

# COMMUNITY PĀNUI | UPDATE

20 JUNE 2024

## Updated Proposed Annual Plan 2024-2025

Thank you again to our 62 submitters to the Annual Plan 2024-2025 process and those who came and spoke to elected members at the hearing on May 22.

Most submitters said the proposed rates increase of 15.1% will unduly burden an already stressed community. Submitters requested Council ask, "Is it necessary" when considering the budget.

Sixty percent of submitters asked Council to review the current levels of service to reduce the rates increase.

### Their requests to reduce costs include:

- Review efficiency of workstreams and processes;
- Delay non-essential projects to defer operational costs;
- Delay hiring additional staff;
- Review charging at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre;
- Review solid waste operations;
- Reassess depreciation levels.

Following the submissions, hearing and deliberations, Council requested that the budget be reviewed to reduce the overall rates requirement.

Proposals to reduce costs were presented to the Council at an Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 12 June.

### The Council is now looking at an overall rates increase of 12.2% achieved by:

- 1 Lowering the levels of depreciation funding back to 35%  
*Rates reduction saving - \$114,500 (0.8%)*
- 2 Not proceeding with additional staffing positions and maintaining a small number of vacancies  
*Rates reduction saving - \$213,000 (1.6%)*
- 3 Reviewing financing options and timing of loan drawdowns for reticulation  
*Rates reduction saving - \$45,000 (0.3%)*
- 4 Not proceeding with the asbestos site (albeit mainly funded from depreciation this does have a small positive financing impact)  
*Rates reduction saving - \$3000 (0.08%)*

These measures reduce the overall rates increase to 12.2% for 2024-2025.

What is the UAGC?

### Why Council wants to increase the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)

The Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) is the minimum charge to every property towards general rate funded activities. The balance of the general rate is charged as a portion of each property's capital value.

The purpose of the UAGC is to ensure that all property owners provide a minimum contribution to fund services that benefit the rohe.

During the consultation and engagement process for the proposed Annual Plan 2024-2025, Council asked the question about increasing the UAGC from \$850 to \$950 per property.

Following submitters' feedback, Council agreed to increase the UAGC for the 2024-2025 year to \$900 per property at the Extraordinary Meeting on June 12.

# MATARIKI 2024 TIMETABLE

## ★ MONDAY 24 JUNE

**10:30am Community Tree Planting Ceremony in Ranfurly Court**  
Refreshments will follow in the Concert Chamber

**4pm In Memorial Tribute Video**  
Will be posted on social media and our website

## ★ TUESDAY 25 JUNE

**12pm Mayoral lunch for kaumātua and seniors of Kawerau Town Hall** (This event is full)

## ★ WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

**1pm Kawerau District Community Awards**  
Concert Chamber

## ★ THURSDAY 27 JUNE

**5am Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora community day**  
Te Matatu, 119 Onslow Street, Kawerau  
Please register for this event on their Facebook Page or  
For more information contact 07 323 8047  
Aroha@tuwharetoa.org.nz

## ★ FRIDAY 28 JUNE

**Matariki public holiday**  
Council Services Open  
Transfer Station 12pm-4pm  
isite 10am-2pm  
Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre 9am-6pm

## ★ SATURDAY 13 JULY

**10am-2pm MTFJ | ISK Industry Open Day**  
Manukorihi Drive

## Matariki Community Tree Planting Memorial Service

Pōhutukawa is the star of remembrance and is associated with those who have passed away. It is believed that the spirits of the dead return to the earth during the rise of Matariki, and Pōhutukawa is the star that guides them. This star is also associated with healing and regeneration, making it an important symbol of hope and renewal.

As we approach Matariki 2024, we would like to provide a space for our community to come together to honour and celebrate their loved ones who have passed away.

While this is a very personal and sensitive matter, we hope that you can join us for a Community Tree Planting Memorial Service (Monday 24 June, 10:30am) with our Mayor Faylene Tunui and Cultural Advisor and Kaumātua Te Haukakawa Te Rire.

Refreshments will follow in the Concert Chamber.



## Council submits against Māori Wards' Bill

Kawerau District Council was one of many councils to submit their opposition to the select committee about the proposed Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill.

The coalition Government's Māori wards bill would revert the law back to the old rules for establishing Māori wards and require a binding referendum on wards that were established since 2020 without a referendum.

Kawerau District Council made a submission to the select committee, opposing the bill last week stating that the bill undermines local decision-making by councillors who have been elected by our community. Council's submission also stated that the bill undermined the rights of Tangata Whenua and went against the basic principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The bill impacts Kawerau as Council last year resolved to introduce Māori representation for the 2025 local government elections and would require a binding poll at the same elections. The result of the poll would determine if Kawerau retained Māori representation or not for the 2028 and 2031 elections. The letter of submission opposing the Bill can be viewed on our website.

## Update on Proposed Rate Remission for Sporting, Recreation and Community Organisations

Council recently consulted regarding the Proposed Rates Remission Policy for Sport, Recreation and Community Organisations Leasing Council Land.

The proposed policy was tabled at the Council Meeting on Wednesday, 29 May with councillors agreeing to adopt the draft policy and complete a two-week consultation period.

Thank you to everyone who submitted.

Deliberations and adoption of the policy are planned for 26 June 2024 with the policy taking effect from the 1 July 2024.

# Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy



Following a policy review under the Building Act 2004, Kawerau District Council has adopted a revised draft policy for dangerous, affected, and insanitary buildings for public consultation.

The changes are intended to improve clarity of the policy and understanding for users.

The draft policy is available for inspection at the District Office in Ranfurly Court and on our Council's website.

Submissions must be in writing and can be dropped into the Council Office, completed online at [kaweraudc.govt.nz](http://kaweraudc.govt.nz) or emailed to [submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz)

**Submissions close at 5.00pm on Friday 19 July 2024.**

## Mercury Energy Visit

Council recently visited the Mercury Energy power station in Kawerau to meet the management team and gain a better understanding of energy production here in our Kawerau rohe. Mercury's Kawerau station produces enough energy to power 100,000 homes. The visit was enjoyed by Mayor Faylene Tunui, Council Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire, Crs Berice Julian and Rex Savage, Chief Executive Morgan Godfery, Senior Leadership Team members Lee Barton and Tania Humberstone and PA Pari Maxwell (not pictured). The Mercury Energy team comprised Kawerau site manager Phil Erdbeer, Mercury GM Generation Stew Hamilton, Mercury Community Engagement Manager Katy Scoullar, Senior Environmental Advisor Nick Eynon-Richards, and Pou Tuhono-A-Iwi Iwi Relationships Manager Moko Tauariki.



# Congratulations! Malcolm Campbell

Former Mayor Malcolm Campbell was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM), for services to local government and the community.

Malcolm Campbell was the Mayor of Kawerau for 21 years. Throughout those years Malcolm worked to improve economic performance, attract industry, increase services, and enhance perceptions of Kawerau's lifestyle attractions. He led initiatives such as the Industrial Symbiosis project.

In an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 June, the Mayor and councillors congratulated Malcolm on his achievement. Elected members acknowledged that Malcolm was very deserving of the accolade. The councillors reflected on working alongside Malcolm; "What you saw was what you got with Malcolm." The councillors appreciated his honesty. You could always tell Malcolm made every decision with Kawerau in mind. Even councillors who did not get the opportunity to work with Malcolm admired him, pushing for things he believed in, like the Youth Council.

Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika said, "You (Malcolm) are the right man for Regional Council in this area. You have a heartfelt connection to the whenua, and that, for me, holds you in good stead."

***Congratulations, Malcolm, on receiving the New Zealand Order of Merit; what a huge accomplishment!***

*Below: Malcolm Campbell with Governor-General of New Zealand, Dame Cindy Kiro after being awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit.*



## Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre – Pool Temp Update

Council has met with Work Safe and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council about the resource consent to complete the maintenance work on the bore. We received consent and the drilling company started the repair work this week.

We thank the community for your patience and support while we work through these issues and applaud all the hearty people who braved the cold to get their daily swimming in!



# COUNCIL BRIEFS

## Fluoride extension granted

In April 2024, Council sought an extension to the Director-General of Health's directive to fluoridate. The Mayor wrote to the Minister of Health seeking an extension while the CEO wrote to the Director-General of Health. The Director-General of Health has granted Kawerau District Council an extension to add fluoride to the drinking water up until September 30, 2024.

## Ron Hardie Rec Centre roof repair

High flying Goldseal Group have now completed the repairs of the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre roof. Goldseal Group Ltd completed the work under budget for \$57,115.44.

Council will now obtain a structural engineering report on the Ron Hardie Rec Centre to work out the state of the building, any repairs and maintenance required. This will ensure that Council is aware of the state and costs of the building going into next year's Long-Term Plan.

## River Road Update

Work on River Road started last week to complete a 400m section of River Road around Transfer Station Road. This area has been plagued with groundwater issues after the massive rainfalls of the 2022/2023 summer. Work is expected to be completed in early July 2024.

There will be traffic management control in place as the work progresses. Please accept our apologies to residents and users of River Road for any delays.

## MBIE funding for phase one of Tarawera Walkway repair project

The extreme North Island weather events in early 2023 damaged the walkway alongside the Tarawera River on Waterhouse Street, reducing access for the community to enjoy this natural resource.

Recently, Council received positive news from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) with funds of \$19,000 approved for the required engineering assessment and repair options. This grant will fund the first phase to eventually repair the asset and reopen the walkway. It is still early days, but Council hopes the walkway will be reopened in the coming months.

## Library software update

During the month of May all of Council's library data has been moved from servers in New Zealand to those in Australia. This project was run by Council's Library software supplier, Kōtui, to better protect customers data for the future and is now hosted by Sirsi/Dynix (Library software supplier). The transition went very smoothly with little impact on day-to-day service.

## Thank you, Trust Horizon

Kawerau District Council would like to thank Trust Horizon for their generosity and support. Trust Horizon granted Council \$60,070 to upgrade the Climate Control System at the Archives & Museum Storage Building.

To prevent the deterioration of the artifacts and materials, the storage facility must be strictly temperature controlled.

## Kawerau St John 3 steps for life class

Kawerau St John is pleased to announce that they have a full kit for delivering 3 Steps for Life and are holding a community session on Saturday, July 6, at 11am in Kawerau St John Hall, River Road.

The class is free and will take less than an hour to complete. Within the hour, you will be able to equip yourselves with the skills to help in emergencies.

Please register <https://form.jotform.com/KUKA2023/3S4L>

## Important dates and meetings

**Wednesday 26 June** Ordinary Council Meeting- Adoption of Annual Plan for 2024/25 9:00am

**Wednesday 26 June** Matariki Kawerau Community Awards, Concert Chamber 1:00pm – 2:00pm.

**Saturday 6 July** St John 3 steps for life class, Kawerau St John Hall, River Road 11:00am

**Wednesday 17 July** Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting 9:00am

**Wednesday 31 July** Ordinary Council Meeting 9:00am

**Monday 5 August** Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 1:00pm

**Wednesday 14 August** Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting 9:00am

**Wednesday 28 August** Ordinary Council Meeting 9:00am