



What do you think of how we look after your patch of New Zealand?

## You live, work and play in a great Region.

To keep it that way we look after the land, air, water; keep you safe; help get you where you need to go; and help you prosper.



Get a copy of our Draft Annual Plan to see what your money goes towards and have your say. Here are some of the changes we're making in the year ahead...



## RATES

The proposed rate increase is made up of two parts. The first is an average increase in Council rates of 3.78%. The second relates to the increase in GST, which took effect after we rated in 2010. This increases our rates by a further 2.22%, meaning a total proposed rates increase of 6% on average across the Region.



## PEST CONTROL

We all know the pesky possum destroys New Zealand's native plants and threatens wildlife like the Kiwi.

We're proposing to put an extra \$156,000 towards our Possum Control, \$81,000 coming from rates, the rest from reserves. Our total possum control budget will be \$2.4 million.

### AHB LEVY

If Tb gets passed onto cattle or deer herds it is bad news for the country's export markets. Because of this, Horizons has for the past 20 years been helping to pay for the nation-wide Animal Health Board (AHB) programmes to control possums. It's worked so well for our Region that there's been a huge drop in the numbers of stock getting Tb, with some parts of the Region completely free of the disease.

Last year we got strong feedback from the rural community that it wanted Horizons to continue to collect money on behalf of AHB.

This year, we're proposing to extend this levy for another year and fund AHB Tb to the value of \$650,000. We're predicting \$100,000 of this will come from savings made this year and the rest from people who have properties over four hectares, at a cost of \$0.34 plus GST per hectare.

*What do you think?  
Give us your feedback by filling in the submission form or going online [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)*

## FLOOD PROTECTION

Keeping you safe from hazards like floods is a huge part of what we do. Building new stopbanks and maintaining existing ones keeps us busy.

As future generations will benefit from our flood protection, we are proposing to pay for more of our flood work from loans rather than rates. This will increase debt by \$6.35 million to \$40.99 million by the 2017 – 18 financial year.

### Rangitikei

A review of the channel management component of the Rangitikei Scheme in response to concerns around channel instability and the affordability of the scheme found we needed to change how the scheme was managed. Scheme rates will increase by 3.2%.

### Ashhurst

During 2010-11 resource consents were granted to provide Ashhurst with 100-year standard of flood protection. This will cost \$420,000 and scheme rates are proposed to increase by 25%.

### Whanganui

This year will also see us begin the design and consultation for Stage Two of the Lower Whanganui Scheme flood protection. We will seek the community's feedback on the second stage through next year's Long Term Plan.

### Manawatu Drainage

We are proposing to build a new pump station at Burkes Drain to improve drainage and flood water clearance from Taonui Basin.

A targeted rates increase of \$500,000 over four years will be introduced for those benefiting from, or contributing to, the need for the pump.

# CIVIL DEFENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Keeping people safe is a big part of what we do. Our role is to reduce the potential effects of hazards, promote community and council readiness to respond to emergencies and help the community recover after an event.

Last year we responded to a request from the community to do an assessment on safety measures on the Whanganui River. The Whanganui River is a very popular recreational, sporting and tourist attraction for the city.

A recommendation to implement a safety management system for use of the river, including a bylaw on the lower Whanganui River at a cost of \$190,000 was put to Council. Council decided not to introduce a bylaw at this time, but to leave it under Maritime New Zealand's control, and to work closely with them to improve safety education. Council will also fund an upgrade of navigation markers, investigate an improved bar crossing service and stay closely involved with regular river users meetings.

We are also proposing to stop flood modeling in Feilding and Woodville.



# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)

Land that is well managed is not only good for the economy, but the environment as well. We remain committed to the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), a project to stabilise hill country to stop erosion, protecting farmers' land and improving water quality. The momentum will slow this year to match Government funding as well as community expectations around affordability.

## Water Quality and Quantity

Our Region's rivers and lakes are important to everyone. We all want our share and we want the water kept healthy.

Last year councils, environmentalists, businesses and iwi came together and agreed more needs to be done to look after the Manawatu River. The group made a pact to improve it, and introduced a Manawatu River Leaders' Accord to come up with a plan.

As a result, we're looking to put an extra \$400,000 towards improving water quality in the Manawatu, to be paid for by those in the Manawatu Catchment at \$7.04 plus GST per ratepayer.

We're also proposing to increase water monitoring costs across the Region by \$286,000, some of which has been offset by other cost reductions. Water research user fees have increased by 7.9% on average.

## Strategic management

Horizons is in the final stage of a regional policy review, to come up with a new plan on how the Region's natural resources are managed. The plan has been through a hearing process, and the appeal period has now closed. The Council has allowed an additional expenditure of \$1.5 million for the One Plan this year to cover the appeal period.

## Living Heritage (Biodiversity)

Council is making a \$168,000 cut to biodiversity programmes, which protect and look after wetlands and bush remnants and provide community grants in support of these activities.

# INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Part of what we do is to educate people about the Region and environment they live in. Since 2007, Horizons has used the Green Rig to take environmental education programmes to schools throughout the Region and has showcased the work of Council at community events.

This year the Council is proposing that the level of service for environmental education for community and schools be reduced. By discontinuing the use of the Green Rig this will result in a saving of \$104,000 or \$0.98 plus GST per ratepayer, however the remaining environmental education programme will continue.

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# SUBMISSION FORM

The topic you're interested in not featured here?

Get a copy of the full Draft Annual Plan online at [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) or from your nearest Horizons office.

### HAVE YOUR SAY:

The Draft Annual Plan outlines the work Horizons Regional Council will do in the year ahead and what it will cost. We want to hear your feedback through the submission process. Submissions close Friday, 6 May 2011.

### To make a submission you can:

- Fill out this form and post it to Freepost 217922, Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442.
- Write your submission as a normal letter and post to the same address as above.
- Go to [www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz) and submit online
- Email your submission to [annualplan@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@horizons.govt.nz)

Make sure you include your name, main contact phone number, full address and postcode, email address, and whether you want to speak to your submission.

You can also speak to your submission in front of Councillors at a meeting on the 23rd, 25th and 26th of May. Please indicate on your submission what day you would prefer to speak and whether am or pm suits best and we will endeavour to book you in to your preferred time slot.

Your name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Email ..... Phone .....

I want to speak to my submission

Tick which time best suits you:  Morning  Afternoon and what day  23rd  25th  26th of May 2011

Activity .....

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You may continue your submission on another page if you wish.