

What you need to know



Introduction

Greater Wellington's 2022/23 Annual Plan confirms our plans for Year Two of our [2021-31 Long-Term-Plan](#) (LTP). This provides a summary at a high-level view of our upcoming Annual Plan.

What we do

Greater Wellington's core role is to protect the environment while enabling sustainable economic development and to do that, we are responsible for a wide range of activities that contribute to the overall wellbeing of the region. Below are highlights of some projects across our four Activity Groups.

Environment and flood protection

- We sustainably manage regional infrastructure, natural and physical resources (land, air, biodiversity, and water), control of pests, and harbours.
- Some projects we will be delivering on top of our core services in 2022/23 include: improving fish passages in the Wellington Region to look after our native freshwater fish species, and carrying out the Recloaking Papatūānuku Restoration Planning across the Regional Parks Network.

Metlink public transport

- We deliver public transport services to the regional population.
- In 2022/23 we will continue our work to improve our public transport services through a number of initiatives including the roll-out of a contactless public transport ticketing system, as part of the National Ticketing Solution. We will also continue the phasing in of electric buses to replace the diesel buses in our fleet.

Regional strategy and partnerships

- We contribute to strategic planning and collaborative partnerships on a range of issues and priorities across the region.
- Some activities for 2022/23 include the development of the Regional Economic Development Plan, and the implementation of Te Matarau a Māui, the Māori economic development strategy. We will also be developing our Regional Carbon Reduction and Adaptation Plans as part of our climate change programme.

Water supply

- We supply safe, high-quality drinking water for the four metropolitan councils in the Region.
- In 2022/23 we are providing improvements to our Bulk Water Supply network, while remaining vigilant about any future supply and resourcing challenges to our capital-based work programmes.

Draft average rates for 2022/23

Greater Wellington's overall draft average rates increase for 2022/23 is 12.27%* (as indicated by our 2021-31 LTP).

The breakdown of the draft average rates increase across the region can be seen here:

Draft Region-wide average*	Average change per annum	Average change per week
Residential (incl. GST)	\$102.45	\$1.97
Business (excl. GST)	\$237.36	\$4.56
Rural (excl. GST)	\$48.75	\$0.94

**Figures calculated using the proposed new Revenue and Finance Policy*

Your individual rate demand may differ from the figures above as they are an average across the whole region. Each area within the region has a different set of inputs on which your rates are calculated. What this means is that your rates bill is likely to differ from that of your neighbour's and your neighbouring areas.

For a more personalised estimate of your 2022/23 rates please check out our rates calculator at rates.gw.govt.nz.

Changes since our 2021-31 LTP

There have been no significant or material changes to what we planned for in Year Two of our 2021-31 LTP, so in line with the legislation we are not conducting a formal consultation process on our 2022/23 Annual Plan.

However, we wanted to make you aware of some unplanned cost increases and changes in government direction we must respond to over the next couple of years. These are listed below:

RiverLink project

[RiverLink](#) is a transformative infrastructure project for Lower Hutt, to revitalise Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River for a more resilient, more connected, more vibrant city. It is being delivered in partnership between Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council and Waka Kotahi.

- Since the adoption of the 2021-31 LTP the costs associated with Greater Wellington's contribution to the RiverLink project have escalated due to outside factors such as material and labour costs. At this stage, indicative estimations of the project costs increase are \$150m.
- There is no additional rates funding required in 2022/23 for this project so it will not impact the 2022/23 Annual Plan.
- The additional debt will impact Greater Wellington's rates from 2023/24 onwards.



Bulk water supply network improvements

The [Silverstream Pipe Bridge](#) and [Kaitoke Flume Bridge](#) replacement projects are being delivered by Wellington Water Limited to maintain and improve Greater Wellington's bulk water supply network. These projects will provide vital water infrastructure for the Wellington region.

- Since the adoption of the 2021-31 LTP the costs associated with the delivery of both these projects have become clearer and are more than was originally budgeted.
- The Silverstream Pipe Bridge project faces cost increases of \$51m spread over Years Two, Three, and Four of the 2021-31 LTP.
- The Kaitoke Flume Bridge project faces cost increases of \$37m spread over Years Two, Three, and Four of the 2021-31 LTP.
- These projects are funded through a water levy charged to territorial authorities, rather than through Greater Wellington's rates.

The Three Waters reform

The [Three Waters Reform Programme](#) is a major, intergenerational project that aims to ensure that New Zealand's three waters (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater) infrastructure and services are planned, maintained, and delivered so that these networks are affordable and fit for purpose.

Greater Wellington only has a role in one of these functions: drinking water. We provide drinking water through our bulk water supply to four territorial authority areas. The Government's Three Waters Reform programme will see a new Water Service Entity take over this role.

Greater Wellington supports the need for reform, and like other councils, is contributing to the Working Group's efforts to amend the proposals and improve the outcomes for our communities.



Challenges

Our operating environment continues to present challenges.

The impact of COVID-19

COVID-19-related challenges such as increased costs, supply of materials, and contractor availability continue to pose a deliverability risk for many of our capital-intensive projects and programmes. Greater Wellington will continue to be transparent about any delays and/or unexpected cost increases to projects as we move forward.

Public transport revenue

While Greater Wellington has shown significant resilience for patronage recovery, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created a significant shortfall in budgeted fares revenue. Public transport funding is supported by a combination of fares revenue, Greater Wellington rates and central government funding through Waka Kotahi. Greater Wellington are working closely with Waka Kotahi for additional support to minimise the impacts of the revenue shortfall and ensure a high-quality public transport network continues post pandemic.

Related processes

Greater Wellington is not consulting on our 2022/23 Annual Plan. However, we are consulting separately on two key supporting policies:

Revenue and Finance Policy

- This Policy sets out how the activities of our LTP are paid for, using a variety of funding methods such as general rates, targeted rates, fixed rates and more.
- The proposed changes to this Policy will not impact the 2022/23 Annual Plan Budget but it will change the distribution of who pays what.
- The public consultation period for this policy commences 21 March and will be open for a month.

Rates Remissions on Māori Land Policy

- This Policy supports the remission of land in Māori ownership, and the aspirations of Māori for how they use their land.
- The proposed changes to this policy will have minimal impact on the 2022/23 Annual Plan Budget.
- The public consultation period for this policy commences 21 March and will be open until 2 May.

For more information on either of these Policies, please see the Consultation documents available on our [Have Your Say website](#).

Opportunities

We are always planning for the future and are already looking ahead to what we need to consider in our 2024-34 LTP, such as:

Sky Stadium funding and future support

Through the 2022/23 Annual Plan Greater Wellington is providing a grant to support the Sky Stadium to mitigate the impacts COVID-19 has had on their business.

The proposed revisions to the Revenue and Finance Policy (see 'Other things to know' below) include adding a funding mechanism for more sustained support for the Sky Stadium in the future, though no targeted rate is being proposed at present.

Let's Get Wellington Moving

The project continues to move forward, with indicative business cases being finalised and contracts being awarded. We will have a better idea of the scale of Greater Wellington's ongoing proportion of the costs of delivering this programme over the coming year as project details are confirmed.



How to get in touch

If you have any questions on our 2022/23 Annual Plan or anything else in this document, please contact Corporate.Planning@gw.govt.nz. Alternatively, you can reach out to your regional Council representative: [Greater Wellington Regional Council — Councillors \(gw.govt.nz\)](#).