



Your Rates **EXPLAINED** 2019-2020

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 region 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 through 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 undertake biosecurity control and biodiversity enhancement, contract passenger transport services, plan regional transport, play an important role in road safety education, work to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding, undertake science, data and monitoring, 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 2019-20 Annual Plan process earlier this year and the contribution your rates make.

Inside this brochure 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. 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 your next opportunity will be via the Annual Plan in early 2020.

We also encourage you to vote in the 2019 local elections on 12 October. That is your chance to say who you want to represent you when decisions are made for the region over the next three years.

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**, free phone **0508 800 800**, call into one of our offices, or check out our social media pages.

Thank you for being a part of this vast and varied region.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'B. Gordon'.

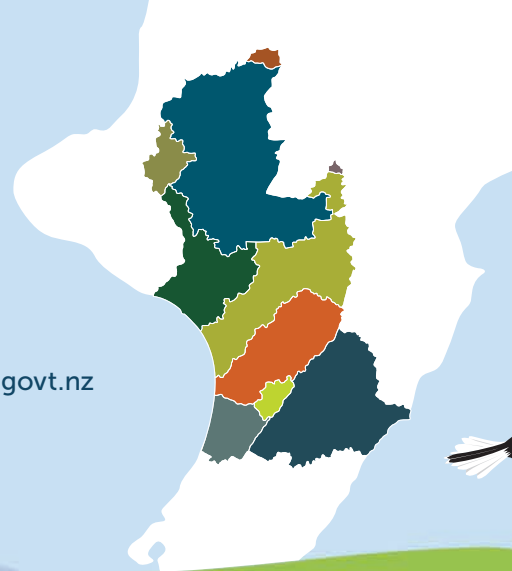
BRUCE GORDON
Chair Horizons Regional Council



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



RIVER MANAGEMENT

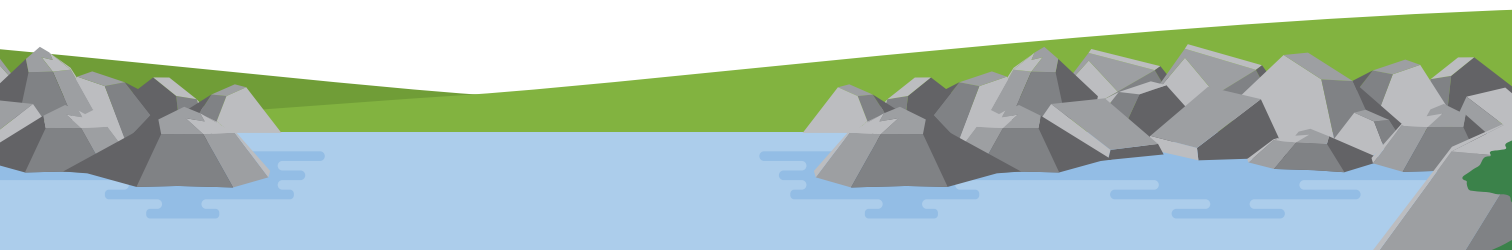
Managing rivers through engineering works allows us to reduce the risk and impact of flooding, and provide land drainage to an agreed level of service. This activity is especially important when considering the potential impact of climate change on the region. In 2014 we undertook an assessment that sought to identify all of the flood protection, river erosion and land drainage issues that were not being collectively managed by us. This led to us consulting with communities in Ruapehu, Taranaki and Horowhenua on the most efficient and effective approach to flood management through our 2018-28 Long-term Plan.

Through this process it was decided that we would introduce an integrated district-wide scheme for the Ruapehu District and a new Ohakune Scheme. As this is the first year that we are rating for the new schemes, Ruapehu residents will notice a new rating line on their invoice, and Ohakune residents will find two new lines. These are being rated respectively at \$1.47 per \$100,000 of capital value for

the Ruapehu district-wide scheme and \$5.71 per \$100,000 of capital value for the Ohakune scheme.

In 2018-19 we dissolved the Akitio, Eastern Manawatu and Ihurua Schemes, replacing them with a new district-wide Taranaki River Management (TRM) Scheme. Left in place were three major schemes, South Eastern Ruahines, Mangatainoka, and Upper Manawatu which all provide specific levels of service. The TRM scheme's focus is on willow control and channel management work, rated at a charge of \$3.52 per \$100,000 of capital value.

For the Horowhenua District, consideration was given to ways in which flooding of Foxton could be lessened. Horizons and Horowhenua District Council are working jointly on this issue, with a relief pipeline along Cook Street proposed as the mitigation. Foxton residents will be charged at a rate of \$43.95 per \$100,000 of capital value as beneficiaries of that work. The rural area to the east of the Foxton township will be charged at a rate of \$27.96 per hectare.



LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management is an important part of the role we play to protect our natural environment. Our region has the largest area of hill country in New Zealand at 260,000 hectares, and 40 per cent of it is prone to erosion. Through our Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), environment grants programme, and the Whanganui Catchment Strategy we have been able to complete approximately 39,760 hectares of erosion control works, with 15,887 hectares of this being within the Whanganui Catchment

alone. Our land management programme will look to complete another 3,000 hectares worth of work throughout the region in 2019-20. In addition to your rates contribution, this year we have already secured another \$708,000 for our environmental grants programme from central government's Hill Country Erosion Fund, and we are in the process of applying for a further \$63,000 through the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust.



BIOSECURITY

Our biodiversity and pest control work helps protect the recreational areas we all enjoy, as well as protecting precious habitats that are further afield. Our Regional Pest Management Plan provides for the management of 66 species of pest plants. Last year we increased the number of sites where these plants were managed by 415. In the 2019-20 year we have budgeted for a further \$70,000 to help in the battle against pest plant Old Man's Beard, one of our most prevalent pest plants in the Rangitikei District. This will include control work, focusing on the management of the plant's spread where our operations are targeted to the upper Kawhatau, Rangitikei and

Moawhango river catchments. This work will complement the planned release of a new biological control agent, microscopic Old Man's Beard bud gall-forming mite, in early to mid-summer.

We also rate Rangitikei residents to help fund the Rangitikei Environment Group work which focuses on Old Man's Beard control.

The pest plant control activity is charged region wide, for properties under four hectares at \$1.77 per hectare, and for properties greater than four hectares at a cost of \$0.028 cents per hectare.

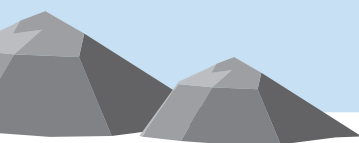




FRESHWATER

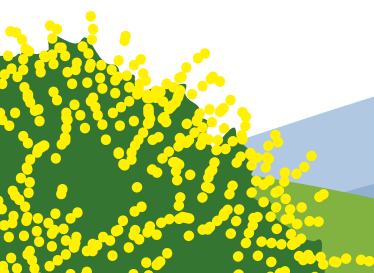
The management of fresh water remains a priority for Horizons and in 2019-20 the focus is on implementing the recently updated National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). We are also undertaking proposed One Plan changes and catchment reviews across the region, starting with the Manawatū Catchment. The approach to these reviews will all be slightly different because each catchment and community is unique, however each one will work with community groups, iwi, local councils, landowners and industry organisations. In 2017-18 we were successful in securing an additional \$2.92 million worth of funding through central government's Freshwater Improvement

Fund (FIF) specifically for projects in the Manawatū Catchment, to begin in 2018-19. This funding was from a larger pool of \$5.84 million which included projects in the Whangaehu Catchment, Lakes Waipu and Horowhenua, and means we will be able to deliver more on the ground work, such as fencing to exclude stock from waterways, planting riparian margins to help filter nutrients and provide vital habitat and food sources for our native fish, and fixing fish passes to allow our native fish to complete their life cycles. We will also be able to provide more funding for community projects through programmes such as the Manawatū River Leaders' Accord, and our own environmental grants programme.



REGULATORY

We are adding capacity to our consents and consents monitoring teams to ensure we continue to meet national good practice, and to manage the effects of large-scale infrastructure developments such as the new Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatū Taranaki highway, and new national regulation around forestry and water quality. As regulatory work programmes increase, so too will our capacity so that we can keep up with demand.



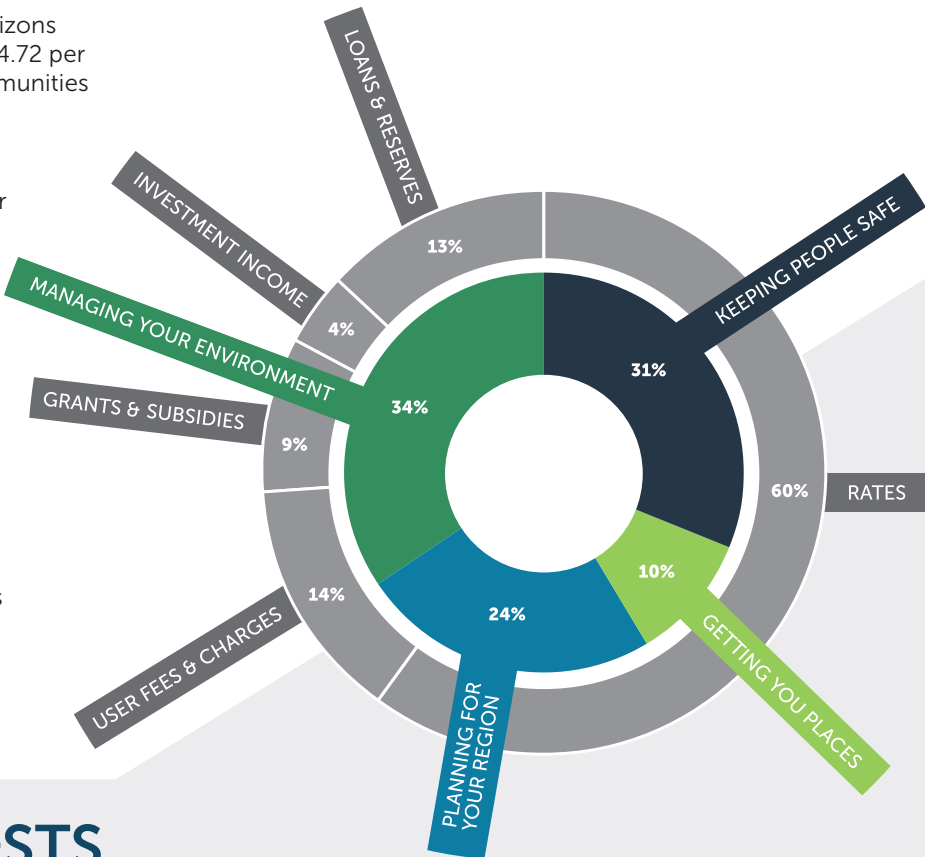
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Horizons also works to prepare, plan for and lead responses to emergency events within our region. A part of preparing and planning for these events is to increase resilience and help the community to recover after an event. This is achieved through the Manawatū-Whanganui Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group (MWCDEM). The Horizons Region is susceptible to a number of hazards, of which the top five are severe earthquakes, river floods, tsunamis, human pandemic, and drought. There are a number of resources available on our website to help families and communities prepare themselves and have a plan ready for when what never happens, happens. The MWCDEM Facebook page is also an important source of up to date information for the community.

UNDERSTANDING THE RATE INCREASE

For Year 2 of our Long-term Plan, Horizons proposed an average rate increase of 4.72 per cent. After consultation with our communities through the Annual Plan process, Council adopted an average rate increase of 4.88 per cent for 2019-20. 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.



FUNDING & 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

LTP 2018 – 2028 RATES YEAR BY YEAR

2018	YOU ARE HERE 2019	2020	2021	2022-2027	2028
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5-9	YEAR 10
PLANNED 7.44%	PLANNED 4.72%	PLANNED 2.94%	LTP PROCESS UNDERTAKEN AGAIN		END OF LTP
ACTUAL 7.04%	ACTUAL 4.88%				

▲ = INCREASE

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Horizons released a detailed State of the Environment report this year, providing state and trends on our climate, air, land and water across the region. The last State of the Environment was released in 2013, and from 2020 Horizons will look to produce a report card version on an annual basis. The report is available to read online at www.horizons.govt.nz.

EASY WAYS TO PAY

There are several ways to pay, allowing you to select the option that best 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 free phone 0508 700 800 to request one. Please return your completed form to Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025 Manawatū Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442.



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.



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.



PAY BY BANK TELEPHONE 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 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.

RATES REBATES

A rates rebate is a partial refund. For ratepayers who earn under \$25,600, you may be eligible for a rebate on the property you live in. To find out more, or apply for a rebate please contact your city or district council.

ELECTIONS 2019 HELP SHAPE OUR REGION

Local body elections are held every three years. This year is an election year and it's your opportunity to determine the make-up of Horizons Regional Council. The Horizons Region comprises of six constituencies which are represented by 12 regional councillors; two from Horowhenua, four from Palmerston North, one from Taranaki, two from Manawatū-Rangitikei, two from Whanganui and one from Ruapehu.

Voting papers will be sent to all those on the electoral roll in late September and must be received by 12 noon on Saturday 12 October 2019. For more information about the elections process please see our website.



For more information visit www.horizons.govt.nz or freephone Horizons on 0508 800 800