



Your Rates **EXPLAINED** 2018-2019

The Horizons Region extends over 22,200km² - from Ruapehu in the north and Horowhenua in the south, to Whanganui in the west and Taranaki in the east, and has a population of approximately 240,200 residents. As one of the region's 106,000 ratepayers, your contribution plays a vital role in making our part of New Zealand a great place to live, work and play.

As your regional council, our role differs from that of the city and district councils. We are responsible for managing the region's land, air and water resources on behalf of the communities we serve. This is achieved via following rules and policies outlined in our regulatory document, the One Plan, and through a number of non-regulatory programmes such as our Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI). We also contract passenger transport services, play an important role in road safety education, work to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding, and lead the planning for and response to natural disasters to help keep people and property safe.

This newsletter provides more detail on some of the major projects we consulted on as part of our 2018-28 Long-term Plan (LTP) process earlier this year and how your rates contribute to these. In addition to the areas highlighted inside we will also continue work programmes such as pest control, emergency management, biodiversity and biosecurity, compliance monitoring, and science and innovation.

Horizons also leads regional programmes such as Te Apiti – Manawatū Gorge, the Regional Transport

Committee, Manawatū River Leaders' Accord and facilitates the Manawatū-Whanganui Economic Action Plan in addition to business as usual.

Inside you will find ways in which you can pay your rates, as well as how you can stay informed on our activities throughout the year. I encourage you to familiarise yourself with our key areas of business which were recently decided via our LTP process. If you'd like to provide feedback on how we're doing and where you'd like your rates to be spent in the future come and talk to us directly at one of our committee meetings.

Unfortunately we don't have space to highlight all of our work, so if you would like further information please visit our website www.horizons.govt.nz, freephone 0508 800 800, call into one of our offices, or check out our social media pages.

Thanks once again for being part of this vast and varied region. I look forward to working in partnership with you, our community, to make it even better.



BRUCE GORDON
Chairman Horizons Regional Council



Horizons... IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

WE'RE WORKING ACROSS DISTRICTS
TO MAKE THIS REGION A GREAT
PLACE TO LIVE WORK AND PLAY

To find out more about what we do in your area please
visit www.horizons.govt.nz



MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

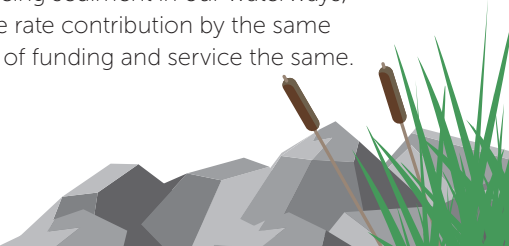
Freshwater management to align with national standards by 2025

There are two key areas of increased investment to manage our natural resources for 2018-19. The first is freshwater management, which is a high priority for central government, our communities and Horizons. We are also legally required by government to ensure that our policies and rules contained in the One Plan align with national-level regulations such as the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) by 2025.

In order to do this we are undertaking a catchment by catchment planning process – a catchment being an area determined by waterways, such as the Manawātū River and its tributaries. As well as ensuring we align with the NPS-FM, the planning process will include significant community engagement as we want to better understand what your expectations are for the region's waterways. We also want to identify the most effective interventions to continue progressing water quality improvement, with existing programmes such as our summer swim spot monitoring helping to pinpoint areas to target.

With these areas identified, we work with landowners, iwi, territorial authorities and community groups to complete water quality improvement works across the entire region. We also provide funding for these projects, with Council allocating an additional \$200,000 for 2018-19. Further, Council has allocated new funding for additional staff resource to assist with delivery of the freshwater and partnerships work, and allocated \$100,000 additional funding to improve overall management of drinking water supply.

The other area of investment in the natural resource management space is to do with our Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), which addresses hill country erosion. Central government funding for SLUI has been reduced by \$60,030 for 2018-19 and, recognising the important role this programme plays in reducing sediment in our waterways, Council has increased the rate contribution by the same amount to keep the level of funding and service the same.





FLOOD PROTECTION AND LAND DRAINAGE

We manage 32 river and drainage schemes, maintain over 490km of stopbanks, 1,090km of drains, 23 pumping stations and 53 dams

Managing rivers through engineering works allows us to reduce the risk and impact of flooding and provide land drainage to an agreed level of service. This activity is especially important when considering the potential impact of climate change on the region. 2018-19 sees an increase in levels of service for a number of areas.

For Whanganui the increased levels of service aim to address issues identified with the June 2015 flood event. These include establishing an annual \$50,000 resilience fund for Anzac Parade for purchasing and removing or raising floodable homes and putting \$10,000 towards work with Whanganui District Council for exploring flood protection measures for the Taupō Quay area. In addition to this we have committed \$4.9 million over 30 years towards inspection and maintenance of Lower Whanganui River structures that help protect the port, Castlecliff and Balgownie, which will begin this year. 2018-19 will also see all urban Whanganui ratepayers contributing to maintenance of the Matarawa Stream.

In the Manawātū we will be increasing the level of service in two areas for the Lower Manawātū Scheme (LMS). The first is beginning the process of making improvements to the Reid Line floodway so that flood flows can be diverted more frequently and enlarging its capacity to provide Feilding township with a 200-year return period flood protection standard. This will require the purchase of some or all of the private land in the floodway, recontouring the

floodway to remove the stream culverts that pass through the floodway stopbank, and increasing the stopbank height. It complements work that the Manawatu District Council have underway, re-zoning rural land between Feilding and the floodway for residential development, allowing Feilding to continue to grow. The second is a new rating category for Ashhurst residents to fund erosion control for Ashhurst Domain, contributing \$8.44 per \$100,000 of capital value over a ten year period.

For the Horowhenua District, we will partner with Horowhenua District Council to construct a new flood relief pipeline for Foxton to address flooding issues in the town. As part of this we will review the Foxton East Drainage Scheme rating classification to ensure the cost is equitably distributed.

In Tararua, 2018-19 will see the establishment of a district-wide river management scheme. This is a first for the region and will enable Horizons to be more efficient, responsive and proactive with river management activities such as willow control. It will also fund environmental enhancement work and identify ways in which communities can be more connected with their rivers and streams, for example by working with the district council to develop more swimming spots in the Tararua. This approach will also be undertaken in the Ruapehu District in 2019-20, as well as the establishment of a flood control scheme for Ohakune.



TRANSPORT

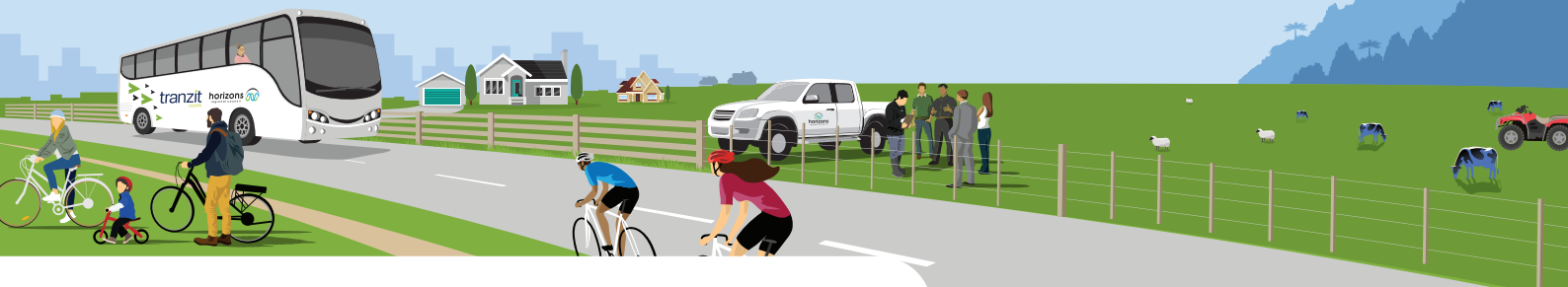
12 public transport services across the region

Across the region we provide urban bus services, manage transport services to those with mobility difficulties, coordinate road safety education, and lobby central government to improve roading networks between districts and regions – including on key issues such as the Manawatū Gorge alternative.

In terms of passenger transport, we will continue to roll out the Palmerston North services improvements over the next few years. In Whanganui, following consultation with the community in 2017, we will increase levels of service (weekends, public holidays and an additional day run in the late afternoon) to meet demand for 2019-20.

Another form of passenger transport is the Capital Connection rail service between Palmerston North and Wellington. This vital link between the regions is used by people from throughout the region and in order to keep it running, we have committed to funding up to \$110,000 for 2018-19.

In terms of the Capital Connection's future, Horizons will continue to be involved in the development of a business case to identify the benefits of providing and securing an improved passenger service rail link that is supported by central government for the longer term (40 years).



OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

Formal name change to Manawatū-Whanganui

Other areas of interest for the 2018-19 year include the formal name change of our region and council to Manawatū-Whanganui. While we are still known as Horizons, our legal name will now reflect Māori language orthography and align with the spelling of the Whanganui District. This change will have no impact on rates as it will be covered by existing budgets and any updates to branding, stationary and signage will be phased in over a number of years.

As previously mentioned, Horizons facilitates the Manawatū-Whanganui Economic Action Plan via the programme Accelerate25. In essence, Accelerate25 is a regional programme that aligns local and central government to business and iwi through people, policy and funding on

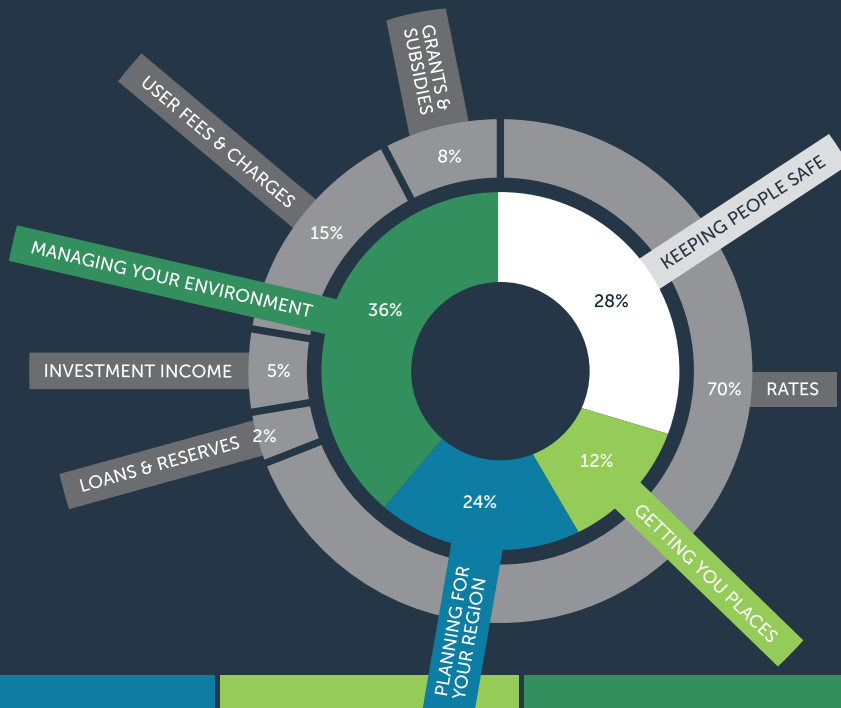
priority areas to drive growth and create a stronger, more prosperous region by 2025. To date Horizons has contributed \$230,000 per year via a mix of rates and reserves. For 2018-19 this will change to be funded from the Uniform Annual General Charge that all ratepayers pay.

Finally, treaty settlements and our evolving relationship with iwi and hapū will change Council's operating environment in the upcoming year. Te Awa Tupua has opened a new chapter in our connection with the Whanganui River and its iwi and other settlements will follow. As a result, iwi will be closely and actively involved in decision making, presenting genuine opportunities for Council to partner more effectively with iwi to improve outcomes.



FUNDING AND COSTS

The inside ring shows where we spend our rates income. The outside ring explains where all income comes from.



KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

- Emergency management
- River and drainage scheme rates
- General rate

PLANNING FOR YOUR REGION

- Strategic management
- Information
- General rate
- Uniform annual general change

GETTING YOU PLACES

- Transport safety and planning
- Transport services

MANAGING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

- Water quality and quantity
- Biosecurity
- Consent management
- Environmental initiative
- Sustainable land use initiative
- Pest plant management
- General rate

WAYS TO PAY

Please pay your rates by **28 September 2018** to receive your prompt payment discount. There are several ways to pay your rates, allowing you to select the option that suits. These options are also listed on the back of your rates invoice.



DIRECT DEBIT

You can choose to pay in annual, quarterly or monthly installments by arrangement with no penalties. You can download a direct debit form from the Ways to Pay page on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz or contact us on freephone 0508 700 800 to request one. Please return your completed form to Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025 Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442.



PAY AT THE COUNTER

Make a payment at one of our offices using cash, cheque, eftpos or credit card. Participating NZ Post Shops also accept payments, excluding credit cards. Our offices are located at: 11-15 Victoria Avenue in Palmerston North, 181 Guyton Street in Whanganui, Cnr Vogel and Tay Street in Woodville, and Hammond Street in Marton. Please check the back of your rates invoice for opening hours.



PAY ONLINE

Simply visit the Ways to Pay page on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz select the 'Pay Online' payment option at the top, input your details ensuring you include the correct valuation number and property address, and submit your payment. Please note, this service is provided by BNZ and transaction fees may apply.



POST A CHEQUE

Send the cheque using the freepost envelope provided. Please make cheques payable to Horizons Regional Council and ensure you include the remittance slip from the bottom of your rates invoice.



PHONE OR INTERNET BANKING

Payment can be made to the Horizons Regional Council Bank Account 02 0630 0024883 05. Please use your valuation number as a reference.



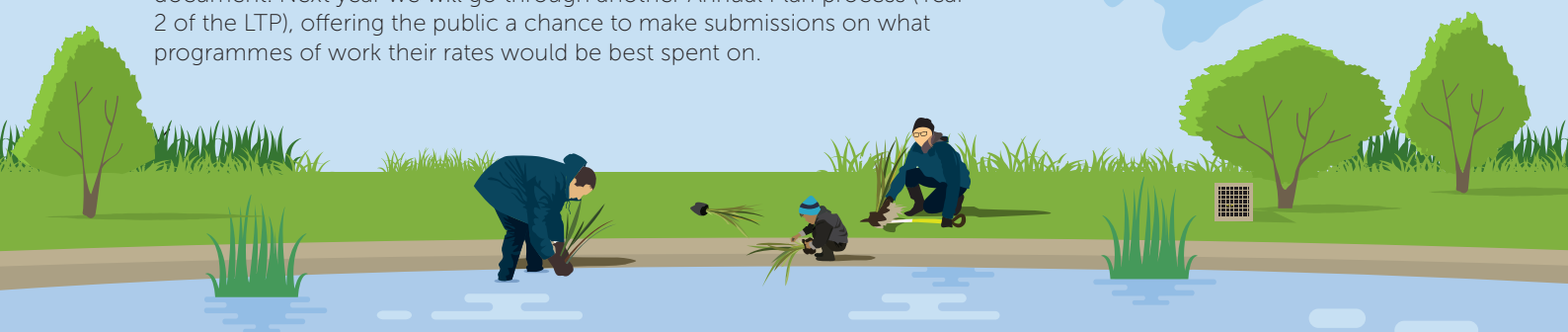
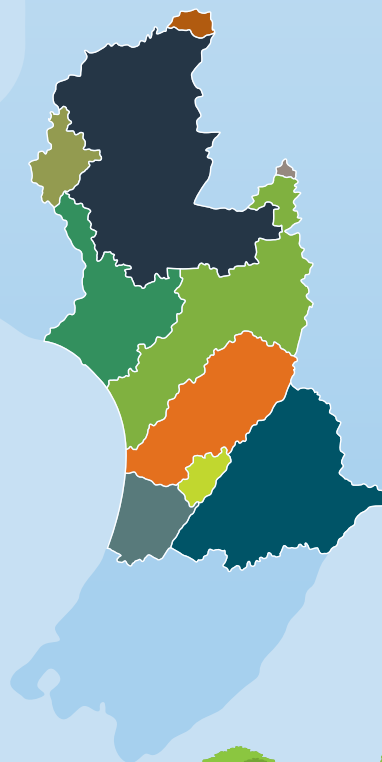
PAY BY AUTOMATIC PAYMENT

This allows for a set amount on a regular basis to be paid to your rates account. Please contact the Customer Services team on 0508 700 800 for further details or to obtain an automatic payment form.

Register at horizons.govt.nz on the Property and Rates page to receive your invoice via email.

UNDERSTANDING THE LTP AND ANNUAL PLAN PROCESS

Horizons' 2018-28 Long-term Plan (LTP) sets out how we plan on managing the region's natural resources for the next 10 years. This includes identifying the activities we need to deliver and proposing what rate contribution is required to help cover the estimated costs for each year. Once a LTP is set, we touch base with it every year to see if we are on track with what we proposed via an Annual Plan process. Sometimes things change so, in consultation with our communities, we make adjustments. We went through the LTP process this year, which essentially provides the 'big picture' for the period 2018-28 and this year's detail (Year 1 of the LTP) is outlined in this document. Next year we will go through another Annual Plan process (Year 2 of the LTP), offering the public a chance to make submissions on what programmes of work their rates would be best spent on.



LTP 2018 – 2028 RATES YEAR BY YEAR ▲ = INCREASE

YOU ARE HERE 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022-2027	2028
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5-9	YEAR 10
<div>PLANNED ▲ 7.44%</div> <div>ACTUAL ▲ 7.04%</div>	<div>PLANNED ▲ 4.72%</div>	<div>PLANNED ▲ 2.94%</div>	LTP PROCESS UNDERTAKEN AGAIN		END OF LTP

UNDERSTANDING THE RATE INCREASE

Horizons proposed an average rate increase of 7.44 per cent for 2018-19. After consultation with our communities, Council adopted an average rate increase of 7.04 per cent for 2018-19. Your individual rate demand may differ to this percentage. This is because the rate increase percentage is an average for the whole region. It is important to note that each district has a different set of valuations on which your rates are calculated. For example, your property may have had an increase or reduction in value and/or specific district rating inputs, such as an urban passenger transport rate, or special river protection rates may be applicable.

So what does this all mean? Your rates bill is likely to differ to that of your neighbour's and to that of your neighbouring districts.



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