

### KEY PROPOSALS IN THE PLAN

When we started preparing our 2020/21 Annual Plan late last year COVID-19 was something few of us had even heard about. In the months since, the world has experienced social and economic disruption on a scale not seen in most of

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

our lifetimes and it will be felt for some time. Consequently our focus for the next year will be on ways we can support our community through the recovery and undertake activities to stimulate economic growth using, where possible, local businesses and contractors.

This Annual Plan proposes a range of measures aimed at bringing relief to residents and businesses, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic - some of which can be actioned immediately while others are more long term and will require

### ZERO RATES INCREASE

The key proposal is for a zero % rate increase for the 2020–2021 financial year.

Following the Council's Long Term Plan, rates were projected to increase by around 3.36%. However, given the financial burden COVID-19 will place on many families and businesses **we are proposing to have a zero % rate rise.** In addition, the Council is proposing a freeze on fees and charges and is offering payment plans and remission of rate penalties for those experiencing financial hardship.

Council is able to achieve the zero rates rise due to the prudent and effective financial management of the organisation by staff and elected members over many years. Consequently, this Council is in a sound financial position and we are able to take an additional one-off (\$722,500) contribution from our Long Term Investment Fund to realise this proposal.

There will be **no changes in levels of service**, and we will continue to meet our current and future infrastructure needs without compromising future plans or our overall financial position.

These are just the first of several initiatives the Council will consider over the coming year. We will look to work closely with businesses, iwi and other partners to develop further measures that will support the ongoing welfare of our District.

### OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2020/21

Council's Vision is to make South Taranaki the most liveable District in New Zealand



#### VIBRANT SOUTH TARANAKI (CULTURAL WELL-BEING)

- Continue the **Hāwera Town Centre Revitalisation Strategy** with construction of the new Library, Culture and Arts Centre (Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga)
- Continue planning of **Town Centre Upgrades** for Eltham, Manaia, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley
- Start work on the new **Manaia Community Facility**
- Complete upgrades to the **Manaia Swimming Pool** (Year 3 of a 3 year \$623,000 programme)
- Reclad the **Eltham Town Hall** (\$220,000)
- Continue the **District Pathways Programme** (\$250,000)
- Support the **Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust** with a (\$50,000) grant
- Replace **toilets at Ōpunakē** recreation ground (\$212,000)



#### SUSTAINABLE SOUTH TARANAKI (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)

- Implement Council's **Waste Management and Minimisation Plan** and investigate further options for reducing waste going to landfill
- Develop an **Environment and Sustainability Strategy** for the Long Term Plan



#### TOGETHER SOUTH TARANAKI (SOCIAL WELL-BEING)

- Develop a **Digital Transformation Strategy** to improve Council's effectiveness and provide better digital access for the community to Council services
- Spend approximately \$25 million (operational and capital expenditure) on our **District's Road Network**, including \$700,000 on footpaths
- Build the new **Nukumarū Station Road Extension**



#### PROSPEROUS SOUTH TARANAKI (ECONOMIC WELL-BEING)

- Economic relief and recovery measures**
- Capital Works spending of around \$9.85 million on **District Water Infrastructure** improvements, including **reservoir for Waimate West** water supply (\$3.75 million) and renewal of District water pipes
- Budget \$475,000 on District **Stormwater improvements** and \$1.5 million on **Wastewater infrastructure** upgrades and renewals
- Subsidise rates** by \$6.5 million using earnings from the Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF). In addition Council is proposing taking a one-off subsidy of \$722,500 from the LTIF to **reduce the average rate increase from 3.36% to zero**
- Use debt to fund key infrastructural projects**
- Debt repayments of \$5.1 million** (including \$1.34 million of internal debt repayment)

### KEY RELIEF MEASURES COUNCIL IS PROPOSING:

- Zero % rate increase**
- Nil increase to Fees and Charges
- Payment Plans and Rate Penalty Remissions for those experiencing financial hardship
- Ongoing Economic Recovery Measures:** We will look at how we can support longer term economic recovery by:
  - Seeking Government financial assistance for and undertaking six significant 'shovel ready' projects. These are: Nukumarū Station Road, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Waimate West water mains replacement, desludging the Hāwera Waste Water Treatment Plant Anaerobic Lagoon, Hāwera Business Park infrastructure and Waimate West Reservoir
  - Proceeding with projects such as the Manaia Community Facility and Swimming Pool upgrade, District Pathways Programme
  - Bringing some of our capital projects and other development initiatives forward in our 2021- 2031 Long Term Plan (such as the Hāwera Business Park and associated infrastructure work and the Eltham, Manaia, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley Town Centre upgrades)

Our total operational expenditure across all activities in 2020/2021 is \$67.3 million and capital expenditure is \$27.5 million. Of this we will spend approximately \$25 million on our District roads activity (operational and capital expenditure), including around \$700,000 on footpaths. The value of the Long Term Investment Fund is projected to increase to \$150.24 million (including internal borrowings of \$16.92 million) and total debt is projected to be \$144.02 million (including internal borrowings of \$16.92 million) by the end of 2020-21.

### CHANGES FROM THE 2018-28 LTP

#### ZERO RATES INCREASE

The main change to what we had in our Long Term Plan has been the decision to reduce the projected rate increase from 3.36% to zero. We are able to take an additional one-off (\$722,500) contribution from our Long Term Investment Fund to realise this proposal.

#### FREEZE ON FEES AND CHARGES

We are proposing to put a freeze on fees and charges and hold them at 2019/20 levels.

#### RATES EXAMPLES

Capital Value	Urban		Hawera Commercial	Rural		
	\$200,000	\$320,000	\$480,000	\$600,000	\$5,300,000	\$8,000,000
General	\$175.67	\$281.07	\$421.60	\$527.00	\$4,655.15	\$7,026.64
Roading	\$135.79	\$217.26	\$325.89	\$407.36	\$3,598.33	\$5,431.44
UAGC	\$604.00	\$604.00	\$604.00	\$604.00	\$604.00	\$604.00
Water	\$624.45	\$624.45	\$624.45	\$624.45		
Wastewater	\$678.50	\$678.50	\$678.50	\$678.50		
Kerbside Collection	\$264.50	\$264.50	\$264.50			
Hawera Business Rate				\$538.11		
Total Rates	\$2,482.91	\$2,669.78	\$2,918.94	\$3,379.42	\$8,857.48	\$13,062.08
Prior Year Rates	\$2,485.48	\$2,673.06	\$2,923.17	\$3,395.47	\$8,890.19	\$13,110.75
Decrease	-\$2.57	-\$3.28	-\$4.23	-\$16.05	-\$32.71	-\$48.67

### WHAT IS AN ANNUAL PLAN?

Every three years the Council must develop a **Long Term Plan** which outlines the projects and services the Council intends to carry out in the District over the next ten years. The Council adopted its most recent Long Term Plan in 2018.

Each year the Council also must develop an **Annual Plan** which highlights the Council's programme for the upcoming year and sets the rates by determining how much the Council's activities will cost and how they will be funded.

The Annual Plan for 2020/21 represents Year 3 of the Council's Long Term Plan 2018-28 (LTP).

Because there are **no significant changes in levels of service** between the proposed 2020/21 Annual Plan and the corresponding third year of the Long Term Plan, there is no requirement for undertaking formal public consultation. However, the Council has decided it would still like community feedback on the 2020/21 Annual Plan which can be given between 7 May and 21 May.



### HOW TO GIVE US FEEDBACK

You can send us your feedback by:  
Sending an email to [annualplan@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@stdc.govt.nz) or writing to us and either dropping it into the Hāwera Administration Building or any of our seven LibraryPlus Centres returns slots, or posting it to us at Private Bag 902, Hāwera  
**Feedback can be submitted from Thursday 7 May to 5pm Thursday 21 May 2020.**