

# Waitomo Way

## Have your say - Representation Review

Every six years councils are required to review their representation arrangements to ensure they're structured to best serve the needs of their communities.

Council has proposed to make no changes to the current representation arrangements for the next election. This will mean that:

- there will be six elected members on Council and one mayor,
- members will be elected from one of two wards (Te Kūiti Ward, and Waitomo Rural Ward)
- three members will be elected from each ward, and
- there will be no community boards.

What do you think of these arrangements?

Have your say by **Monday 2 September 2024** at [www.waitomo.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.waitomo.govt.nz/haveyoursay)



## RATES REBATE Are you eligible?



Waitomo District Council administers a Rates Rebate Scheme, which offers help to low-income ratepayers with their rates account.

You could be eligible for a maximum of **\$790** so it's worth enquiring!

The entitlement amount is determined by a combination of your income, amount of rates you're charged and the number of dependents you have.

Applications for the 2024/25 rating year close **30 June 2025**.

For more information or to apply visit our website.

## Fees and Charges 2024/25

Council has adopted the fees and charges schedule for the 2024/25 Financial Year. They came into effect on 1 July 2024.

Due to the increased operating costs, most fees and charges have increased by 5% in line with current inflation. We need to ensure costs are recovered so that Council services are not further subsidised by rates. The schedule of Fees and Charges is available on our website.

## Long Term Plan 2024-2034

On 25 June, Waitomo District Council adopted its Long Term Plan 2024-2034 after many months of planning and consultation. The plan outlines the direction for the Council for the next 10 years and sets a pathway to achieve its community outcomes through various strategies and actions.



The total rates requirement is \$25.4 million for the 2024/25 year, an increase of \$2.5 million compared with the 2023/24 year. This equates to an overall rates increase of 11.07%, which is mainly driven by inflation but also the need to mitigate against severe storm events and other core business requirements. Individual property rates will vary due to how certain activities are funded and the services received by the property. Visit our website for more information.



## Residents Survey results pleasing

Satisfaction with Waitomo District Council's (WDC) services and facilities has risen across most areas, according to their recent resident satisfaction survey.

Each year WDC undertakes a survey to gauge opinions on the performance of Council, measuring satisfaction against performance targets for the financial year.

The results identify where there is scope for improvement which can be factored into planning for budgets and service levels in the future. The survey is also used to measure 12 of Council's KPIs and is used in the 2023/24 report on actual performance.

Overall, the results of this survey have been very positive. Two measures (communications and library) have remained the same and several other measures have increased in satisfaction compared to 2023.

Chief Executive Ben Smit says it's important to understand the community's opinions on Council over the last year as it helps capture how we're tracking.

"Overall there is a high level of satisfaction with Council's services. We would like to thank residents for taking the time to participate in our survey," he says.

"We're really pleased with the results. We know that our services and facilities play a vital part in our residents' lives so it's important we do our best to get it right.

"Our staff work hard to meet the expectations of the community, so I know they're proud their efforts have been recognised."

Visit Council's website to read the full media release and to read the full report and results.

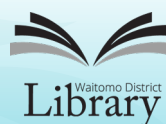


Join Waitomo District Library's new app designed to encourage reading!

Track and log your reading, join challenges, reach personal reading goals, and compete with friends and family!

Visit Waitomo District Library's website to learn more.

Join Today!!



## Waitomo District Christmas Parade



13 December 2024