



Mahere Pae Tawhiti

Long Term Plan

(Amended) 2024-2034 ¹

Adopted: 27 June 2024
Amended adopted: 18 February 2026

Operative from: 1 July 2024

¹ This Long-Term Plan Amendment is published as a separate, unaudited document. An audit opinion is not required for this amendment, as it gives effect to a legislative change relating to the transfer of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services. The original Long-Term Plan, including its audit opinion, remains published separately and unchanged.

Long Term Plan Amendment

Purpose of this amendment

This amendment to the Long-term plan 2024-2034 was made under section 93D of the Local Government Act 2002. It gives effect to the legislative requirement for all participating councils to remove water service delivery functions, budgets and assets from their Long-term Plans following the transfer of these responsibilities to new regional water services delivery organisations.

Under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, Upper Hutt City Council's responsibility for water supply, wastewater and stormwater will end on 1 July 2026, when these services transfer to a new multi-council owned water service organisation for the metropolitan Wellington region, named Tiaki Wai Limited. (Tiaki Wai). This change is in accordance with provisions of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 and Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 enabling the reform.

Tiaki Wai will operate drinking water, wastewater, and piped stormwater services for approximately 432,000 people across the Wellington metropolitan area from 1 July 2026. It will take over the services and work being done today by Wellington Water, and the people doing that work. Tiaki Wai is jointly owned by Upper Hutt, Hutt, Porirua and Wellington City Councils along with Greater Wellington Regional Council.

This amendment ensures that the Long-term Plan reflects that change and continues to accurately reflect the services and financial responsibilities of the Council

Summary of amendments

Page(s)	Section	Sub section amended	Description
14-16	Overview	What's driving our thinking	Updated to reflect the transfer of water services to Tiaki Wai from 1 July 2026.
19	Overview	Our plan: focusing on what matters most	Updated to reflect the transfer of water services to Tiaki Wai from 1 July 2026.
28-33	Overview	Financial Summary	The financial summary was updated to remove water services revenue, debt, operating and capital expenses from year 3 onwards.
66-93	Groups of activities	Water Supply Wastewater Stormwater	Removed performance measures and financial information from year 3 onwards to reflect the transfer of water services activities to Tiaki Wai on 1 July 2026.
124-147	Assumptions, strategies and financials	Significant forecasting assumptions	Removed forecasting assumptions related to water services from year 3 onwards
148-167	Finance	Financial Strategy	The financial strategy was updated to remove all water services related revenue, costs and debt from Year 3 onwards. Tables and charts have been updated to reflect the transfer of water services from 1 July 2026.

168-176	Finance	Benchmarks	Benchmarks from year 3 onwards have been updated to reflect the transfer of water services assets from 1 July 2026.
177-261	Infrastructure	Infrastructure Strategy	The infrastructure strategy was updated to remove all water services from Year 3 onwards. Tables and charts have been updated to reflect the transfer of water services from 1 July 2026.
263-291	Policies	Revenue and Financing Policy	The Revenue and Financing Policy was updated to reflect the water transfer services from 1 July 2026.
304-317	Policies	Significance and Engagement Policy	The Significance and Engagement Policy was updated to reflect the water transfer services from 1 July 2026.
326-375	Finance	Financial statements	The financial statements were updated to remove all water services related revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities and reserves Year 3 onwards.
382	Upper Hutt City Council	Elected Members	Updated to include elected Council from October 2025
383	Other information	Glossary	Definition of Wellington Water Limited current shareholding and future state.

Consultation and audit

This amendment was adopted without further consultation or independent audit. Under section 93D (4) of the Local Government Act 2002, councils are not required to consult or obtain an audit when making an amendment that gives effect to a change required by law.

The Council through the Annual Plan 2025/26 consultation, sought community views on the future delivery of reliable water services. The majority of respondents (84%) supported joining a regional water services delivery organisation.

Nau mai Welcome

Kua whakarerekētia te Mahere Pae Tawhiti 2024–2034 a Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta kia tangohia katoatia ngā mahi ratonga wai, rawa, taunahatanga, moni whiwhi me ngā utu mai i te tau tuatoru ki tua, e hāngai ana ki te Ture Whakarerekē Rāngai Ratonga Wai 2024. Ko tēnei whakarerekētanga e whakaata ana i ngā panonitanga ā-ture e whakawhiti ana i ngā mahi ratonga wai katoa ki te rōpū ā-rohe, arā ko Tiaki Wai Metro Water Limited, mai i te 1 o Hūrae 2026.

Kua waihangatia tēnei Mahere Pae Tawhiti 2024–2034 (LTP) e ngā wero ōhanga e pēhi nei i a tātou, me te hiahia ki te whakapakari i te manawaroa ā-pūtea kia noho tonu a Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta hei wāhi pai mō te noho, te mahi, me te whakangahau.

Ko te Mahere tētehi o tā mātou tino pukapuka, e arataki ana i ngā mahi a te Kaunihera, i ngā utu whakahaere, me pēhea hoki te whakaea i aua utu.

Kua uaua te whakawhanake i tēnei Mahere, kua uaua hoki ngā whakatau i kōwhirihia e te Kaunihera.

E mātau pū ana mātou i ngā kano pēhanga ahumoni. Nā te nui o ngā utu noho, o ngā pāpātanga huamoni, o ngā pikiutu tikipū, o ngā utu penehīni e aupēhi nei, e aupōuri nei te tini tāngata.

Ehara tēnei i te mea hou. Kia aupēhi nei te ōhanga ā-motu i ngā wero nui, ka whakaaweawetia ngā kaunihera puta noa i te motu.

Nā ēnei tūāhuatanga, ka whakatakoto tā tātou mahere i ngā aronga matua e toru hei te tekau tau e heke mai nei: kia taurite i ngā puka kāute; kia whakangao i ngā pūtea ki ngā poupou hapori; kia hoki ki ngā tūāpapa ratonga ka tika.

Kua āta whakaarotaketia ngā whakahaerenga mō te Kaunihera, ngā ratonga, ngā kaupapa mahi hoki kia mārāma pūrangiaho ai kei hea ngā wāhanga ka iti ake, ka tārewa rānei ngā utu.

Ko ngā whakaaroaro a te hapori kei te pito o ngā whakatau a te Kaunihera. Me taurite aua whakaaro ki hō mātou haepapa ahumoni, ki hō mātou herenga ture, ki ngā tūāpapa ratonga e tika ana mō te hapori.

Upper Hutt City Council's 2024-2034 Long Term Plan has been amended to remove all water services activities, assets, liabilities, revenues and costs from year three onwards in line with the Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2024. This amendment reflects legislative changes transferring all water services activities to the regional water entity, Tiaki Wai Metro Water Limited from 1 July 2026.

This Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034 (LTP) has been shaped by the economic challenges we face, and the need to build financial resilience to ensure Upper Hutt remains a great place to live, work, and play.

As one of our most important documents, the Long Term Plan outlines what Council will do, how much it will cost, and how it will be funded.

Developing this plan has been a challenging process, which required tough decisions to be made.

We recognise that our community is under financial pressure. The high cost of living, interest rates, inflation, insurance, and fuel prices are causing financial strain for many.

We are not alone. New Zealand's economy is facing significant challenges, which have impacted councils throughout the country.

For these reasons, our plan for the next ten years is focused on three key priorities: balancing the books; maintaining our infrastructure; and a back-to-basics approach to our services.

We thoroughly reviewed Council's structure, services, and projects to find areas where spending could be reduced or deferred.

Our communities' views are an important consideration in Council's decision-making. These views must be balanced alongside meeting our financial responsibilities, legislative requirements, and deliverable levels of service.

Ka whakatakina te uiuinga Mahere i te 2 o ngā rā o Āperira ki te 12 o Mei i tēnei tau. I whakahokia mai ngā tāpaetanga kōrero e 631, ā, ka tuku kōrero whakamārama ngā tāngata 68 i hā rātou tāpaetanga i ngā whakawā e toru i te marama o Mei.

Ko te nuinga o ngā tāpaetanga kōrero e hāngai ana ki rautaki ahumoni e whakahaere ana i tēnei Mahere, ki te pikitanga hoki i ngā tāke kaunihera.

Ahako te iti o ngā tāke kaunihera i ngā rā o mua, tē taea e te Kaunihera te pupuru tonu ki tērā mahere ahumoni kei hē hō tātou poupu hapori, hō tātou ratonga hoki.

Ko ngā tāke kaunihera te whiwhinga pūtea matua a te Kaunihera. Kia ea ai ngā takohanga ahumoni, ngā tūāpapa ratonga hoki, me piki rawa ngā tāke kaunihera i ngā tau ki muri tata nei o tēnei mahere.

Ka toka ngā pae tāke kaunihera nā runga i ngā herenga tahua kia ea ngā utu o ngā kaupapa mahi matua a te Kaunihera, kia tika ngā pae pūtea taurewa, kia ea hoki ngā utu huamoni.

Ka 19.93% te piki a te nuinga o ngā tāke kaunihera hei te tau tuatahi.

I runga i ngā tāpaetanga, i whakaitihia te pikinga reiti toharite mō te tekau tau o te Mahere Pae Tawhiti ki te 8.96%. I roto i te Mahere Pae Tawhiti kua whakahouhia, ko te pikinga reiti toharite mō te tekau tau he 1.26%.

Ahako te piki a ngā tāke kaunihera, kei te iti ake ngā tāke kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta i nuinga o ngā rēti puta noa i te motu.

The Long Term Plan consultation ran from 2 April to 12 May this year. We received 631 submissions and 68 people spoke about their submissions over three hearing dates in May.

There was strong feedback through submissions in response to the financial strategy driving this Long Term Plan, and the resulting rates increases.

While rates in Upper Hutt have been low historically, it is no longer financially viable to keep them at the level they have been without our infrastructure and facilities suffering.

Rates are Council's main source of income. To meet our financial commitments and provide the agreed levels of service, we must significantly increase rates in the early years of this plan.

The level rates are set at is based on the funding required to deliver Council's core activities, maintain appropriate borrowing levels, and fund interest costs.

On average, rates will increase by 19.93% in Year 1.

In response to submissions the average rates rise over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan was reduced to 8.96%. In the amended Long Term Plan the average rate increase is 1.26% over the 10 years.

Despite the increases, rates in Upper Hutt will remain among the lowest in New Zealand.

Ko hētehi atu o ngā tino kaupapa i whakahoki kōrero mai koutou ko te taunaki i tō mātou whakangao i ngā pūtea ki ngā pou pou hāpori, i ngā kaupapa mahi matua hoki a te Kaunihera. Tōna tikanga, i whakamanahia e koutou ngā whakaarotau matua a tēnei Mahere.

Nā hō koutou tuku kōrero whakamārama, ka toka te whakatau a te Kaunihera kia whakaiti i ngā pūtea tautoko mō ngā wāhanga mahi e rima, mō te nuinga hoki o ngā pūtea karāti.

Kua āta whakaarohia e mātou te whakangao i ngā pūtea ki ngā tūāhanga wai, ka neke atu i te 40% o tā mātou whakapaunga moni whiwhi.

Ka utua tonutia e te Kaunihera ngā karāti tautoko hāpori, ā, ka whakahoki anō i ngā pūtea tautoko mō ngā whakatairanga ā-tāone, mō ngā taiopenga hoki hei te tau tauwhā o tēnei Mahere.

Ka nui hō mātou mihi ki a koutou kua whai wā ki tuku kōrero whakamārama i hō koutou whakaaro, ki te mahi ngātahi hoki kei tō te Kaunihera taha kia uruparea ngā wero nui o te wā.

Kua ngākau titikaha mātou ki tēnei mahere e whakatakotohia ana te ara tika hei hīkoinga mā tātou ki tō tātou āpōpō.

Key areas of submission feedback also included support for a focus on infrastructure and Council's core activities. This confirmed to us that we were on the right track with the priority areas in this Long Term Plan.

After hearing your feedback, Council confirmed most of the consultation proposals to reduce funding for five activity areas and most existing contestable grants.

We are proceeding with a realistic level of investment in our water services, which is increasing to more than 40% of our total spend.

It was also decided to continue funding community grants and to reinstate increased funding for the city marketing and events from Year 4 of the Long Term Plan.

We appreciate the time taken by members of the community to give their views and thank them for working with us on the unprecedented and difficult issues we are dealing with.

We are committed to this plan, which will provide a resilient pathway for our vibrant, green, and connected city to continue to grow for generations to come.



Wayne Guppy
Koromatua | Mayor
Until October 2025

Mayor Peri Zee
Koromatua | Mayor
October 2025 onwards

Geoff Swainson
Te Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive

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Te whakamahi i tēnei mahere

Using this document

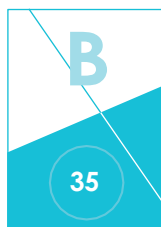
This Long Term Plan is divided into a number of sections. We have described each of these sections below. Each section has its own cover page and table of contents. Subsections, such as strategies and policies, may also have additional tables of contents.

SECTION A
Whakarāpopototanga
Overview



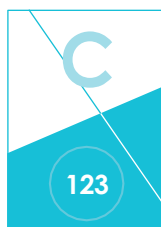
This section provides an overview of this Long Term Plan—the overarching outcomes, drivers, and feedback that have informed the development of this plan.

SECTION B
Ngā manahau whakatōpū
Groups of activities



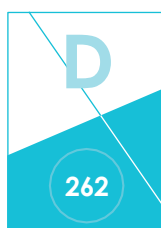
This section provides detail of the activities and services provided by Council—the key deliverables, how we measure performance, and the costs and funding required for our activities.

SECTION C
Ngā whakapae me ngā
rautaki me ngā ahumoni
Assumptions, strategies
and financials



This section details how Council proposes to manage the funding it receives and spends on its operations throughout the Long Term Plan period. It also outlines how Council will perform against legislated benchmarks.

SECTION D
Ngā kaupapa here
Policies



This section includes policies that have guided our planning and decision-making as we developed this Long Term Plan.

SECTION E
Ērā atu pārongo
Other information



This section includes information about Upper Hutt, the City Council, and a glossary of terms.