

# Have your say

## Submission form

Submission No. 131

Waitomo District Council  
Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034  
Consultation

Send us your feedback  
by 17 May 2024

You can share your views by:

### Completing this submission form and returning it to us by

- **Visiting our main office**  
at 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti
- **Visiting our Customer Service Centre**  
at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti
- **Emailing to**  
*haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz*  
(scan and pdf or take a photo)
- **Posting to**  
FREEPOST 112498  
Waitomo District Council  
PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- **Visiting our website**  
*waitomo.govt.nz/council/LTP 2024-2034*  
and completing the online form

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public. Your name and/or organisation will be published with your submission and made available in a report to elected members and to the public. Other personal information supplied (such as address/email addresses) will be removed from the public copy.

## Your details

Full name

SHEREE AMBER HEATH

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)

N/A

Phone (home/mobile)

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

Address

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

No

Hearings will be held on 28 May 2024. If you tick Yes, Council will contact you to arrange a time

### Mōkau Residential

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Rates <b>increase</b> LTP YR1 2024/25 | <b>11.2%</b>     |
| Valuation                             | <b>\$485,000</b> |
| Actual Rates 2023/24                  | <b>\$3,530</b>   |
| Proposed Rates 2024/25                | <b>\$3,924</b>   |

An extra **\$7.58** per week

### Drystock Rural

|                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rates <b>increase</b> LTP YR1 2024/25 | <b>7.5%</b>        |
| Valuation                             | <b>\$4,130,000</b> |
| Actual Rates 2023/24                  | <b>\$14,758</b>    |
| Proposed Rates 2024/25                | <b>\$15,871</b>    |

An extra **\$21.40** per week

### Te Waitere Residential

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Rates <b>increase</b> LTP YR1 2024/25 | <b>9.9%</b>      |
| Valuation                             | <b>\$420,000</b> |
| Actual Rates 2023/24                  | <b>\$3,143</b>   |
| Proposed Rates 2024/25                | <b>\$3,454</b>   |

An extra **\$5.98** per week

### Forestry

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Rates <b>increase</b> LTP YR1 2024/25 | <b>305.6%</b>    |
| Valuation                             | <b>\$600,000</b> |
| Actual Rates 2023/24                  | <b>\$2,792</b>   |
| Proposed Rates 2024/25                | <b>\$11,325</b>  |

An extra **\$164.10** per week

### Piopio Residential

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Rates <b>increase</b> LTP YR1 2024/25 | <b>11.4%</b>     |
| Valuation                             | <b>\$340,000</b> |
| Actual Rates 2023/24                  | <b>\$4,066</b>   |
| Proposed Rates 2024/25                | <b>\$4,530</b>   |

An extra **\$8.92** per week



You can find the impact of this plan on your rates at:  
[waitomo.govt.nz/council/rating-information/rates-calculator/](https://waitomo.govt.nz/council/rating-information/rates-calculator/)



### Conversation: Impact of retaining 3 Waters

We have had to consider how we will deliver our 3 Waters services. Council's preferred approaches are keeping the status quo with investing "as and when needed", and installing water meters.

Do you agree with Approach one - Status quo?

- Yes     No

Do you agree with Approach two - Installing water meters?

- Yes     No

My comment on the 3 Waters services approach

WATER METERS COULD LEAD  
TO PRIVATISATION OF OUR WATER  
USE ALSO IT 'FINISHES' LARGER  
FAMILIES / WHANAU BY WAY  
OF NEEDED EXTRA WATER USE.  
It also is imo a NEGATIVE  
GROWTH CHOICE ie EXTRA RATES.

### Proposal: Te Kūiti flooding remedies

We need to decide what level of spending we should put into improving Te Kūiti stormwater network to reduce the impact of severe weather events.

- Option 1:** Status quo - low level investment, small scale improvements
- Option 2:** Build retention ponds, storm-water modelling and capacity improvement planning long term (preferred)

My comment on this proposal

Future proofing our  
Water Supply Infrastructure  
is necessary though the  
burden of the extra  
costs is frustrating.

### Proposal: Introduce a targeted or differential rate on the District Rooding Rate

Our limited roading budget does not provide for the extra roading damage caused by logging trucks during harvesting operations. A targeted or differential rate will help mitigate this.

- Option 1:** Status quo - no change to rating structure for forestry
- Option 2:** Differentiated District Rooding Rate (preferred)
- Option 3:** Funding the additional operating rate deficit

My comment on this proposal

Logging Companies  
NEED TO CONTRIBUTE  
TO REPAIRS / MAINTENANCE  
OF HIGH USE "ROADING"  
AND STOP DAMAGE OF  
THOSE ROADS.

## Proposal: Funding and future of our Rural Halls

Currently there is no funding in place for any repairs or upgrades to the Council-owned Rural Halls. Considerable investment is needed to keep them open.

- Option 1:** Status quo - minimal rate funding with no provision for required repairs
- Option 2:** Transfer ownership of Council halls to community groups (preferred)
- Option 3:** Consider closing halls

My comment on this proposal

Each Community imo  
should be given the  
choice of the above listed  
3 options - each Community  
can decide whether its  
viable to maintain or  
sell their halls.

## Proposal: Update the Te Kūiti Stormwater Rating Area

Some property owners in Te Kūiti who benefit from the Stormwater Network are not contributing to its operation and maintenance.

- Option 1:** Status quo - Keep the current rating area
- Option 2:** Extend the Te Kūiti Urban Rating Area (preferred)

My comment on this proposal

Every Property benefiting  
from the costly  
Stormwater Infrastructure  
should contribute fairly  
to its running costs

## Proposal: Elder persons housing

We want to balance keeping our elder persons housing affordable for residents, but without over-subsidising it at a cost to other ratepayers.

**How should we fund elder persons housing?**

- Option 1:** Status quo - ratepayers subsidise elder persons housing
- Option 2:** Council increases rental levels (preferred)

**Is Council the best provider for elder persons housing?**

- Option 1:** Status quo - Council continues to own and operate elder persons housing
- Option 2:** Explore options to transition elder persons housing to a provider (preferred)

My comment on this proposal

Housing security is a  
major concern Nationwide  
and I personally believe that  
@ this present time the Council  
should display "Good Will"  
by continuing the Status  
quo until or if a GHP  
can be 100% secured in  
the future especially if  
that Provider will Increase  
Elder Persons Housing.  
\* Imo - IT would NOT  
BE IN THE COMMUNITY  
"SPIRIT" TO ADD FURTHER  
STRESS TO A VULNERABLE  
SECTOR. HOUSING SECURITY IS  
VITAL.

## Proposal: Simplify the rates structure

Council has general activities which generate districtwide benefit, but are not split uniformly between the General Rate and Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC). We propose to simplify the rates calculation process.

- Option 1:** Status quo - continue with current rates structure
- Option 2:** Simplifying the split of rating costs between General Rate and UAGC. (preferred)

My comment on this proposal

I have chosen Option 2 as I am trusting the Council's word that this new rating system does NOT negatively impact general rate payers.

What do you think about our plans for projects and activities? (p29-33)

PRETTY MUCH STEADY AS YOU GO BUT NOT VISIONARY IMHO! PERSONALLY I WOULD LOVE TO SEE TE KUITI ENHANCE ITS CULTURE AND HISTORY IN THE CBD - INCLUDING SIMILAR AROUND TOWN "BEAN ART" FOR EXAMPLE THAT RELATES TO ITS HISTORY; FOR COUNCIL TO FIND AFFORDABLE OPTIONS TO ENCOURAGE TOURISM AND DIVERT THROUGH TRAFFIC OFF HIGHWAY TO MAIN TOWN CENTRE. THERE ARE MANY SMALL TOWNS USING SIMILAR ART.

What do you think about our plans for finances and rates? (p35-43)

UAGC!! THOUGHT I HAD TOO DEFER TO THE FINANCIAL EXPERTS AND "ACCEPT" COUNCILS KNOWLEDGE RE BUDGET + COSTS - IT DOES STING!! RE RATES - MY SOLE HOUSE HOLD INCOME IS SUPERANNUATION ROUGHLY \$500pw - my new rates @ increase of 11.72% means increase to \$87.20 pw - sadly for me I need to consider applying for a Rates Rebate!

Any other comments? (for example our landfill and sludge disposal)

RE: LANDFILL + SLUDGE DISPOSAL - I leave that choice to Council to ACTION THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION FOR RESIDENTS.

\* A HUGE THANK YOU TO \* COUNCIL FOR ALL THE STORM WATER PIPE REPAIR / REPLACEMENT IN GEORGE STREET - THESE NEW DRAIN MEASURES APPEAR TO BE SOLVING THE ISSUE ESPECIALLY NOTED RE VERY WET WEATHER CURRENTLY.

\* MUCH APPRECIATED \*

