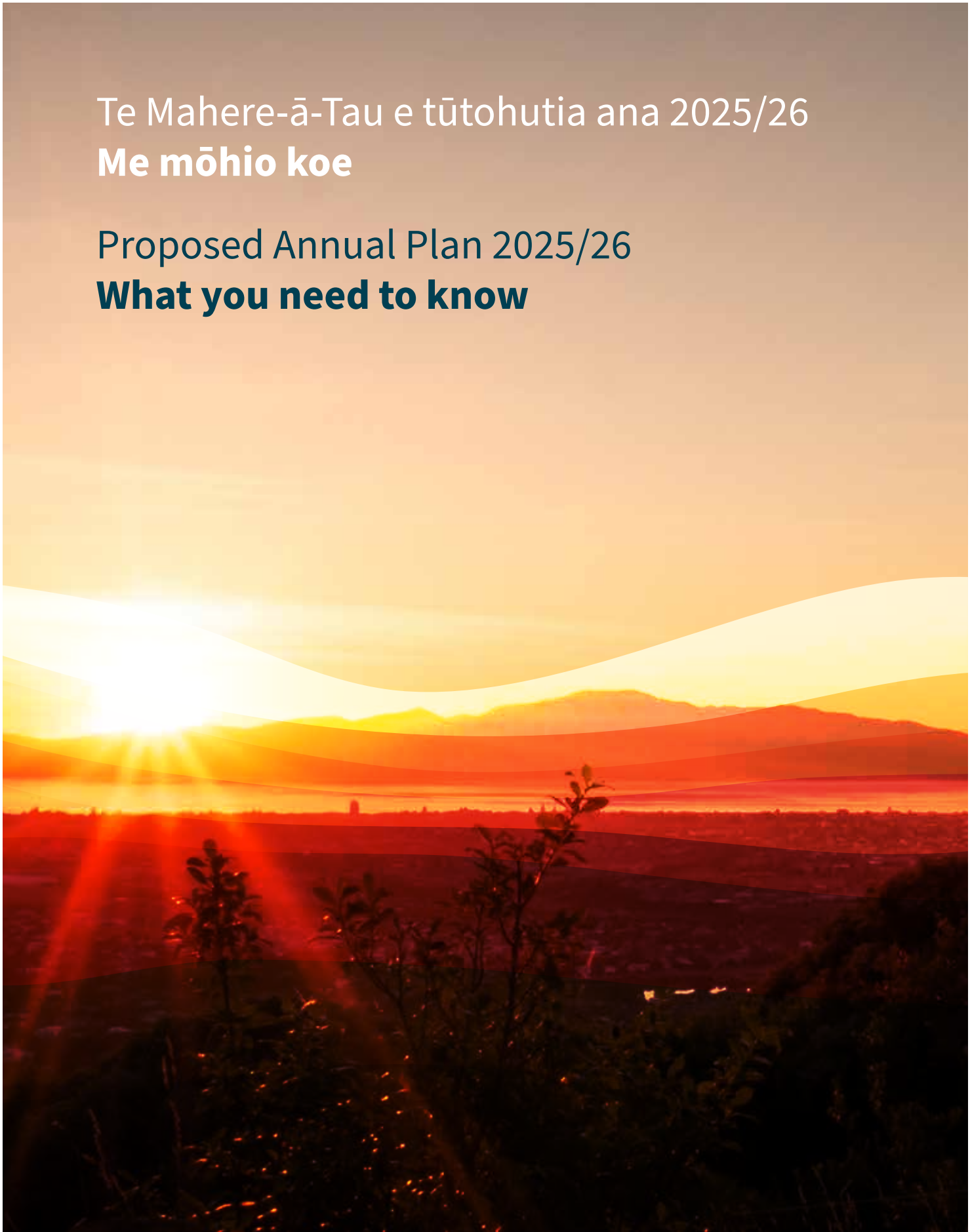


Te Mahere-ā-Tau e tūtohutia ana 2025/26
Me mōhio koe

Proposed Annual Plan 2025/26
What you need to know



E aha ana a Te Pane Matua Taiao?

What does Greater Wellington do?

Greater Wellington works to create an extraordinary region, with a thriving environment, connected communities, and a resilient future. Our focus areas include:

- Active mana whenua partnerships and participation for improved outcomes for Māori.
- Leading action for climate resilience and emissions reduction.
- Holistic approaches to deliver improved outcomes for te taiao (the environment).
- Improved access to environment and transport services and equity of outcomes through participation with communities.

Greater Wellington delivers a wide range of services that protect our environment while also meeting the cultural, social and economic needs of our communities. We're specifically responsible for environment management, flood resilience and land management, provision of regional parks, public transport planning and funding, and bulk water supply to the local Councils.



Ngā panonitanga nō te wā o tā tātou Mahere Pae Tawhiti 2024-34

Changes since our 2024-34 Long Term Plan

Annual Plans keep our communities up to date with what we are doing over the next financial year and if it is different to what the Long Term Plan said we would do, how much it will cost, and how it will be funded. The 2025/26 Annual Plan is for Year 2 of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

There have been no significant or material changes¹ to what we planned for in year two of our 2024-34 Long Term Plan, so in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (Section 95 (2A)) we are not conducting a formal consultation process. However, we wanted to make you aware of some of the proposed changes for year two that may be of interest to you and give you an opportunity to tell us what you think.

E whakaheke ana i te whakapikinga rēti ā-rohe mō te 2025/26 e hiki ai i ētahi o ngā taumahatanga kei runga i ngā hapori

We're reducing the average regional rates increase for 2025/26 to ease the pressure on our communities

Rates help fund essential services and projects under the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. While inflation and borrowing costs appear to be easing for 2025-26, we continue to face new challenges including reduced government funding and ongoing cost-of-living pressures. To balance essential services within a tight budget, we have reviewed our work programmes and propose to either delay or scale back activities in certain areas. This would lower the average regional rates increase for 2025/26 from 14.5% to 9.72%.

Despite these constraints, we remain committed to delivering the services and infrastructure that matter most to our community. We continue our important work addressing the impacts of climate change and controlling the pests that damage our rohe. We are developing a frequent and reliable public transport system and protecting the region's communities from the impacts of flooding.

Our proposed reduced rate increase reflects a careful balance—addressing current financial challenges while continuing to invest in the services and projects you identified as important during the development of the Long Term Plan.

The change in average rates increase for residential, business and rural can be seen in the table below:

	Average increase per annum	Average increase per week
Residential (Including GST)	\$66.22	\$1.27
Business (excluding GST)	\$568.76	\$10.94
Rural (excluding GST)	\$80.25	\$1.54

Your individual rates may vary based on local factors which means that your rates bill is likely to differ from that of the regional average and/or your neighbour's. For a more personalised estimate of your proposed 2025/26 rates, please check out our rates calculator on our website: [rates.gw.govt.nz/](https://www.gw.govt.nz/rates)

Assistance in paying your rates

If you need assistance with paying your rates and fit the criteria, rates remission and postponement can be applied for on our website: <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/your-rates/remission-and-postponement-policies/>

Rates rebates can also be applied for via your local council.

¹As defined by our Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

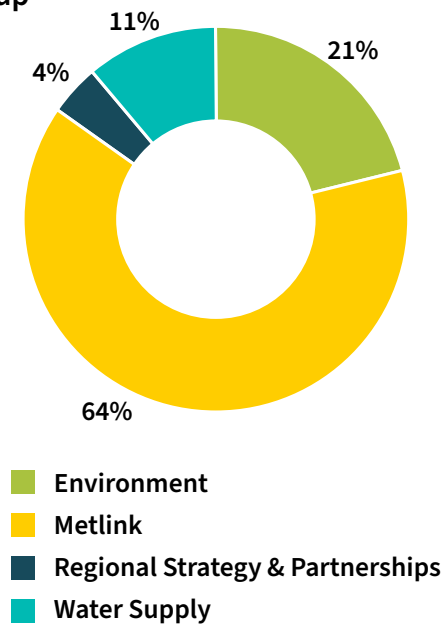


E panoni ana i te ara whakatutuki i ētahi o ā mātou mahi kua whakaritea

We're changing how we deliver some of our planned work

Your rates go towards funding services and projects across our four activity groups as set out in our Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Ten year average percentage spend per activity per group



We remain committed to delivering essential and impactful services to the highest standards, even within a constrained budget environment. We continue to prioritise collaboration and regional connectivity, strengthening our partnerships, including our ongoing commitment to working closely with mana whenua. However, to work within these constrained budgets requires trade-offs which, in some areas, will mean a reduction in service levels or deferral of work.

We deliver on our community outcomes through the work of our four key Activity Groups: Environment, Metlink Public Transport, Regional Strategy and Partnerships, and Water Supply. The **Long Term Plan** tells you more about the work that each group will be delivering between 2024-2034.

In order to achieve the rates reduction outlined above, and respond to central government direction and funding shortfalls, we propose the following changes to how we work in 2025/26:

Ngā Waka Tūmatanui – Metlink Public Transport

- Reducing the number of buses we order to simply meet expected patronage demand across the Region.
- A general fares increase to reflect inflation levels and change in the off-peak fare discount reduction from 50% to 30% (subject to confirmation by Council).
- Deferring a project to develop bus interchange and driver facilities in Porirua.
- Our bus network design and service levels will be considered as part of the review of the Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan, which is being consulted on during March 2025 with hearings scheduled for 5 to 7 May 2025.

Visit [haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/regional-public-transport-plan-2025-2035-consultation](https://www.gw.govt.nz/regional-public-transport-plan-2025-2035-consultation)

Te Taiao - Environment

- Rephasing funding to undertake future plan changes until the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management is operative or 31 December 2025 (whichever is sooner), as a result of central government direction. We know the health of our wai is important to our mana whenua partners and communities so we will focus on working together on the non-regulatory activities in the meantime to continue momentum in this space.
- Pushing back the timeframes for non-critical erosion protection projects in Pinehaven and Waiohine by 12 months.

Staffing

- Delaying recruitment of a number of vacant or new positions.

²The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024

³Local Government (Water Services) Bill 2024

He mahi anō hoki hei mahi mā mātou

Theres some extra things we need to do as well

There are a few things that we had to add to our work programme for 2025/26 that are either new, or we did not have enough information about during the development of our Long Term Plan to include them at the time.

Māori Constituency Referendum: During 2024, Council affirmed its resolution to establish a Māori Constituency for the 2025 and 2028 triennial local elections. As a result of central government legislation² Greater Wellington must conduct a poll about this during the 2025 triennial local elections. The outcome of the poll will be effective for the 2028 and 2031 triennial local elections.

- **Local Water Done Well:** Greater Wellington has obligations because of new central government water legislation³ to submit a plan to the Department of Internal Affairs regarding the future of bulk water services provision for the region by 3 September 2025. We will be working hard to meet this deadline and ensure that the community has an opportunity to have their say on what water services look like in the future. For more information and to have your say visit <https://www.gw.govt.nz/environment/freshwater/local-water-done-well/>



He aha ā mātou mahi mō tō tātou takiwā hei te 2025/26

What we have planned for our region in 2025/26



Ngā Waka Tūmatanui – Metlink Public Transport

Implementation of Council's Strategic Public Transport Asset Control Strategy



We will commission Stage One of the Southern Electric Bus Depot – Kauri Street, which will provide parking and charging for 68 electric buses and permanent maintenance facilities, bus wash, and staff amenities.

Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM)



We will commence design of the rolling stock and delivery of other infrastructure changes to progress the Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) programme. LNIRIM will replace the ageing trains on the Wairarapa and Manawatū Lines.

Bus services procurement (tranche one)



The majority of our bus contracts expire in either 2027 or 2030. Procurement for the first tranche of bus service contracts will commence in this year.

Customer-centric technical solutions



New customer-centric technology solutions:

Preparing for the transition to the National Ticketing Solution in Wellington region.

We will also replace the Real Time Information system to provide smarter, more accurate information and data for customers, the business and operators.

Wellington Rapid Transit Bus Corridors and capacity improvements



We will commence implementation of design for the Harbour Quays rapid transit bus corridor and implement Route 2 capacity improvements; by mid-2026, it is intended that there will be five Electric Articulated Vehicles (EAVs) operating between Karori and Courtenay Place.

For a further breakdown of average rates and the services we are delivering in each area ([Te-Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington-City](#), [Te-Awa-Kairangi-ki-Tai-Lower-Hutt](#), [Te-Awa-Kairangi-ki-Uta Upper Hutt](#), [Porirua](#), [Kāpiti Coast](#) and [Wairarapa](#)) please see our Area Fact Sheets.

Ko te Mahere ā-rohe me ngā Rangapū – Regional Strategy and Partnerships

Energy Transformation Initiative



Following development of solar farm proposal(s) in 2024/25, we will put costed options to decision-makers, and, if approved, preparing for implementation.

Regional Adaptation Project



We are developing a regional adaptation framework, toolkit, communications and engagement plan and regional spatial risk tool. A key focus will be partnering with mana whenua, informed/framed by mātauranga Māori.

Partnering with Te Matarau a Māui



We are supporting Te Matarau a Māui (Māori economic development agency) to implement the Māori economic development strategy through both direct support and creating the right conditions for success internally to grow and support Māori business across the region.

Te Taiao - Environment

Te Awa Kairangi – RiverLink



We will continue work on RiverLink flood protection activities. Learn more at [Te Awa Kairangi](#)

Flood Resilience Tranche 1



Greater Wellington and MBIE's Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit, Kānoa, have agreed to co-fund 16 flood resilience projects to future proof community, infrastructure, cultural taonga and the economy, following a major flooding event. Learn more at [flood resilience projects](#)

Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan implementation



We will continue restoration planting in Queen Elizabeth Park, Battle Hill Farm Park, Belmont Regional Park, East Harbour Regional Park and Kaitoke Regional Park, where the grazing licenses have ended. We also continuing our pest control and monitoring programmes in the parks to protect the existing plantings. Learn more at [Recloaking Papatūānuku](#)

Harbour channel improvement



We will continue to implement changes to improve how ships enter and leave Wellington Harbour safely, including navigational aids.

Enhanced pest animal and plant control



We are committed to protecting our most important places from the impacts of pests throughout the rohe. We will be focusing on control of goats, deer and pigs particularly in Wainuiomata catchment, Wairarapa Moana, and Pukaha Mt Bruce sanctuary. Learn more at [Greater Wellington — Pest management](#)

Keeping our resource management policies up to date



In 25/26 we will begin work to align our planning documents with government amendments to the Resource Management Act. We will implement this direction directly through resource consent processing (as required).

Using nature-based approaches to build resilience



We will further investigate nature-based solutions around wetland restoration, restoring vegetation cover, soil management, and giving the river room to move. This work will be in co-development with mana whenua, communities, other regional councils and central government partners. Learn more at [Greater Wellington — Environmental data and information](#)

Marine biosecurity



We will continue to implement our marine biosecurity plan with Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, focussing on increased pest surveillance and raising awareness of threats to our marine environments.

Ngā Puna Wai - Water Supply

Capacity upgrades



Work continues to increase the water storage capacity supplying the Te Mārua treatment plant. Hydraulic capacity upgrades of the plant itself are expected to be completed mid-2025.

Bulk water network upgrades



- Upgrades and maintenance of the pipe network and bulk flow meters are planned.
- Construction of seismically resilient pipe connections to Rocky Point and Ngauranga Interconnection valve chambers on the Wainuiomata to Wellington pipeline will commence mid-late 2025.
- Whakawhirinaki: The Silverstream Water Bridge and Shared Path project should be completed mid-2025.

Waterloo Pump Hall Ventilation



Construction for the installation of a ventilation system to cool the pumping facility at Waterloo Pump Hall is expected to start this year.

Te mahi tahi ki ngā mana whenua Working with mana whenua

Greater Wellington is focused on the maturity and shifts that our relationships require to transform the way we partner with mana whenua. As trust grows and we as Greater Wellington grow greater capability in understanding the role and inherent obligations of mana whenua in their rohe, we recognise our need to shift the way we work. This shift is away from Greater Wellington embedding te ao Māori/mātauranga Māori to enabling this to be done by mana whenua. From everything that we do, we will build our understanding of true whaitua design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation, this will be driven with and by mana whenua. This maturing partnership is driven from over 30 years of partnership with mana whenua including:

- Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki
- Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust
- Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira
- Taranaki Whānui (represented by Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust)
- Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa

Our focus will be ensuring that the work we do is with our mana whenua partners delivering on priorities of mana whenua and our shared outcomes across the region. This includes doing our part to support the success of existing and future Treaty settlements [and emerging Post Settlement Governance Entities].

We are also partnering through shared programmes of work through kaupapa and tūāpapa funding agreements, ensuring mana whenua are engaged early and are part of the design and delivery for successful outcomes both for mana whenua/Māori/community and for te taiao.



Kei te pīrangi mātou ki ō whakaaro We value your feedback

We understand that there is a balance to find between affordability and best serving the needs of our environment and community, both now and into the future, and we are always interested in whether you think we have hit the mark.

Please let us know if you have any feedback. This may be about:

- Our proposed 2025/26 Annual Plan.
- Our priorities and/or how we propose to deliver our services during 2025/26.
- Anything else related to the way Greater Wellington delivers on our responsibilities and works with our communities.

How to provide feedback

- You can provide feedback online via our **Have Your Say platform** during March 2025.
- Register for a **Coffee and Chat discussion** with Councillors, which will be held 2pm, Thursday 20 March at our Cuba Street Office. Registrations close 9am Monday 17 March.
- You can also post your feedback to us at the below address or drop it off to one of our offices during March 2025.
 - Post: Greater Wellington Regional Council, PO BOX 11646, Wellington, 6142
 - Offices:
100 Cuba Street, Wellington
34 Chapel Street, Masterton

The Council will consider all feedback and deliberate on the Annual Plan 2025/26 at a meeting in May/June 2025.

Please contact **Corporate.Planning@gw.govt.nz** if you have any questions relating to the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

Privacy Statement

Greater Wellington will collect, store, use and/or share your personal information in accordance with the Greater Wellington — **Privacy statement**.

We don't require your name and contact details as part of your feedback but will ask you a couple of demographic questions. You do not have to answer those questions, but they will assist us with analysis of the feedback. All responses will be anonymised as part of the analysis, before overall themes are shared with Council and the general public.

If you wish to attend the Coffee and Chat discussion with Councillors we will ask for your name and contact details on the registration form so that we can contact you about the event if needed.

For more information, please contact Greater Wellington:

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February 2025

