial risk these provisions pose to local government. MPDC is supportive of the discussion in the Taituarā submission and its proposed approach and seeks the same relief.</p> <p>Relief sought: Adopt the approach sought in the Taituarā submission, to remove the regulatory relief provisions, or in the alternative, provide the specified amendments in the Taituarā submission.</p>
<p>Future Provisions</p>		
<p>CI 93 Land use plan or proposed land use plan may make area subject to future provisions</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>MPDC is supportive of this clause, which is part of a suite of clauses to enable people to move from deferred zones to live zoning without a plan change process. Future provisions allow land to be subject to temporary planning rules, with the removal of these provisions based on a specified date when a rule (CI 94) is deemed to be met (CI 96).</p> <p>MPDC considers there would be benefit in providing guidance on how consents are assessed during this interim period, including any potential overlap with regulatory relief. MPDC also considers there would be benefit in defining the terms “<i>temporary provisions</i>” and “<i>future provisions</i>” to provide clarity in administration of these provisions.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend the interpretation section to provide definition of the terms “<i>temporary provisions</i>” and “<i>future provisions</i>” and guidance on how consents are assessed during this interim period.</p>
<p>Changing plan provisions without using Schedule 3 process if authorised by planning consent</p>		

<p>CI 97 Applying for planning consent that authorises change to plan provisions</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>MPDC considers there is merit in this clause, and CI 98, which would provide time saving benefits. However, clarity needs to be provided as to why subclause 2 of CI 97 only relates to standardised zones and not bespoke provisions. In addition, it would be useful, for example if this provision clearly included the ability to remove items from a schedule or map when the item had been demolished or relocated etc.</p> <p>MPDC assumes this process would require a notified application and thinks it would be helpful to provide guidance on this. MPDC would also like to understand if the application of this clause is limited to areas that are in a regional spatial plan? MPDC is also interested in terms of the assessment that would take place, for example are all the matters that are usually considered under a plan change considered in a resource consent application? MPDC also considers that there would be benefit in clarifying how this clause would interact with fast-track legislation, if at all?</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 97 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify if this clause includes fast track consents, • Clarify if this clause includes areas within a spatial plan, • Expand the types of instances where this provision could be utilised, for example smaller activities such as changes to a schedule in conjunction with a consent, • If the activity is subject to notification, • If the activity is subject to additional levels of assessment; and • Include any consequential amendments to CI 31 as required.
<p>CI 97 Applying for planning consent that authorises change to plan provisions</p> <p>CL 98 Territorial authority may change plan provisions if authorised by planning consent</p>		<p>CI 97/98 provides for a plan to be changed through a resource consent, and MPDC seeks clarity as to when such a change would become operative.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 97/98 to include timing for such changes becoming operative</p>
<p>Hearings-Subpart 4-consideration of application and decision</p>		

<p>CL 139 Consideration of planning consent application</p>		<p>MPDC is concerned that the consideration of the rural environment seems limited to any adverse effects on the built environment (CI 1(a)(ii)). MPDC is concerned there are no provisions for the consideration of the rural environment with regard to highly productive soils and the range of productive rural uses etc and their interactions with the surrounding environment, both natural and built. MPDC considers that it would be much clearer if the defined term “<i>built environment</i>” explicitly included ‘<i>rural</i>’ and ‘<i>rural resources</i>’ and /or there was a separate definition of rural environment. Otherwise, there is a very limited link to the NPS-HPL.</p> <p>It is also unclear how the effects on the surface of water are to be assessed and if this would align with the functions of the territorial authority. MPDC would also like clarity regarding CI 139 (2)(c) compliance with the water services standard and if this is also required for permitted activities?</p> <p>Relief sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the defined term “<i>built environment</i>” to explicitly include “<i>rural</i>” and “<i>rural resources</i>” and /or there was a separate definition of rural environment, and include any consequential changes as required • Amend CI 139 to include consideration of the rural environment more broadly than just the built environment, and include any consequential changes as required • Provide clarity regarding the assessment of the effects on water, and compliance with water services standards for permitted activities.
<p>CI 145 Applicants' compliance history</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>While MPDC supports CI 145 allowing consideration of compliance history, MPDC considers further clarification is needed about relevance to the same site or activity type from other sites and the extent of this consideration. This is particularly the case when an applicant’s history may be over a range of sites and districts, for example the Matamata-Piako district contains several sites operated by national companies with similar activities operating over the country. MPDC also has concerns if a company changes its name or some aspects of its overall operation, does this exclude it from consideration as part of the applicant’s compliance history?</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 162 to clarify the breadth and extent of compliance history that may be considered in the event of a national or similar company, or in the event that a company changes its name or some aspects of its operation, if this precludes it from being part of the compliance history.</p>

<p>CI 180 Notification and registration of activity subject to permitted activity rule</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC acknowledge the permitted activities required to be registered and monitored are yet to be defined by upcoming standards, however MPDC is concerned at the disingenuous approach to deem activities permitted that require the proposed level of application and administration. MPDC considers this tranche of activities should be deemed controlled activities which will better reflect the intended approach. If, however, the intention of this clause is to replicate “87BA Boundary activities approved by neighbours on infringed boundaries are permitted activities” in the RMA, MPDC considers the clause should be amended to reflect this.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 180 to specify the intended activities to which this clause may apply or delete the clause and identify the proposed activities subject to this clause as controlled activities.</p>
<p>CI 186 Information gathering, monitoring, and keeping records</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned in CI 186, Monitoring must also include consideration of the following, 3(a) <i>the efficiency and effectiveness of rules or other methods in the regional plan</i>, which implies that territorial authorities monitor regional plan rules. MPDC seeks clarification on this matter.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 186 3(a) to confirm who monitors regional plans.</p>
<p>CI 272 Local authorities to prepare compliance and enforcement strategy</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>MPDC supports local authorities preparing compliance and enforcement strategies, particularly given the enhanced role monitoring has in the new system. MPDC does seek additional clarity regarding the required timing of the development and implementation of the strategy as this is not apparent in the PB.</p> <p>MPDC has also noticed the Ministry of Environment website refers to nationalising the compliance and monitoring system and that this may occur at a future time. MPDC is not supportive of this function being nationalised as they consider a local approach to the best for local problems.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 272 to include a timeframe for local authorities to prepare a compliance and enforcement strategy. This should be done after the regional reorganisation plan, proposed through Simplifying LG, so there is no duplication of tasks.</p>
<p>Schedule 1- Transitional, savings, and related provisions</p>		
<p>New CI required Continuation of financial contributions until</p>		<p>MPDC notes there will be a requirement based on current proposed timeframes for a transitional arrangement in the PB to provide for the continuation of financial contributions until the development levy system is in place which is July 2030. MPDCs current tool for collecting contributions for reserves is through financial contribution under the RMA.</p>

development levy system is in place in July 2030		Relief sought: Amend Schedule 1 to include a new transitional provision to provide for the continuation of financial contributions until the development levy system is in place, which is July 2030.
<p>CI 5 First key instruments under this Act and Natural Environment Act 2025</p>	Oppose	<p>CI 5 refers to the “first national policy direction” being issued, however it is unclear from the Bill exactly what this first direction will cover. It is important all national policy direction relevant to each plan preparation process is issued with sufficient time for local authorities to implement it during plan preparation.</p> <p>In relation to CI 5(1)-(3), MPDC stresses the importance of allowing sufficient time for engagement with local authorities during development of national policy direction and national standards. Given the significant role of these instruments in the new system, it is important they are clear, implementable, cover all relevant matters and are sufficiently flexible to work across the country. Input from local authorities and other system users will be critical to ensuring the workability and effectiveness of these new instruments.</p> <p>In relation to CI 4(a), in order for local authorities to meet the 15-month deadline for notification of regional spatial plans, drafting of these plans will need to be well underway by the time national standards setting the evidence base supporting combined plans is required to be issued. The Council considers this does not allow sufficient time for regional spatial plans to implement the standards.</p> <p>Relief sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Schedule 1 CI 5(1)(a) to read: “the national policy direction under this Act must be issued and must include the direction required for the preparation of regional spatial plans; and... • Amend Schedule 1 CI (5)4(a) by deleting subclause (i). • Amend the timelines stated in the proposed Bills to ensure dependencies of higher-order documents are taken account of, particularly in regard to the sequencing of national direction.
<p>CI 7 Process for national instruments that come into force within 9 months of Royal assent</p>	Oppose	<p>CI 7(3)(a) states section 46(1) of the Planning Bill and section 70(1) of the Natural Environment Bill, relating to consultation with iwi authorities, do not apply to national instruments that come into force within nine months of Royal Assent. MPDC is concerned about removing this requirement for iwi input prior to notification, particularly given the first national instruments issued will be important for guiding the development of regional spatial plans.</p>

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		Relief sought: Delete Schedule 1 Cl 7(3)(a).
Cl 21 Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Support	<p>MPDC is concerned Cl 21 states “the contents of the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangement that relate to functions under the RMA must be treated as relating to equivalent functions under: (a) this Act; or (b) the Natural Environment Act 2025. MPDC’s concern relates to the fact that in many instances there may not be an equivalent function under either pieces of legislation, or a function deemed to be equivalent is not satisfactory. This clause does not make it clear who determines the “equivalent function”.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 21 to ensure these documents are able to continue as first developed, or in the alternative the transition to “equivalent function” is with the mutual agreement of the parties to the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement.</p>
Schedule 3-Further provisions relating to plans		
Cl 3 Iwi participation legislation and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Oppose in part	<p>MPDC seeks clarity regarding the statements at Cl 3(a) and (b) around changing the plan in accordance with iwi participation legislation and or any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe. Cl 3 must provide clarity around the need or otherwise for a plan change process and the need for an evaluation report (as in Cl 87) and if a justification report is required for what will be bespoke provisions. MPDC considers that timing should also be included for this process.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 3 to provide clarity on how a plan is changed in response to iwi participation legislation and or any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, the level of detail required for the change, and timing requirements.</p>
Cl 13 Audit by chief executive Cl 14 Local authority must provide draft proposed plan to iwi authorities and customary marine title groups	Oppose in part	<p>MPDC seeks clarity regarding the requirement Cl 13, which provides for an audit process for “a proposed plan that contains a bespoke provision or a provision on a specified topic”. The clause refers to documents being provided to the Chief Executive three months before notification. The territorial authority must have regard to the feedback and update its justification report. Cl 14 requires territorial authorities to provide a proposed plan to iwi authorities and marine title groups early enough to provide adequate time for a response, however there are no timeframes around this requirement, and it is not quite clear as to the sequence required between Cl 13 and 14.</p> <p>Assumes in the standards and would like some input into the criteria that CE would consider when they look at bespoke provisions</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 13 and Cl 14 to provide clarity around the sequence of the provision of a draft proposed plan to iwi authorities and customary marine title groups and the Audit by the</p>

		Chief Executive, and include timeframes for iwi authorities and customary marine title groups feedback, provided where there is a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe the timeframes in the agreement prevail.
CI 17 Who may make submissions on proposed plan notified for public submissions		<p>MPDC considers clarification is required around the use of the term “<i>a person that has an interest in the proposed plan greater than the public generally</i>” as one of the parties that is able to make submissions on a plan. As the strike out of submissions and/or further submissions can be disputed to the planning tribunal, MPDC’s interest is that clear guidance to be provided, potentially including a list of such parties, into both bills. This would ensure correct administration in relation to plan making, and also in the administration of consent applications in the event of notification, as <i>a person that has an interest in the proposed plan greater than the public generally</i> cannot submit to a consent application. MPDC also suggests the term “nearby local authority” is defined to avoid conflict of opinion.</p> <p>Relief sought: Define the terms “<i>a person that has an interest in the proposed plan greater than the public generally</i>” and provide a list of such parties. Also define the term “nearby local authority”</p>
CI 18 Content and form of submissions	Support	<p>MPDC appreciates the need for submission content to be on point, while acknowledging the potential for submissions to provide valuable information. MPDC supports the cross reference to CI 80(3) which means the provisions in a regional spatial plan are not to be relitigated through a land use plan process, except where information is out of date or there has been a significant change in circumstances which could include important hazard information. MPDC seeks the retention of CI 18.</p> <p>Relief sought: Retain CI 18.</p>
CI 19 Striking out submissions and calling for further submissions	Oppose	<p>MPDC does have some concerns regarding CI 19, where submission points / submissions out of scope must be struck out no later than 20 working days after the close of submissions. As part of this process, those submitters need to be notified and there is a right of objection to the Planning Tribunal. The same process applies to further submissions (CI 22). Under the RMA, the process of deeming submissions, or submission points as struck out occurred as part of the preparation of the s42 report. MPDC considers deferring this process to the Planning Tribunal may hold up the summary of submissions or result in a new summary needing to be notified and therefore should be deleted. Alternatively, additional time should be provided for increased certainty.</p> <p>Relief sought: Delete CI 19.</p>

<p>CI 20 Who may make further submissions</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>See relief sought for CI 17 and apply same for CI 20 Further submission.</p>
<p>CL 22 Striking out and publishing further submissions, summary of submissions</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>While MPDC is supportive of the publication of the summary of submissions, MPDC is concerned at the new requirements to publish a summary of further submissions, with further submitters having the right of objection to Planning Tribunal should their submission be struck out. The need to strike out further submissions is not a problem MPDC has encountered on a substantive scale with either resource consent or plan change hearings, with any issues around the validity of further submissions being dealt with promptly as part of the hearing process. MPDC’s preference would be for the current process to remain.</p> <p>MPDC is concerned at the timing issues this clause could create achieving decision outcomes</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CL 22 to reflect current processes under the RMA.</p>
<p>CI 25 Local authority’s role during hearing</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC seeks clarity regarding the intent and meaning of CI 25, with regard who must attend a hearing. For instance, is this an elected member or a staff member, and if a failure to comply does not invalidate a hearing, why is the purpose of the local authority’s attendance. In the alternative, it could be more appropriate to substitute the “must” attend for a “may”.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 25 to provide clarity regarding the local authority role in the hearing process.</p>
<p>CI 26 Recommendations by panel</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned this clause does not include the need to get the justification report prepared by the Panel to be signed off by the Minister, which appears inconsistent with earlier provisions (Schedule 3, CI 11)</p> <p>MPDC has concerns around the short timeframe of five months (CI 26(7)) from the notification of the summary of submissions and further submissions to the release of the recommendations reports from the hearings. This timeframe will not be achievable in a plan making process that covers a wide range of issues and potentially large submitter numbers. The timeframe potentially also raises natural justice issues if there are procedural matters that need to be determined by the Planning Tribunal prior to a hearing commencing.</p> <p>Relief sought:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend CI 26(7) to provide clarity regarding the need or otherwise to get the justification report prepared by the Panel to be signed off by the Minister; and Amend CI 26 (7) to allow the panel greater time to provide all recommendations reports and any required further evaluation report and further justification reports.
<p>CI 27 Decisions on panel recommendations (other than recommendations on designations)</p>	Oppose in part	<p>MPDC has concerns regarding the unrealistic expectation in CI 27(7) for local authorities to publish its decisions within 12 months of the notification date of the proposed plan. Given matters such as objection / appeal to the Planning Tribunal and co-ordination with other councils this would likely delay this process beyond 12 months. MPDC suggests CI 27(7) is amended to include the instances where this timeframe could automatically extend beyond 12 months if required, rather than parties having to approach the Minister in every instance.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 27(7) to include instances where the 12-month timeframe can be automatically extended.</p>
<p>CI 28 Application to Minister for extension of time for publishing decisions</p>	Support	<p>MPDC supports the retention of CI 28, given the potentially onerous constraints of CI 27 – that the local authority must publish its decisions within 12 months of the notification date. This clause enables the Minister to extend timeframe for making decisions. However, MPDC considers it is possible to avoid the need for an application by keeping the 12-month timeframe and specifying the circumstances where the timeframe can be automatically extended out to 2 years without minister approval if meet certain circumstances under CI27.</p> <p>Relief sought: Retain CI 28 and amend it by specifying circumstances matters where the timeframe can be automatically extended out to 2 years without minister approval if meet certain circumstances under CI27.</p>
<p>CI 33 Appeal on bespoke provision CI 34 Appeal on provision of relief framework</p>	Support	<p>MPDC supports CI 33 and CI 34 related to the ability to appeal bespoke provisions and relief framework respectively.</p> <p>Relief sought: Retain CI 33 and 34.</p>
<p>CI 42 Variations to proposed plans</p>	Support in part	<p>MPDC seeks clarity regarding the relationship, if any, between CI 42 for undertaking a variation to amend a plan that requires a Schedule 3 process, and the provisions for amending the plan where a resource consent provides for an amendment (CI 97/98 Applying for a resource consent that</p>

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		<p>authorises changes to plan provisions (substantive Act)) without using the process in the schedule.</p> <p>MPDC would like confirmation at which point/scale a change to the plan has to follow a Schedule 3 process as opposed to a resource consent process. For example, as CI 97/CI 98 refers to “area” this suggests a zone could be changed through a consent process even if was inconsistent with the original intent of the regional spatial plan.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend either CI 42, or CI 97/98 to confirm the instances where a schedule 3 process should apply.</p>
<p>CI 52 Grounds for rejecting request</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>MPDC seeks clarity as CI 52(c) makes reference to a plan change not in accordance with sound planning practice as a reason to reject a plan change. Given the newness of the PB, MPDC considers there would be benefit in providing some examples of sound planning practice, for example a plan change that is contrary to regional spatial plan or located within a designation shown in a regional spatial plan could be identified as reasons to reject. In the alternative should a fast-track consent that consists predominantly of bespoke provisions be the subject of a plan change. This clarification may reduce the use of CI 53 Requestor may appeal decision on process.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 52 (c) to give examples of sound planning practice to both include or reject a plan change request or include it as part of a defined term or as part of secondary legislation.</p>
<p>CI 58 When rules in proposed plans have legal effect</p>	<p>The provisions in CI 97/98</p>	<p>MPDC consider the extent of matters to which CI 58 applies should be extended to include sites and areas of significance to Māori and areas of high natural character within the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and outstanding natural features and landscapes, as all these matters have been elevated in the goals for higher protection.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 58 to also include sites and areas of significance to Māori, areas of high natural character within the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, outstanding natural features and landscapes, as matters to have immediate legal effect.</p>
<p>Schedule 4 Independent hearing panels</p>		
<p>CI 2 Direction on skills, experience, or</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC is concerned this clause does not provide as a minimum, those who should sit on an independent hearing panel. In addition, any direction on skills, experience, or qualifications of panel members, is to be part of secondary legislation not in the Bill itself. MPDC considers at a</p>

qualifications of panel members		minimum the panel should include iwi representation, direction on skills, experience, or qualifications of panel members should be the subject of consultation as part of a regulation. Relief sought: Amend Cl 2 to include as a minimum iwi representation as part of the independent hearing panels and allow consultation to occur through regulations regarding any direction on skills, experience, or qualifications of panel members.
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Appendix 2-Submission of Matamata - Piako District Council (MPDC) to the Natural Environment Bill (NEB)		
Additions = <u>Underline</u>		
Delete = Strikethrough		
CI number	Support or oppose	Discussion and Relief Sought
CI 3 Interpretation New definition no net loss in indigenous biodiversity	Oppose in part	MPDC considers “no net loss in indigenous biodiversity” must be included as a defined term in the interpretation section. A definition is required in order to ensure Goal in CI 11(d) can be correctly interpreted and administered. By way of example, the instance of indigenous biodiversity loss and any replacement planting raises several questions. Does the replacement planting have to be on the same site, or can it be off site and within the same ecological district? Alternatively, does it even have to be the same type of indigenous biodiversity etc. Relief sought: Amend the interpretation section to define the term no net loss in indigenous biodiversity
Existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Support in part	The proposed definition is constrained to existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. MPDC considers this definition is limiting, especially given some iwi have not settled or others who are not yet resourced to start to develop these agreements. MPDC considers the definition should also include new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. Relief sought- The definition of “ <i>Mana Whakahono ā Rohe</i> ” should be expanded to include any new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.
New Additional requirements for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWāR)	Support	MPDC is concerned there are no transitional measures to follow for already initiated MWāR, no measures around developing new MWāR and no recognition of being an enduring document. MPDC is of the opinion that the PB needs to include such measures. Relief sought- The PB is amended to include transitional measures for already initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, and measures for new Mana Whakahono ā Rohe” as found in RMA s58L-s58U and confirm that Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements are enduring.
CI 3 Interpretation New	Support	MPDC is concerned there is no definition of “ <i>significant infrastructure</i> ” in the interpretation section, given the references to the term “ <i>significant infrastructure</i> ” in the NEB. MPDC also notes there is a defined term “ <i>long lived infrastructure</i> ”. It is not clear what the relationship may be between the two types of infrastructure, and how these

Significant infrastructure		<p>terms interact with the various definitions of infrastructure in the PB. MPDC believes this does not assist with the efficient administration of the NEB or the PB and seeks the NEB is amended to provide greater clarity given the different references around the term “infrastructure”.</p> <p>Relief sought-the interpretation section is amended to include a definition of “<i>significant infrastructure</i>”, and any consequential amendments as required.</p>
CI 8 Treaty of Waitangi	Oppose	<p>The PB materially changes how Te Tiriti o Waitangi will be implemented and MPDC is concerned Māori rights and interests are being diminished. MPDC is supportive of the essence of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi being included into the PB in the same manner it is currently considered in the RMA.</p> <p>MPDC considers fulsome regard needs to be given to Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, rather than the current list of Crown responsibilities. MPDC considers the current and new MWār agreement processes and iwi management plan could provide mechanisms to address current concerns on matters such as timely responses.</p> <p>Relief sought: MPDC seeks the Treaty provisions in the PB are amended to reflect clause 8-Treaty of Waitangi in the RMA, with any consequential changes as required.</p>
CI 9 Crown to seek to enter arrangements to uphold Treaty settlement redress or arrangements	Oppose	<p>MPDC seeks Treaty settlements are upheld as originally intended under the RMA. This will be easier if CI 8 of the NEB is amended to reflect CI 8 of the RMA.</p> <p>In the event CI 9 is retained, MPDC considers this clause will materially change how Treaty settlement redress or arrangements operate in practice and could be diminished through processes associated with CI 9. MPDC considers settlement redress or arrangements must have the same or equivalent effect and the clause to the “<i>greatest extent possible</i>” is deleted as it is not appropriate to renegotiate these significant agreements. MPDC is concerned the PB requires the Crown to discuss how to give effect to existing settlements within two years and this is an unrealistic timeframe given the number of settlements to be discussed, just in Waikato alone, and creates a risk the deadline will lapse, potentially impacting Treaty Settlement obligations. In addition, how does this process then relate to the timeframes for the regional spatial plan and land use plans etc.? How can we advance these documents in absence of any agreements as to how settlement agreements are to be upheld?</p> <p>Relief sought: Treaty Settlements are upheld as originally intended under the RMA., or in the event CI 9 in the PB is retained, amend CI 9.1.2.a by deleting “<i>greatest extent possible</i>”, and amend CI 9(1)(2)(3) by removing the two-year timeframe for re-negotiating treaty settlements, and make further amendments with regard timing to reflect the need for regional spatial plan and land use plans etc to give effect to these settlements.</p>
CI 11		

<p>Goals</p>		<p>MPDC is concerned with the mandate to implement the goals: <i>All persons exercising or performing functions, duties, or powers under this Act must seek to achieve the following goals subject to sections 12 and 45</i>, is too weak, particularly given the development of plan and rules are to implement to the goals, and should be strengthened. MPDC is also concerned and would welcome clarity at the reference and intention behind the statement “<i>achieve the following goals subject to sections 12 and 45</i>”. The statement appears to remove the overarching mandate that is expected from the term “goals” and that the content of national direction may not be subject to the goals in every instance.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 11 as follows: All persons exercising or performing functions, duties, or powers under this Act must seek to achieve <u>recognise and provide</u> the following goals subject to...</p> <p>Amend Cl 11 to provide clarity at the reference and intention behind the statement “<i>achieve the following goals subject to sections 12 and 45</i>”.</p>
<p>Cl 11 Goals</p> <p>New goal</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>MPDC notes the purpose of the Bill includes the “<i>use, protection and enhancement</i>” of the natural environment, however, there are currently no aspects within the goals in Cl 11 that relate to enhancement of the natural environment. The Council is concerned that this will make it difficult to create/justify mechanisms to achieve enhancement of the environment – whether aspirational or to improve current degradation.</p> <p>Relief sought: Add a goal relating to the enhancement of the natural environment.</p>
<p>Goals (f)</p> <p>New matter areas</p>		<p>MPDC has submitted for s8 from the RMA to be rolled over to the NEB and seeks that Goal (f) is amended to reflect this position, as currently MPDC are concerned goal (f) seeks to narrow the consideration of Māori interests to the small range of defined matters, which is much reduced from that of the RMA and precludes Māori from their role as kaitiaki. The goal should also provide for the “use” of Māori land.</p> <p>MPDC is concerned the Goals do not include the consideration of “<i>areas</i>”, only “<i>sites</i>” when discussing places of importance to Māori. Many places of importance to Māori, are best captured as an area as the area contains important collective values that contribute to its significance. The Goals need to be amended to reflect this important matter.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Goal (f) of the NEB to give the same regard in the goals as would be expected from the expanded consideration of the Treaty as sought in response to Cl 8 of the NEB. In the event this approach is not accepted amend Goal (f) as sought below.</p> <p>Amend Cl 11(f)(i) as follows: the reference to “<i>participation</i>” is amended to “<i>engagement</i>”</p> <p>Amend Cl 11(f)(ii) as follows: the reference to “<i>sites of significance to Māori</i>” is expanded to include <u>areas</u>, and</p> <p>Amend Cl 11 (f) (iii) as follows: enabling the <u>use</u>, development and protection of identified Māori land, and</p>

		Amend relevant clauses to require statutory acknowledgements, relevant documents recognized by iwi authority and applicable iwi participation legislation and existing or initiated Mana Whakahono ā Rohe are taken into account when a joint committee prepares a regional spatial plan, not just a Natural Environment Plan or a land use plan.
Cl 13 Procedural principles	Oppose	<p>MPDC considers “(e) act in an enabling manner” is superfluous to the requirements of this section, given that many councils already operate in this manner, and this principle can be deleted. MPDC considers there should be guidance regarding: the relationship between the procedural principles and the decision-making tests within the legislation, and guidance on act proportionately to the scale and significance of the matter.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 13 by deleting “(e) act in an enabling manner”. If it is retained, then develop guidance on this and the following matters: the relationship between the procedural principles and the decision-making tests within the legislation, and act proportionately to the scale and significance of the matter.</p>
Cl 14 Considering effects of activities	Oppose in part	<p>MPDC is concerned that the proposed separation of effects to be managed by the two Bills will result in gaps, where important effects on natural environmental features are unable to be considered in permitting or consenting processes. In particular, MPDC considers that Cl 14(b) “must not consider effects regulated under the Planning Act 2025” will be challenging to delineate in some circumstances, for example where natural hazards effects or effects on sites of significance to Māori are relevant under the Planning Bill, they are then not able to be considered under the Natural Environment Bill, despite management of natural hazards and providing for Māori interests being goals of this Bill.</p> <p>In relation to the current drafting of Cl 14, MPDC notes that 14(a) “must give particular consideration to effects such as the following...” creates uncertainty and could be made clearer as: The use of the words “such as” implies that there are other matters that might be included in this list, which is unclear in this context. It is also not clear why the matters in (i)-(iii) have been selected for applicants to give particular consideration to. MPDC notes that effects on human health and social and cultural effects, for example, are not included.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 14(a) must give particular consideration to effects such as the following, as far as each is applicable to: “<u>must give particular consideration to the following effects, as far as each is applicable</u>”</p> <p>Amend Cl 14(a) to include effects on human health, social and cultural effects.</p> <p>Amend the wording of Cl 14(b) to ensure that all effects relevant to the goals of the Natural Environment Bill, including natural hazard effects and effects on sites of significance to Māori, can be considered under this clause.</p>
Cl 15 Considering adverse effects of activities	Oppose	<p>MPDC is concerned that Cl 15(1)(a)(i) includes a diluted threshold in terms of resolving the effects of activities, as “(i) adverse effects are to be avoided, minimised, or remedied, “where practicable,”. MPDC considers these terms could be more effective by the removal of the phrase “where practicable”. In the alternative, guidance should be provided as to what “where practicable” means in this context.</p>

		<p>MPDC considers Cl 15(1)(a)(ii) requires guidance in relation to limits around offsetting or compensation, and instances where this is not acceptable. MPDC is also concerned at the lack of clarity around the proposed lower threshold when considering effects, as a less than minor adverse effect is proposed to be an effect that does not have to be considered (Cl 15(1)(b)). To arrive at a decision an assessment is required, from both an applicant and the processing planner/engineer etc., as would also be the case for cl “b) <i>must not consider a less than minor adverse effect unless the cumulative effect of 2 or more such effects create effects that are greater than less than minor</i>”. It is of interest to MPDC how this could be considered if an effect under the PB and the NEB could produce a cumulative effect that are greater than less than minor yet cannot be considered as the effects cannot be considered between the Acts, which is not an appropriate approach.</p> <p>In addition, there is also concern around the interaction between the PB and the NEB as effects cannot be considered between the Acts. Post consent there may also be the matter of both Acts being breached, and MPDC suggests that consideration should be given to how this would be managed/resolved.</p> <p>Relief sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Cl 15(1)(a)(i) as follows “(i) adverse effects are to be avoided, minimised, or remedied, where practicable” • Amend Cl 15(1)(a)(ii) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide clearer limits on when offsetting or compensation may be relied upon; • Amend Cl 15(1)(b) to consider the potential of the cumulative impacts of effects under both Acts • Amend Cl 15(5) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide clearer, more objective criteria for determining what constitutes a “less than minor adverse effect”; • reduce reliance on subjective concepts such as “acceptable” and “reasonable”, and provide guidance on their meanings; • clarify how cumulative effects are to be assessed and when “less than minor” effects must be considered collectively; and • provide guidance to ensure consistent application of the threshold across decision-makers to reduce uncertainty and litigation risk, and • provide guidance as to how breaches of both Acts for one activity would be managed.
<p>Cl 39 Permitted Activity rule</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC considers greater clarity should be provided around the types of permitted activity rules that are expected, given the anticipated large number of these types of rules. Cl 39(2)(a) refers to an activity being registered with the territorial authority where typically the activities under the NEB would be related to a regional council and permits. Cl</p>

		<p>38 (4) provides for written approval to be valid for three years unless it is withdrawn and MPDC is concerned as to how a council monitors this and what happens if a person withdraws their approval part way through a project and what liability this may create?</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend Cl 38 to specify which activities are subject to a permitted activity rules and, amend the reference to territorial authorities to regional councils, and provide further clarity around a neighbours approval lasting three years, unless its withdrawn and how this situation would be monitored.</p>
<p>Cl 81 National policy direction to resolve conflicts between goals in both Acts</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>Clause 81(1)(b) requires the Minister, when preparing national policy direction to resolve conflicts between the goals in each Bill, to consider whether the proposal enables development to occur “within environmental limits”. However, the sequencing set out in the Bills means that ecosystem health limits will only be set almost two years after the first national policy direction. As stated, the Council considers the Bills need to be amended to address this sequencing issue. MPDC consider it would make the meaning clearer if the word “proposal” was replaced with “proposed policy direction” throughout this clause. At Cl 81(2) the term “long term impact” is used which means an impact spanning two or more human generations. As the likelihood of conflicts between national policy direction is reasonably likely, MPDC considers that the term “long term impact” requires a more fulsome definition, for example defining the scale and nature of the impacts.</p> <p>Relief sought: Replace the word “proposal” with “proposed policy direction” throughout this clause, and provide a more fulsome definition of the term “long term impact”</p>
<p>Cl 111 Obligations relating to regulatory relief in Schedule 3 of Planning Act 2025</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>MPDC has reviewed this clause and the associated clauses in Schedule 3 of the PB and has significant concerns related to this proposal given its potential significant impact on both Council funding and resourcing, and the chilling effect this proposal is likely to have on the scheduling of indigenous biodiversity. In addition, the provisions i themselves contain drafting errors, ambiguous terminology for example “<i>significant impact</i>” and “<i>reasonable use</i>” and introduce conflicting requirements for local authorities to compensate owners for places and locations they are required to identify and protect and manage under both the PB and the NEB. MPDC considers if changes cannot be made to these provisions they should be removed from the PB and the NEB or in the alternative changes are made to the provisions to avoid the substantial risk these provisions pose to local government. MPDC is supportive of the discussion in the Taituarā submission and its proposed approach and seeks the same relief.</p> <p>Relief sought: Adopt the approach sought in the Taituarā submission, to remove the regulatory relief provisions, or in the alternative provide the specified amendments.</p>
<p>Cl 162</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>While MPDC supports Cl 162 allowing consideration of compliance history, MPDC considers further clarification is needed about relevance to the same site or activity type from other sites and the extent of this consideration. This is particularly the case when an applicant’s history may be over a range of sites and districts, for example the</p>

Applicant's compliance history		<p>Matamata-Piako district contains several sites operated by national companies with similar activities operating over the country. MPDC also has concerns if a company changes its name or some aspects of its overall operation, does this exclude it from consideration as part of the applicant's compliance history?</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 162 to clarify the breadth and extent of compliance history that may be considered in the event of a national or similar company, or in the event that a company changes its names or some aspects of its operation, if this precludes it from being part of the compliance history.</p>
<p>CI 298 Local authorities to prepare compliance and enforcement strategy</p>	Support in part	<p>MPDC supports local authorities preparing compliance and enforcement strategies, particularly given the enhanced role monitoring has in the new system. MPDC seeks additional clarity regarding the required timing of the development and implementation of the strategy as this is not apparent in the NEB. MPDC has also noticed the Ministry of Environment website refers to nationalising the compliance and monitoring system and this may occur at a future time. MPDC is not supportive of this function being nationalised as they consider a local approach to the best for local problems.</p> <p>Relief sought: Amend CI 298 to include a timeframe for local authorities to prepare a compliance and enforcement strategy. This should be done after the regional reorganisation plan, proposed through Simplifying LG, so there is no duplication of tasks.</p>



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29 January 2026

Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Local Government,
Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform,
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Tēnā kōrua Minister Watts and Minister Bishop,

Local Government Reform – Waikato Mayoral Forum

Thank you for the opportunity to engage constructively with the Government's local government reform programme. The Waikato Mayoral Forum sees this reform as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address long-standing systemic issues, strengthen local democracy, and ensure local government can continue to deliver for its communities into the future.

The Forum would like to highlight the following matters in relation to our region.

The Waikato region is central to New Zealand's economic performance and long-term resilience.

Projected rapid population growth across Hamilton, Waikato and Waipa, peri-urban settlements, rural towns and villages, and coastal communities will require coordinated and well-funded long-term planning. The region's location as a critical national transport, freight, and logistics corridor supports a diverse economy spanning agriculture, advanced manufacturing, technology, renewable energy, aquaculture, tourism, healthcare, and forestry. Waikato also manages significant natural resources, including river catchments, geothermal assets, 10,000 km² of coastal marine area, 1,200 km of coastline, and \$1.1B in flood protection infrastructure. Our strengths are further supported by a growing Māori economic base and the longstanding cultural and regional leadership of the Kingitanga.

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A focus on partnerships, relationships and collaboration support the current complexity of the region's governance.

The region's governance environment comprises 12 local authorities, over 40 iwi including six large iwi groups, and more than 200 hapū. Waikato has demonstrated an enduring desire and ability to work collaboratively with central government, including through the Future Proof partnership. We are demonstrating leadership through the formation of two water service entities in response to Local Waters Done Well legislation. Existing regional governance structures such as the Waikato Mayoral Forum, the CE Forum and the Iwi Governance Forum, illustrate proven leadership and implementation capability.

The Forum urges you to consider the following critical points as you progress with this programme of reform.

Waikato is ready to partner on nationally aligned, enduring reform.

The government's reform agenda requires a whole-of-government approach with clear alignment across legislative changes, clarity of functions at all levels, and localised decision-making preserved where it best serves communities. Long-term planning for growth, infrastructure, and climate adaptation must be supported.

The Waikato CE Forum has already initiated work on the unique value proposition of local government, its' form and function, and how this can best support communities within an aligned national system.

Effective reform requires genuine partnership.

Recent reform processes have at times, minimised local government's role. A bipartisan national vision, shared governance responsibilities, and recognition of the value of local government assets are essential. The Waikato seeks a reset based on trust, shared outcomes, and an equitable partnership.

Effective reform requires a whole of system approach

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Reform will only succeed if it is considered as a whole system and not as individual parts. The reform programme will have a significant impact on local government and communities, however it is not clear that a whole of systems approach is being adopted. We urge the government to reconsider the timing, varied decision-making models and funding and financing impacts associated with each element of the reform programme so local government can implement reforms effectively. We also urge the government to consider the overall financial impact on communities as the reform programme includes additional responsibilities for local government, and any move away from LGFA funding is likely to increase the financial burden on communities.

Transition costs will be significant.

To ensure successful implementation, central government will need to provide additional funding, enable new financing tools, and allow councils to pause major statutory processes such as long-term plans, audits, and representation reviews, to be able to meet the costs of reform. DIA (Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport – MCERT) will also need to be adequately resourced to work closely with the regions on this reform.

Transitioning to a new system for local government and resource management will be complex and resource intensive. Transitional support will be required to assist the sector to deliver transformation at scale. Any changes to form and functions should be aligned and well sequenced, with implementation timing coordinated so benefits can be realised. Transition timeframes should also take account of significant events such as local and national elections and be clearly communicated so communities and ratepayers understand when changes will occur. Ideally the timeframe would ensure that the reorganisation is concluded within the next triennium, to avoid the risk of re-litigation and re-education of new elected members.

Longstanding issues on funding of local government must be addressed.

The purpose of local councils is to do the things that their communities want them to do and are prepared to pay for. Councils should be accountable to those affected by their decisions and from whom they can require funds. Where legislation (including statutory

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national direction) creates functions of national benefit, those mandates should be recognised and funded by central government.

Unfunded mandates, the absence of GST on rates being returned to councils, the lack of Development Contributions/Levies and rates paid by central government on Crown property, needs addressing so there is equitable Crown contribution to local government activity from which it directly benefits.

Reform should also enable a wider set of financial levers and tools, in addition to rates, to improve transparency, efficiency and affordability while maintaining strong local accountability. Without new tools and equitable Crown support, councils will face unsustainable pressures, especially for infrastructure essential to supporting regional and national growth.

Iwi partnership is fundamental to current and future governance, and decision-making must occur at scales that strengthen democratic practice.

Te Tiriti obligations must be embedded consistently across the reform programme. Te Tiriti settlements have marked a new era in relationships between the Crown, Mana Whenua and iwi. These relationships, supporting statutory obligations, and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato are integral to local government in the Waikato and must be given effect to in the new system.

Nationally supported tools for participatory and deliberative democracy will help ensure communities remain engaged and represented and allow room for a community voice in decision-making. This is an opportunity to improve community engagement, enable a strong local voice, and lift efficiency and transparency across the system.

Protecting and restoring the natural environment is a long-term investment.

Resource management must reflect rural and urban interests, catchment-scale needs, and Treaty settlement arrangements. Durable, evidence-based, and integrated decision-making frameworks are required.

Protecting and restoring the natural environment is not a cost; it is an investment in New Zealand's long-term economic resilience and prosperity, human health, and international

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standing. Ensuring local government is equipped to safeguard these assets is essential for maintaining prosperity and cultural identity that are inseparable from the natural world. Resource management decisions involve competing demands and must enable local solutions within a nationally consistent framework. Consideration of appropriate catchment management needs to be made, as the legislation is progressed.

Investment in national standards and systems would reduce fragmentation and inefficiency.

Central government can materially improve system performance through national technical standards, methodologies, and consistent systems—particularly in consenting.

Under-investment in standards has also increased litigation risk for local decision makers. National standardisation does not automatically mean operational delivery must shift to a national agency; rather it can enable more efficient and consistent local delivery.

To enable more efficient delivery, and therefore better value for ratepayers, standardised tools across the local government sector are essential. Nationally consistent system-design tools – such as shared templates, digital platforms, and standardised operational models would ensure all councils are working from the same foundations, reduce variability, and streamline the transition process.

Shared national systems such as common asset-management platforms, consistent financial and rating system templates, and unified customer-service or digital engagement tools would substantially reduce duplication and improve accuracy and productivity. Sector-wide standardisation is a practical and high-impact way to lift efficiency, lower system costs, and support councils to deliver core services more effectively

Crown and iwi representation on the Combined Territory Boards is essential.

The Forum supports Crown representation on the Combined Territories Board through Commissioners with expertise in both local and central government. To uphold a genuine partnership, Commissioners should hold voting rights consistent with other members. Iwi representation on the Board and involvement of the Regional Council Chair will also be essential.

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The Waikato region is committed to working constructively with central government to achieve a resilient, connected Waikato that underpins national prosperity. The Forum is keen to get started.

Nāku iti noa, nā

On behalf of the Waikato Mayoral Forum / Waikato Region

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Macindoe'.

Hon Tim Macindoe
Mayor of Hamilton
Chair Waikato Mayoral Forum

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7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.3 Approval of draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consultation

CM No.: 3144362

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to approve the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy and associated Statement of Proposal for consultation.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

This report recommends that Council adopt the draft Remission and Postponement of Rates Policy and associated Statement of Proposal for community consultation.

The proposed changes to the policy include:

- One new remission for additional kerbside collection targeted rates for small stand-alone dwellings (granny flats).
- Making provision for rates penalties to be remitted at the discretion of delegated staff where exceptional, compassionate, or otherwise compelling circumstances exist, that the policy does not otherwise allow for.
- Increasing the threshold for very low value properties where it is more economical to write-off the rates generated rather than collect them.
- Addition of a purpose and scope section and minor update in preparation for transition to Waikato Waters Limited.

The draft Policy and the Statement of Proposal will be circulated separately.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The information be received**
2. **Council adopts the Statement of Proposal for the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consultation.**
3. **Council adopts the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consultation.**
4. **Council authorise staff to make any minor amendments needed to the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy and Statement of Proposal prior to consultation.**

Horopaki | Background

Council's Rates Remission and Postponement Policy (Policy) sets out how and when Council can remit or postpone payment on rates. Council can only remit rates if they have adopted a rates remission policy under section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Remission of rates involves reducing the amount owing or waiving collection of rates altogether. Postponement of rates means that the payment of rates is not waived in the first instance but delayed for a certain time, or until certain events occur. The overall objective of remissions is to

provide rates relief in situations to support both the fairness and equity of the rating system, and the overall wellbeing of the community.

In general, all ratepayers are expected to pay rates. However, rates postponement and remission policies allow Council to recognise financial or other special circumstances where ratepayers may require support to manage their rates payments. While there are some exceptions outlined in legislation, in general, all land is rateable. However, there may be circumstances where ratepayers need support to manage their rates. Councils can choose to provide for rates postponement or remit rates through policies stating the objectives and criteria for postponement or remission.

In setting and granting remissions, it is important to remember that any amount remitted then needs to be recovered from, or shared across other ratepayers.

In order to allow rates relief where it is considered fair and reasonable to do so, Council is required to adopt policies specifying the circumstances under which rates will be considered for remission. There are various types of remission, and the circumstances under which a remission will be considered for each type may be different. The conditions and criteria relating to each type of remission are set out in the various parts of the Policy.

Following recent legislative changes and the Waikato Waters Limited transition date, changes to the Policy are proposed. Consultation is required, in accordance with the principles set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Council is required by legislation to review the Policy at least every six years, but it may be reviewed more often when considered necessary.

Additional remission proposed

A review of the current Policy was considered necessary, particularly to address an unintended consequence of our rating policies, brought about by a recent change by Government to the rules making it easier for people to build granny flats (referred to in the Building Act as a “Small Stand-alone Dwelling”, and in the Resource Management Act 1991 as a “Detached Minor Residential Unit”).

Under Council’s current rating policies, the kerbside collection targeted rate is charged on a uniform basis per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP)¹ to which the service is provided. The addition of a granny flat would therefore trigger an additional targeted rate for kerbside collection to be added to the rate account for the property (for 2025/26 that would equate to an additional charge of \$307.68).

However, in some cases the addition of a granny flat or small dwelling may in fact cause no significant additional impact on the kerbside service, especially if there are no additional refuse or recycling bins required to service the property.

Staff have proposed the addition of a new part to the draft remissions policy - Part 12, a remission of additional kerbside collection targeted rates for small stand-alone dwellings. In summary, if no additional refuse and recycling bins are requested by the ratepayer following the completion of the additional small dwelling, then the remission would allow staff to

¹ A SUIP is defined as follows: A separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit is any part of a rating unit that is or is able to be separately used or inhabited by the ratepayer, or by any other person or body having a right to use or inhabit that part by virtue of a tenancy, lease, licence or other agreement.

remove the additional kerbside targeted rate.

In the event that the ratepayer subsequently requests additional refuse and recycling bins any time in the future, the kerbside collection targeted rate can be applied pro-rata from the date the additional service is supplied, in accordance with Council's current fees and charges policy.

Other minor changes proposed

Other minor changes to the policy proposed include:

- Addition of a Purpose and Scope section to provide context to the reader.
- Making provision for rates penalties to be remitted at the discretion of delegated staff where exceptional, compassionate, or otherwise compelling circumstances exist, that the policy does not otherwise allow for (see Part 2 of the draft policy). Currently our policy for remitting rates penalties makes no allowance for penalties to be remitted outside of the strict criteria set. For rates staff administering this policy on a day-to-day basis with our customers, it makes their job extremely difficult. On review, many councils' policies do allow for staff to apply a level of discretion, and any risk associated with doing so can be managed within appropriate financial delegations.
- The threshold for remitting rates on very low-value properties - typically small utility parcels with no services - has been unchanged for many years. Revaluations have increased the values of these properties, even though the original intent of the remission remains. Staff therefore recommend the threshold values be increased to a capital value of \$6,000 (currently \$3,000) or a land value of less than \$1,000 (currently \$500).
- Waikato Waters Limited (WWL)
 1. Inclusion of the following wording to address transition arrangements for WWL:
 - *Matamata-Piako District Council will continue to set and assess all water-related rates until the transition of water and wastewater service delivery to Waikato Waters Limited (WWL) occurs from 1 October 2026.*
 - *From 1 October 2026, WWL will assume responsibility for the provision of drinking water and wastewater services across the district.*
 - *Following the transition date, Council may continue to set and assess water-related rates on behalf of WWL, where agreed by both organisations. During this interim period:*
 - *Water-related charges collected by Council will be transferred to WWL; and*
 - *Council's role will be limited to acting as WWL's billing agent, not the service provider.*
 - *Once WWL's charging systems are live, the rates remission and postponement provisions in this Policy will no longer apply to any water or wastewater charges set or billed by WWL. Ratepayers seeking financial support for WWL issued charges will need to apply directly to WWL under its own policies.*
 2. Inclusion of the following note in water-related remission sections:

This remission applies only while Council sets and assesses the relevant water-related rate. It does not apply to any charges set or billed by Waikato Waters Limited (WWL) from the date WWL assumes responsibility for charging or remission functions.

Following the transition of water and wastewater services to WWL from 1 October 2026, Council may continue to set and assess water-related rates on behalf of WWL, where agreed between both organisations, until WWL’s billing and customer-support systems are fully operational. During this interim period, this remission only applies while Council is still issuing water rates (including those on WWL’s behalf). Once WWL begins setting charges to customer’s directly, Council’s remission will no longer apply and customers will need to use WWL’s own remission and/or postponement policies.

Mōrearea | Risk

No specific risks have been identified relating to the recommendations contained in this report.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

In order to be able to provide for the remission and/or postponement of rates, Council must adopt a policy under section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

The following options are available to Council:

Option One – Status Quo; do not adopt the Policy for consultation as proposed	
This option allows for Council to NOT adopt the Policy for consultation as proposed.	
Council can choose not to adopt the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consultation. Therefore, the current Policy 2024-2034 would remain in effect.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
A policy would remain in place to allow Council to remit or postpone rates.	The Rates Remission and Postponement Policy would not provide for the equitable outcomes or administrative improvements sought in the proposed amendments to the policy.
	The community would not be able to provide feedback on the Policy for Council’s consideration.
Option Two – Revoke current Policy	
This option allows for Council to revoke the current Policy	
Council can choose to revoke the current Rates Remission and Postponement Policy. This means that Council would not have a policy and would be unable to remit or postpone rates.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
No one would be eligible for a rates remission, however Council may collect more in rates and penalties on late payments.	No one would be eligible for a rates remission, removing the ability to remit rates in certain circumstances where it would otherwise be reasonable to do so.
	Revocation of certain policies would be in breach of our role under section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002 that states that we are required to adopt a policy on the remission

	and postponement of Māori freehold land.
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Option Three – Adopt the draft Policy for consultation

This option allows for Council to adopt the draft Policy for consultation with the community

Council can choose to adopt the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consultation as circulated separately to this report.

Advantages	Disadvantages
The new policy on the remission of additional kerbside collection targeted rates for small stand-alone dwellings is expected to provide a fair and equitable outcome for ratepayers.	None identified.
Transitional arrangements would be made for remissions in relation to Waikato Waters Limited.	
A policy would remain in place to allow Council to remit or postpone rates.	
The community will have the opportunity to provide feedback and contribute to the decision-making process.	
Following consultation, Council can choose to make amendments to the draft Policy following community feedback.	

Option Four – Adopt the draft Policy with further amendments for consultation

This option allows for Council to suggest further amendments be made prior to adopting the draft Policy for consultation with the community

Council may identify further amendments required to the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy prior to community consultation.

Advantages	Disadvantages
This option allows Council to identify any further amendments that may be required to the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy prior to community consultation.	No disadvantages identified.

Recommended option

The preferred option is **option three** – Council adopt the draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consultation as per the recommendations of this report.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

Council can only remit rates if they have adopted a rates remission policy under section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Other legislation that applies is:

Section 102 provides for Council to consult on a draft policy or amend an existing policy in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. Consultation is required in a manner that gives effect to the requirements of section 82.

- Policy on the remission of rates: other categories - *Section 20 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 states that Council must treat two or more rating units as one if they are owned by the same person(s), used as one unit, are contiguous or separated only by road, rail, drain, water race, river, or stream.*
- Policy on the remission of rates on Maori freehold land - *Statutory requirement under section 114 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.*
- Policy on the postponement of rates on Maori freehold land - *Statutory requirement under section 115 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.*

The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021

The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 came into force in 2021.

Among other things it:

- a) expanded the purpose of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to include facilitating the administration of rates in a manner that supports the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993;
- b) expanded non-rateability to unused rating units of Māori freehold land;
- c) introduced a statutory remission for Māori freehold land under development;
- d) requires a council's policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land to support the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, by 1 July 2022.

The principles in the preamble are wide ranging. The most relevant to local government are:

“And whereas it is desirable to recognise that land is a taonga tuku iho of special significance to Māori people and, for that reason, to promote the retention of that land in the hands of its owners, their whanau, and their hapu, and to protect wahi tapu: and to facilitate the occupation, development, and utilisation of that land for the benefit of its owners, their whanau, and their hapu”.

The inclusion of a policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land was included in Council's Rates Remission and Postponement Policy following consultation undertaken in May 2023.

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the Local Government Act 2002 and Councils Significance and Engagement Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a medium-low level of significance.

Whilst the Policy forms a critical part of Council's rating system and supports the Council's overall purpose and the achievement of community outcomes, previous submissions have demonstrated a low level of interest in the Policy.

As effectively only minor changes are proposed following this review, it is determined that the Policy will attract a low level of public interest. However, the Policy directly affects those people/properties for which will have their rates remitted and a targeted approach to consultation is planned. Out of District ratepayers will also need to be considered, as both occupiers and owners are affected by the Policy.

It is considered that the Policy may be of interest to Māori/iwi organisations as a policy is included that addresses the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land (this policy was included following consultation in May 2023).

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides for Council to consult on a draft policy or amend an existing policy in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. Consultation will be conducted in a manner that gives effect to the requirements of section 82.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed above in this report.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	Council will share the draft Policy with groups/individuals that it considers will be affected or who may have an interest in the relevant issues and will give due consideration to the views and preferences received through the consultation process.
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	<p>The Significance and Engagement Policy is considered above.</p> <p>This issue is assessed as having a medium-low level of significance.</p>
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	<p>Consultation will give effect to section 82 of the LGA which includes the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Persons who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter should be provided with reasonable access to relevant information in a manner and format that is appropriate to their preferences and needs. (b) Persons who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the decision or matter should be encouraged to present their views to Council. (c) Persons who are invited or encouraged to present their views to Council should be given clear information concerning the purpose of the consultation and the scope of the decisions to be taken following the consideration of views presented. (d) Persons who wish to have their views on the decision or matter considered by Council should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to present those views to the local authority in a manner and format that is appropriate to their preferences and needs. (e) Views presented to Council should be received with an open mind and should be given due consideration. (f) Persons who present views to the

	Council should have access to a clear record or description of relevant decisions made by Council and explanatory material relating to the decisions.
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Policy Considerations

To the best of the writer’s knowledge, this recommendation is not significantly inconsistent with nor is anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Pursuant to section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, consultation that Council undertakes in relation to any decision or other matter must be undertaken in accordance with certain principles in mind. This includes allowing those have an interest in, or are affected by a decision to be given the relevant information and encouraged to present their views to Council.

Where Council is required to consult in accordance with section 82 it must make the following publicly available:

- the proposal and reasons for the Policy.
- an analysis of the reasonably practicable options identified,
- a draft document of the Policy.

The Statement of Proposal and the draft Policies which addresses these requirements will be circulated separately.

It is proposed to use a range of communication tools to encourage the community to take part in the consultative process. Māori/iwi organisations and those who have submitted on the Policies previously will be contacted to inform them of the opportunity to provide feedback.

Timeframes

The below table sets out key dates for the consultation process:

Key Task	Dates
Draft Policy and Statement of Proposal approved for consultation - Council meeting	4 March 2026
Public consultation/engagement period	16 March to 19 April 2026
Hearings of submitters - Council meeting	12 May 2026 (if required) 13 May 2026
Deliberations/decision making - Council meeting	27 May 2026
Adoption of Policy - Council meeting	24 June 2026
New Policy applicable	1 July 2026

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

The community outcome relevant to this report are as follows:

- He wāhi puawaitanga | A place to thrive

The Policy supports economic wellbeing of communities by providing opportunities for rates remissions and postponement in certain circumstances. The overall objective is to provide rates relief in situations to support both the fairness and equity of the rating system, and the overall wellbeing of the community.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

A consultation process to amend the Policy is required. The associated costs of this include the placement of public notices and staff costs in supporting the submissions and hearings process.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). Proposed Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy 4 March 2026



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Larnia Rushbrooke Pou Pūtea, Ratonga Pakihi Finance & Business Services Manager	
	Laura Hopkins Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior	

	Policy Advisor	
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Approved by	Kelly Reith Hautū Rangatōpū, Tāngata me ngā Hononga Group Manager Corporate, People & Relationships	
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Rates Remission and Postponement Policy 2024-2034

DRAFT – FOR CONSULTATION

Department	Strategic Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
CM Reference	TBC
Resolution Date	TBC
Policy Effective From	4 July 2024-1 July 2026 TBC
Policy Supersedes	Policies on the Remission and Postponement of Rates 2023-2031
Review Frequency	Every six years
Review Date	2030
Engagement Required	Section 82 (Local Government Act 2002)

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Item 7.3

Attachment A

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1. Purpose

The purpose of the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy (Policy) is to guide Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) decisions on rates remissions and rates postponements.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all ratepayers in the district and outlines the specific categories of remissions Council may consider - including situations such as financial hardship, community or not-for-profit use, unused or marginal land, and circumstances where rating legislation allows or anticipates a remission.

The Policy does not replace the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 or the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Instead, it works alongside this legislation to guide how Council exercises its discretion when considering requests for rates remissions and rates postponements.

3. Application of this Policy (Waikato Waters Limited)

Council will continue to set and assess all water-related rates until the transition of water and wastewater service delivery to Waikato Waters Limited (WWL) occurs from 1 October 2026.

From 1 October 2026, WWL will assume responsibility for the provision of drinking water and wastewater services across the district.

Following the transition date, Council may continue to set and assess water-related rates on behalf of WWL, where agreed by both organisations. During this interim period: Water-related charges collected by Council will be transferred to WWL; and Council's role will be limited to acting as WWL's billing agent, not the service provider.

Once WWL's charging or remissions systems are live, the rates remission and postponement provisions in this Policy will no longer apply to any water or wastewater charges set or billed by WWL. Ratepayers seeking financial support for WWL-issued charges will need to apply directly to WWL under its own policies.

Part 1 – Remission of rates on land protected for conservation purposes

This part of the Policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

This part is required to provide the legislative authority to grant rates remissions to landowners who have protected land for conservation purposes in perpetuity.

Objectives

The objectives are to:

- help landowners who have voluntarily protected areas of significance; and
- ensure that these areas remain protected.

Criteria and conditions

Sites that will qualify for remissions must be identified in at least one of the following:

- a. District Plan - Schedule 3 - Outstanding or Significant Natural Features and Trees and Other Protected Items.
- b. District Plan – Planning Maps – Kaitiaki Zone.
- c. Our register of Significant Natural Features.
- d. Any area that has any other type of formal protection method in place (e.g. a covenant under the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977 on the title).

We will determine the amount of any remission at our discretion and will be guided by:

- the remission methods specified in the Significant Natural Features Policy; and
- the funding available through the Long Term Plan and/or the Annual Plan.

Part 2 - Remission of penalties on unpaid rates

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objectives are to provide an efficient, transparent and fair framework for the remission of penalties, taking account of:

- the specific circumstances of the individual; and
- the interests of all ratepayers.

Criteria and conditions

Penalties on unpaid rates may be remitted where:

- a. we have not issued a rates assessment and/or invoice as required under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002; or
- b. it can be substantiated that a ratepayer has been disadvantaged in the delivery of a rates assessment and/or invoice. Substantiation shall consist of some form of tangible evidence such as undelivered mail being returned to Council; or
- c. the ratepayer pays the rates through electronic banking and makes an error in the transaction; or
- d. a formalised and approved rate payment arrangement (e.g. direct debit) has been complied with. Only those penalty charges incurred since commencement of the arrangement will be considered for remission; or
- e. those who wish to pay their rates in full, and do so within one month of the issue date of the first instalment penalty charge notice; or ~~or a monthly direct debit is in place and being honoured;~~
- f. the ratepayer:
 - provides a written or verbal explanation why payment could not be made by the due date; and
 - the explanation is considered reasonable; and
 - the ratepayer has not received a rates remission within the last three years; and
 - ~~• the ratepayer has not incurred more than three penalties within the last three years, and~~
 - there are no overdue rates outstanding (excluding the penalty remission application).
- g. In circumstances where a ratepayer's situation does not strictly meet the criteria above, the Rates Team Leader (or higher delegated officer) may exercise discretion to remit a penalty where exceptional, compassionate, or otherwise compelling circumstances exist, and where remission is considered fair, reasonable, and consistent with the intent of this policy.

When exercising this discretion, the delegated officer must ensure:

- the circumstances are genuine and evidenced; and
- the outcome is fair to both the applicant and the wider community of ratepayers.

No further applications under this part of the policy will be considered within the next three years, except on extraordinary grounds.

~~All applications for remission must be made in writing.~~

Applicants that are declined a remission under delegated authority may submit an appeal to Council.

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Part 3 – Remission of rates – other categories

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objectives are to provide Council with the ability to grant rates relief for land (except service charges) that qualifies for:

- a statutory rates remission;
- has a capital value of less than ~~\$3,000~~ \$6,000 (inclusive of GST if applicable); or
- has a land value of greater than \$1 and less than ~~\$500~~ \$1,000 (inclusive of GST if applicable); or
- is a cemetery that exceeds two hectares (cemeteries less than two hectares are non-rateable).

Criteria and conditions

Service Charges

Council may remit rates for service charges (i.e. water supply, sewage and refuse disposal, and stormwater) where the application meets the following criteria:

- a. the rates are for land that is owned or used by a society or association of persons for games or sports (excluding galloping races, harness races and greyhound races) except for rates due for any area covered by an alcohol license
- b. the rates are for land owned or used by a society incorporated under the Agricultural and Pastoral Societies Act 1908 as a showground or place of meeting
- c. the rates are for land owned or used by a society or association of persons (whether incorporated or not) for the purpose of any branch of the arts
- d. half service charges for Council owned land which is non rateable under section 8 and schedule 1 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and where no services (as defined above) are provided or contemplated.

In the case of clauses a) to c) above, a maximum remission of 50% is available and in the case of clause d) above, a full remission is available.

Properties that are eligible for a full remission of rates

- a. Properties with a capital value of less than ~~\$3,000~~ \$6,000 (inclusive of GST)
- b. has a land value of greater than \$1 and less than ~~\$500~~ \$1,000 (inclusive of GST if applicable). These are generally small areas of land used for utility purposes or similar.
- c. Land used or set aside for cemetery purposes that has an area greater than two hectares.

Part 4 – Remission of small rates balances

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objective is to save the costs of collecting rates of uneconomic value.

Criteria and conditions

To qualify for remission under this part of the policy, the rating unit must have a balance of less than one dollar (\$1.00) (inclusive of GST) owing at the time of assessing or invoicing a rate.

Process

Council will at its discretion remit any outstanding rates balance of less than one dollar (\$1.00) (inclusive of GST) on a quarterly basis.

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Part 5 – Remission of rates on Māori freehold land

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 108 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 114 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

We have considered the matters set out in Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 2002 and how this policy supports the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Māori freehold land is defined in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 as land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order. Only land that is the subject of such an order may qualify for remission under this part of the policy.

Objectives

The objectives are:

- to contribute to the fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community. We recognise that certain Māori lands have particular conditions or circumstances which make it appropriate to provide relief from rates
- to put in place a means of providing relief on rating for Māori land pursuant to section 108 of the Local Government Act 2002 by way of rate remission
- to recognise situations where a person or owner is only gaining an economic or financial benefit from part of the land
- to recognise matters related to the physical accessibility of the land
- to recognise and take account of the presence of wahi tapu that may affect the use of the land for other purposes
- To recognise and take account of the importance of the land in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated papakainga housing.

Note that application of the Mangatu decision to discount values will likely provide some relief also.

Principles

The principles used in establishing this part of the policy are:

- a. that as defined in section 91 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, Māori freehold land is liable for rates in the same manner as general land
- b. we are required to consider whether our policy on remission of rates on Māori freehold land will provide for the remission of rates.
- c. Those set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
- d. the community benefits through the efficient collection of rates and the removal of rating debt that is non collectable
- e. that applications for relief meet the criteria in this policy
- f. that the policy does not provide for the permanent remission or postponement of rates on the property concerned.

Conditions and criteria

We will maintain a register called the 'Māori freehold land rates relief register' (the register).

This will record properties that have had rates remitted under this part of the policy. Applications for land to be added to the register should be made in writing prior to commencement of the next rating year. Applications made after commencement of the rating year may be accepted at our discretion.

Owners or trustees making application should include the following information in their applications:

- details of the property
- the objectives that will be achieved by providing a remission
- documentation proving that the subject land is Māori freehold land.

We will review the register annually (or on a more regular basis at our discretion). We may, at our discretion, add properties to the register where Council makes an application on the owners or trustees behalf and we consider that the conditions and criteria of the policy are met.

We may also determine that properties no longer comply either fully or in part with the conditions and criteria on which the application for relief was granted. In such a case, we may either remove the property from the register or reduce the extent of the relief from the start of the next rating year.

We will consider granting a remission of rates on property where any one or more of our policy objectives will be met.

Remissions (up to 100%) can apply to all rates except targeted rates for:

- water supply
- wastewater
- stormwater
- kerbside collection or
- rural halls.

Any relief granted and the extent of that grant is at our sole discretion. This will consider where the rating value is significantly in excess of the economic value arising from the actual use of the property.

Part 6 – Postponement of rates on Māori freehold land

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 108 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and section 115 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and how this policy supports the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Council has considered the matters set out in Schedule 11 of the LGA.

Māori freehold land is defined in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 as land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order. Only land that is the subject of such an order may qualify for postponement under this part of the policy.

Objectives

The objectives are:

- to contribute to the fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community. We recognise that certain Māori lands have particular conditions or circumstances that make it appropriate to postpone rates; and
- to put in place a means of providing relief on rating for Māori land pursuant to section 108 of the Local Government Act 2002 by way of postponement of rates; and
- encourage the economic development of the land by a new occupier, where there are rate arrears that are, in the Council's opinion, recoverable; and
- facilitate the development and economic use of land where it is considered that utilisation would be uneconomic if full rates are required to be paid during the period in which plans for development are being actively prepared.

Principles

The principles used in establishing this part of the policy are:

- a. that as defined in section 91 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, Māori freehold land is liable for rates in the same manner as general land
- b. we are required to consider whether our policy on the postponement of rates on Māori freehold land will provide for the postponement of rates
- c. those set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993
- d. that applications for postponement meet the criteria we have set
- e. that the policy does not provide for the permanent postponement of rates on the property concerned.

Conditions and criteria

Applications for postponement of rates should be made in writing prior to commencement of the next rating year. Applications made after commencement of the rating year may be accepted at our discretion.

Owners or trustees should include the following information in their application:

- details of the property
- the objectives that will be achieved by providing a remission
- documentation proving that the subject land is Māori freehold land.

Any postponement granted and the extent of the grant is at our sole discretion.

No postponement will be granted on targeted rates for:

- water supply
- wastewater
- stormwater
- kerbside collection or
- rural halls.

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Part 7 – Remission of metered water leaks

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objective is to allow Council to provide some relief to metered water users from extraordinarily high charges as a result of a water leak when there is evidence that the required repairs have been carried out within thirty (30) days of written notification of the high water consumption to the owner.

Principles

The principles used in establishing this part of the policy are:

- that the responsibility of water leaks between the water outlet (e.g. house, trough) and the water meter is ultimately the owners' and any water rates remitted will be a cost to other water users
- that property owners should take action within a reasonable period of time to avoid wasting our water resource.

Conditions and criteria

We may consider granting relief where:

- a. we have received satisfactory evidence that there has been a water leak; and
- b. the property owner has repaired the leak within the policy timeframe; and
- c. we have received written application for relief. The request must be accompanied by a registered plumber's invoice or other suitable evidence that a significant leak was discovered (minimal amounts will not be considered), where the leak was located, and that it has been fully rectified.

We will calculate the volume of water lost based on the total water consumption for the particular period less the average period water consumption over the previous two years.

The relief for water leakage (excluding normal consumption) will be 50% of the water rates attributable to the leakage.

Any relief granted under this part of the policy is limited to one application within any three-year period for any particular meter.

Transitional Note

This remission applies only while Council sets and assesses the relevant water-related rate. It does not apply to any charges set or billed by Waikato Waters Limited (WWL) from the date WWL assumes responsibility for charging or remission functions.

Following the transition of water and wastewater services to WWL from 1 October 2026, Council may continue to set and assess water-related rates on behalf of WWL, where agreed between both organisations, until WWL's billing and customer-support systems are fully operational. During this interim period, this remission only applies while Council is still issuing water rates (including those on WWL's behalf). Once WWL begins setting charges to customer's directly, Council's remission will no longer apply and customers will need to use WWL's own remission and/or postponement policies.

Part 8 – Remission of pan charge targeted rates based on water use

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objective is to provide a transparent, fair and more effective user pays targeted rate for wastewater, taking account of:

- the specific circumstances of the rateable property; and
- the interests of all ratepayers.

Principles

The principles used in establishing this part of the policy are:

- a. we have applied a targeted rate to all rateable properties connected to the wastewater supply based on the number of pans in each rating unit
- b. pursuant to clause 12, schedule 3, of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 all single residential rateable properties can only be charged for one pan
- c. we recognise the number of pans may not necessarily equate to the volume of discharge to the wastewater network
- d. we recognise a correlation between the consumption of water and volume of wastewater discharged
- e. currently the average water consumption per single residential rateable property is deemed to be 252 cubic metres of water per annum. This is a Household Equivalent Unit (HEU)
- f. the most accurate way to measure water consumption is by a water meter, however not all properties currently have a meter installed
- g. despite the number of pans, some properties are considered to have a low-impact on the wastewater network. To avoid the unnecessary expense of installing a water meter to these ratepayers, we will assess the number of HEUs applicable per rating unit by comparing them to similar properties that have a water meter
- h. in assessing the number of HEUs, the number will be rounded up to the next whole unit
- i. the HEU may be periodically reviewed
- j. this remission does not apply to schools or educational establishments. See the separate policy on remissions of pan charge targeted rates for educational establishments that follows.

Conditions and criteria

Properties with an existing water meter

- a. The rateable property must have six months (or more) of historical water consumption information to enable assessment of HEUs.
- b. The remission will be the difference between the actual number of pans and the number of HEUs based on historical water consumption
- c. The HEU will be reassessed annually based on the consumption for the year and an adjusted remission will be applied from 1 July one calendar year later.

For the avoidance of doubt, rateable properties with a meter cannot elect to be assessed for a remission on the same basis as a rateable property without a water meter.

Properties without an existing water meter

- a. We will assess the number of HEUs applicable per rateable property by comparing the current use of this property with a metered property of similar use.
- b. The remission will be the difference between the actual number of pans and the assessed HEU.
- c. Alternatively, to a and b above, the ratepayer can apply to have a water meter installed. Installation must be completed before 1 October in any rating year, so as to allow six months of consumption data to reassess the remission during the final quarter. The cost of the water meter and its installation will be at the applicant's expense.
- d. Any amended remission as a result of the water meter data will be processed during the final quarter of the rating year.

For the avoidance of doubt, rateable properties once fitted with a meter cannot then elect to be assessed for a remission on the same basis as a rateable property without a water meter.

Transitional Note

This remission applies only while Council sets and assesses the relevant water-related rate. It does not apply to any charges set or billed by Waikato Waters Limited (WWL) from the date WWL assumes responsibility for charging or remission functions.

Following the transition of water and wastewater services to WWL from 1 October 2026, Council may continue to set and assess water-related rates on behalf of WWL, where agreed between both organisations, until WWL's billing and customer-support systems are fully operational. During this interim period, this remission only applies while Council is still issuing water rates (including those on WWL's behalf). Once WWL begins setting charges to customer's directly, Council's remission will no longer apply and customers will need to use WWL's own remission and/or postponement policies.

Part 9 – Remission of pan charge targeted rates for educational establishments

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objective is to provide a transparent, fair and more effective user pays targeted rate for wastewater, taking account of the specific circumstances of educational establishments.

Principles

The principles used in establishing this part of the policy are:

- This policy applies to schools and educational establishments as defined in Schedule 1, Part 1, clause 6(b) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. It specifically excludes schools and early childhood centres that operate for profit.
- We consider the nationally used 'Donnelly Formula' (one pan per twenty students/staff) as a fair basis for providing remission to educational establishments.
- We have applied a targeted rate to all educational establishments connected to the wastewater supply based on the number of pans calculated using the 'Donnelly Formula'.
- We recognise the number of pans may not necessarily equate to the volume of discharge to the wastewater network.
- We recognise a correlation between the consumption of water and volume of wastewater discharged.
- Currently the average water consumption per single residential rateable property is deemed to be 252 cubic metres of water per annum. This is a Household Equivalent Unit (HEU).
- The most accurate way to measure water consumption is by a water meter, however not all educational establishments currently have a meter installed.
- Despite the number of pans calculated using the 'Donnelly Formula', some educational establishments are considered to have a low impact on the wastewater network. To avoid the unnecessary expense of installing a water meter to these, we will assess the number of HEUs applicable per rateable property by comparing them to other educational establishments with a similar roll/staff numbers.
- The school roll used to calculate the 'Donnelly Formula' will be as advised annually by the Ministry of Education and will be applied from the following 1 July.
- In assessing the number of HEUs, the number will be rounded up to the next whole unit.
- The HEU may be periodically reviewed.

Conditions and criteria

Educational establishments with an existing water meter

- a. The rateable property must have six months or more historical water consumption information to enable assessment of HEUs.
- b. The remission will be the difference between the number of pans assessed using the Donnelly Formula and the HEU based on historical water consumption.

- c. The HEU will be reassessed annually based on the consumption for the year and an adjusted remission will be applied from 1 July one calendar year later.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, rateable properties with a meter cannot elect to be assessed for a remission on the same basis as a rateable property without a water meter.

Educational establishments without an existing water meter

- a. We will assess the number of HEUs applicable per rateable property by comparing the current use of this property with a metered property of similar use.
- b. The remission will be the difference between the number of pans calculated using the Donnelly Formula and the assessed HEU.
- c. Alternatively, to a and b above, the educational establishment can apply to have a water meter installed. Installation must be completed before 1 October in any rating year, so as to allow six months of consumption data to reassess the remission during the final quarter. The cost of the water meter and its installation will be at the applicant's expense. Any amended remission as a result of the water meter data will be processed during the final quarter of the rating year.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, rateable properties once fitted with a meter cannot then elect to be assessed for a remission on the same basis as a rateable property without a water meter.

Part 10 – Remission of rates on abandoned land

Objectives

The objective is to enable administration costs to be avoided where it is unlikely that rates assessed on an abandoned rating unit will ever be collected.

Conditions and criteria

Where any rating unit meets the definition of abandoned land as prescribed in section 77(1) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and that land is unable to be sold using the authority provided in sections 77-83, then all rates will be remitted on an annual basis.

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Part 11 – Remission and postponement of rates for natural disasters and emergencies

Objectives

In the event of a natural disaster or other type of emergency affecting the capacity of one or more rating units to be used for an extended period of time, Council may remit or postpone all or part of any rate or charge where it considers it fair to do so.

Conditions and criteria

The Council may, on written application from the ratepayer of a rating unit affected by a natural disaster or emergency, remit or postpone all or part of any rate or charge levied where:

- A natural disaster or emergency affects one or more rating units' capacity to be inhabited, used or otherwise occupied for an extended period of time; and
- The Council considers it is fair to grant a remission in the circumstances.

At its sole discretion, Council will determine by resolution whether a specific event constitutes a natural disaster or emergency for the purposes of applying this policy. Council will determine the criteria for the remission or postponement at the time of the resolution, and those criteria may change depending on the nature and severity of the event and available funding at the time.

Each application will be considered on its merits and remission or postponement of all or parts of the rates payable may be granted where it is considered just and equitable to do so. Remissions or postponements approved under this policy do not set a precedent and will be applied for each specific event and only to properties directly affected by the event.

Part 12 – Remission of additional kerbside collection targeted rate for small stand-alone dwellings

This part of the policy is prepared pursuant to sections 102 and 109 of the Local Government Act 2002 and section 85 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Objectives

The objectives of this remission are to:

- Ensure that ratepayers who add a small stand-alone dwelling (e.g. a granny flat) are not automatically charged an additional kerbside collection targeted rate where they have not requested additional refuse and recycling bins;
- Provide a fair and consistent approach to applying kerbside collection charges when the creation of a separate SUIP (separately used or inhabited part) would otherwise automatically trigger an additional kerbside collection targeted rate;
- Enable Council to correct charges where the additional kerbside collection service is not required or supplied at the time the rates are set;
- Maintain transparency and equity in the application of the kerbside targeted rate system while supporting sensible waste service use for small dwellings.

Criteria

A remission may be granted when:

- a. An additional kerbside collection targeted rate has been applied to a rating unit due to the identification of a new SUIP created by a small stand-alone dwelling; and
- b. Council records confirm that the owner has not requested the standard suite of additional kerbside bins (refuse, recycling, food scraps, and glass, or any successor bins forming the contracted service); and
- c. No additional kerbside collection service has been supplied or is available to the additional dwelling at the time the rates are set.

Conditions & Process

- The remission will be applied automatically by the Rates Team following internal verification that no additional kerbside bins have been requested or delivered.
- No application from the ratepayer is required.
- The remission will remove only the additional kerbside collection targeted rate applied due to the identification of a new SUIP.
- If the ratepayer subsequently requests additional kerbside bins for the small stand-alone dwelling:
 - The kerbside collection targeted rate will be applied pro-rata from the date the additional service is supplied, in accordance with Council fees and charges;
 - The remission will no longer apply from the date service delivery commences.
- The remission applies only where the additional SUIP is a small stand-alone dwelling as defined in Schedule 1A of the Building Act 2004.
- This remission does not apply where the ratepayer has already taken delivery of the additional bins.

Part 13 – Delegations

Council delegates the authority to implement this policy to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer may sub-delegate this role to any other council officer.

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7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.4 Reform Submissions for Council Approval

CM No.: 3145001

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council the final submissions on the various proposed central government reforms that have been submitted.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Several central government reforms are underway, and Council has prepared submissions on relevant proposals. These submissions were developed through Council workshops held on 4 and 11 February 2026 and submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) by their respective deadlines. Council approval is required in accordance with the Submissions to External Organisations Policy.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Retrospective approval is given to the following Council submissions:
 - a) Simplifying Local Government submission
 - b) Going for Growth – Development Levies System submission
 - c) Rates Target Model submission

Horopaki | Background

Several central government reforms are underway, Council have workshopped these reforms and provided submissions by the due date.

Council's Submissions to External Organisations Policy (attached) says that approval of 'Council' submissions that focuses on high level strategic matters like policy reform and funding require approval from Council or delegated Committee.

Under the Policy, approval may be delegated to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor in time-sensitive cases (Elected Members will still have the opportunity to input).

Simplifying Local Government:

The Government is proposing to simplify local government in two steps:

- **Step 1:** Instead of electing separate regional councillors, the mayors will collectively form a Combined Territories Board (CTB). The CTB will lead regional issues and govern the regional council, taking over all of the current regional council's roles and obligations. We are invited to provide views about the alternative options of appointing one or more Crown Commissioners (appointed by the Government) to lead or join the board.
- **Step 2:** The CTB will develop a plan for how the councils in the region can work together more effectively and efficiently (called a Regional Reorganisation Plan). The plan will be

developed in consultation with Council, examined independently, and be approved by the Minister of Local Government.

Council considered the submission at its 4 February and 11 February workshops and the final submission was provided to the DIA by the 20 February deadline.

Useful links:

- <https://www.dia.govt.nz/simplifying-local-government>

Going for Growth – Development Levies System:

The Government has made policy decisions to replace development contributions under the Local Government Act 2002 with a development levies system that will ensure that development pays an appropriate amount towards the infrastructure required for growth

- To enable Councils to recover from developments the cost of capital expenditure necessary to provide capacity for growth. Six principles based on – necessity, sufficiency, proportionality, particularity, transparency and economic efficiency.
- Councils must prepare a development levies policy
- The Government is considering independent, centralised, regulation of development levies.

Council considered the submission at its 4 February workshop and the final submission was provided to the DIA by the 20 February deadline.

Useful links:

- Joint Ministers' press release: [Going for Housing Growth: Reforming infrastructure funding](#) (26 November 2025)
- Partial exposure draft of the [Local Government \(Infrastructure Funding\) Amendment Bill \(the Bill\)](#)

Rates Target Model:

- On 3 December 2025, LGNZ and other agencies were approached by the DIA to provide feedback on 'Consultation on rates target model for New Zealand'.
- Initially, consultation on the rates cap model was targeted to sector organisations only and not offered publicly. We were advised by LGNZ on 17 December 2025 that DIA has agreed that all councils can submit. LGNZ were clear to DIA that every council should have the opportunity, so they changed their position.
- It is consultation on the policy proposal (the proposed model for implementing a rates cap) and is not consultation on the draft legislation. The consultation requested feedback on five questions regarding the rates cap modelling and its impacts. The background material provided by the DIA for the consultation is limited.

Our Ref: NR - 53541
20 February 2026

Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua
PO Box 805
Wellington 6140



Dear Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua

Submission on Simplifying local government proposal

1. Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Government's Simplifying Local Government proposal. This submission sets out Council's general comments followed by responses to the consultation questions.

About Matamata-Piako

2. Matamata-Piako District is a rural/urban local government area in the Waikato Region of New Zealand's North Island, located east of Hamilton, forming part of the central "golden triangle" between Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga. Matamata-Piako includes the towns of Matamata, Morrinsville, and Te Aroha, together with a large rural area. The district has a growing population of over 39,000 (June 2025) and an economy centered on dairy, agriculture, and manufacturing.
3. The district features diverse landscapes, including the Kaimai Ranges and the Kopuatai Peat Dome and is known for dairy farming, thoroughbred breeding, and attractions such as Hobbiton, Te Aroha Mineral Spas, and Morrinsville's Herd of Cows.

Context of this submission

4. The Government has issued a proposal to simplify local government. This proposal would replace elected Regional Councillors with a Combined Territories Board (CTB). The CTB would be required to develop a Regional Reorganisation Plan (RRP) for Ministerial approval.
5. Due to the timing of the consultation period, Council has discussed the proposal but has not formally approved this submission.
6. Council broadly supports the attached letter from Hamilton City Council Mayor Tim Macindoe, on behalf of the Waikato Mayoral Forum. This submission complements the Mayoral Forum view and is accompanied by Matamata-Piako's own feedback.

General comments

7. Matamata-Piako supports the intent of simplification and functional review, however we have practical concerns about:

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Morrinsville & Te Aroha 07 884 0060 - Matamata 07 881 90 50

- how the process will operate,
- the governance capacity of the Mayors to cover regional governance,
- how regional plans will be developed, and
- where the costs lie, particularly in the context of proposed rates capping.

8. The Government's proposal sets a high-level direction for reform, but the details of the process, governance mechanisms, and expectations for regions still require clarification. We support a credible, evidence-based regional review – with appropriate support, flexibility, and governance settings in place.

CTB representation must be fit for purpose

9. Council supports system reform that improves efficiency, clarity, and value for communities; however, simplification still requires strong and effective governance. Our submission highlights potential unintended consequences that could impact upon local voice, local and regional representation and genuine partnership with iwi/Māori.
10. Regional Councils currently hold critical mandates for natural resource management and other functions. Disestablishing elected Regional Councillors before these responsibilities are firmly embedded in new governance structures risks creating gaps in oversight and a weaker, less integrated planning system.
11. Representation arrangements should reflect land area, local priorities, and risk exposure—not population size alone.
12. Authentic iwi/Māori partnerships are essential to effective governance and operations. The proposal lacks detail on Māori representation, including how iwi/Māori partnership obligations will be upheld once existing regional Māori constituencies are removed. Although RRP's must show how Treaty Settlement commitments and agreements with Māori will be honoured, genuine partnership requires explicit, durable mechanisms that extend beyond Treaty settlements.

Mayors' capacity and role

13. Mayors are elected to represent territorial authorities, not to govern complex regional functions such as environmental regulation or to design an entirely new local government system. The workload already carried by Mayors, including significant reform programmes raises capacity concerns. The expectation that Mayors could simultaneously undertake regional governance and develop RRP's will be demanding and without substantial additional support, creates capacity and workload risks.

The two-stage process must support a genuine functional review

14. A functional review should draw upon, rather than duplicate previous reviews. For example, the Review into the Future for Local Government Review completed in June 2023, examined how our system of local democracy and governance needs to evolve over the next 30 years to improve the wellbeing



of New Zealand communities and the environment, and actively embody Treaty partnership.

15. This report found communities were not well-served by the relationship between central and local government and called for radical overhaul, including the creation of a Crown department to manage the relationship, four-year local election terms, funding increases, and strong partnerships with iwi. All 17 recommendations were rejected by the Government in mid-2024.
16. A systematic review of regional functions is a sensible first step. It provides a methodical way to map out what services are delivered, by whom, and how effectively. This has the potential to create a shared evidence base for future decisions. This approach has the potential to reduce duplication, improve alignment, and clarify responsibilities. Matamata-Piako supports the intent of this. However, the two-stage process must enable a genuine functional review, rather than pre-determine structural assumptions such as amalgamation of Councils or centralisation of Council functions.

Sub-regional flexibility is essential

17. We agree that New Zealand needs a more integrated, efficient, and future-focused system, but do not consider there is a “one size fits all” model. While we are ready to participate constructively in the process, we are concerned about the cost and capacity for Council to partake in the RRP process and the required stakeholder and public engagement.
18. The CTB structure, as proposed, presents risks for effective decision-making:
 - a) A single, region-wide decision-making body may not reflect the very different needs of metropolitan areas and rural communities (e.g. Matamata-Piako District is quite different to Hamilton City).
 - b) Without equal voting rights, the local priorities of Matamata-Piako could be diluted or delayed. Proportional voting risks overweighting Hamilton’s scale (population, infrastructure, economic activity).
19. The CTB should have the ability to form sub-groups or working clusters (e.g. Matamata-Piako-Hauraki-Waipā) for issues that naturally operate at sub-regional scale or aligning to existing arrangements such as Waikato Waters Limited.
20. The governance model must allow for different solutions for different functions, rather than enforcing a single “one size fits all” model across the whole region or country. This may include metropolitan, regional, shared service, or delegated arrangements depending on what delivers the best outcomes.
21. Many core functions, such as transport, land use, growth, climate resilience, operate across regional boundaries. Flexible structures should be permitted that allow the CTB to reflect how the system works, not how boundaries were historically drawn.
22. Council expects the process to enable multiple viable pathways, allowing our community to have input and subsequently supporting the Government to confirm the model, or set of models, that genuinely works for the greater Waikato and Matamata-Piako District communities.



Resourcing and costs

23. The governance salaries for Waikato Regional Councillors is around \$1.1million per year across 14 elected councillors. In the context of an organisation with a total operating expenditure of \$215 million (in 2024/25) this represents a small proportion of overall cost. We question if the removal of the Regional Councillors will result in any meaningful savings.
24. Additional resourcing will be essential to support Mayors, the Local Government Commission (LGC), and the wider –transition process. Without additional resourcing it is unlikely that Mayors will be able to effectively take on Regional Council governance and develop a comprehensive plan for future local government service delivery across the region, while continuing to deliver their existing roles including the significant reforms already underway (particularly resource management, water services, and rates capping).
25. The LGC is proposed to undertake a vital role at least during the two-year RRP development phase, so will also require additional resourcing to enable timely and quality outcomes. Once RRP's have been approved, transition support from the Government will be essential for successful implementation.
26. A staged approach should be considered to mitigate district/city councils' capacity risks and enable input from Regional Councillors. For example, a CTB of Mayors (with or without a commissioner) e.g. through the Waikato Mayoral Forum, could be responsible for developing the RRP within two years, while Regional Councillors would continue in their roles for the same period with a mandate to run the day-to-day business of the Regional Council. This would avoid a gap between Waikato Regional Councillors' roles being disestablished and the RRP being implemented.
27. Council is concerned about the costs of our involvement in the RRP and engagement with the community and stakeholders, especially in the context of rates capping. RRP's are intended to be comprehensive in their coverage, i.e. encompassing all services and arrangements. The investigation of the costs and benefits of different governance and service delivery options is a time and resource-intensive requirement.
28. To reduce unnecessary duplication and cost, we request that consideration is given to suspending/deferring some existing legislative requirements until the Simplifying Local Government reforms are confirmed. Matamata-Piako and other Councils will be undertaking a representation review, under the Local Electoral Act 2001 over the coming year. This will set our representation arrangements for the 2028 local elections. Representation reviews require a 1–2-year process, including engagement with our communities to identify, develop, and confirm communities of interest and revised electoral boundaries, if required. We note that local authorities are not all aligned to the same representation review cycle, resulting in inconsistent timing across the sector.
29. The upcoming review will need to take into account the 2025 referendum outcome, for the disestablishment of Māori wards and the current non-compliance representation ratios across the wards. These will have an impact upon the shape of the future representation model we adopt.



30. Council is mindful of the risk of confusing our communities, and of the cost to ratepayers, if we undertake a full representation review that may become redundant should the Simplifying Local Government reforms lead to major structural changes in the future.
31. For these reasons, we ask that consideration be given to pausing the requirements for representation review until the Simplifying Local Government reorganisation plans are confirmed and future boundary and representation arrangements are settled. This is on the basis that the status quo representation arrangements apply for the 2028 elections (except for Māori Ward given our referendum outcome).

Timing and interactions with wider reforms including Resource Management reforms

32. Successful achievement of the aims of this proposal will be very difficult without better recognition and sequencing of the raft of local government reforms underway.
33. Council is already responding to the substantial reform agenda currently being advanced by central government. Both the RMA reform programme and this Simplifying Local Government proposal indicate extensive sector wide structural change, with implementation expected over the next 1–3 years. The proposed CTB, in particular, has the potential to make major changes to representation arrangements.
34. Expectations on councils and their communities to navigate the best pathway forward are significant given the complexity and overlapping timeframes of the reform initiatives underway and in the pipeline. This includes Matamata-Piako's shift to Waikato Waters Limited for delivery of water and wastewater services later this year.
35. The resource management system reform and the simplifying local government proposal have timeframe overlaps and some content overlaps, e.g. the new regional plans required by the resource management system reforms would start to be developed by a committee of the Regional Council over the next 1-2 years, then would be taken over by a different group of people (the CTB comprising all Mayors from the region) to complete alongside the RRP.
36. It is proposed that CTBs, if established, should be the decision-making body for regional councils for two new planning instruments - region-wide spatial plan chapter of a combined regional plan, and natural environment plan chapter of a combined regional plan. We seek clarity on aspects of this:
 - a) Will there be provision for iwi representation on the decision-making body for the spatial plan and natural environment chapter?
 - b) Will the proposed approach remove expertise and community voice?
 - c) Will this proposal remove environmental protections the Regional Councils were set up to oversee?
37. Another example is central government have indicated monitoring functions undertaken by local authorities could be nationalised. If current functions



undertaken by local government are to be nationalised then central government should be clear on what these are prior to the RRP.

38. There is a cumulative effect of local government reforms that places pressure on councils. The timeframes to finalise the design of these reforms, including considering the interrelationships between them, and the subsequent implementation need to be carefully considered.
39. To ensure the greatest chance of success, we recommend that:
 - a) the reform is progressed in a manner such that the future arrangements are determined in a timely manner, removing the ongoing uncertainty which has surrounded the local government sector for many years
 - b) transition to the new structural arrangements for the local government sector proceeds in parallel with other reforms impacting on local government where it is practical and efficient to do so.

Responses to consultation questions

Background

1. Do you agree there is a need to simplify local government?

- Yes, in part. We agree that some system reform is needed, however we strongly question if the first step to addressing this is the removal of the governance layer of Regional Councils. We do not consider this will achieve much, if anything (including the stated intentions of this proposal). We also see this as unlikely to reduce any costs (in fact it may increase costs with Crown Commissioners plus Mayors).
- We suggest local government be reformed by addressing issues of unfunded mandates, unclear and competing national direction, unclear accountabilities, and the fragmentation of functions. To simplify local government, we must look at the entire system of government.
- Costs of compliance, especially around three water activities, are high. Complexity in governance can hinder coordinated planning and service delivery.
- The collaboration and shared services that currently exist across the Waikato region – e.g. Civil Defence Emergency Management, Co-Lab (Waikato Local Authority Shared Services CCO), Waikato Waters CCO and many other areas also needs to be recognised.

2. What do you think of the proposed approach overall?

- The problem definition would benefit from clearer evidence to ensure reforms achieve the stated purpose of making local government “simpler, more efficient, and better value for money.”
- We highlight that there is a need to differentiate the importance of each region in New Zealand and the contributions they make to the whole.

Simplifying regional governance

3. Do you agree with replacing regional councillors with a CTB?

- Disagree
- Removing recently elected Regional Councillors raises democratic concerns and risks diluting local and regional voices, especially without robust Māori representation mechanisms. There are 11 Mayors and 14 Regional



Councillors in Waikato; simply swapping one group for the other reduces regional governors unless appointments are added, and the roles are not interchangeable. Mayors already carry full-time responsibilities; adding regional governance and RRP development risks overload.

- Role of Mayors
 - Mayors are elected by local communities to represent district/city interests not for a broader regional oversight role on complex/different issues like environmental regulation or to design an entirely new system of local government.
 - We question the capacity of Mayors to undertake functions at both a local and regional scale. Having just held local elections, we have seven new Mayors in the Waikato region (out of 11) Council acknowledges that while some elected members, including within Matamata-Piako, have prior experience as councillors or mayors, the level of local government experience among newly elected Mayors across the region varies. Coming up to speed with Territorial Authority business, and then regional matters, this would be a big ask.
 - Mayors already fulfil full time roles. The roles presently held by regional governors whilst not full time, still require a significant dedicated resource. Existing Mayoral roles are already very busy, adding Regional Councillor responsibilities will be demanding.
 - Waikato Regional Council currently has approximately 13 committees and at least 3 sub-committees, which if the current governance structure is retained would need to be covered by the Mayors. Additional responsibilities may fall on the Deputy Mayors to cover where the Mayors are covering the regional duties.

- The proposal does not set out how a chair for the CTB would be appointed, and/or whether the chair would have a casting vote for regions where there are an even number of Mayors (11 for the Waikato) and where a vote is tied. We recommend that both of these matters are addressed in the final proposal and legislation. The CTB chair could be elected by CTB members, as per current Regional Council processes. Where a Government-appointed CTB member is in place, we question whether it's intended that they would take up the chair role?

Transition

- Transitional provisions are an important consideration that the proposal does not fully address. To move from the existing arrangement to the CTBs is unlikely to make the CTBs successful in their first iteration.
- Also, the reform needs to be mindful of the work of the CTBs and how much decision-making power they will have, particularly as this relates to resource management reform.
- The CTB members will have a tenure that expires in 2028, that is probably the best opportunity to appoint governors who are fully aware of roles and responsibilities and can better appreciate their role and function.
- In looking at the numerous reform proposals, CTBs, who will have responsibilities for developing and making decisions on the Regional Spatial Plan chapter of the Regional Combined Plan, must have this complete (with best endeavours) by the third quarter of 2027; this is of concern. The decisions on the Regional Spatial Plan Chapter, which is a significant component of the resource management system reform framework, should not be made by members with a less than 12-month tenure.



4. What do you like or dislike about the proposal to replace regional Councillors with a CTB?

- Dislike. CTBs are likely to place increased accountabilities on Mayors, who already have significant governance and local leadership responsibilities. CTBs could reduce their capacity to engage effectively in local governance.
- There would be an increased expectation placed upon Mayors to govern Regional Council business as usual (existing statutory requirements) and developing the RRP.
- Current regional governance arrangements include Māori constituencies. The CTB proposal does not offer an equivalent mechanism. Removing this structure without the need for a representation review through a public process is of concern.
- Regional Councillors and Mayors have been elected to govern different statutory functions; the roles are not simply interchangeable. Mayors and the communities they represent relate to existing Territorial Authority functions and are not representative of functions and services delivered regionally.

5. What level of Crown participation in regional decision-making do you prefer?

1. None – only Mayors on the CTB
2. Crown Commissioner (non-voting)
3. Crown Commissioner (veto power)
4. Crown Commissioner (majority vote)
5. Crown Commissioners instead of a CTB

- OPTION 1 – Mayors only on the CTB.
- Alternatively, if there is to be a Crown Commissioner we think they should have non-voting rights (Option 2).
- Local authorities should remain accountable to their communities. Crown participation, representing national interest, can be addressed through legislation, national instruments, and funding.
- Crown involvement or appointment of commissioners can be seen as a fundamental challenge to local democracy. Ratepayers are the main funders of council activity and participate in processes to determine where that funding is allocated (or not) and elect the people to make the decisions on what should get funded. Government appointees, who it is assumed will be funded by ratepayers, are not elected by voters.

Allocating voting power

6. Do you agree that mayors on the CTB should have a proportional vote adjusted for effective representation?

- No. Proportionality voting risks underrepresenting rural/provincial districts with a large land area like Matamata-Piako and areas with high seasonal populations and elevated hazard exposure (e.g. Thames-Coromandel).
- We do not consider that proportional representation is effectively achieved based solely on the number of residents. Weighting proportionality on populations alone cannot account for other important considerations, such as local issues, projects, growth etc.
- Many issues such as flood protection, coastal management, biodiversity, pest management are not determined by numbers of people in a geographic area.



The use of a proportional vote seems a simplistic tool to use for significant investment decisions and effective representation.

- Proportional voting also ignores natural hazard management currently handled by Regional Councils. Disestablishing Regional Councils without fully embedding this mandate in the new governance model could weaken oversight and integrated risk reduction planning.
- Governance must consider risk exposure, not just population. One vote per CTB member aligns with existing approaches such as Regional Land Transport Committees and Civil Defence Joint Committees.

7. What do you like or dislike about the voting proposal for the CTB?

- Dislike. Proportional voting ignores local priorities and needs. Recommend one vote per CTB member.
- Although Ministers' decisions have already been made regarding the CTBs taking over responsibility for development of the regional spatial plan and natural environment plan, we note the significant capacity risks for Mayors (and their elected members and supporting staff) if the two sets of legislative changes proceed and are implemented simultaneously as currently signalled.

Cross boundary issues

8. What do you think about the ways that communities crossing regional boundaries could be represented?

- Matamata-Piako District is currently contained entirely in one region (Waikato). We do not have any specific comments on how the small number of districts which have parts of their territory split between two or more regions could be represented.
- We generally prefer the district adoption option (where an isolated population is 'adopted' by a neighbouring district), however this would depend on the size of the isolated population.

Improving local government

9. Do you support the proposal to require CTBs to develop regional reorganisation plans?

- Yes. It makes sense that the CTB, or transitional entity/entities with these functions, have responsibility for the development of regional reorganisation plans, but being mindful of other points raised in our submission, we believe that these should be done in a wider reform context looking at the timing and sequencing of resource management and other reform.
- This support is on the basis that sufficient and appropriately skilled resource is made available (through funding or direct appointment at officer level) to enable this work to be delivered to the standard required to produce an accurate, robust, well-evidenced RRP, within the required timeframe.
- Please also refer to our previous comments on resource and timing risks created by competing demands to deliver on the raft of local government reforms underway, while continuing to focus on the council's 'day job' including Long Term Plan development and delivery.



10. What do you think about the criteria proposed for assessing regional reorganisation plans?

- Support in principle. We would recommend the addition of one further criterion, being 'Efficiency of operating model'. Local government needs an operating model that delivers services and infrastructure more efficiently, while maintaining strong local governance and representation by and on behalf of communities.
- Our view is that collaboration will be key to ensuring the future form and function of local government is fit-for-purpose, while not compromising local voices or negatively impacting important considerations such as protecting the environment.

Treaty of Waitangi and Māori Representation

11. What do you think about how the proposal provides for iwi/Māori interests and Treaty arrangements?

- We are concerned about the lack of detail in the proposal regarding fulfilment of Treaty Settlement obligations. For reform to be successful, the Treaty Settlement relationship, and associated responsibilities, must be clearly defined. This is the responsibility of the Crown, and ratepayers should not end up funding determination of this relationship as an unintended consequence of local government reform.
- Removing Māori constituencies risks weakening iwi/Māori input into regional governance.
- Governance models must include mechanisms that enable authentic iwi/Māori representation and decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal. If you have any questions about our response, please contact Manaia Te Wiata, Chief Executive, on 07 884 0060.

Regards



Ash Tanner
Mayor, Matamata-Piako

Appendix 1 – Letter from Waikato Mayoral Forum





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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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29 January 2026

Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Local Government,
Hon Chris Bishop, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform,
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Tēnā kōrua Minister Watts and Minister Bishop,

Local Government Reform – Waikato Mayoral Forum

Thank you for the opportunity to engage constructively with the Government's local government reform programme. The Waikato Mayoral Forum sees this reform as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address long-standing systemic issues, strengthen local democracy, and ensure local government can continue to deliver for its communities into the future.

The Forum would like to highlight the following matters in relation to our region.

The Waikato region is central to New Zealand's economic performance and long-term resilience.

Projected rapid population growth across Hamilton, Waikato and Waipa, peri-urban settlements, rural towns and villages, and coastal communities will require coordinated and well-funded long-term planning. The region's location as a critical national transport, freight, and logistics corridor supports a diverse economy spanning agriculture, advanced manufacturing, technology, renewable energy, aquaculture, tourism, healthcare, and forestry. Waikato also manages significant natural resources, including river catchments, geothermal assets, 10,000 km² of coastal marine area, 1,200 km of coastline, and \$1.1B in flood protection infrastructure. Our strengths are further supported by a growing Māori economic base and the longstanding cultural and regional leadership of the Kingitanga.

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A focus on partnerships, relationships and collaboration support the current complexity of the region's governance.

The region's governance environment comprises 12 local authorities, over 40 iwi including six large iwi groups, and more than 200 hapū. Waikato has demonstrated an enduring desire and ability to work collaboratively with central government, including through the Future Proof partnership. We are demonstrating leadership through the formation of two water service entities in response to Local Waters Done Well legislation. Existing regional governance structures such as the Waikato Mayoral Forum, the CE Forum and the Iwi Governance Forum, illustrate proven leadership and implementation capability.

The Forum urges you to consider the following critical points as you progress with this programme of reform.

Waikato is ready to partner on nationally aligned, enduring reform.

The government's reform agenda requires a whole-of-government approach with clear alignment across legislative changes, clarity of functions at all levels, and localised decision-making preserved where it best serves communities. Long-term planning for growth, infrastructure, and climate adaptation must be supported.

The Waikato CE Forum has already initiated work on the unique value proposition of local government, its' form and function, and how this can best support communities within an aligned national system.

Effective reform requires genuine partnership.

Recent reform processes have at times, minimised local government's role. A bipartisan national vision, shared governance responsibilities, and recognition of the value of local government assets are essential. The Waikato seeks a reset based on trust, shared outcomes, and an equitable partnership.

Effective reform requires a whole of system approach

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Reform will only succeed if it is considered as a whole system and not as individual parts. The reform programme will have a significant impact on local government and communities, however it is not clear that a whole of systems approach is being adopted. We urge the government to reconsider the timing, varied decision-making models and funding and financing impacts associated with each element of the reform programme so local government can implement reforms effectively. We also urge the government to consider the overall financial impact on communities as the reform programme includes additional responsibilities for local government, and any move away from LGFA funding is likely to increase the financial burden on communities.

Transition costs will be significant.

To ensure successful implementation, central government will need to provide additional funding, enable new financing tools, and allow councils to pause major statutory processes such as long-term plans, audits, and representation reviews, to be able to meet the costs of reform. DIA (Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport – MCERT) will also need to be adequately resourced to work closely with the regions on this reform.

Transitioning to a new system for local government and resource management will be complex and resource intensive. Transitional support will be required to assist the sector to deliver transformation at scale. Any changes to form and functions should be aligned and well sequenced, with implementation timing coordinated so benefits can be realised. Transition timeframes should also take account of significant events such as local and national elections and be clearly communicated so communities and ratepayers understand when changes will occur. Ideally the timeframe would ensure that the reorganisation is concluded within the next triennium, to avoid the risk of re-litigation and re-education of new elected members.

Longstanding issues on funding of local government must be addressed.

The purpose of local councils is to do the things that their communities want them to do and are prepared to pay for. Councils should be accountable to those affected by their decisions and from whom they can require funds. Where legislation (including statutory

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national direction) creates functions of national benefit, those mandates should be recognised and funded by central government.

Unfunded mandates, the absence of GST on rates being returned to councils, the lack of Development Contributions/Levies and rates paid by central government on Crown property, needs addressing so there is equitable Crown contribution to local government activity from which it directly benefits.

Reform should also enable a wider set of financial levers and tools, in addition to rates, to improve transparency, efficiency and affordability while maintaining strong local accountability. Without new tools and equitable Crown support, councils will face unsustainable pressures, especially for infrastructure essential to supporting regional and national growth.

Iwi partnership is fundamental to current and future governance, and decision-making must occur at scales that strengthen democratic practice.

Te Tiriti obligations must be embedded consistently across the reform programme. Te Tiriti settlements have marked a new era in relationships between the Crown, Mana Whenua and iwi. These relationships, supporting statutory obligations, and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato are integral to local government in the Waikato and must be given effect to in the new system.

Nationally supported tools for participatory and deliberative democracy will help ensure communities remain engaged and represented and allow room for a community voice in decision-making. This is an opportunity to improve community engagement, enable a strong local voice, and lift efficiency and transparency across the system.

Protecting and restoring the natural environment is a long-term investment.

Resource management must reflect rural and urban interests, catchment-scale needs, and Treaty settlement arrangements. Durable, evidence-based, and integrated decision-making frameworks are required.

Protecting and restoring the natural environment is not a cost; it is an investment in New Zealand's long-term economic resilience and prosperity, human health, and international

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standing. Ensuring local government is equipped to safeguard these assets is essential for maintaining prosperity and cultural identity that are inseparable from the natural world. Resource management decisions involve competing demands and must enable local solutions within a nationally consistent framework. Consideration of appropriate catchment management needs to be made, as the legislation is progressed.

Investment in national standards and systems would reduce fragmentation and inefficiency.

Central government can materially improve system performance through national technical standards, methodologies, and consistent systems—particularly in consenting.

Under-investment in standards has also increased litigation risk for local decision makers. National standardisation does not automatically mean operational delivery must shift to a national agency; rather it can enable more efficient and consistent local delivery.

To enable more efficient delivery, and therefore better value for ratepayers, standardised tools across the local government sector are essential. Nationally consistent system-design tools – such as shared templates, digital platforms, and standardised operational models would ensure all councils are working from the same foundations, reduce variability, and streamline the transition process.

Shared national systems such as common asset-management platforms, consistent financial and rating system templates, and unified customer-service or digital engagement tools would substantially reduce duplication and improve accuracy and productivity. Sector-wide standardisation is a practical and high-impact way to lift efficiency, lower system costs, and support councils to deliver core services more effectively

Crown and iwi representation on the Combined Territory Boards is essential.

The Forum supports Crown representation on the Combined Territories Board through Commissioners with expertise in both local and central government. To uphold a genuine partnership, Commissioners should hold voting rights consistent with other members. Iwi representation on the Board and involvement of the Regional Council Chair will also be essential.

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The Waikato region is committed to working constructively with central government to achieve a resilient, connected Waikato that underpins national prosperity. The Forum is keen to get started.

Nāku iti noa, nā

On behalf of the Waikato Mayoral Forum / Waikato Region

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Macindoe'.

Hon Tim Macindoe
Mayor of Hamilton
Chair Waikato Mayoral Forum

Email mayor@hcc.govt.nz

Postal Address Private Bag 3010, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand



20/02/2025

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
 Department of Internal Affairs
Wellington
 Email: development.levies@dia.govt.nz



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
 district council

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT LEVIES

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the consultation document 'Supporting Growth Through a Development Levies System' and the exposure draft of the legislation 'Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill'.

Overall Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) is supportive of the move to development levies but considers changes are required to ensure effective implementation. MPDC also questions whether some requirements will be cost effective and proportionate for smaller councils. MPDC supports the submissions lodged by Taituarā and the Development Contributions Working Group (DCWG) – Executive Panel's collective practitioner feedback.

Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC) is located in the center of the golden triangle of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga. Its proximity to major centers and its comparatively affordable house prices means it continues to experience growth. The main towns in the district being Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha are separated at some distance from each other. This means while the communities share the same transport network and some community facilities, the three waters systems are confined to each town. The geography of the District and the size of the towns has meant each town has formed its own development contributions catchment. In particular, there are quite distinct catchments for water and wastewater servicing. This approach has served the District well. Whilst MPDC is supportive of the transition to development levies, it does have some concerns including the overall presumption of one levy area per leviable service in each District.

MPDC has the following comments to make:

1. **Purpose and principles**

MPDC **supports** the addition of the new principle of '*Economic efficiency*' which is: *Development levies should distribute growth costs in a manner that encourages the development of efficient infrastructure networks.*

MPDC agrees the development of efficient infrastructure networks is an important concept and it should be retained.

Relief sought: Retain the new principle of economic efficiency.

2. **Development levy policy**

MPDC **supports** in principle levies applying from the date of notification rather than the date the policy is adopted. When levies are proposed to increase it will reduce the level of gaming and the gold rush prior to levy increases. Most importantly, it will better support the funding for infrastructure identified in the infrastructure strategy and the LTP.

Relief sought: Retain the principle of applying development levies from the date of notification.

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3. Levy areas

MPDC **questions** the overall presumption of one levy area per leviable service per district.

Whilst it's understood that the approach may work well for places like Hamilton City and Tauranga City where there is one large urban area, it's questioned how effective it will be for districts with multiple towns. For MPDC, it will mean there will be significant cross subsidisation between towns which will result in higher costs for some towns than would otherwise be the case.

MPDC considers a simpler and more effective way of reducing cross subsidisation is to have one levy area per leviable service per related community. Relying on tools like high-cost overlays or providing reasons for additional levy areas to address this issue adds complexity and increases liability.

MPDC notes if a Council proposes to have more than one levy area in a district it must have a good reason and it must not establish more than one levy area in a single urban community. In S211H Levy Areas in the exposure draft of the Local Government (Infrastructure Funding) Amendment Bill the definition for a related 'urban' community is:

Means urban communities between which people routinely travel for the purposes of employment, leisure, or access to leviable services.

MPDC requests 'urban' is removed from this definition. The reason for this is leviable services do extend into adjoining rural areas and its important development levies are still able to be collected from these areas.

Relief sought: For the reasons stated above, reconsider whether there is benefit in removing the overall presumption of one levy area per leviable service per district. As a less desirable alternative, consider whether clarification can be provided in the regulations as to the circumstances where more than one levy area can be provided.

In S211H (6) Levy areas remove the word 'urban' from the definition of related urban communities so development levies are still able to be collected from adjoining rural areas serviced by leviable services.

4. High-Cost Overlays

MPDC understands in S211J its proposed to enable the establishment of one or more high-cost overlays within a levy area if there are substantial differences in the growth costs of providing a leviable service in a levy area.

MPDC supports the concept of high-cost overlays to provide an option where the costs involved for a project maybe significantly more than identified in the levy area. Examples include for the approval of a 'Fast Track' application which results in unanticipated and significant ongoing costs. For the reasons expressed in 3. MPDC considers the option should also be available to establish more than one levy area per leviable service per district.

In Section 211J High-Cost Overlays, MPDC questions whether the word 'substantial' should be changed to 'significant'. Significant is a term that is used elsewhere in the Local Government Act and on the face of it, it would seem prudent to use the same term rather than introduce a new term.





Relief sought: Section 211J replace the word 'substantial' with the word 'significant'.

5. Standardised Units of Demand

MPDC is concerned with the proposal to relate residential demand to the number of bedrooms. This will lead to people 'gaming' and saying rooms are 'offices' when they can be occupied as bedrooms. Additionally, the number of bedrooms does not necessarily equate to an increase in demand on services as some bedrooms may not be occupied on a regular basis. For these reasons, the proposed approach will lead to interpretation issues and compliance and enforcement.

MPDC currently uses average number of people per household as a measure and would prefer to continue the current approach. Whilst the approach may lead to under collection in some cases it does not have the interpretation, enforcement and compliance issues as identified above.

Relief sought: Amend the approach for standardised units of demand so that it's based on the average household size in the District. As a less desirable alternative, include a definition of bedrooms to reduce interpretation and future compliance issues.

6. Bespoke Levy Assessments

MPDC notes S211ZZ lists a range of circumstances where developers can request bespoke levy assessments. One of the circumstances in S211ZZ (c) is where developments within a development levy area are a restricted discretionary activity and the provision of infrastructure is a matter of discretion.

MPDC is concerned this criterion will lead to a significant increase in the request for bespoke assessments with the associated administrative costs. MPDC is of the opinion the criteria for bespoke assessments should relate to circumstances that are more unique and notes subdivision in most district plans is listed as a restricted discretionary activity.

Relief sought: Remove S211ZZ (c) the restricted discretionary activity subdivision criteria from the list of matters where bespoke assessments can be applied for.

7. First mover developments

MPDC considers further clarification is required on the provisions in the exposure draft of the legislation for first mover developments. MPDC is of the opinion that amendments are required to ensure the "banking" of the first mover portion is limited to additional costs incurred by upsizing and there is clear criteria to assist in identifying the area that will benefit.

MPDC also questions why the infrastructure is limited to developments that are on or under land. For instance, does this mean a bridge / culvert would not qualify as arguably the infrastructure is 'above' land.

MPDC also considers it is unclear as to the purpose of setting a time limit in (5) as it may take some time for any further development to occur. MPDC also





assumes the value of the works undertaken would not change over time and would be set at the time the infrastructure was constructed and developed. Further regulations on these issues would assist in consistent administration of these provisions.

Relief sought: Consider whether further amendments are required to address the matters raised either in the legislation or in regulations.

8. Use of development levies for reserves

S211R of the exposure draft of the legislation states a Territorial Authority must use reserve development levies for the purchase or development of reserves within the district. The section clarifies it includes land to be held for conservation purposes under the Reserves Act.

MPDC queries the current wording in the exposure draft of the Bill as there is no classification “for conservation purposes” under the Reserves Act. MPDC requests the classifications in the Reserves Act are used.

MPDC considers the implementation of S211V Cap on Development Levies for Reserves will be difficult without clear direction on how the value of the allotment / additional household unit or accommodation unit will be determined. Consideration should be given to adding definitions/ method to assist in implementation. If there is no definition there will be constant debates as a developer's view on the value will be different than the Council's.

MPDC also seeks clarification as to whether levies will be able to be used to acquire or develop ‘parks’ as defined in section 138(2) LGA where parks are defined as: “*land acquired or used principally for community, recreational, environmental, cultural, or spiritual purposes*” but not held under the Reserves Act 1977. MPDC is concerned the current approach is restrictive and would exclude circumstances where there are council and community partnerships to develop land for a range of community facilities.

Relief sought: Reconsider the drafting of S211R so its aligned with the reserve classification system under the Reserves Act, provide definitions/methods to address the issues raised and assist in the implementation of S211V, and provide for development levies to be used for the acquisition and development of parks under S.138(2) LGA.

9. Deductions for developments that use non-standard designs

Where a non-standard design is used Subsection (3) requires a Council to reduce the development levy by an amount that is proportionate to the reduction in demand for that leviable service.

MPDC is concerned about the financial effect of deductions and the impact it will have because there will be no way of predetermining where and when deductions will apply and inevitably the flow on cost will fall onto ratepayers.

MPDC also notes this is an issue raised in the Development Contributions Working Group (DCWG) – Executive Panel's collective practitioner feedback.





Relief sought: Reconsider the provisions for deductions for non-standard designs to address the matters raised by MPDC and the issues raised by the DCWG feedback.

10. Section 211ZZO(h) Regulations for purposes of development levies

Section 211ZZO(h) requires information related to the assessment, remission, collection and expenditure of development levies to be included as part of the Council's Annual Report. This is more than what is currently required and included in Annual Reports. Whilst MPDC appreciates the need for transparency, it will require additional resources and systems to track the requirements. If the information is included in the Annual Report (as opposed to being published on the Council's website or some other form), it will extend the scope and costs of the external audit of the Annual Report. These costs are already a significant cost to ratepayers in the District.

Relief sought: Reconsider whether it's necessary for all councils to include information on the assessment, remission, collection and expenditure of development levies in their Annual Reports.

11. Independent regulator

MPDC supports in principle the concept of an independent regulator. Whilst MPDC is supportive, it's concerned about increased costs and questions whether there is a doubling up of auditing functions with the LTP.

MPDC requests further consideration be given to the costs associated with an independent regulator and whether that cost is fair and reasonable for all councils. An alternative approach could be to include criteria to identify when there is a need for an independent regulator e.g. an increase in development levies over a certain percentage, or to include an approach with reduced costs for Tier 3 councils and below that generally have less growth.

If the proposed system is retained, it will be costly and resource heavy for councils. Given the increased costs, MPDC requests consideration be given to reducing other areas that Audit NZ checks.

Relief sought: Reconsider whether there is a more cost-effective approach particularly for Tier 3 councils and below who have lower levels of growth. If the present approach is retained, consider whether there can be a more streamlined approach to the areas that Audit NZ checks to reduce costs and avoid duplications.

12. Implementation of development levies

MPDC has a few further comments/questions on the transition to the new development levy system.

It would be preferable to align the timing of the introduction of development levy system with LTP cycles. It's noted the next LTP is due in 2027 then in 2030. The consultation document indicates councils will be able to begin to charge development levies from 2028 with development contributions being replaced in July 2030. MPDC notes 2028 does not align with LTP cycle.





MPDC understands the 2028 date is discretionary and its important this is maintained.

MPDC collects reserves contributions under the RMA provisions for financial contributions. Under RM reform its intended from December 2029 existing district plans will be replaced by orders in council with natural environment plans and land use plans. MPDC is concerned there is a misalignment between the reform processes with development contributions not replacing development levies until July 2030. Transitional provisions are required to address this matter.

When it sets its annual fees and charges, MPDC updates development contribution charges with the Producer Price Index ('PPI'). MPDC queries whether the same approach will be able to be used. If not, how will the levy charges keep pace with price fluctuations between LTP cycles?

Relief sought: Align the introduction of development levy system with LTP cycles. If the July 2028 date is kept, ensure it is discretionary otherwise councils will have to replace the DC policy one year into a LTP cycle which will be costly. Consider the misalignment between this reform process and RM reform and provide for transitional provisions to address this issue. In addition, clarify whether development levies can be adjusted annually in the fees and charges with the PPI.

MPDC appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback. Retrospective approval of this feedback will be sort from Council at the next available Council meeting. MPDC looks forwards to the next steps and welcomes the opportunity to comment on any issues raised in this submission.

Should you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Fiona Hill, Team Leader, RMA Policy in the first instance, on fhill@mpdc.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully



Manala Te Wiata
Chief Executive Officer
Matamata-Piako District Council



Our Ref: NR - 53541

4 July 2026

Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua
PO Box 805
Wellington 6140



Dear Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua

Submission on rates target model

1. Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) provides feedback on the rates target model. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views.
2. Matamata-Piako District is a rural/urban local government area in the Waikato Region of New Zealand's North Island, located east of Hamilton, forming part of the central "golden triangle" between Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga, known for dairy, thoroughbreds, and attractions like Hobbiton, Te Aroha Mineral Spas, Herd of Cows and the Kaimai Ranges.
3. Matamata-Piako District's main towns are Matamata, Morrinsville, and Te Aroha, and a large rural area with a growing district population of over 39,000 (June 2025). The local economic base is predominantly rural with strong dairy, agriculture, and manufacturing industries. The area features diverse landscapes, including the Kaimai Ranges and the Kopuatai Peat Dome.
4. This feedback responds to the proposals for a cap on rates increases announced by the Government on 1 December 2025. If implemented, this would introduce a limit on annual increases in rates of 2-4%. It is proposed that rates cap comes into force in 2029.
5. We have provided general comments first followed by responses to the specific consultation questions asked. Due to the timing of the consultation period, Council has discussed the rates target model but has not formally approved this submission.

General comments

6. Council is concerned about the rates target proposal and seeks that it does not proceed in its current form. It will be a significant intervention for local government.
7. We understand the concern about rates increases especially at a time when cost pressures are impacting on households and businesses. When setting rates, Council aims to strike a balance between making rates affordable and receiving enough revenue to provide services and to renew and maintain our assets to required standards. Council also considers the consequences of financial decisions on both current and future generations.

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8. Standard & Poor's (S&P) recent report entitled "[New Zealand Local Government Brief: Rates Cap Tightens the Financial Screws](#)", outlines the concerns from a credit rating perspective. In particular, non-rate revenue options are minimal, and exemptions for infrastructure renewal or disaster recovery will be critical. The cap adds to policy uncertainty and may undermine Councils' financial resilience and long-term planning. S&P will assess the impacts for each Council in future credit ratings.
9. Rates account for only 7% of the total tax take in New Zealand. From this small slice Councils build and maintain some of the most essential aspects of our lives: roads, pipes, public transport and community facilities, and waste management and minimisation (section 42 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 says a territorial authority 'must promote effective and efficient waste management and minimisation within its district').
10. In our view, Council budgets and the rates target model needs a degree of flexibility for unforeseen circumstances, such as responding to emergencies, when a major pipe collapses or there is a period of expected cost increases. Putting a hard limit on rates will inevitably mean that important maintenance is deferred, delayed or even ignored. Maintenance will end up costing more in the future. We are already seeing the consequences of this in the water and wastewater network where large costs are looming.
11. All 'three waters' rates and charges should be excluded from the rates cap to align with Local Water Done well financial ringfencing and avoid fragmentation of water funding settings, where Council still delivers water services e.g. stormwater remains in-house. Consideration should also be given to excluding roading activities given the depreciation funding and maintenance costs of the network. Council should also be allowed to continue to fully fund renewals/depreciation through rates.
12. The rates cap needs to be considered alongside other central government support measures such as payment of rates on government properties under the Local Government Rating Act 2002 and removing or refunding (in full or part) GST on rates.
13. There also needs to be allowance for where our community supports a higher rate increase to achieve the level of service they desire. If the community supports a new project e.g. a new event centre, or Council providing a certain level of service and is willing to pay for it, Council should be able to accommodate this within the model.

International experience

14. Consideration should be given to how rate-capping policies have affected Councils in the United Kingdom (UK) and Australia. In the UK, 12 local Councils have declared bankruptcy since 2018, including Birmingham City Council, Europe's largest local authority which declared bankruptcy in 2024. The Council was forced to cut up to 600 Council jobs, scrap almost all arts funding, and sell 11 community centres. It even agreed to dim streetlights to help save money.
15. We understand the proposed rates target model is based partly on the New South Wales, Australia approach. A [Rates pegging](#) report conducted for the Local Government Association of South Australia stated, "In particular, it is



argued that by imposing financial discipline on local authorities by limiting their ability to increase rates, municipal efficiency will be enhanced. This claim has no empirical foundations”.

16. The researchers also found rates capping policies led to “worse revenue effort equity, greater debt per capita, lower levels of infrastructure renewal and exhibited much less operational efficiency”.
17. The report cites research which concludes “our analysis provides little support for ratecapping” and that their empirical results “support the unintended deleterious effects cited in the international literature on property tax limitations”
18. Our understanding is that research has consistently found that rate capping doesn’t work. If rate capping worked, we should be able to see the fruits of that success in the UK and New South Wales.
19. Fundamentally, we believe local government across New Zealand (NZ) doesn’t have the financial tools it needs to fulfil its role. Capping rates doesn’t help that – it has the potential to make it worse. The UK and Australia both show the negative consequences of that policy.

Challenges for local government in New Zealand

20. The Office of the Auditor General [Insights into local government: 2024](#) report states -

Councils provide essential services, facilities, and infrastructure to their communities and fulfil important regulatory functions. As stewards of essential infrastructure, they have a responsibility to balance the needs of their current communities with those of future generations. Amid a backdrop of ongoing economic recession, a growing infrastructure deficit, and rising costs, achieving this balance is becoming more challenging.

Councils face significant financial and infrastructure challenges.

In 2023/24, Councils’ total operating expenses were \$18.1 billion, which is significantly higher than the average over the last five years (\$14.6 billion).

A range of factors contribute to this, including high inflation, higher costs relating to new drinking water requirements, increases in interest expenses, and higher insurance premiums. In response, Councils have sought to increase their revenue from rates, increase user charges, and look at how they could make savings.

Councils are investing more in infrastructure. After years of underinvestment, many Councils have ageing infrastructure in poor condition. To address this situation, Councils are increasing capital expenditure, and many are embarking on major capital programmes.

21. It is clear local government faces financial challenges. The issue is that there are essentially two levers to solve this. One lever is to raise rates. There is no other significant source of funding. Or it can choose to “kick the can down the



road". This has led to some of the challenges we have now, discussed above in the Auditor General report. In our view, spending on fancy public toilets (cited as examples of wasteful spending) might not help, but it's at the edges of what is needed.

22. Potential impacts of the rates target model

23. The majority of any Council's spending is typically for building and maintaining assets. Key drivers for rates are depreciation, inflation and construction costs. Local Government NZ recently estimated that an extra \$11 billion is needed over the next seven years to meet unexpected cost increases: <https://localgovernmentmag.co.nz/rates-will-never-be-enough/>

24. Council's 2024-34 Long-Term Plan Financial Strategy sets out our financial goals and challenges:

Financial goals

Our financial goals have been consistent for the last two Long Term Plans. We have strived to:

- Maintain the current levels of service we provide
- Improve levels of service where this complements our vision
- Keep our rates at an affordable level
- Ensure our debt is manageable and allow ourselves some headroom to respond to emergencies or opportunities that may arise

These are still the goals that we want to achieve.

The challenge

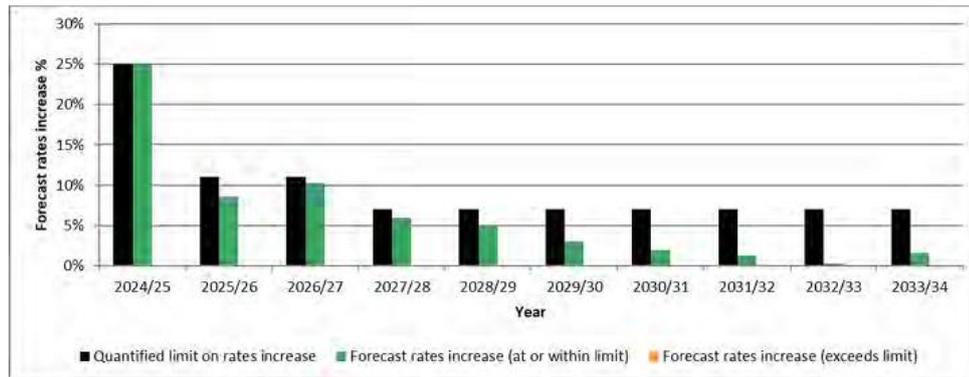
The challenge has become harder as:

- The costs to maintain our levels of service have increased more than what we projected
- We have to accelerate changes to our operations to meet the expectations of regulators, particularly in relation to drinking water and sewerage treatment
- We accept that our systems have to be more robust to deliver the services we provide to the standards expected
- And we understand that these same challenges exist for many local authorities. This means that Councils are competing for staff and resources to meet our needs

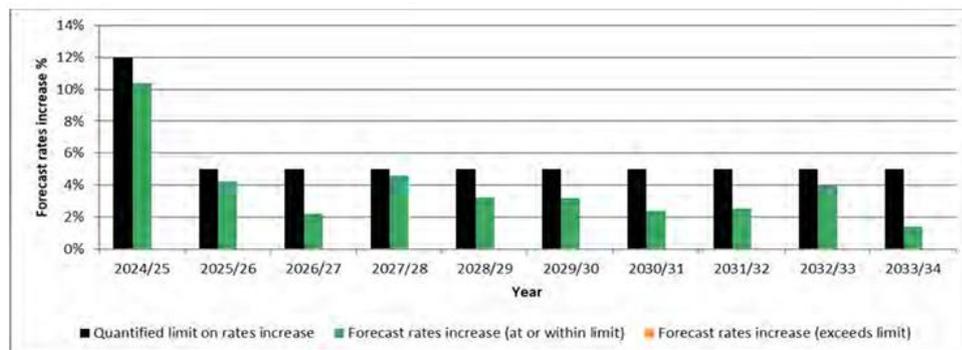
25. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils are required to set out a quantified limit on rates increases in Long-Term Plans. The following graphs compare the Council's planned rates increases with the limits in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. The quantified limits are:



Rates increases for **three water activities** (including metered water) will not be more than 25% in year one, 11% in years two and three, and thereafter will not be more than 7%.



Rates increases for **other rate funded activities** will not be more than 12% in year one, and thereafter will not be more than 5%.



26. The limits on rates increases set by Council in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan exceed the proposed rates target model.
27. In the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, Council took the approach of focusing on the “must do” projects to meet the expected standards. “Nice to have” discretionary projects were mostly cut from the plan to reduce the pressure on rates.
28. At the time of writing, work is underway to develop Council’s budget for the 2026/27 year. It is possible that the rates increase will be higher than that projected in the Long-Term Plan for the 2026/27 year due to several factors including increases to the water targeted rates to fulfil commitments in the Water Services Delivery Plan, increases in interest and depreciation costs, and increases in employee and other overhead costs. We are working to get the rates to the level forecast or close as possible to it.
29. Council’s capital programme is heavily dominated by infrastructure projects. This is influenced by regulation, particularly in three waters, and government funding for roading.



30. The renewal or replacement of roading assets is jointly funded by Council and Waka Kotahi (NZTA). In the projections above, Council has ensured it rates for its own share and have assumed the Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will continue to meet its obligations. This amounts to an average of \$3 million per year which we would otherwise have to include in the rates.
31. When setting the rates target model, it is important to confirm if Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will continue to fund its share of the roading programme. If this is not the case, the rates target model should be adjusted accordingly.
32. In addition, Matamata-Piako faces increasing costs of regulation required by central government, for example.
 - Auditing fees: Approximately \$1million over a three-year period to complete required audits of Long-Term Plans and Annual Reports.

The [proposed development levies framework](#) notes the Government is considering independent, centralised, regulation of development levies which may bring additional costs.
 - [Water levies](#): To help fund the work of the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai with Matamata-Piako District paying a total levy of \$153,481.
 - Economic regulator for development levies, under the [Local Government \(Infrastructure Funding\) Amendment Bill](#) - as yet unknown costs for the Commerce Commission to act as the independent regulator for Councils charging development levies
 - [Economic regulation of water suppliers](#) with Matamata-Piako District paying a total estimated levy in 2025/26 of \$48,293.
 - [Resource Management Reforms](#): Costs to participate and implement the new planning system. This includes costs to jointly create and maintain a regional spatial plan and an associated implementation plan, monitoring and enforcing compliance including the registration and monitoring of some permitted activities and the requirement for a new monitoring and compliance strategy and regulating and managing effects in the context of less consents (and thus less revenue). It's also proposed for Councils to collect a planning consent levy to fund the development and review of national direction and to prepare and maintain the system performance framework. Council must also provide for regulatory relief when rules impact upon certain land uses through rates or fee reductions, or targeted grants etc. Council has 307 items identified in its district plan that may qualify as needing to provide regulatory relief. A regulatory relief framework also needs to be developed within the District Plan and a system for offering relief to affected parties and the associated objections and appeals.
 - [Emergency Management Bill](#) proposes to grant the Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery rule-making powers and changes to enable a higher minimum standard of emergency management. This may bring about additional costs for local Councils. The proposed rates target model proposal may create challenges for the Matamata-Piako District Council to achieve their legislative function without compromising their rates cap.



These challenges are compounded by the need to comply with two distinct legislative frameworks, the Local Government Act 2002 and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, which impose separate and distinct processes.

33. We are concerned about this proposal in light of the simultaneous and significant reforms affecting local government. The combined impact of a rates cap, resource management changes, 'Simplifying Local Government' and changes to the legislative purpose of local government should be transparently evaluated and communicated.
34. It appears these (and other mandated costs) need to be accommodated / absorbed within the target rate model. This is of concern and provides some examples of additional costs imposed upon local government without the funding tools to support it. For Matamata-Piako a \$0.622 Million increase in operating expense equates to around a 1% in rates.
35. Council's 2024-34 Long-Term Plan Financial Strategy explains that we are already making significant increases to some fees and charges to ensure the fees keep up with the significantly increasing costs. The increases will maintain budgeted fees and charges at around 14% of total revenue over the Long-Term Plan, to reduce the need to put further pressure on rates.
36. We consider that if this proposal proceeds, there will need to be further increases to fees and charges to recover costs. User pays may become the norm as Councils look to generate revenue that would otherwise have been paid through rates. This needs to be balanced with the requirement to only charge reasonable costs as set in some legislation e.g. Resource Management Act.
37. Moving to a more user pays could see charges to access recreational and community facilities increase (such as our pools, events centres, libraries). These services have strong public good elements that support the achievement of public good objectives. For example, our three Council owned swimming pools provide recreational opportunities, support active lifestyles and development of swimming skills. Council's [Revenue and Financing Policy](#) says that Pools are funded 50-70% by general rates and 30-50% via fees and charges. The Policy explains that setting the fees too high will be counter-productive to the outcomes Council is seeking to achieve. If entry fees are too high, visitation will decrease, which if significant can create an underutilised facility.
38. The services that Councils provide that are not prescribed in legislation could be at risk. As costs rise in areas where there are legal requirements, this may require cuts elsewhere. We could envision a future whereby Local government is increasingly about the exchange of contracts for mandated services, rather than creating successful and sustainable communities. We do not see this as desirable.
39. Another potential impact is this proposal may lead to significant reductions in level of service to the Matamata-Piako community as well as impacts on asset condition. While we want to ensure our services remain affordable, we do not necessarily see this as a desirable outcome. Any such reduction should follow a community engagement/consultation process. We are unsure how this and the consultation requirements in the Local Government Act align



with the rates target model. The Local Government Act also requires Council to set limit on rates increases in the Long-Term Plan and it should be clarified how this requirement aligns with the proposed target range.

40. The proposed rates target model may create challenges for Council to achieve its legislative purpose under the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill and other legislation.

Consultation questions

1. Do you agree with the proposed economic indicators to be included in a formula for setting a rates target?

- No - The usual inflation measure comes from the CPI basket of goods, a list of 598 consumer products from vegetables to pillows, hair products, streaming TV services and so on. But Councils don't spend money on the same things households do – Councils build roads, maintain community assets etc. which have different cost drivers. The Local Government Cost Index would be a suitable economic indicator to use.
- We agree in principle with the inclusion of economic indicators that allow flexibility for one-off costs. Extreme events such as emergencies or global economic shocks require rapid funding responses. A rigid rates cap would undermine Councils' ability to fulfil the new purpose of Local Government, under the planned amendment to the Local Government Act 2002.
- We support a mechanism that enables funding for these costs outside the cap, with provision for an appropriate return-to-rate capping band to be applied to maintain fiscal responsibility.
- We support an additional growth component to be included in the model. Council has a role to provide infrastructure and services to support population growth. Applying a single national average would not account for regional/local differences. On face value the various tiers within the NPS-UD may provide a method to identify Councils experiencing growth. However, there are a wide range of Councils included within the Tier 3 classification which experience growth (including Matamata-Piako) and others that do not.
- Council considers there should be an allowance included for all Councils experiencing growth, not only those in Tiers 1 or 2.
- Between the 2013 and 2023 Census, the Matamata-Piako's population has grown by 17.6%. Te Ngira's high projections estimate the district population will grow by 5.95% over the next 5 years and 10.26% in the next 10. In Morrinsville, the population has increased by 14.93% between 2018 and 2023 and is projected to grow by 6.94% by 2030. In Matamata, the population increased by 13.54% between 2018 and 2023, and is projected to grow by 10.41% by 2030.
- There needs to be greater recognition of Interest rate volatility which can have a material impact on Council operating costs. With a rates limit of 5% for non-water activities set for most years of our 2024-34 Long-Term Plan, a shift in interest rates from 4% to 6% would potentially absorb the entire permitted



increase under the proposed cap. An additional margin over headline inflation/interest rates is needed.

2. If not, what economic indicators do you suggest be included and why?

- Refer above.
- Additional indicators should include measures of risk exposure, and compliance costs associated with nationally mandated standards or additional responsibilities given to Councils.
- Inflation alone does not account for sudden cost escalations driven by extreme events or legislation and policy changes.

3. Does setting the minimum of the target in line with inflation ensure that Councils can maintain service standards?

- No

If not, why not?

- Inflation based adjustments do not reflect the additional financial pressures such as risk exposure or compliance obligations.
- Without incorporating these indicators, Councils may struggle to maintain service standards during emergencies or when new national requirements are introduced.

4. Does the maximum of the target account for Council spending on core services?

- No - core services are proposed under the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill. The proposed cap, described as 'a cap on price, not volume,' (which we aren't sure what this means?) does not address cost increases driven by volume factors such as population growth, changes in legislative requirements or community needs and expectations. Without flexibility, Councils cannot meet statutory obligations or respond effectively to sudden, unavoidable costs arising from frequent events or policy changes.

5. What Council spending will not be able to take place under this target range? Why?

- It is too early to say for as decisions by Council about what savings may be made to meet this target have not been taken. However, in general under the proposed target range, Council may be unable to deliver on the new purpose of local government set out in the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill which includes "to support local economic growth and development".
- A capped funding model risks undermining compliance with nationally mandated standards and delivering on local community expectations and levels of service. An example of this is the Emergency Management Bill which enables the Minister to set minimum standards and enforce compliance along with changes in accountability, increased monitoring and increased expectations for funding.



6. Are changes to the target needed to account for variations between regions and Councils? What changes do you propose and why?

- There has been little detail provided about the process for applying for exceptions. The process needs to be timely, especially where it is to meet the cost of recovering from a disaster or economic shock.
- Once a rates cap is set, it does not provide for local differences between Councils. There are different rates of population growth, asset lifecycles, and risk profiles between Councils e.g. natural hazard exposures. Councils provide different services and this reflects local decision making and agreed levels of service. As above, variations should provide for community willingness to pay higher rates for a certain level of service and considering actual risk or need.
- There are also different starting points of different councils. Matamata-Piako has compared its rates to neighbouring Councils in the past and found that we have significantly lower rates, as shown in the table below from 2022/23. A flat % cap would not take this into consideration. It is also noted it is challenging to compare rates between Councils; these figures are approximate and only provide comparison at a high level.

Approximate comparison of Council rates for indicator properties 2022/23				
	Matamata-Piako	Hauraki	Waipa	South Waikato
Urban \$796,400	2,967	3,158	3,364	3,868
Rural \$5,010,000	6,718	14,740	7,879	13,584
Commercial \$1,041,600	4,488	6,235	5,276	5,517

- It is proposed the cap starts in 2029, with monitoring of rates to begin in 2027. We seek clarity on how this will apply, in setting Annual Plans and the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan which must set out projected future rates.
- During 2026, we will be developing the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan including the Financial Strategy and Revenue and Financing Policy. If the intent is to enact the rates cap this year, this creates uncertainty, including how Audit NZ will audit our process. Audit protocols must be clear and stable throughout Long-Term Plan preparation and legislation should change requirements mid-process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal. If you have any questions about our response, please contact Manaia Te Wiata, Chief Executive, on 07 884 0060.

Regards



Ash Tanner
Mayor, Matamata-Piako



Submissions to External Organisations Policy



Department	Policy, Partnerships and Governance
Policy Type	External
Approved by Executive Team	N/A
Approved by Council	24 September 2025
Review Frequency	Three Yearly
Next Review Date	24 September 2028
Policy Supersedes	Not Applicable
Policy Reference	CM 3097627

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Submissions to External Organisations Policy (Policy) is to ensure that:

- Council is looking at issues on the horizon, forward thinking and future ready in regards to proposed changes by external organisations.
- Submissions are strategic, transparent, and aligned with Council's statutory responsibilities and community priorities.
- Council has a framework to guide when and how Council makes submissions to external organisations.
- Council staff are taking a consistent approach, ensuring appropriate input and approval processes for all submissions made to external organisations.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all submissions to external organisations whether approved by Council staff, Council or Committees.

External Organisations include but not limited to central government, regional or sector groups and regulatory bodies.

- Central government, agencies and regulators (e.g. Ministry for the Environment, Department of Internal Affairs, Taumata Arowai).
- Regional councils or other territorial authorities.
- Other relevant sector organisations.

This Policy excludes Council controlled organisations (CCOs) making submissions to other organisations, as the organisations will have their own submission processes. If the CCO requests Councils feedback on a submission that they are preparing, the review of the submission will follow the process highlighted in this Policy.

3. Why Council Makes Submissions

Council makes submissions to external organisations to:

- Represent and advocate for the interests of our communities and district.

35 Kenrick Street - PO Box 266 - Te Aroha 3342 - www.mpdc.govt.nz
Morrinsville & Te Aroha 07 884 0060 - Matamata 07 881 90 50

- Ensure local voice, knowledge and subject matter expertise and experience inform national or regional decisions.
- Influence national, regional, or sector policy and legislation.
- Influence outcomes that impact Council's ability to deliver on its responsibilities.

4. Principles

Council may make submissions where the subject matter:

- Affects the district or region.
- Impacts Council's roles, functions or resources under the Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991, or other relevant legislation.
- Affects Council's strategic direction, vision and outcomes, Long Term Plan, or adopted policies.
- Presents an opportunity to advocate for better outcomes for our communities.

In deciding whether or not to make a submission:

- For Council submissions, staff will seek direction from Elected Members. If time allows this will be through formal workshops/meetings, if timing doesn't allow this will be through email/Microsoft Teams. Council may opt not to make a submission on a particular issue.
- For technical submissions, staff will seek direction from the Chief Executive or relevant Group Manager under staff delegations as to whether or not it is appropriate to make a submission.

A considered approach will be taken, guided by an internal submission scoring system, taking into account staff capacity, any other sector submissions being made and any other factors that may be deemed appropriate at the time.

5. Types of Submissions

Submissions fall under two types, council submissions and technical submissions.

Type	Description	Examples	Approval Required
Council	A council submission focuses on high level strategic matters, examples include policy, reform and funding. It represents the official view of Council's Elected Members.	Regulatory Systems (Internal Affairs) Amendment Bill – lifting the \$25k p.a. limit on Elected Members contracts with their local authority to \$100k. Resource Management Act – reform of housing growth programme. Building Act – structure of building consent authorities.	Approval required from Council or delegated Committee. Approval may be delegated to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor in time-sensitive cases (Elected Members will still have the opportunity to input). Each submission will clearly state who it is on behalf of and approved by.
Technical	A technical submission focuses on operational,	Local Government Act – amendments regarding placing of newspaper advertising.	Chief Executive or relevant Group Manager under staff delegations.

Type	Description	Examples	Approval Required
	technical, regulatory, service level or implementation matters. It represents staff views of technical/operational matters.	Resource Management Act – technical specifications for small standalone dwellings (granny flats). Building Act – allowing of international products into New Zealand.	Each submission will clearly state who it is on behalf of and approved by.

Where a submission could fall under both a Council or a Technical submission or it is unclear the default should be Council submission as that requires a higher approval process.

6. Council Oversight

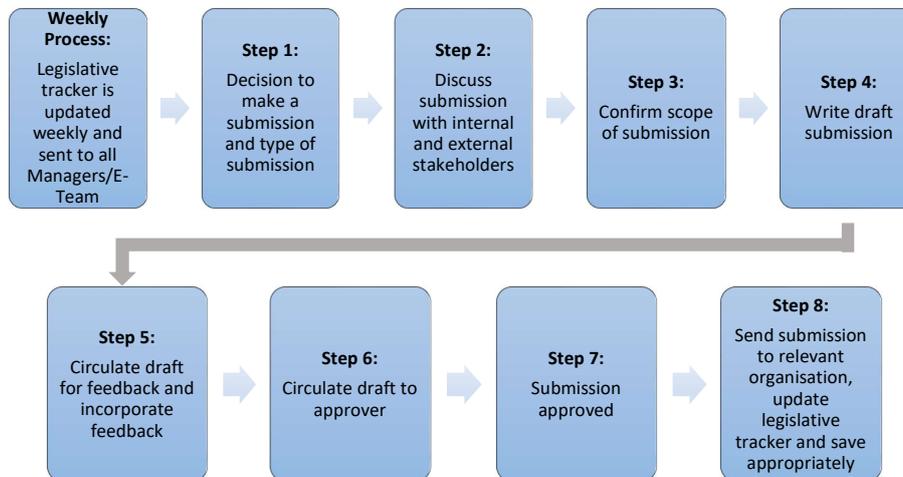
Council submissions will be reported for Elected Member approval, wherever possible.

A report of all Council and Technical submissions will be reported to Council's Executive Team and Council on a quarterly basis to ensure good process, transparency and Council are kept informed.

7. Related Documents and Legislation

- Legislative tracker and process
- Process to make submissions to external organisation

Submissions to External Organisations Process



Weekly Process

Legislative tracker is updated weekly and sent to all Managers/Executive Team – see separate Legislative Tracker process

Step 1: Decision to make a submission and type of submission

The main drivers for making a submission are when an external organisation is consulting on:

- Proposed new, or changes to existing, legislation/regulation that has the potential to affect and/or impact the work that Council undertakes, or;
- An issue or topic that has potential to affect and/or impact the work that Council undertakes, or;
- An issue that may affect the local community.

The submission can be in response to something that Council supports (in part or in full) or does not support.

Potential submissions on new legislation/regulation/issues must be discussed with the relevant Third Tier Manager/Group Manager/Executive Team or Council.

A decision then needs to be made whether the submission will be a Council or Technical submission.

A submission scoring system has been developed to help teams decide if a submission may be necessary, and what form of submission it will be: [Record 3084354: Excel Submission Scoring System](#). The scoring system rates the impact and potential risk that proposals are likely to have on the Council and/or the District, including regulatory, financial, legal and environmental.

- It is the responsibility of the relevant manager (or whoever they delegate the task of submission writing) to fill out the scoring system.

Step 2: Discuss submission with internal and external stakeholders

Changes to legislation often impact multiple internal teams, it's really important early on in the process to talk with other teams to understand what the impact on them might be and to work together on a single response from Council. There may also be external stakeholders to engage with at this point depending on the proposal.

Step 3: Confirm scope of submission

- The scope of the submission must be discussed with the relevant Third Tier Manager/s and Group Manager/s.
- This discussion may further refine the scope or identify key aspects of feedback Council needs to include in its response.
- It is important to identify key steps in the lead up to the submission closure date and allow relevant time for approval.
- If time permits, seek feedback from Council as to whether a submission should be written.

Step 4: Write draft submission

- The staff member with the most relevant technical expertise (for the legislation/regulation/topic/issue) will lead the writing of the submission, unless delegated elsewhere.
- Consult other relevant teams that may be affected.
- Community views will often be known from previous feedback, consultations etc, this can be used to inform submissions.
- The submission writer can seek advice from the Policy Team to discuss structure and content of the submission if relevant.
- Once a submission has been drafted, the submission lead may send it to the Policy Team for a peer review, if relevant.

Step 5: Circulate draft for feedback and incorporate feedback

Circulate to all internal and external stakeholders for feedback.

Seeking involvement and Input from Council and Committees:
Recognising that consultation timeframes frequently do not allow time for Council staff to consider, consult, prepare and report to Council/Committees formally on a draft submission, you should seek input by providing a copy to Council or Committees through Microsoft Teams via the Governance team, who operate a Teams channel.

On issues relating to iwi/Māori staff should consider seeking input from Te Mana Whenua Forum members, iwi groups directly, and/or Council's internal iwi relationship staff.

On issues involving significant organisational risk or audit findings, staff should consider engaging with the Risk and Assurance Committee for guidance, and where appropriate, seek input from internal risk advisors and external audit representatives.

Step 6: Circulate draft to approver

- If the submission is a Technical submission it is to be circulated to the Group Manager and, if required and suggested by relevant manager/s, the Executive Team.

- If the submission is a Council submission it is to be circulated to Council either via a formal Council agenda (if time allows) or via email/Microsoft Teams for approval and delegation to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to sign off.
- If it is a Resource Management Act (RMA) submission – consider whether it should be made using the Chief Executive’s delegated authority for RMA submissions.

Step 7: Submission approved

- Submission to be approved by the appropriate approver and a final submission circulated to all contributors and approvers.

Step 8: Send submission to relevant organisation, update legislative tracker and save appropriately

- Send the final approved submission to the relevant organisation prior to the submissions closing date.
- Upload the final copy into Content Manager.
- Place document in ‘alternative container’ in properties tag in Content Manager, the container number is either:
 - - for Council Submissions: 25/3953
 - - for Technical Submissions: 25/3951
- Add submission details into the legislative tracker.
- Publish Council submissions on Council website.
- Appropriate staff and Elected Members present Council’s submission at the hearings (if a hearing process is in place) if desired.

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.5 Draft Fees and Charges 26/27 - Adoption for Consultation

CM No.: 3145238

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Statement of Proposal to Council for adoption for public consultation.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually, and consults on any proposed changes with the community as part of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

The Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 has been developed with relevant staff, workshopped and further developed with Council, and is now presented, along with the Statement of Proposal to Council for approval for public consultation.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Council approve the Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Statement of Proposal for public consultation.
3. Council authorise staff to make any minor amendments, needed for accuracy or clarity, prior to consultation.

Horopaki | Background

Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually, and consults on any proposed changes with the community, as part of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

Some fees and charges are set by statute, while others are at Council's discretion.

Council's Revenue and Financing Policy sets the range within which fees and charges under each activity are set.

Generally, Council's approach is to increase its Fees and Charges by inflation each year. For the 2026/27 year, the inflation rate has been set at 2.7%, as determined by Business and Economic Research Ltd (BERL).

Council is consulting on its Fees and Charges under Section 83 of the Local Government Act which requires a Statement of Proposal to be prepared.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 has been developed in conjunction with the Annual Plan budgets for 2026/27. Fees and charges were reviewed by relevant staff and workshopped and further developed with Council through a series of workshops. The proposed fees and charges

have also been reviewed against Council's Revenue and Financing Policy, and are consistent with the Policy.

This year, as part of developing the Annual Plan budgets and seeking to keep rates as low as possible, Council has chosen to slightly increase the proportion of revenue collected from fees and charges for some activities, and therefore slightly lower the proportion collected from general rates. The activities where this approach has been taken are those where fees and charges have been sitting at the lower end of the band set for that activity in the Revenue and Financing Policy. This has resulted in increases above the rate of inflation for these activities.

A summary of the proposed changes to the Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 is set out in the Statement of Proposal (attached).

Detail of all proposed fees and charges, including a comparison with the current year's fees and charges, and the reasons for any proposed changes, are outlined in the Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 (attached).

A period of public consultation will take place 16 March to 19 April 2026, with a Hearing to be held on 13 May 2026 (and 12 May if required). Council is required to adopt its Fees and Charges in time for the 2026/27 financial year, beginning 1 July 2026.

Mōrearea | Risk

The Fees and Charges form a key revenue source for a number of Council activities. Any change to the revenue from user fees will have a financial impact.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Options are outlined in the Statement of Proposal (attached).

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

Legal and policy considerations are outlined in the Statement of Proposal (attached)

Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) Decision-making requirements

Having regard to the decision making provisions in the LGA 2002 and Councils Significance Policy, a decision in accordance with the recommendations is assessed as having a [medium] level of significance.

All Council decisions, whether made by the Council itself or under delegated authority, are subject to the decision-making requirements in sections 76 to 82 of the LGA 2002. This includes any decision not to take any action.

Local Government Act 2002 decision making requirements	Staff/officer comment
Section 77 – Council needs to give consideration to the reasonable practicable options available.	Options are addressed in the Statement of Proposal.
Section 78 – requires consideration of the views of Interested/affected people	Public consultation will be undertaken.
Section 79 – how to achieve compliance	The Significance and Engagement Policy is

with sections 77 and 78 is in proportion to the significance of the issue	considered above. This issue is assessed as having a [medium] level of significance.
Section 82 – this sets out principles of consultation.	Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Section 83.

Policy Considerations

To the best of the writer’s knowledge, this recommendation is not significantly inconsistent with nor is anticipated to have consequences that will be significantly inconsistent with any policy adopted by this local authority or any plan required by the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Council approval of Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Statement of Proposal for public consultation	4 March 2026
16 March – 19 April 2026	Public consultation
13 May 2026 (and 12 May if required)	Submitters present views to Elected Members (hearing) Adoption of Animal Control Fees
24 June 2026	Adoption of Fees and Charges 2026/27
1 July 2026	All Fees and Charges 2026/27 in force

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata Piako District Council’s Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE	MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION	
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. ‘The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.	
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)	

			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

The community outcomes relevant to this report are as follows:

- All of the community outcomes are relevant

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The Fees and Charges are developed within the Annual Plan budget.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). Draft Fees and Charges 26/27



[B↓](#). Statement of Proposal Draft Fees and Charges 26/27



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Anne Gummer Kaitohu Kaupapahere Mātāmua Senior Policy Advisor	
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Approved by	Niall Baker Kaiārahi Tīma Kaupapahere Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Pou Kaupapahere, Rāngai Mahitahi me te Kāwana Policy, Partnerships and Governance Manager	



Tauira Ngā Utu | Draft Fees and Charges 2025/26 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027

Consultation 16 March to 19 April 2026

All fees and charges are inclusive of GST unless otherwise stated.

Credit Card payments are accepted at Swim Zone Te Aroha, Te Aroha Mineral Spas and Te Aroha Visitor Information Centre with no transaction fees charged back to the customer. Credit Card transactions are accepted for payment-on-line (i.e. E-services) and at Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha offices with transaction fees charged to the customer.

Version: For consultation



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Item 7.5

Attachment A

Key	
Change	Description
Inflation	Increased by inflation of 2.7% and rounded Please note, for some smaller fees, adding inflation will not result in a higher fee due to rounding. No comment provided.
None	No change to 2025/26 fee. No comment provided.
Increase	Comment provided.
Decrease	Comment provided.
Remove	Comment provided.
Wording	Usually for clarification or accuracy. Comment provided.
New	New fee added. Comment provided.
Fee structure	Comment provided.

Animal Control		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Keeping an unregistered dog may result in an infringement fee of \$300. Owners are legally responsible for keeping their dog under control at all times. Failure to do so is an offence under Section 53 of the Dog Control Act with a fine of up to \$3,000 or an infringement fee of \$200. Any dog found at large can be impounded at the owner's expense.					
Dog ownership fees *Payment after 31 July will result in a 50% penalty fee					
Full registration fee*		\$162.00	\$172.00	Increase	The registration fee has increased to reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy
Adoption fee	For dogs under 1 year adopted from the pound.	n/a	\$40.00	New	To remove barrier to adoption of these dogs

Animal Control		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
	Please note, dogs over 1 year of age – standard registration fee applies.				
Minus rebates/ bonus (below) if applicable					
Note: Rebate for <i>one</i> of the below: De-sexed dog Working dog Breeding dog owner registered with Dogs New Zealand					
		\$30.00	\$30.00	None	
Responsible Owner Rebate		\$15.00	\$15.00	None	
Bonus					
No complaints, impounding or infringements		\$35.00	\$35.00	None	
Other					
Classified dangerous dog		150% of the relevant fee applies	150% of the relevant fee applies	None	
Replacement tags		\$2.50	\$3.00	Inflation	
Dog impounding charges					
Impounding		\$100.00	\$100.00	None	
Second impounding		\$200.00	\$200.00		
Third and subsequent impounding in the same registration year		\$250.00	\$250.00		
Daily sustenance		\$15.00	\$16.00	Increase	To reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
Animal control microchipping		n/a	\$50.00	New	To provide a service
Vet Microchipping		\$76.00	\$81.00	Increase Wording	Add wording: Vet microchipping
Disposal of unclaimed / surrendered dog		\$75.00	\$80.00	Increase	To reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
Stock call out fees					
During office hours		\$153.00	\$165.00	Increase	To reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
After hours (inclusive of mileage)	Per call out	\$215.00	\$230.00		

Animal Control		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Impounding fee	Per head, plus all costs	\$61.00	\$65.00		
Daily sustenance	Per head	\$7.00	\$10.00		
All associated costs (i.e. transport, advertising)		Actual cost	Actual cost	None	

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
<p>1. All amounts are inclusive of GST, unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>2. The below fees are for Building Control only. You may incur additional fees for planning/ engineering approval, and development contribution assessments (if applicable).</p> <p>3. Fees marked with an *, CoAs (Certificate of Acceptance), PIMs (Project Information Memorandum) and Exemptions will also incur an Objective Build fee, an Accreditation fee and any applicable BRANZ and MBIE levies.</p> <p>4. Should any particular job significantly exceed the standard processing time an additional fee will be charged, based on the additional hours spent on the application.</p> <p>5. All fees are payable on application. An invoice will be sent to you shortly after the lodgement of your application and processing will not commence until payment has been received. Once the building consent has been granted, any additional processing time, and planning and engineering approval assessment charges will be payable (if applicable). Further charges may be applicable i.e. Minor Variation Fee etc.</p> <p>6. Building consent fees include the cost of the Code Compliance Certificate.</p> <p>7. Lapsed or Refused consents: Building consents lapsed prior to the first inspection being carried out or refused before the application is granted, will be refunded the charge already paid, less the cost of the work already carried out.</p>			Wording	<p>1. Add wording: unless otherwise stated</p> <p>5. Change wording: planning and engineering assessment charges</p> <p>8. Change wording: * These fees do not include: Objective Build fees, Accreditation levy, BRANZ and MBIE levies, any additional processing time (recoverable on an actual and reasonable basis as per the Building Act 2004 s281B), compliance Schedules (new or amended) or Planning/ Engineering/ Development Contribution assessment fees that may be applicable.</p> <p>10. Add wording: 10. Please note that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to those noted below and may be charged with the Building Consent</p>	

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
<p>8. *These fees do not include: Objective Build fees, Accreditation levy, BRANZ and MBIE levies, any additional processing time (recoverable on an actual and reasonable basis as per the Building Act 2004 s281B), compliance Schedules (new or amended) or Planning/ Engineering/ Development Contribution assessment fees that may be applicable. Further charges may also be applicable i.e. Minor Variation Fees etc.</p> <p>9. Development Contributions: Please be aware that there could be a development contribution fee charged for your building project. Development Contributions are payable under the Local Government Act 2002 for some projects. A Code Compliance Certificate will not be issued until the Development Contributions applicable to the project are paid in full. Development Contributions are adjusted at 1 July each year in accordance with our Development Contributions Policy.</p> <p>10. Please note that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to those noted below and may be charged with the Building Consent</p>					
Applicant meetings					
Pre-lodgement/ Building Consent/ Building Control Technical Officer meetings		First 30 minutes free, thereafter charged at \$205/ hour	First 30 minutes free, thereafter charged at \$218/ hour	Increase	
Minor works					
Inbuilt solid fuel heaters		\$640*	\$675.00*	Increase	
Minor plumbing or drainage					
Garden sheds (up to 20m2)					
Marquees					

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Solar heating panels					
Installation of basic warning system					
Swimming Pool Fencing (Fencing only)					
Free standing solid fuel heaters		\$515*	\$455.00*	Fee structure Increase	Removal of Fixed Objective Fee from charge, to be charged separately
Retrofit Codemarked Wall Insulation					
Standard Residential Building Works					
Carports/Garages					
Swimming Pools					
Decks and pergolas					
Shade sails/ archgolas/ conservatories		\$1,240.00*	\$1,310.00*	Fee structure, Increase	
Retaining wall (singular)					
Residential additions/alterations (less than 10m2)					
Structures					
Hay barns/ Implement sheds/ Bridges/ Reservoirs/ Dams/ Tanks		\$1,345.00*	\$1,415.00*	Fee structure, Increase	Base fee increased by 6% (please see note at top). Plus additional time costed to better reflect actual time incurred.
Stock Underpasses					
Retaining Walls (multiple)					
Outbuildings Habitable (with no Plumbing and Drainage)					
Sleep outs/ Office/ Studio		\$2,530.00*	\$2,675.00*	Fee structure, Increase	
Outbuildings Habitable (with Plumbing and Drainage)					

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment	
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.	
Sleep outs with toilet and shower		\$3,140.00*	\$3,330.00*	Fee structure, Increase		
Dairy sheds						
Dairy sheds		\$2,215.00*	\$2,335.00*	Fee structure, Increase		
Residential Alterations						
Between 10m2 and 30m2		\$2,530.00*	\$3,675.00*	Fee structure, Increase	Base fee increased by 6% (please see note at top). Plus additional time costed to better reflect actual time incurred.	
Exceeding 30m2		\$3,140.00*	\$3,300.00*			
Dwellings						
Single Storey Dwelling (up to 250m2)		\$4,175.00*	\$4,640.00*	Fee structure, Increase		
Single Storey Dwelling (over 250m2)/Two Storey Dwelling (up to 250m2)		\$5,090.00*	\$5,605.00*			
Two Storey Dwelling (over 250m2)/Three Storey Dwelling		\$6,010.00*	\$6,575.00*			
Re-sited/transportable dwellings		\$2,215.00*	\$2,445.00*			
Multi Proof consents						
Dwellings		\$3,300.00	\$3,705.00*	Fee structure, Increase		
Note: Objective Build, Accreditation, MBIE, BRANZ, planning and engineering fees will still apply						
New commercial/ Industrial buildings						
Buildings up to 100m2		\$6,770.00*	\$7,430.00*			
Buildings between 101m2 and 300m2		\$7,330.00*	\$8,085.00*			

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Buildings exceeding 300 m2		\$8,970.00*	\$9,830.00*	Fee structure, Increase	
Commercial Alterations and Additions					
Commercial Alterations and Additions (Up to 100m2) and Public Toilets and Commercial Fit Outs <\$500,000		\$3,950.00	\$4,580.00*		
Commercial Alterations and Additions (exceeding 100m2) and Commercial Fit Outs >\$500,000		\$3,950.00* Plus hourly rate for additional processing and inspecting	\$4,580.00* Plus hourly rate for additional processing and inspecting	Fee structure, Increase	
Other building related fees					
PIM (Project Information Memorandum) only applications (planning and engineering fees are additional)		\$500.00*	\$530.00*	Increase	
Project Information Memorandum (PIM) Applications for Small Stand-alone Dwelling - also known as Granny Flats		n/a	\$965.00*	New	In response to new legislation: Building and Construction (Small Stand-alone Dwellings) Amendment Act 2025
Minor variation (Minor amendments)		\$290.00	\$310.00*	Increase	
Amendment to a Building Consent	Processing and inspection costs (per hour), Objective Build. Government levies may also apply	At cost + \$90.00*	At cost + \$90.00*	Wording	Remove wording: Government levies may also apply
Waikato Waters Ltd charge		n/a	At cost	New	In preparation for transition of water and wastewater to Waikato Waters Ltd (WWL) in October 2026. Should Council be asked to

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
					recoup WWL on behalf of them this fee allows this to happen.
Additional Processing time					
Additional processing time over and above what is allowed for in standard fees	Per hour	\$205.00	\$218.00	Increase	
Additional Inspection Charges					
Additional inspections, not covered by the standard fee (for re-inspections of failed inspections)	Per hour	\$205.00	\$218.00	Increase	
Late cancellation charge for Inspections (inspection is cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice)					
Urgent Residential CCC					
Urgent Residential Code of Compliance Certificate (CCC) By request ONLY and subject to available resources - CCC will be processed within 3 working days		\$500.00	\$530.00	Increase	
External services					
Peer review		At cost +10%	At cost +10%	None	
Certificate for construction over two allotments (Section 75 Building Act 2004)					
Issue a Section 75 Certificate		At cost +10%	At cost +10%		
Notice when building on land subject to a natural hazard (Section 73 Building Act 2004)					
Process a Section 73 application		At cost +10%	At cost +10%		

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Applications for Certificate of Public Use (Sections 363a and 363b Building Act 2004)					
Issue a Certificate of Public Use		\$610.00	\$640.00	Increase	
Certificate of Acceptance (CoA)					
At cost of processing (hourly rate) plus fees that would have been charged if consent had been obtained before building work commenced.		*Cost of original consent plus per hour cost (\$205.00 per hour)	*Cost of original consent plus per hour cost (\$218 per hour)	Increase	
Application for Exemption from Building Consent					
Application for Exemption from Building Consent (Schedule 1, Building Act 2004)	Set fee plus Objective Build	*\$265.00	*\$280.00	Increase	
Extension of time/ Lapsing/ Refusals					
Process an extension of time		At cost	\$120.00 set fee	Increase Wording	Change wording: Refusal of a Building Consent / Code Compliance Certificate
Lapsing of a Building Consent					
Refusal of a Building Consent / Code Compliance Certificate					
Additional Administration Costs	Additional administration costs per hour	n/a	\$120.00	New	To cover any additional administration that may be required by the building unit.
Additional Building Control Officer (BCO) Costs	Additional Building Control Officer costs per hour	\$205.00	\$218.00	New	To cover any additional work by a Building Control Officer that may be required.
Compliance schedules					
New Compliance Schedules (Section 102 Building Act 2004)		\$260.00 plus a charge of	\$260.00 plus a charge of	Increase	
Amendments to existing Compliance Schedule (Section 106 and 107 Building Act 2004)		\$116.00 per	\$123.00 per		

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
		system or feature	system or feature		
Sale of Building Consent information					
Sale of Building Consent information	Per month	\$35.00	\$35.00	None	
Application for a Building Certificate					
Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, Section 100		\$275.00	\$290.00	Increase	
Accreditation Levy					
Payable on all building consents with an estimated value of \$20,000 and over, to cover costs of meeting criteria under the Building (Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006.		\$0.75 per \$1,000.00 of project value.	\$0.75 per \$1,000.00 of project value.	None	
Objective Build Fees – all excluding GST For period: 01/07/2026 – 01/11/2026				Wording	Add wording: - all excluding GST For period: 01/07/2026 – 01/11/2026
01/07/2025 – 10/11/2025 All consents marked * \$140 per application CoA/PIM/Exemptions \$140 per application 11/11/2025 – 30/06/2026 All consents marked * calculated at value of work For work valued at less than or equal to \$124,999 the fee is \$80 per application. For work with value equal to or more than \$125,000 the fee is calculated at 0.075% (capped at \$2,500,000) CoA less than or equal to \$125,000 = \$80 per application CoA more than \$125,000 = \$350 per application PIM/Exemption = \$80				Remove	

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is less than or equal to \$124,999 - set fee		\$80.00	\$80.00	Wording	Add wording: Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is less than or equal to \$124,999 - set fee
Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$125,000.00 capped at \$2,500,000		0.075% of the value of works	0.075% of the value of works	Wording	Add wording: Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$125,000.00 capped at \$2,500,000
Certificate of Acceptance where the value of work is less than or equal to \$124,999 - set fee		\$80.00	\$80.00	Wording	Add wording: Certificate of Acceptance where the value of work is less than or equal to \$124,999 - set fee
Certificate of Acceptance where the value of works is equal to or more than \$125,000 - set fee		\$350.00	\$350.00	Wording	Add wording: Certificate of Acceptance where the value of works is equal to or more than \$125,000 - set fee
Project Information Memorandum (excluding Granny Flats) - set fee		\$80.00	\$80.00	Wording	Add wording: Project Information Memorandum - set fee
Exemption application from a Building Consent - set fee		\$80.00	\$80.00	Wording	Add wording: Exemption application from a Building Consent - set fee
Remote Inspection fee (per inspection) - set fee Note: Not all inspections can be conducted remotely		n/a	\$38.00	New	New Objective Build fee
Application for a Project Information Memorandum (PIM) for Small Stand-alone Dwellings - also known as Granny Flats		n/a	\$250.00		
Objective Build Fees – all excluding GST				New	

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
For period: 02/11/2026 - 30/06/2027					
Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is less than or equal to \$124,999 - set fee		\$80.00	\$84.00	Increase	Increase from Objective Build
Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$125,000.00 up to and including the value of \$2,499,999.00 Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$125,000.00 capped at \$2,500,000		0.075% of the value of works	0.075% of the value of works	Wording	Change wording: Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$125,000.00 up to and including the value of \$2,499,999.00
Application for a Project Information Memorandum and/or Building Consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$2,500,00.00 - set fee		n/a	\$1,970.00	New	New Objective Build fee
Project Information Memorandum Application Only (Excluding Granny Flats) - set fee		\$80.00	\$84.00	Increase	Increase from Objective Build
Application for a Certificate of Acceptance where the value of work is less than or equal to \$124,999 - set fee		\$80.00	\$84.00		
Application for a Certificate of Acceptance where the value of works is equal to or more than \$125,000 - set fee		\$350.00	\$370.00	Increase	
Application for an amendment to a building consent with an amendment value of work equal to or less than \$124,999.99 - set fee Note: This fee also includes where there has been a reduction in the value of work		n/a	\$84.00	New	Amendment fee now identified separately to a Building Consent

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Application for an amendment to a building consent with an amendment value of work equal to or over \$125,000 up to and including \$2,499,999.99 - 0.075%		n/a	0.075% of the value of works		
Application for an amendment to a building consent where the value of work is equal to or over \$2,500,00.00 - set fee		n/a	\$1,970.00	New	Amendment fee now identified separately to a Building Consent
Exemption application from a Building Consent - set fee		\$80.00	\$84.00	Increase	Increase from Objective Build
Remote Inspection fee (per inspection) - set fee Note: Not all inspections can be conducted remotely		n/a	\$38.00	New	New Objective Build fee
Application for a Project Information Memorandum (PIM) for Small Stand-alone Dwellings - also known as Granny Flats		n/a	\$250.00		
Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ) Levy - set by statute					
For every building consent with an estimated value of \$20,000 and over \$1.00 per \$1,000 (x0.001) is payable. (Note: GST is not applicable to this levy).		\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of project value	\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of project value	None	
Building Performance (MBIE) Levy Set by Statute					
For every building consent with an estimated value of \$65,000 and over \$1.75 GST inclusive per \$1,000 (x0.00175) is payable. For every building consent major amendment where the original consent was issued before 1 July 2024, the levies applicable at the time of the original building consent issue will apply.		\$1.75 per \$1,000.00 of project value	\$1.75 per \$1,000.00 of project value	None	
Building Monitoring and Compliance				Wording	Change wording:

Building Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: Unless otherwise stated, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Building Warrant of Fitness				Moved to end of table	Building monitoring and compliance
Building Warrant of Fitness – audit of existing BWOFF Actual cost to audit existing BWOFF	Set fee per visit Per hour	\$205.00	\$218.00	Increase, Wording	Change wording: Building Warrant of Fitness – audit of existing BWOFF Change wording: Set fee per visit
Pool Inspections				Wording	Remove wording
Pool Safety Inspections	Set fee per visit	\$205.00	\$218.00	Increase, Wording	Add wording: Set fee per visit
Notice to fix (Section 164 and 167 Building Act 2004)				Wording	Remove wording
Issuing a Notice to Fix (Section 164 and 167 Building Act 2004) Process a 'Notice to Fix'	Set fee	\$420.00	\$450.00	Increase, Wording	Change wording: Issuing a Notice to Fix (Section 164 and 167 Building Act 2004) Add wording: Set fee
Monitoring of Building Act 2004 non-compliance	Per hour		\$185.50	New	Covers follow up work for non-compliant activities
Amusement Devices (Statutory Charge)				Moved to sit with other monitoring and compliance	
Fees set by Amusement Devices Regulations 1978: regulation 11, for approval to operate.				None	
A. One device for up to seven days	Set by Statute	\$11.50	\$11.50		
B. Additional device for up to seven days	Set by Statute	\$2.30	\$2.30		
C. Each device for every seven day period after first listing	Set by Statute	\$1.15	\$1.15		

Cemeteries		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with fees from other Waikato councils.
Plot fees					
Plot fee - Adult		\$2,988.00	\$3,200.00	Increase	
Plot fee - Child (under the age of 14 years)		\$1,489.00	\$1,600.00		
Plot fee - Single ashes		\$802.00	\$850.00		
Plot fee - Single ashes wall		\$625.00	\$750.00		
Plot fee - Double ashes wall		\$934.00	\$1,100.00		
Deposit for reserved plot		50% of plot type/ value	50% of plot type/ value	None	
Interment fees					
Interment fee - Adult burial		\$2,212.00	\$2,400.00	Increase	
Interment fee - Child burial (under the age of 14 years)		\$1,101.00	\$1,200.00		
Interment fee – Ashes in ground		\$309.00	\$330.00		
Interment fee – Ashes wall	Includes plaque installation	\$264.00	\$280.00		
Late interment fee	Arrival at Cemetery more than 1 hour after specified burial time. Will be charged in addition to the relevant interment charge.	\$175.00	\$230.00		
Disinterment fees					
Disinterment fee - Adult or child		At cost	At cost plus 30%	Increase	
Disinterment fee - Ashes (wall or in-ground)		\$309.00	\$330.00		
Matamata Cemetery only					

Cemeteries		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with fees from other Waikato councils.
Matamata Cemetery - Single RSA ashes wall	Wall 2	\$150.00	n/a	Remove	Wall is full
Matamata Cemetery - Single RSA ashes wall	Wall 3	\$635.00	\$680.00	Increase	
Matamata Cemetery - Two adjacent single plots for a double interment RSA ashes wall		\$934.00	\$990.00		
Matamata Cemetery - Matamata Memorial Garden		\$256.00	\$280.00		
Piako Lawn Cemetery					
Piako Lawn Cemetery - Still born (Plaque installation only – no interment)		\$150.00	\$160.00	Increase	
Piako Lawn Cemetery - Still born (Interment only)		\$264.00	\$280.00		
Piako Lawn Cemetery - Still born (Plaque installation and interment)		\$309.00	\$330.00		
Te Aroha Cemetery					
Te Aroha Cemetery - Still born (Plaque installation only – no interment)		\$150.00	\$160.00	Increase	
Additional costs (if applicable)					
Vase Installation (Ashes Walls)		\$85.00	\$90.00	Increase	
Plaque/Memorial Installation (Ashes Walls)		\$145.00	\$160.00		
Breaking concrete & reinstatement	Per m3 concrete and hourly rate	At cost	At cost plus 30%		
Weekend fees (burial only)		\$642.00	\$680.00		
Weekend fees (ashes only)		\$271.00	\$290.00		
Public holiday fee (burial only)		\$851.00	\$900.00		
Public holiday fee (ashes only)		\$489.00	\$520.00		
Request to change reserved plot		\$60.00	\$65.00		
Request to change warrant		\$120.00	\$130.00		
Request to sell back reserved plot to Council		\$60.00	\$60.00		
Admin fee for unpaid reserved plot		\$60.00	\$60.00		

Cemeteries		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with fees from other Waikato councils.
Monument permit installation application fee		\$70.00	\$70.00	Wording Increase	Change wording: Monument permit installation fee
Monument permit installation application fee - RSA		No charge	No charge	Wording	Change wording: Monument permit installation fee - RSA

Communications		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Photos					
Community Groups and other organisations, where there is a benefit to Council		Free	Free	None	
Commercial / Other organisation	Standard Photo	\$52.00	\$52.00		
	Panoramic Photo	\$103.00	\$103.00		
Filming permit					
Community Groups and other organisations, where there is a benefit to Council		\$30.00	\$30.00	None	
Commercial / Other organisation		\$150.00	\$150.00		
Filming location					
Sole use of Council property for filming. Council will issue invoice and require payment upon receipt.	During work hours 8am-5pm (maximum 9 hours)	\$1000 per day	\$1000 per day	None	Change wording: (maximum 5 hours)
	After hours 5pm-10pm (maximum 5 hours)	\$750 per day	\$750 per day	Wording	

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Definition of Casual / Regular Hirer, Alcohol Served, Commercial, Non Commercial see Notes Information about Event Facilitator Assistance see Notes Event Facility bookings of 3 or more consecutive days will have hourly rates capped at 10 hours per day maximum. Bond waived if making 10 or more bookings per year. These bookings/payments must be made in a single transaction. Abbreviations for MPDC Event Centres: Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre (MMCC) Silver Fern Farms Event Centre (SFFEC) Morrinsville Event Centre (MEC) Headon Event Centre (HEC) Open Country Stadium Matamata (OCCS)					
Bond					
No alcohol served (Low risk)		\$200-	\$200-	None	
Alcohol served (High risk)		\$1,000	\$1,000		
Court access					
SFFEC – Number of courts x2 MEC – Number of courts x2 HEC – Number of courts x1 OCCS – Number of courts x 2					
Opening time until 6pm	Per court per hour	\$20.00	\$25.00	Increase	
6pm until closing time	Per court per hour	\$30.00	\$35.00		
Changing rooms	Per changing room	\$40.00	\$50.00		
Small meeting room				Wording	Add wording: meeting room
MMCC: Te Tauihu Room SFFEC: Front Office				Wording	Change wording: MMCC: Te Tauihu Room

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
MEC: Committee Room, Meeting Room					MEC: Committee Room Other spaces now only available to Council staff
Non-commercial	Per room per hour	\$10.00	\$15.00	Increase	
Commercial	Per room per hour	\$20.00	\$30.00		
Medium Small (under 100)				Wording	Change wording to: Small (under 100)
MMCC: Tainui 4 room (40 people, theatre style) SFEC: Seales Winslow room, Ballance room (100 people each room) MEC: Motumaoho room (80 people, theatre style) HEC: Rose Yorke room (20 people, theatre style) OCCS: Multifunction room (30 people, theatre style)				Wording	Change wording: MMCC: Tainui room (40 people, theatre style) SFEC: Seales Winslow room, Ballance room (100 people each room) MEC: Motumaoho room (80 people, theatre style) HEC: Rose Yorke room (20 people, theatre style) OCCS: Multifunction room (30 people, theatre style)
Non-commercial	Per room per hour	\$15.00	\$20.00	Increase	
Commercial	Per room per hour	\$40.00	\$40.00	None	
Large Medium (100-200)				Wording	Change wording: Medium (100-200)
MMCC – Te Takere Room (1/3 of Hall) (150 people, theatre style) SFEC – Seales Winslow Room, and Ballance Room combined (100 people each room)				Wording	Change wording: MMCC – Te Takere Room (1/3 of Hall) (150 people, theatre style) SFEC – Seales Winslow Room, Ballance Room (100 people each room)
Non-commercial	Per room per hour	\$20.00	\$25.00	Increase	
Commercial	Per room per hour	\$50.00	\$50.00	None	
Extra Large Large (200-300)				Wording	Change wording: Large (200-300)
MMCC – Te Taurapa Room (2/3 of Hall) (250 people theatre style)				Wording	Change wording:

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
SF FEC: Seales Winslow Room and Ballance Room combined (200 people theatre style)					MMCC – Te Taurapa Room (2/3 of Hall) (250 people theatre style) SF FEC: Seales Winslow Room and Ballance Room combined (200 people theatre style)
Non-commercial	Per room per hour	\$25.00	\$30.00	Increase	
Commercial	Per room per hour	\$75.00	\$60.00	Decrease	So that commercial rate is double non-commercial
Extra Large (300+)				Wording	Change wording: Extra Large (300+)
MMCC – Memorial Hall (Full hall - Te Takere and Te Taurapa Rooms, including kitchen) (350 people, theatre style)				Wording	Change wording: MMCC – Memorial Hall (Full hall - Te Takere and Te Taurapa Rooms, including kitchen) (350 people, theatre style)
Non-commercial	Per room per hour	\$40.00	\$55.00	Increase	
Commercial	Per room per hour	\$150.00	\$110.00	Decrease	So that commercial rate is double non-commercial
Whole Facility	Minimum 2 hours			Wording	Add wording: Minimum 2 hours
MMCC					
Non-Commercial	Hourly rate	\$65.00	\$90.00	Increase	
Commercial	Hourly rate	\$220.00	\$180.00	Decrease	So that commercial rate is double non-commercial
SF FEC	Includes 2 x courts, Ballance and Seales Winslow room, toilets, kitchen (changing rooms not included)			Wording	Add wording: Includes 2 x courts, Ballance and Seales Winslow room, toilets, kitchen (changing rooms not included)
Non-Commercial	Hourly rate	\$85.00	\$105.00	Increase	
Commercial	Hourly rate	\$115.00	\$210.00		
HEC					

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Non-Commercial	Hourly rate	\$60.00	\$45.00	Decrease	So that non-commercial rate is half commercial rate
Commercial	Hourly rate	\$85.00	\$90.00	Increase	
MEC					
Non-Commercial	Hourly rate	\$85.00	\$85.00	None	
Commercial	Hourly rate	\$115.00	\$170.00	Increase	
OCCS					
Non-Commercial			\$55.00	None	
Commercial			\$110.00		
Domain Pavilion – Te Aroha Domain					
Non-Commercial	Hourly rate	\$15.00	\$20.00	Increase	
Commercial	Hourly rate	\$31.00	\$40.00		
Bond for casual hirers (no alcohol served)	Per day	\$53.00	\$200-\$1000 depending on event risk	Fee structure Wording	Remove wording: Per day
Bond for casual hirers (alcohol served)	Per day	\$277.00	\$200-\$1000 depending on event risk	Fee structure Wording	Remove wording: Per day
Additional Fees					
Security/traffic management – Council may require large or high risk events to have additional measures in place for the event		At actual cost	At actual cost	None	

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Replacement/loss of access card		\$54.00	At cost	Fee structure	
Damage to facility		Bond plus actual cost	Bond plus actual cost	None	
Carpet clean		Actual cost – minimum \$150.00	At cost	Fee structure	
After hours Call out (e.g. insecure building, fire brigade). Only charged when user is at fault		At cost	At cost	Wording	Change wording: Call out (e.g. insecure building, fire brigade). Only charged when user is at fault
Cleaning if required, where the venue is left in an unsatisfactory condition (e.g. dishes left in kitchen, significant rubbish left behind, decorations left in place)	Actual cost per hour	Minimum \$75.00	At cost	Fee structure	
Set up and pack up/Events Facilitator assistance (if required)	Per hour	\$50.00	\$60.00	Increase	
Optional additional extras					
Tea, percolator coffee, juice	Per person	\$5.00	\$5.00	None	
Tablecloths (laundry included)	Per cloth	\$15.00	\$20.00	Increase	
Stage		\$55.00	\$70.00		
Carpet tiles - 1 court (required for all non-sport events on the courts)		\$350.00	\$430.00		
Carpet tiles - 2 courts (required for all non-sport events on the courts)		\$550.00	\$675.00		
Additional rubbish bins	Per bin	\$20.00	\$25.00	Increase	
Firth Tower Historical Reserve					
General admission to reserve grounds only		No charge	No charge	None	

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
General admissions to buildings and displays for individuals (is determined by the Matamata Historical Society)		See current fees at Firth Tower	See current fees at Firth Tower		
Facilitated historical activities by Firth Tower staff for groups	Per activity	\$35.00	\$35.00		
Groups / schools (including 2 non-facilitated activities)	Per person	\$5.00	\$5.00		
Events at Firth Tower					
Photos		\$65.00	\$80.00		
Event venue hire (funeral or wedding ceremony, photos, buildings or reserve access)	Between 9am and 5pm	\$600.00	\$700.00	Increase	
Set up and pack up assistance (if required)	Per hour outside of opening hours	\$50.00	\$50.00	None	
Event bond	Bond (no alcohol served)	\$200.00	n/a	Remove	
Heritage room hire					
Non-commercial – hourly rate	Per hour	\$15.00	\$20.00	Increase	
Commercial – hourly rate	Per hour	\$40.00	\$40.00	None	
Campervans (unpowered)	Per campervan per night	\$15.00	\$20.00	Increase	
Campervans (powered)	Per campervan per night	\$20.00	\$25.00		
Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome					
The first of any of the following types of movements are charged at landing rates: landing, touch and go, approach and go. Direct bank payments must be made within 10 days or will revert to the invoiced rate. No cash option on site.					
Annual landing/ movement fee - recreational users (non-commercial)	Per year	\$165.00	\$203.00	Increase	

Community Venues		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Recreational operator – direct credit - per landing/ movement	Per day	\$12.00	\$21.00	Increase	
Commercial operator - direct credit - per landing/ movement per day (paid by the 10 th day of the following month)	Per day Per landing	\$26.00	\$32.00	Increase Wording	Change wording: Per landing
Recreational and commercial operator – invoiced – per landing/ movement	Per day	\$56.00	\$62.00	Increase	
Camping					
Public camping closed. Commercial camping only granted by permission from MPDC					
Adults					
Un-powered site	Per person/per day	\$15.00	\$15.00	None	
Powered site	Per person/per day	\$19.00	\$20.00	Increase	
Soaring Centre bunk room	Per person/per day	\$14.00	\$15.00		
Children					
Camping (under 16 years)	Per person/per day	\$8.00	\$8.00	None	

Customer Services		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Official information charges					
Time - first hour or part there of		Free	Free	None	
Time - after first hour	Per half hour or part there of	\$38.00	\$38.00		
Pages copied - first 20 A4 (or smaller) pages free	Over 20 pages/per page	\$0.50	\$0.20	Reduce	For consistency with Ombudsman Charging Guidelines
A3 printing, other materials, viewing arrangements		At cost	At cost	None	
Access to files					
Simple file (including property owner)		\$30.00	\$31.00	Inflation	

Customer Services		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Complex files - e.g. business or industrial establishments (including property owner)		\$65.00	\$67.00		
Building and resource consent files		\$25.00	\$26.00		
Recovery of file from off-site		\$70.00	\$72.00		
Record of Title and deposited plan search (searches are performed only to satisfy Resource Consents and Building Consents requirements, we do not do general public searches)	Per title	\$35.00	\$36.00		
Access to register information	Per month	\$22.00	\$23.00		
Supporting documents for search (Instruments registered against the title for example encumbrances, consents notices etc.)	Each per instrument	\$15.00	\$15.00	None	
Photocopying/ GIS and mapping services					
Black and white photocopying/ printing					
External A4	Per page	\$0.50	\$0.50	None	
External A3	Per page	\$1.00	\$1.00		
Colour photocopying/ printing					
External A4	Per page	\$2.00	\$2.00	None	
External A3	Per page	\$4.00	\$4.00		
GIS					
GIS charge out rate	Per page	\$67.00	\$69.00	Inflation	
	Minimum charge	\$34.00	\$35.00		
Policies, plans, bylaws, reports, agendas and minutes					
Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, Annual Report, Bylaws and all other policies, plans, agendas and minutes	Per page		See photocopying fees above	Wording	Add wording: See photocopying fees above
Land Information Memorandum (electronic)					
Changes to the information requirements for LIMs come into effect 1 July 2025.				Wording	Remove wording, no longer applicable.
There may be the need to remove the urgent LIM fees and increase the base LIM fee.					
Standard Land Information Memorandum (LIM) – Residential / Rural	(10 working days)	\$320.00	\$380.00	Increase Wording	Add wording: Residential/ Rural

Customer Services		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Increased complexity and time to fulfil new LIM regulations
Urgent Land Information Memorandum (LIM) – Residential / Rural	(3 working days) (5 working days)	\$470.00	\$530.00	Increase Wording	Add wording: Residential/ Rural Change wording: (5 working days) Increased complexity and time to fulfil new LIM regulations
Standard business/industrial establishment Land Information Memorandum (LIM)	(10 working days)	\$530.00	\$580.00	Increase	Increased complexity and time to fulfil new LIM regulations
Urgent business/industrial establishment Land Information Memorandum (LIM)	(5 working days)	\$680.00		Remove	Increased complexity and time to fulfil new LIM regulations
Printed copy of LIM charged as per Official Information charges		Charged as per Official Information charges	Charged as per Official Information charges	None	
Additional processing charge for Water and Wastewater information	Where required	n/a	At cost	New	To recover any cost associated with obtaining water and wastewater information from Waikato Water Ltd.
Rates Refund					
Requests to refund credit balances on rates account at time of property settlement	This fee is for any request for refund of any credit balance on the rates account	\$50.00	\$50.00	None	
See Notes for Official Information charges					

Engineering		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Graduate Engineer	Per hour	\$175.00	\$186.00	Increase	To align fees across activities
Surveyor	Per hour	\$186.00	\$191.00	Inflation	
Engineering Officer	Per hour	\$196.00	\$208.00	Increase	To align fees across activities
Senior/Design Engineer	Per hour	\$212.00	\$225.00		
Team Leaders	Per hour	\$232.00	\$246.00		
Roading Manager	Per hour	\$248.00	\$263.00		
Group Manager Infrastructure Assets and Operations	Per hour	\$258.00	\$273.00		

General Property		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Council boardroom facilities	If cancellation notice is received within 7 days prior to the event – no refund. Only available during Council office hours				
Interview rooms (interview rooms in Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha)	Per hour	\$10.00	\$10.00	Wording	Add wording: Morrinsville
Boardroom hire - not including kitchen	Per hour	\$15.00	\$15.00	None	
Boardroom – including kitchen	Per day	\$65.00	\$65.00		
Boardroom - kitchen only	Per hour	\$10.00	\$10.00		
Lease arrangement set up cost					
Lease where annual lease payments to Council are less than \$200.00		\$287.00	\$295.00	Inflation	
Lease where annual lease payments to Council are more than \$200.00		\$584.00	\$600.00		
Rural Community Halls					
Fees for the hireage of rural community halls are set by each respective Rural Hall Committee. Contact details for each hall can be found here .				None	

Independent Commissioner		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Engaging external commissioner/s to hear an application		Actual cost	Actual cost	None	
Secretarial and administrative support	Per hour	\$100.00	\$120.00	Increase	For consistency of administration fees across activities
Staff time in preparing, organising and holding a hearing	Per hour	\$186.00	\$191.00	Inflation	
Additional equipment, materials or meeting space required for the hearing		Actual cost	Actual cost	None	

Legal		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
In house services (performed by Council's legal staff)	Legal per hour	\$263.00	\$270.00	Inflation	

Legal		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
	Administration per hour	\$100.00	\$120.00	Increase	For consistency of administration fees across activities
External services (performed by external legal firms)		Actual cost	Actual cost	None	

Libraries		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Hot picks	Per book (2 week issue only)	\$5.00	\$5.00	None	
Inter loans fee – requests outside MPDC	Plus associated fees	\$10.00	\$10.00		
Internet and email – ½ hour per person per day		No charge	No charge		
Photocopying – A4 side – black and white	Self service	\$0.20	\$0.20		
Photocopying – A3 side – black and white	Self service	\$0.40	\$0.40		
Photocopying – A4 side – colour	Self service	\$1.00	\$1.00		
Photocopying – A3 side – colour	Self service	\$2.00	\$2.00		
Printing- black and white - per side	Self service	\$0.20	\$0.20		
Printing - A4 page – colour – per side	Self service	\$1.00	\$1.00		
Talking books	From	\$2.00	\$2.00		
Borrow non-book item		Price varies	Price varies		
Replacement cards		\$5.00	\$5.00		
Withdrawn books	Prices at the library manager’s discretion.	Charges vary between \$0.20-\$2.00	Charges vary between \$0.20-\$2.00		
PC scanning		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Lost books/item – replacement cost	Charge of book plus admin charge	\$16.00	\$16.00		
Local request delivery		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Library Merchandise and consumables		Price varies	Price varies	Wording	Add wording: and consumables
Membership charge for non-residents from non-reciprocal districts (exemptions can be applied on a case by case basis)	Annual membership fee	\$62.00	\$64.00	Inflation	
Meeting rooms	Per hour	\$10.00	\$10.00	None	

Libraries		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Pop-up meeting space	Per hour	\$5.00-\$10.00	\$5.00 -\$10		

Licensing and Enforcement		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.					
Health licences - Health Act 1956 and associated regulations					
Camping grounds		\$356.00	\$380.00	Increase	
Funeral directors		\$129.00	\$140.00		
Mortuaries		\$294.00	\$315.00		
Additional inspections	Per hour	\$196.00	\$210.00		
Change of ownership		\$129.00	\$140.00		
Penalty for all registrations if not applied and paid for, by 30 June each year for hairdressers** and camping grounds, and by 31 May each year for funeral directors and mortuaries.		\$206.00	\$220.00	Wording	Remove wording: hairdressers
Food Act 2014					
Food Control Plan					
Application for new registration of template food control plan*		\$263.00	\$280.00	Increase, Wording	Remove wording: *Statutory MPI levy and MPI levy admin fee are also payable
Application for renewal of template food control plan*		\$206.00	\$220.00		
*Statutory MPI levy and MPI levy admin fee are also payable					
Application for amendment of registration of template food control plan		\$200.00	\$215.00	Increase	
Voluntary suspension of food control plan		\$200.00	\$215.00		

Licensing and Enforcement		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
*Statutory MPI Levy fee	Payable with registration and renewal of registration	\$66.13	\$99.19	Wording	Add wording: Payable with registration and renewal of registration Increase in costs as proposed by MPI
*Statutory MPI Levy Admin fee	Payable with registration and renewal of registration	\$12.65	\$12.65		
National Programme					
Application for new registration of a national programme*		\$263.00	\$280.00	Increase, Wording	Remove wording: *Mandatory MPI levy and MPI levy admin fee are also payable
*Mandatory MPI levy and MPI levy admin fee are also payable					
Application for renewal of a national programme*		\$206.00	\$220.00	Increase	
*Mandatory MPI levy and MPI levy admin fee are also payable					
Application for amendment of registration of a national programme		\$200.00	\$215.00		
Voluntary suspension of a national programme		\$200.00	\$212.00		
*Statutory MPI Levy fee	Payable with registration and renewal of registration	\$66.13	\$99.19	Wording, Increase	Add wording: Payable with registration and renewal of registration Increase in costs as proposed by MPI
*Statutory MPI Levy Admin fee	Payable with registration and renewal of registration	\$12.65	\$12.65		
Processing charges					
All verification activities including pre-registration assistance, annual audit, reporting non-compliance visits and any activity not specified in the schedule above (Environmental Health Officer)	Per hour	\$196.00	\$210.00	Increase	
Administration	Per hour	\$100.00	\$120.00		

Licensing and Enforcement		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
					Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
Copies of food control plan or national programme		\$62.00	\$65.00		
Mobile Shops					
Mobile shops		\$310.00	\$330.00	Increase	
Gambling venue (Class 4 consent)					
All applications that require a deposit will be charged at actual processing cost					
That meets all the criteria	Deposit only	\$1,500.00	n/a	Remove	
Application deposit	Deposit only	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Wording	Change wording: Application deposit
That doesn't meet all the criteria					
Noise control					
Return of seized stereo		\$200.00	\$200.00	None	
Alarm deactivation/ disarming		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Alcohol licences					
Application fee for new licences, renewals of licences and variations to licences	See schedule in the Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw here			Increase	Increased as per Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw
Special licenses					
Temporary authority, temporary license					
Other fees	Set by statute			Wording	Remove wording: set by statute
Manager's certificate application	Set by statute	\$316.25	\$316.25	None	
Appeal to Alcohol Regulatory & Licensing Authority (ARLA)	Set by statute	\$517.50	n/a	Remove	Charged directly by ARLA
Extract of register (ARLA or District Licensing Committee)	See schedule in the Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw here			Increase	This fee is now listed in the Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw
Parks and Open Spaces		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
There is no GST on bonds for parks.					

Parks and Open Spaces		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
If cancellation notice is received within 7 days prior to the event - no refund. Definition of Community Group, Sports Park, Casual Hirer, Alcohol Served, Commercial see notes at end of this document					
Standard charges – all parks					
Booking fee - required per booking or group of bookings if made at one time	Does not apply to Community Groups	\$25.00	\$30.00	Inflation	
Daily charge - Sports Parks		\$62.00	\$65.00		
Daily charge - this is for all other parks and reserves that are not listed as Sports Parks e.g. Hetana Street Reserve (Railside / The Village Green) Howie Park, Te Aroha Domain.		\$26.00	\$30.00		
Bond for casual hirers		\$277.00	\$284.00		
Key bond (where applicable)	Per set of keys	\$26.00	\$27.00		
Optional extras - all parks (all users, including community groups)					
Charge per vehicle per night for booked groups on Council parks and reserves	Per vehicle per night	\$10.00	\$10.00	None	
Rubbish bins, above what is normally provided in the park	Per additional bin. Daily charge	\$21.00	\$22.00	Wording Inflation	Add wording: Daily charge
Wedding/ event site preparation (e.g. additional mowing prior to event)		\$103.00	\$106.00	Inflation	
Power service charge (if available)	Per day	\$77.00	\$80.00		
Gate locking/ unlocking (if required after hours/ weekends)	Per locking/ unlocking	\$77.00	\$80.00	Wording	Add wording: (if required after hours/ weekends).
Additional toilet clean		n/a	\$100.00	New	To recover costs of providing this service when requested.
Commercial activities - all parks					
Hire	Daily charge	\$722.00	\$800.00	Increase Wording	To cover administration of larger events. Add wording: Daily charge
Building / Facilities	For facilities such as Event Centres and Sports Stadiums, see Community Venues section				
AR Johns Building - Boyd Park, Te Aroha					
Daily charge (daily charge rates will be pro-rated on an hourly basis for regular bookings that cover	per 1/2 day (maximum 6 hours)	\$93.00	\$96.00	Inflation	

Parks and Open Spaces		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
one school term or a period of three months or more)	Per day	\$144.00	\$148.00		
Bond for casual hirers (no alcohol served)	Per day	\$53.00	\$54.00		
Bond for casual hirers (alcohol served)	Per day	\$277.00	\$284.00		
Domain House - Te Aroha Domain					
All hirers (lower rates for use of Domain House for three days or more may be negotiated)	per day	\$53.00	n/a	Remove	This is currently Domain House Beauty so not available for hire.
Bond for casual hirers (no alcohol served)	per day	\$53.00			
Bond for casual hirers (alcohol served)	per day	\$277.00			
Domain Pavilion - Te Aroha Domain					
Hire	Per hour	\$15.00 Community Group \$31.00 Commercial	n/a	Move to other activity	This has been moved to the Community Venues section.
Bond for casual hirers (no alcohol served)	Per day	\$51.00			
Bond for casual hirers (alcohol served)	Per day	\$277.00			
Billboard Sign - Skidmore Reserve, Te Aroha					
Billboard events sign boards (includes sign and installation)		\$80.00	\$80.00	None	

Resource Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Reason for increases in this activity: To slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.					
Regulatory planning charges					
Set-up fee (disbursements)	Per hour	\$100.00	\$120.00	Increase	
Administration	Per hour	\$100.00	\$120.00		
Graduate Consents Planner / Third Year Intern	Per hour	\$175.00	\$186.00		

Resource Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Intermediate Consents Planner / Planning Guidance Officer	Per hour	\$196.00	\$208.00		
Senior Consents Planner	Per hour	\$212.00	\$225.00		
Team Leader Resource Consents	Per hour	\$232.00	\$246.00		
Planning Manager / Group Manager Growth and Regulation	Per hour	\$248.00	\$263.00		
Monitoring	Per hour	\$175.00	\$186.00		
Planning Officer Processing of completion certificates (s224)	Per hour	\$175.00	\$186.00	Increase, Wording	Change wording: Planning Officer
Team Leader Consents Engineer	Per hour	\$232.00	\$246.00	Increase	
Consents Engineer	Per hour	\$196.00	\$208.00		
Senior Consents Engineer	Per hour	\$212.00	\$225.00		
Legal – in house - refer legal section in fees and charges					
External consultants (e.g. processing planner/engineer)		Actual cost plus 5%	Actual cost plus 5%	No change	
Technical reports (e.g. peer review)					
Commissioners – independent					
Commissioners – Councillors - In accordance with Remuneration Authority Act 1977		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Venue hire		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Reports requested by commission		Actual cost plus 5%	Actual cost plus 5%		
Pre-lodgement meetings		First 30 minutes free Thereafter charged at the officer's hourly rate	First 30 minutes free Thereafter charged at the officer's hourly rate		
Sale of planning consent information	Per month	\$80.00	\$82.00	Inflation	
Consent deposits and set fees					
All applications that require a deposit will be charged at actual processing costs					
Minor subdivision 1-9 lots	Deposit	\$4,000.00	\$4,108.00	Inflation	

Resource Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Major subdivision 10+ lots	Deposit	\$9,000.00	\$9,243.00		
Land use					
For breaches of development controls (such as household recreation space and site coverage)	Deposit (includes 1 hour of monitoring)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	None	
Vehicle crossing only	Deposit (includes 1 hour of monitoring)	\$1,000.00	\$1,027.00	Inflation	
Combined minor subdivision and land use	Deposit	\$4,000.00	\$4,108.00		
Combined major subdivision and land use	Deposit	\$10,000.00	\$10,270.00		
Peat hazard land use consent - including monitoring	Set fee			None	
Second hand building land use consent - including 1 hour deposit for monitoring	Set fee	\$1,000.00	\$1,310.00	Increase	
Permitted boundary activities	Set fee	\$500.00	\$500.00	None	
Marginal and temporary activities	Deposit	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	None	
Front yard encroachment land use consent (only applies where written approval from the affected parties are submitted with the application and there are no other matters of non-compliance - includes 1 hour deposit for monitoring)	Set fee	\$1,000.00	\$1,310.00	Increase	
Limited notified applications (in addition to other deposits)	Deposit	\$9,000.00	\$9,245.00	Inflation	
Publicly notified applications (in addition to other deposits)	Deposit	\$6,000.00	\$6,162.00		
Public or limited notified applications requiring a hearing	Deposit	\$10,000.00	\$10,270.00		
Boundary adjustments	Deposit	\$2,000.00	\$2,054.00		
Land Transfer Plan Approval 0-5 lots (s223 RMA)	Set fee	\$500.00	n/a	Fee structure	These three fees to be merged into one with a standard deposit amount.
Land Transfer Plan Approval 6-10 lots (s223 RMA)	Set fee	\$800.00	n/a		
Land Transfer Plan Approval Fee 11 or more lots (s223 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,000.00	\$515.00		
Approval of consent conditions (s224 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,000.00	\$1,027.00	Inflation	Inflation
Extensions of time (s125 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,541.00		
Variations or cancellation of a consent condition (s127 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,541.00		

Resource Consents and Monitoring		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Variations or cancellation of a consent notice (s221 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,541.00		
Release of minor works bond	Deposit	\$500.00	\$514.00		
Cancellation or variation of easements, building line restrictions and cancellation of compulsory amalgamations conditions (s241 and s243 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,541.00		
Easements not requiring subdivision consent (s348 LGA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,541.00		
Surrender of consent	Deposit	\$1,000.00	\$515.00	Reduce	
Surrender of consent as required by a condition of consent	Deposit Set Fee	\$500.00	\$250.00	Reduce, Fee Structure	
Designation or heritage order	Deposit	\$3,000.00	\$3,090.00	Inflation	Inflation
Alteration of designation or heritage order	Deposit	\$3,000.00	\$3,090.00		
Outline plan (s176a RMA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,545.00		
Outline plan waiver	Deposit	\$500.00	\$515.00		
Certificate of compliance (s139 RMA)	Deposit	\$1,500.00	\$1,545.00		
Existing Use Rights Certificate (s139A RMA)	Deposit	\$5,000.00	\$5,135.00		
Alcohol licensing certificate for a new premises	Set fee	\$400.00	\$415.00		
Alcohol licensing certificate for an existing premises	Set fee	\$155.00	\$160.00		
Building consent processing – refer building consents and monitoring section		Hourly rates	Hourly rates	None	
All other functions under the RMA – refer regulatory planning charges		Hourly rates	Hourly rates		
Vehicle entrances - see Roading					
Note: Please note that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to those noted below and may be charged with the Building Consent			At cost	New	

Roading		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Overweight/ high productivity vehicle permit application					
Processing of permit - no supervision	Per permit	\$127.00	\$130.00	Inflation	
Processing renewal of existing permit	Per permit	\$59.00	\$61.00		
Additional supervision cost	Per permit	\$292.00	\$300.00		
Non notification which includes pavement and structural investigation work		\$754.00	\$774.00		
Note: Any fees and charges that may be applicable for new overweight licensing requirements will be addressed at the time any new requirements come into force.					
RAPID number					
New RAPID number		No charge	No charge	None	
Replacement of a RAPID number		No charge	No charge		
Roading events - non road closure					
Application - fundraising/ community events		\$30.00	\$31.00	Inflation	
Application - private events		\$127.00	\$130.00		
Roading events - road closures (including advertising)					
Closures requiring calls for submissions:					
Fundraising/community events		\$520.00	\$534.00	Inflation	
Private events		\$637.00	\$654.00		
Closures not requiring calls for submissions:					
Private events/ utility work		\$520.00	\$534.00	Inflation	
Corridor access requests (CAR)					
Application fee:					
Standard CAR		\$250.00	\$257.00	Inflation	
Works Access Permit (WAP) / Date extension		\$50.00	\$90.00	Increase	To better reflect cost recovery
Project work (exceeding 28 days)		\$550.00	\$565.00	Inflation	
Generic Traffic Management Plan (TMP) (multiple sites up to a period of 12 months)		\$600.00	\$680.00	Increase	To better reflect cost recovery. Allows multiple use over 12 months.
Further inspections due to non-compliance	Per inspection	\$213.00	\$219.00	Inflation	
Non-notification cost		\$738.00	\$758.00	Inflation	

Roading		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Late completion of works or failure to return sites to pre-existing conditions as per Council requirements and Utilities Code			\$200.00	New	Cost recovery for delays and staff time to follow up
Additional management and administration fees including meetings, site visits and administration work			\$200.00	New	For additional works and site visits undertaken post CAR approval.
Issuing Stop Works Order			\$250.00	New	Issuing Stop Works for non-compliance or non-approved work including administration
Vehicle Crossings					
Application for a new/upgraded vehicle crossing not part of a subdivision or building consent		\$380.00	\$416.00	Increase	Aligns with 2 hours of Consents Engineer's time
CAR / TMP processing	Per entrance	\$125.00	\$128.00	Inflation. Wording change.	Add wording; per entrance
Further inspections due to non-compliance	Per inspection	\$190.00	\$195.00	Inflation	
Stock underpasses (also refer building section)					
Applications (including all inspections)		\$955.00	\$981.00	Inflation	
Further inspections due to non-compliance	Per inspection	\$213.00	\$219.00	Inflation	
Fence permits					
Applications (including first inspection)		No charge	No charge	None	
Further inspections due to non-compliance	Per inspection	\$213.00	\$219.00	Inflation	
Stock permits					
Applications (including first inspection)		No charge	No charge	None	
Further inspections due to non-compliance	Per inspection	\$213.00	\$219.00	Inflation	
Abandoned vehicles					
Vehicles taken into custody (where owner can be identified)	For towing and storage (if required)	Actual cost	Actual cost	None	
Disposal fee (where owner can be identified)	For towing and storage (if required)	Actual cost	Actual cost	None	
Skateboard infringements					
First confiscation		No fee	n/a	Remove	Not used.
Second confiscation		\$40.00			
Third and subsequent confiscations		\$74.00			

Rubbish		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Transfer stations are located in Matamata, Morrinsville and Waihou. Charges based on weight rather than volume. All vehicles pass over a weigh bridge and fee applied according to weight of refuse or green waste. Minimum charge applied for small loads.					
Replacement / delivery of bin:					
25 litre food waste bin	Included in targeted rates	Free	Free	None	
120 litre wheelie bin for refuse collection fortnightly	Included in targeted rates	Free	Free		
240 litre wheelie bin for recyclables	Included in targeted rates	Free	Free		
45 litre glass crate	Included in targeted rates	Free	Free		
Upon request to join kerbside collection service					
Provision of (including delivery):		The fee is charged at a varying rate based on 1/12th of the kerbside collection targeted rate for the current year multiplied by the number of full months to June that the service will be provided. The property will be rated for the service	The fee is charged at a varying rate based on 1/12th of the kerbside collection targeted rate for the current year multiplied by the number of full months to June that the service will be provided. The property will be rated for the service	None	
25 litre food waste bin					
120 litre wheelie bin for refuse collection					
240 litre wheelie bin for recyclables					
45 litre glass crate					

Rubbish		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
		from the following year.	from the following year.		
Transfer Station Fees					
Sorted and approved recyclables - Cardboard, clean glass, aluminium and tin cans, plastics (grades 1, 2 and 5, no motor oil or chemical containers).		Free	Free	None	
Commercial quantities will only be accepted by prior arrangement with management	Per tonne	\$111.00	\$114.00	Inflation	
Refuse					
Bags up to 60 Litres. Maximum of 3 bags per vehicle. Minimum charge 0-20kg	Over 60 Litres, bags will be weighed	\$6.90	\$7.50	Fee structure Wording	At the current fee, the bag rate is more expensive than the tonnage rate. Bags are no longer the main way people transport waste. Change wording: Minimum charge 0-20kg Remove note.
Charged by weight	Per tonne	\$355.00	\$365.00	Inflation	
Green waste					
Bags up to 60 Litres. Maximum of 3 bags per vehicle. Minimum charge 0-40kg	Over 60 Litres, bags will be weighed	\$6.50	\$7	Fee structure Wording	Change wording: Minimum charge 0-40kg Remove note.
Charged by weight		\$170.00	\$175.00	Inflation	
Scrap steel					
Ute/station wagon/single axle trailer/tandem axle/high side trailer/commercial		No charge	No charge	None	
Electronic waste					
Desktop computer, server (box only), modem, keyboard, small peripherals		No charge	No charge	None	
Fluorescent tubes, laptop battery , speakers (per unit)		\$5.00	\$5.00	Wording	Remove wording: laptop battery
DVD/CD/VCR player, stereo system, gaming console, laptop, small printer, scanner, fax, microwave		\$7.00	\$7.00	None	
LCD Computer monitor		\$12.00	\$12.50	Inflation	

Rubbish		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
CRT Computer monitor, Plasma/LCD TV (flat screen)		\$22.00	\$22.50	Inflation	
CRT TV		\$32.00	\$33.00	Inflation	
Other recyclable charges - these apply to all three transfer stations					
Charges per type					
End of life tyres from consumers (up to 5 at a time)		Free	Free	None	
Car Batteries		Free	Free	None	
Whiteware	Additional charge for items requiring degassing will be payable as below	Free	Free	None	
Degassing of fridges, freezers, air conditioning units as required under the Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996 and Climate Change Response Act 2002	Per item	\$15.50	\$16.00	Inflation	
Hazardous waste and oil - domestic quantities (up to 0 - 10 litres) of can also be disposed of at the transfer stations , including solvents (original label), cleaning fluids (original label), paints, car batteries and cooking oil. Fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides may also be disposed of if they are placed in a sealed container with original label. ; clear plastic bag and labelled.		\$22.00	\$22.50	Inflation Wording	Change wording to: Hazardous waste - domestic quantities (0-10 litres), including solvents (original label), cleaning fluids (original label), paints, and cooking oil. Fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides may also be disposed of in a sealed container with original label.
Automotive Waste Oil	Up to 20 litres. Must have original labels.	n/a	Free	New	
Weigh only		\$10.00	\$10.00	None	
Public bins				New	
Illegal dumping - recovery and disposal		n/a	At cost	New	To recover costs

Strategies and Plan		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Private plan changes					

Strategies and Plan		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Private plan changes	Deposit	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	Increase	The current deposit is not sufficient to cover initial cost. Often the deposit is used before the plan change has even been accepted by Council. When looking at other Councils, the proposed deposit sits about centre in the range.
Administration fee	Per hour	\$100.00	\$120.00	Increase	To align administration fee across activities
Graduate RMA Policy Planner	Per hour	\$175.00	\$180.00	Inflation	
RMA Policy Planner	Per hour	\$196.00	\$201.00		
Senior RMA Policy Planner	Per hour	\$212.00	\$218.00		
Team Leader RMA Policy Planner	Per hour	\$232.00	\$238.00		
Planning Manager / Group Manager Growth and Regulation	Per hour	\$248.00	\$255.00		
Consultant Planner	Per hour	Actual cost plus 5%	Actual cost plus 5%	None	
Legal					
In house - refer legal section in fees and charges					
External consultants		Actual cost plus 5%	Actual cost plus 5%	None	
Commissioners – independent		Actual cost plus 5%	Actual cost plus 5%		
Commissioners – Councillors - In accordance with Remuneration Authority Act 1977		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Venue hire		Actual cost	Actual cost		
Reports requested by commission		Actual cost plus 5%	Actual cost plus 5%		
Note: all photocopying and postage will be charged as per Customer Services fees and charges					

Swimming Pools		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Single entry					
Child (under 16 years)		\$5.00	\$5.00	None	

Swimming Pools		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Adult (16 years +)		\$8.00	\$8.00		
Senior (65 years +)		\$7.00	\$7.00		
Family pass 2 adults or seniors and up to 3 children		\$25.00	\$25.00		
Shower only		\$5.00	\$5.00		
Spa (where facilities are available)	In addition to entry fee	\$2.00	\$2.00		
Concession cards (pool entry)					
Child (under 16 years)	10 swims	\$42.00	\$42.00	None	
	20 swims	\$80.00	\$80.00		
	30 swims	\$112.00	\$112.00		
Adult (16 years +)	10 swims	\$68.00	\$68.00		
	20 swims	\$128.00	\$128.00		
	30 swims	\$180.00	\$180.00		
Senior (65 years +)	10 swims	\$59.00	\$59.00		
	20 swims	\$112.00	\$112.00		
	30 swims	\$157.00	\$157.00		
Membership (pool entry)					
Child (under 16 years)	3 month	\$117.00	\$117.00	None	
	6 month	\$182.00	\$182.00		
	12 month	\$286.00	\$286.00		
Adult (16 years +)	3 month	\$187.00	\$187.00		
	6 month	\$291.00	\$291.00		
	12 month	\$458.00	\$458.00		
Senior (65 years +)	3 month	\$164.00	\$164.00		
	6 month	\$255.00	\$255.00		
	12 month	\$400.00	\$400.00		
Swimzone Morrinsville 4 month membership	Child	n/a	\$140.00	New	Trialling over the coming season. Based on customer requests. Swimzone Morrinsville is only open 4 months a year.
	Adult	n/a	\$255.00		
	Senior	n/a	\$220.00		
SZTA No.2 Bath House (public 30 min sessions*)				Wording	Remove wording: (public 30 min sessions*)

Swimming Pools		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Public session*	Per person	\$8.00	\$8.00	None	
Private session*	Per person	n/a	\$20.00	New	To respond to community requests
SZTA No.2 Bath House (public 30 min sessions*) and pool/ outdoor spa combo				Wording	Remove wording: (30 mins)
Child (under 16 years)		\$13.00	\$13.00	None	
Adult (16 years +)		\$16.00	\$16.00		
Senior (65 years +) and Active Health		\$15.00	\$15.00		
Family pass 2 adults or seniors and up to 3 children		\$57.00*	\$57.00*		
*Public sessions No. 2 bath house sessions (30 minutes, minimum 2 - maximum 10 persons per session)				Wording	Change wording to No. 2 bath house sessions Add wording: 30 minutes
School groups					
All schools within the district	Per child/swim	\$3.00	\$3.00	None	
Out of district schools	Per child/swim	\$4.50	\$4.50		
Amateur swimming clubs					
Squad member (pool entry) – 6 months (school aged only)		\$155.00	\$155.00	Wording	Add wording: (school aged only) Add note: School aged children
Squad member (pool entry) - 12 months (school aged only)	Valid only during squad training session times	\$243.00	\$243.00	Wording	Add wording: (school aged only)
Hire (bookings essential)					
Lane hire	Per lane per hour	\$20.00	\$20.00	None	
Inflatable hire for private bookings (Includes additional lifeguard)	Hire per hour where available	\$50.00	\$50.00		
Inflatable – Public session	Per person plus cost of general admission	Free	n/a	Remove	Not needed
Barbeque hire	Per hour	\$20.00	\$20.00	None	
Full pool hire	Per hour per pool (includes one additional lifeguard. Additional charges may apply depending on ratio numbers)	\$100.00	\$100.00	Wording	Remove wording to read: Per hour per pool
Customer & lifeguard numbers will be calculated by the level of risk and approved by Swim Zone management. Lifeguard ratios are	Over the 1:40 ratio additional lifeguard per hour	\$35.00	\$35.00	None	

Swimming Pools		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
1:40. An additional lifeguard is required if ratios are exceeded.					
Aqua Group Fitness (where available, minimum of 6 people per class)				Wording	Remove wording in brackets
Per session		\$8.50	\$8.50	None	
Concession card	10 sessions	\$72.00	\$72.00		
	20 sessions	\$136.00	\$136.00		
	30 sessions	\$191.00	\$191.00		
Active Health club rehabilitation (access to exercise equipment and staff assistance)					
Child (under 16 years) Includes spa	Restricted hours of use and current medical certificate apply	\$4.00	\$4.00	None	
Adult (16 years +) Includes spa		\$7.00	\$7.00		
Senior (65 years +) Includes spa		\$6.00	\$6.00		
Summer Swim Card (school aged children)	6 weeks of summer school holiday	\$65.00	\$65.00		
Little Swimmer sessions	Children under 5 years	\$5 per child, one adult 16+ years swims free	\$5 per child, one adult 16+ years swims free		
Active Health concession rates					
Child (under 16 years)	General	\$4.00	\$4.00	None	
	10 sessions	\$34.00	\$34.00		
	20 sessions	\$64.00	\$64.00		
	30 sessions	\$90.00	\$90.00		
Adult	General	\$7.00	\$7.00		
	10 sessions	\$59.00	\$59.00		
	20 sessions	\$112.00	\$112.00		
	30 sessions	\$158.00	\$158.00		
Senior	General	\$6.00	\$6.00		
	10 sessions	\$51.00	\$51.00		
	20 sessions	\$96.00	\$96.00		

Swimming Pools		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
	30 sessions	\$135.00	\$135.00		

Wastewater		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
These fees and charges will be set and collected by Council. From 1 October 2026 the funds collected will be transferred to Waikato Waters Ltd.				New	New note to explain the process for Fees and Charges after the transition of Water and Wastewater to Waikato Waters Ltd.
Trade Waste application fees					
Permitted/ Controlled Discharge	per application	\$304.00	\$312.00	Inflation	
Conditional Consent (covering first 6 hours work)	per application	\$912.00	\$937.00	Inflation	
Hourly rate for applications, additional hours (per hour)	per hour	\$152.00	\$156.00	Inflation	
Temporary Discharge	per application	\$304.00	\$312.00	Inflation	
Renewal Fee for permitted or conditional Trade Waste Consents (plus any inspection costs)	per application	\$152.00	\$156.00	Inflation	
Variation / Change of Details Request for Trade Waste consents (plus additional hourly rate for more than 30 minutes time noting that site inspection charges may also apply)		\$76.00	\$78.00	Inflation	
Special trade waste agreements, variations or renewals. Actual costs recovered including but not limited to consultant or legal fees		Actual cost	Actual cost	None	
Site inspection fees					
Permitted/Controlled Discharge - Site Inspection/Audit	per site visit	\$228.00	\$234.00	Inflation	
Conditional Consent - Site Inspection/Audit	per site visit	\$304.00	\$312.00	Inflation	
Temporary Discharge - Site Inspection/Audit	per site visit	\$304.00	\$312.00	Inflation	
Non-Compliance - Site Inspection/Audit	per site visit	\$456.00	\$468.00	Inflation	
Annual fees					
Permitted		No charge	No charge	None	
Permitted Audited		\$152.00	\$156.00	Inflation	
Conditional		\$274.00	n/a	Remove	Has been replaced by Tankered fees and Risk Class 2 and 3 fees

Wastewater		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Special		As per tradewaste agreement	As per tradewaste agreement	None	
Conditional/Special - Risk Class 2	Cost of any independent monitoring (sampling and analysis) is recovered through a separate fee.	\$1,456.00	\$1,495.00	Inflation	
Conditional/ Special - Risk Class 3	Cost of any independent monitoring (sampling and analysis) is recovered through a separate fee.	\$2,400.00	\$2,465.00	Inflation	
Tanker Waste administrative charge		\$932.00	\$957.00	Inflation	
Other fees					
Temporary discharge	Cost of any independent monitoring (sampling and analysis) is recovered through a separate fee.	\$270.00	\$277.00	Inflation	
Independent Monitoring	per sample collection	\$281.00	\$289.00	Inflation	
Tanker waste	The fixed tankered waste charge shall be calculated using a set fee per cubic metre.	\$46.00 per M3	\$47.00 per m3	Inflation	
Other tradewaste charges are as per individual tradewaste agreements				None	

Water		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
These fees and charges will be set and collected by Council. From 1 October 2026 the funds collected will be transferred to Waikato Waters Ltd.				New	New note to explain the process for Fees and Charges after the transition of Water and Wastewater to Waikato Waters Ltd.
District wide tanker fill points	Per M ³	\$8.00	\$8.00	Inflation	
	Initial registration	\$404.00	\$415.00	Inflation	
	Annual review	\$136.00	\$140.00	Inflation	

Water		Current 2025/26	Proposed 2026/27	Change	Comment
Backflow maintenance and annual testing		Actual cost plus admin fee of 10%	Actual cost plus admin fee of 10%	None	
Meter administration fees					
Re-connection fee		\$3.00	At cost	Fee structure	To correct error from 2025/26
Disconnection fee		At cost	At cost	None	
Connection/installation fee		At cost	At cost	None	
Backflow maintenance and annual testing		At cost	n/a	Remove	Double up on fee above

Item 7.5

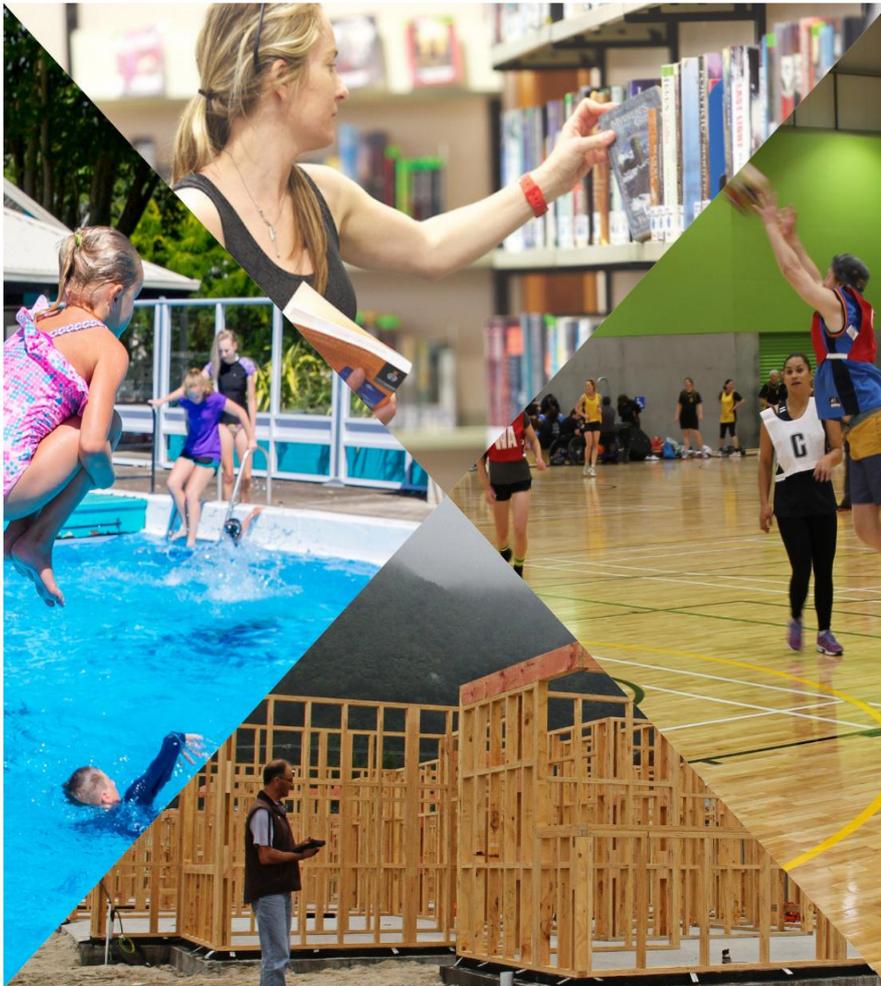
Attachment A

Notes	
Alcohol served	Serving alcohol at Council facilities is subject to licensing requirements under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 and/ or obtaining permission from Council.
Casual/ regular hirers	Regular hirers are those who make regular bookings that cover one school term or a period of three months or more. Regular hirers are not required to pay a bond. All other hirers are classified as casual hirers.
Commercial	Any other entities not covered above
Community Group/ Non Commercial	A not for profit organisation that provides services that are of benefit to the community, including the provision, promotion or facilitation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public health or wellbeing, - social advisory or rehabilitation services, - sports or recreational activities, - public amenities or recreational facilities, - the protection or enhancement of the environment, - the protection of human life, - the relief of poverty, - the advancement of education (e.g. schools) or religion, - animal welfare, - public works or services, - the efficiency of the armed forces
Event Facilitator assistance	Available during events. Please contact the Events and Promotions Coordinator to discuss your requirements and rates. Rates depend on the size of the event and set up requirements.
Sports Parks	The following parks are classified as sports parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matamata: Matamata Domain, Pohlen Park, Swap Park - Morrinsville: Morrinsville Recreation Ground, Wiseley Reserve - Te Aroha: Boyd Park, Herries Park, Waihou Recreation Reserve

Notes	
Official Information Charges	<p>The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (Act) requires us to make available certain information which we hold. The Act also makes provision for us to make a charge for the information supplied but this charge must be reasonable and is for the cost of labour and materials involved in making the information available. If the request expresses urgency, then the Council may have to use additional resources to gather the information promptly and the Act permits the Council to charge for these extra resources. If there is a charge for information we will advise you of the likely charges before we commence processing the request and will give you the opportunity to decide whether or not to proceed with the request. In such cases we may also require that the whole or part of any charge be paid in advance before commencing to process the request. If the time taken to process the information and/or the number of copies supplied is only a small margin over the 'free' allowance, we may use our discretion as to whether any charge should be made.</p> <p>Where repeated requests are made by the same person or group in respect of a common subject over intervals of up to eight weeks we will aggregate these requests for charging purposes. This means that the second and subsequent requests will not be subject to one hour of free time and 20 free standard A4 (or smaller) photocopies.</p> <p>The charge represents a reasonable fee for the cost of providing information. It may include (but is not limited to) time spent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in searching an index to establish the location of the information • in locating and extracting the information from the place where it is held • in reading or reviewing the information • in supervising the access to the information. <p>Under the Act we are not permitted to charge for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • locating and retrieving information which is not where it ought to be • time spent deciding whether or not access should be allowed, and in what form. <p>The liability to pay any charge may be modified or waived at the discretion of the delegated officer receiving the request. Such decisions should have regard to the circumstances of each request. However, it would be appropriate to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether payment might cause the applicant hardship • whether remission or reduction of the charge would facilitate good relations with the public or assist the department in its work • whether remission or reduction of the charge would be in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of, or effective participation in, the operations or activities of the government, and the disclosure of the information is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. <p>Charges are set in accordance with Ministry of Justice, Charging Guidelines for Official Information Act 1982 Requests (2002) and the Ombudsman's guide to charging for official information under the OIA and LGOIMA released June 2016. If an identifiable natural person seeks access to personal information about that person then the request is governed by the Privacy Act 2020 and these charges do not apply. Information that is already publicly available (for example at our libraries and offices or on our website is not subject to the Act, and normal charges apply to the supply of this information. A person who makes a request for information under the Act may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsmen regarding our decision regarding supply of that information.</p>

Tauira Ngā Utu 2026/27 | Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27

Tauākī Tūtohu | Statement of Proposal



Summary – What we’re proposing and why

Key changes

Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually as part of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process to ensure they are up to date, reflect actual costs, and get the balance right between users of the service and all ratepayers.

Some of the key changes we are proposing are:

- Increases to some of our Cemetery fees – to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with other Waikato councils.
- Changes to our Land Information Memorandum (LIM) fees – to respond to increased complexity in the information requirements under the amended legislation.
- Building consent fee changes – to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
- Some changes to our Community Facility charges – to provide consistency across venues, and between commercial and non-commercial rates.
- Introduction of Waikato Waters Ltd on-charged fees – to provide for the transition of water and wastewater services to Waikato Waters Ltd on 1 October 2026.

Have your say

Do you agree with our proposed Fees and Charges? Do you prefer a different approach? We want to hear from you.

In this document we provide some more background and a summary of the proposed changes. And in the accompanying Fees and Charges schedule we outline all the proposed changes in detail. You can provide your feedback in a number of ways, see pages 10-12 of this document for how to have your say.

Kupu Whakataki | Introduction

The proposed changes to Fees and Charges for 2026/27 support Council's wider financial strategy, which aims to keep rates increases as low and stable as possible while ensuring we can continue to provide essential services to the community. One of the principles in the Financial Strategy is maintaining a fair balance between what is funded from rates and what is funded directly by users of services.

By increasing some fees and charges slightly more than inflation - particularly in activities where the current level of cost recovery is at the lower end of what is allowed by the Revenue and Financing Policy - Council can reduce the pressure on general rates. This means that more of the cost is paid by the people who use the services, rather than being spread across all ratepayers. This approach helps Council manage rising costs, maintain service levels, and stay within its financial limits (such as debt and rates caps) without placing undue burden on households and businesses.

In short, the proposed fee changes are one of the tools Council uses to ensure our financial position remains sustainable, fair, and aligned with the direction set in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. They allow us to continue delivering services while limiting the level of rates increases required for the year.

Arotakenga ā-Tau o ngā Utu me ngā Nohonga | Annual Review of Fees and Charges

Fees and charges are either total or partial cost recoveries for Council services. The proportion of costs that can be recovered through fees and charges for any given activity is set out in Council's Revenue and Financing Policy [link](#).

Fees and charges cover a wide range of Council services including swimming pool entry fees, dog registration fees, facility hire, and building consents.

Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually as part of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process. This regular review ensures fees and charges are up to date and reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing services and activities to the community.

As part of the review, a period of public consultation is held to seek community feedback.

Ngā Panonitanga e Tūtohuia ana mō ngā Utu me ngā Nohonga | Proposed changes to Fees and Charges 2026/27

Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

Inflation

When reviewing fees and charges, Council's general approach is to increase fees by inflation, and round to the nearest \$1 or \$5. For the 2026/27 year the inflation figure, as determined by Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL) is 2.7%.

Getting the balance right – fees and charges versus rates

This year, as part of developing the Annual Plan budget and seeking to keep rates as low as possible, Council has chosen to slightly increase the proportion of revenue collected from fees and charges for some activities, and therefore slightly lower the proportion collected from general rates. The activities where this approach has been taken are those where fees and charges have been sitting at the lower end of the band set for that activity in the Revenue and Financing Policy. This has resulted in increases above the rate of inflation for these activities.

Other considerations

For some other activities there have been fee increases above the rate of inflation for other reasons, such as to more fully recover the costs of delivering a service or respond to changes in legislation.

In some other cases, inflation has not been added and fees have been kept the same. This may be for a number of reasons including fees having increased in the previous year, or to ensure there are no barriers to accessing the service. In addition, some fees are set by legislation and cannot be changed at Council's discretion.

Changes to water and wastewater related fees

Background

Following the government's introduction of the Local Waters Done Well programme, and a period of public consultation, Council made the decision to join a new council controlled water services entity – Waikato Waters Ltd. Consequently, on 1 October 2026, Council's water and wastewater services will transfer to Waikato Waters Ltd.

What this means for fees and charges

From 1 October, for the rest of the 2026/27 year, Council will continue to collect water and wastewater fees and charges as usual, and will transfer these funds to Waikato Waters Ltd.

For some other activities, Council may need to on-charge fees received from Waikato Waters Ltd. The activities where these fees may be incurred, include a note or fee line in this regard.

Find out more

A summary of the proposed changes to fees and charges under each activity is outlined below. The summary includes fees proposed to increase above the rate of inflation, new fees, fees being removed, fees that have a change in fee structure, and fees that are reducing. Fees that have no proposed changes or have increased by inflation only are not included in the summary.

To view full details of all the proposed changes please see the separate draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 document.

Whakarāpopototanga o ngā Panonitanga mā ia Mahi | Summary of changes by activity

Below is a summary of Council's proposed changes to fees and charges for the 2026/27 year.

Animal Control

- \$10 dollar increase in the *Dog ownership full registration fee* to reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
- New \$40 *Adoption fee* for dogs under 1 year adopted straight from the pound, to remove barrier to adoption of these dogs.
- Some *Dog impounding* and *Stock call out* fees have been increased by 6% to reflect increases in costs and stay within our Revenue and Financing Policy.
- A new fee for *Animal control microchipping* of \$50 has been added to provide a service.

Building Consents and Monitoring

- Most fees increased by 6% to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
- The staff time required to undertake various work within this activity has been reviewed and where applicable an additional amount has been added to fees to more accurately reflect the costs of providing these services. This has resulted in an additional increase to the following categories of fees: *Standard Residential Building Works, Structures, Outbuilding Habitable, Dairy Sheds, Residential Alterations, Dwellings, Multiproof Consents, New Commercial/ Industrial Buildings, Commercial Alterations and Additions*.
- Some new charges from Objective Build have been added.
- Note added that all Objective Build fees are exclusive of GST.
- New fees for *Additional Administration Costs* fee, \$120 and *Additional Building Control Officer (BCO) Costs*, \$218 to cover any additional work required by the building unit.
- New *Waikato Waters Ltd charge, At Cost* to recover any costs incurred from attendance at meetings.
- New *Project Information Memorandum (PIM) Applications for Small Stand-alone Dwelling* – also known as *Granny Flat* fee, \$965.00 to respond to new legislation.
- Note added that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to the fees listed and may be charged with the Building Consent
- Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details of all the changes mentioned above.

Cemeteries

- Most cemetery fees have been increased by 6%, and some by a larger amount, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general, and to align with fees from other Waikato councils. Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details.
- *Matamata Cemetery – Single RSA ashes wall* has been removed as the wall is full.

Communications

- No changes.

Community Venues

- Some fees have been increased by more than inflation to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general. Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details.
- The fee structure has been reviewed, fees better aligned across venues, and the commercial rate set at twice the non-commercial rate. In some cases this has resulted in a decrease in fees. Please see the fees and charges schedule for full details.

Customer Services

- The fee for *Official Information charges – pages copied* has been reduced from 50cents to 20cents to align with the Ombudsman Charging Guidelines.
- Council is proposing to make changes to the *Land Information Memorandum (LIM)* fees because the new national LIM regulations have increased the amount of information that must be included in a LIM, as well as the level of checking and validation required. As a result, *Land Information Memorandum (LIM)* fees have increased by more than inflation, the time for an *Urgent LIM Residential/ Rural* has increased from 3 to 5 days, and the *Urgent Business/ Industrial LIM* has been removed. These changes will ensure that all LIMs are processed to the same standard and within realistic timeframes. These changes also help maintain consistent service levels across the district and avoid the substantial cost increases that would otherwise be required to retain a separate Urgent Business / Industrial LIM service.
- A new *Additional processing fee* has been added to recover any costs associated with the transition of Water and Wastewater to Waikato Waters Ltd.

Engineering

- Most fees have been increased by 6% to provide consistency in staff charge-out rates across activities.

General Property

- Morrinsville has been added to the list of available Interview rooms.

Independent Commissioner

- *Secretarial and administrative support* fee has increased from \$100 to \$120 to provide consistency of administration fees across Council's activities.

Legal

- *Administration per hour* increased from \$100 to \$120 to provide consistency of administration fees across Council's activities.

Libraries

- No changes.

Licensing and Enforcement

- Most fees have been increased by 6% to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.

Parks and Open Spaces

- *Additional toilet clean*, \$100 fee added to recover costs associated with staff time to provide this service.
- *Hire fee for Commercial activities* increased from \$722 to \$800 to cover the cost of administration.
- *Domain Pavilion* fees moved to Community Venues.
- *Domain House* fees removed as it is currently used by Domain Beauty.

Resource Consents and Monitoring

- *Regulatory Planning Charges* increased by 6%, and *Set up fee* and *Administration* increased from \$100 to \$120, to slightly increase the proportion of costs recovered from users of the service compared to ratepayers in general.
- *Second hand building land use consent* and *Front yard encroachment land use consent* increased from \$1000 to \$1310 to better reflect the cost of the staff time required to deliver the service.
- The three *Land Transfer Plan Approval* fees merged into one \$515 deposit charge.
- *Surrender of consent* deposit decreased from \$1000 to \$515 to make it more accessible.
- *Surrender of consent as required by a condition of consent* changed from deposit to set fee and amount reduced from \$500 to \$250, as this is now typically incorporated into the processing of the initial consent.
- Note added that any costs incurred by Waikato Waters Ltd will be in addition to the fees listed and may be charged with the Building Consent

Roading

- *Works Access Permit (WAP)/ Date Extension* increased from \$50 to \$90 and *Generic Traffic Management Plan (TMP)* increased from \$600 to \$680, to better reflect the cost associated with the staff time required to undertake this work.
- Three new *Corridor Access Request (CAR)* fees added to recover the cost associated with the staff time required to undertake this work: *Late completion of works or failure to return sites to pre-existing conditions as per Council requirements and Utilities Code* \$200, *Additional management and administration fees including meetings, site visits and administration work* \$200, *Issuing Stop Works Order* \$250.
- Application for a new/upgraded vehicle crossing not part of a subdivision or building consent increased from \$318 to \$416 to align with two hours of Consent Engineer time.
- *Skateboard infringement* fees removed as they are not in use.

Rubbish and Recycling

- A change in the fee structure for smaller amounts of Refuse and Green Waste: *Refuse Minimum charge* 0-20kg, \$7.50; *Green waste Minimum charge* 0-40kg, \$7.00.
- *Automotive Waste Oil*, up to 20 litres, free, to provide a service.
- *New Illegal dumping - recovery and disposal fee*, At Cost, to recover costs.

Strategies and Plans

- *Private plan changes* deposit increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 as current deposit is not sufficient to cover initial costs.
- *Administration fee* increased from \$100 to \$120 to provide consistency of administration fees across Council's activities.

Swimming Pools

- New Swimzone Morrinsville 4 month membership added on a trial basis to respond to customer requests. Fees set as follows: Child \$140, Adult \$255, Senior \$220.

Wastewater

- Annual fees – Conditional removed as this has been replaced by other fees.
- New note added: From 1 October 2026, Council will collect these fees on behalf of Waikato Waters Ltd.

Water

- Re-connection fee changed from \$3.00 to At Cost to correct error in previous schedule.
- Backflow maintenance and annual testing removed as it is covered by another fee.
- New note added: From 1 October 2026, Council will collect these fees on behalf of Waikato Waters Ltd.

Te mānuka e kawea ake ana | What we’re proposing

The fees summary above outlines Council’s preferred option for updating the Fees and Charges for 2026/27.

Option 1: Make the changes set out in the 2026/27 Fees and Charges schedule.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Allows Council to recover the costs of providing services.	Will mean some users of services will pay more for these services in the coming year.
Allows fees and charges to remain consistent with Council’s Revenue and Financing Policy	
Avoids additional increases to rates to cover costs	

Ētahi atu kōwhiringa me whakaaro ake | Other options we could consider

Aside from the fee changes proposed above, there are other options we could consider:

Option 2: Make no changes to the fees and charges

Advantages	Disadvantages
Charges stay the same.	Charges do not reflect the actual cost of services.
	Inconsistent with Revenue and Financing Policy.
	Costs would need to be recovered through rates instead, leading to a larger rates increase.

Option 3: Reduce or revoke fees and charges

Advantages	Disadvantages
The public would not have to pay directly for services or would pay less.	Charges do not reflect the actual cost of services.
	Inconsistent with Revenue and Financing Policy.
	Costs would need to be recovered through rates instead, leading to a larger rates increase.

Ngā Whakaarotanga ā-Ture | Legal considerations

1) Consultation

The requirements for consultation for the different fees and charges contained in the Fees and Charges document vary depending on their enabling legislation as set out below.

Fees and charges enabled through the Local Government Act 2002

Under Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Council may prescribe fees or charges either through

- a bylaw or
- public consultation (using the principles of consultation in the LGA, Section 82)

Council has one Bylaw that sets fees, namely the Alcohol Licensing Fees Bylaw. Aside from this, Council has opted not to use bylaws to set fees and charges at this time. Therefore, public consultation will be undertaken.

For consultation under the [LGA Section 82](#), the requirements are for Council to make publicly available:

- the proposed Fees and Charges and the reasons for the proposal
- an analysis of the reasonably practicable options including the proposal

Fees and charges enabled through other legislation

Under other legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Building Act 2004, Council may prescribe fees or charges relevant to certain administration purposes (such as processing resource consents) through

- public consultation (using the special consultative procedure in the LGA, Section 83)

For consultation under the [LGA Section 83](#), the requirements are for Council to make publicly available:

- a Statement of Proposal
- a summary of the information if necessary
- a description of how the community can present their views to Council
- a statement of the period within which views on the Fees and Charges may be provided to Council.

Council must make this information as widely available as is reasonably practicable as a basis for consultation and provide an opportunity for persons to present their views to Council.

Council's approach to consultation for Fees and Charges

To ensure all legislative requirements are met as described above, consultation on the Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 will be undertaken in accordance with the [LGA, Section 83](#).

2) Revenue from Fees and Charges

Fees and charges prescribed under the LGA must not provide for the local authority to recover more than the reasonable costs incurred by the local authority for the matter for which the fee is charged. (LGA, Section 150 (4)).

In addition, the Revenue and Financing Policy sets out the proportion of funding that may be recovered from fees and charges for each of Council's activities, which was publicly consulted on. (LGA, Section 103).

Tukua mai ō whakaaro | Have Your Say

Council invites the community to provide feedback on the proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27 to assist us in the decision-making process.

Me pēhea te tuku urupare | How to give you feedback

Online: To fill out the online form please go to mpdc.nz/letstalk

Mail to: Matamata-Piako District Council, PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342

Email: info@mpdc.govt.nz

In-person: Drop your feedback form into any of the Council offices or libraries

Speaking to your feedback

You have the right to present your feedback to the Elected Members in person at a Council meeting to be held on 13 May. If you indicate in your feedback that you would like to do this, staff will be in contact to arrange this with you.

Feedback is public information

Please be aware your feedback is public information. Your feedback, including your name, will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Council which are publicly available, including to media.

Ngā Rā Matua | Key Dates

Process	Date
Council approval of Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27 and Statement of Proposal for public consultation	4 March 2026
Public consultation	16 March – 19 April 2026
Council meeting to hear submissions in person	13 May 2026 (and 12 May if required)
Council adoption of Fees and Charges 2026/27	13 May 2026 (animal control fees) 24 June 2026 (all other fees)
Fees and Charges 2026/27 in force	1 July 2026

Ētahi Atu Pārongo | More Information

You can call Council on 07 884 0060 and let our friendly Customer Services staff know you have a question about the Fees and Charges.

Puka whakahoki kōrero | Feedback form – Fees and Charges 2026/27

Please provide your feedback by 19 April 2026

Name / Organisation: _____

For individuals please simply write your name, for submissions on behalf of an organisations please include both your own name and the full organisation name.

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: Matamata Morrinsville Te Aroha Other: _____

Age: Under 18 18–24 25–34 35–44 45–64 65–75 75+

Would you like to speak to the Mayor and Councillors about your feedback?

Feedback can be provided in person or via video on Wed 13 May 2026 (and Tuesday 12 May if required)

Yes No

Fees and Charges 2026/27

Options

Which of these options do you support? (please tick, and provide any further comment below)

Proposed option: Fees and Charges would change to those proposed. Make the changes set out in the 2026/27 Fees and Charges schedule.

Option 2: Fees and Charges would remain at the current level. Make no changes to the current fees and charges, and recover the shortfall through rates instead.

Option 3: Reduce or remove Fees and Charges. Remove or reduce fees and charges to make them cheaper, and recover the shortfall through rates instead.

Option 4: Other

Additional comments



Is there anything else you would like us to consider in regard to the Fees and Charges?

Please provide any further comments below

Privacy statement: Please be aware that feedback made to Council is public information. Feedback will be used and reproduced for purposes such as reports to Elected Members, which are made available to the public. Submitters will be able to access a summary of submissions and deliberations to understand how feedback has been considered and how decisions were reached.

Note that individual submissions will be made publicly available in full (including your name and any organisation you represent), unless you request confidentiality and this may be able to be accommodated under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please provide your feedback by 19 April 2026

Exclusion of the Public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

C1 Council Delegations - Legal Review

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Legal Privilege.	s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege. A legal review of the content has been undertaken..	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.