

LONG TERM PLAN 2027 - 2037

Building Waipā. Tomorrow. Together.



For our people.
Our places.
Our future.





I want to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to engage with us – through written submissions, online feedback, public meetings, webinars and face-to-face conversations.

Message form the Mayor

Serving as Mayor of the Waipā District is both an honour and a privilege – especially at a time when our communities, as well as local government itself, are facing profound change.

Now after two years of hard mahi - through uncertainty, and some very difficult decisions - we have reached an important milestone. This document, our 2025-34 Long Term Plan, will set a course for our district as we navigate both significant challenge and opportunity in the years ahead.

This is not the plan we would have chosen if the circumstances were different. It continues the ‘back to basics’ approach we began last year with our Enhanced Annual Plan. The decisions we’ve made focus on delivering core services, managing our finances prudently, and preparing the organisation to face a very different and fast-evolving future.

We’ve been caught in a convergence of challenges: inflationary pressure, rising borrowing costs, regulatory changes and reduced revenue due to lower than anticipated growth in recent years. We are at a crossroads staring into the eye of a perfect storm.

Among the most significant unknowns is the future of water service delivery. While our Council supports joining a council-controlled organisation (Waikato Water Done Well) alongside other rural and provincial councils, this plan assumes we continue to deliver water services in-house for the next nine years. We’ve done this deliberately, recognising that a final decision must reflect not only the direction from Central Government but also the voices of our community. We consulted on both water services and the Long Term Plan at the same time, and we’ve made a point of listening first, deciding second.

Throughout this process, the role of our elected members has been critical. The responsibility of decision-making under such complex and constrained circumstances cannot be understated. As a group, we’ve had to wrestle with trade-offs, balance the needs of the organisation with the affordability for ratepayers, and front up to some hard truths. I want to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism, and resilience my fellow elected members have shown.

We’ve challenged ourselves to think strategically, act prudently, and strike a fair balance between delivering what our community needs and what it can afford. We’ve asked staff to go through budgets line-by-line, again and again, to find savings where possible – particularly in the early years of the plan – but always with a clear understanding of the implications.

It hasn’t been a smooth or linear path – more like hiking to the top of a hill, only to discover there’s another, steeper hill beyond it. Yet each time, we’ve pushed on together. That willingness to stay the course, even when the ground is uncertain, is something I deeply admire and value.

Just as important has been the role of our community. I want to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to engage with us – through written submissions, online feedback, public meetings, webinars and face-to-face conversations. Your voices have shaped this plan. We are always mindful that there is no Council without community – and that we govern not just for today, but for tomorrow’s generations. We call this cathedral thinking, or mokopuna decision making.

Mike Pettit - Mayor



Waipā - a place
where people,
community and
opportunity come
together to shape a
vibrant future.

Where every \$100 of your rates goes:

We invest in the services and
facilities that keep Waipā moving



Our key priorities

We've set five key priorities to guide our decisions over the next 10 years.

Thriving communities

A district where people feel connected, inclusive and supported.

Healthy environment

Protecting and enhancing our natural environment for future generations.

Great infrastructure

Building and maintaining the infrastructure we need, now and in the future.

Sustainable growth

Planning for smart growth that supports our economy and lifestyle.

Financial responsibility

Being transparent and accountable with rates and spending.

It's our shared responsibility to build a district we're proud to call home.

Our 10-year journey

A snapshot of what we're planning together



2027
Laying strong foundations

Investing in core infrastructure and essential services



2030
Building momentum

Delivering key projects that support growth and wellbeing.



2033
Creating more opportunities

Enhancing facilities, connections and local economies.



2037
A thriving Waipa

A connected, sustainable and resilient district for all.

Finances.



Table 7: Targeted water rates

	2024/25 Annual Plan \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Budget \$000	2028/29 Budget \$000	2029/30 Budget \$000	2030/31 Budget \$000	2031/32 Budget \$000	2032/33 Budget \$000	2033/34 Budget \$000
Targeted Water Rates	15,913	21,099	23,675	25,526	27,946	29,056	30,029	31,582	33,230	34,008
	15,913	21,099	23,675	25,526	29,946	29,056	30,029	31,582	33,230	34,008

Table 8: Depreciation and amortisation

	2024/25 Annual Plan \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Budget \$000	2028/29 Budget \$000	2029/30 Budget \$000	2030/31 Budget \$000	2031/32 Budget \$000	2032/33 Budget \$000	2033/34 Budget \$000
Governance	3	4	5	4	5	5	6	7	9	13
Planning and Regulatory	13	14	14	17	102	102	100	100	99	99
Community Services and Facilities	6,143	6,474	6,499	5,555	5,964	6,409	7,074	7,728	8,028	8,406
Road and Footpaths	13,691	14,596	14,917	15,583	16,491	16,151	16,490	17,205	17,663	18,257
Stormwater	2,785	3,332	3,868	4,140	4,360	4,563	4,776	5,029	5,235	5,461
Water Treatment and Supply	7,518	8,027	8,333	9,084	9,525	10,016	10,482	11,053	12,274	13,437
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	6,408	7,148	7,956	9,389	9,790	10,677	11,177	11,340	11,837	12,238
Support Services	3,187	2,459	2,587	3,890	4,874	5,305	5,316	6,066	6,492	6,536
	39,748	42,054	44,174	47,662	51,111	53,228	55,421	58,528	61,637	64,447



101 Bank Street, **Te Awamutu**
23 Wilson Street, **Cambridge**
www.waipadc.govt.nz