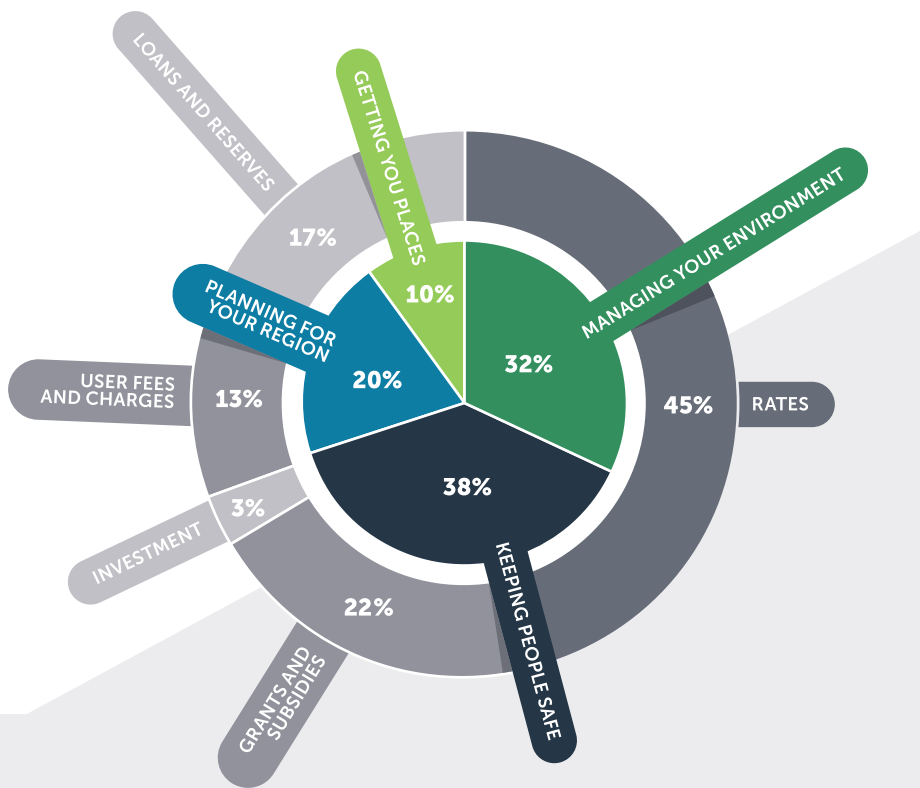


UNDERSTANDING THE RATE INCREASE

The 2021-22 financial year sees an average rate increase of 8.4 per cent. This has been made up from a number of factors including work programmes that were delayed due to Covid-19 in 2020-21 being moved to this financial year; Covid-recovery Jobs for Nature and Infrastructure Climate Resilience projects requiring local contributions to complement significant funding from central government; and implementing government's Essential Freshwater package through our own Oranga Wai Our Freshwater Future programme. Your individual rate demand may differ to this average rate increase as this percentage is an average for the whole region. Rates differ between district and between neighbours, this is because each area has a different set of valuation on which your rates are calculated. There are also targeted rates for particular activities such as districts that have passenger transport services and communities near flood prone areas that receive protection from infrastructure such as stop banks and drainage systems.



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 management

GETTING YOU PLACES

- Transport safety and planning
- Transport services

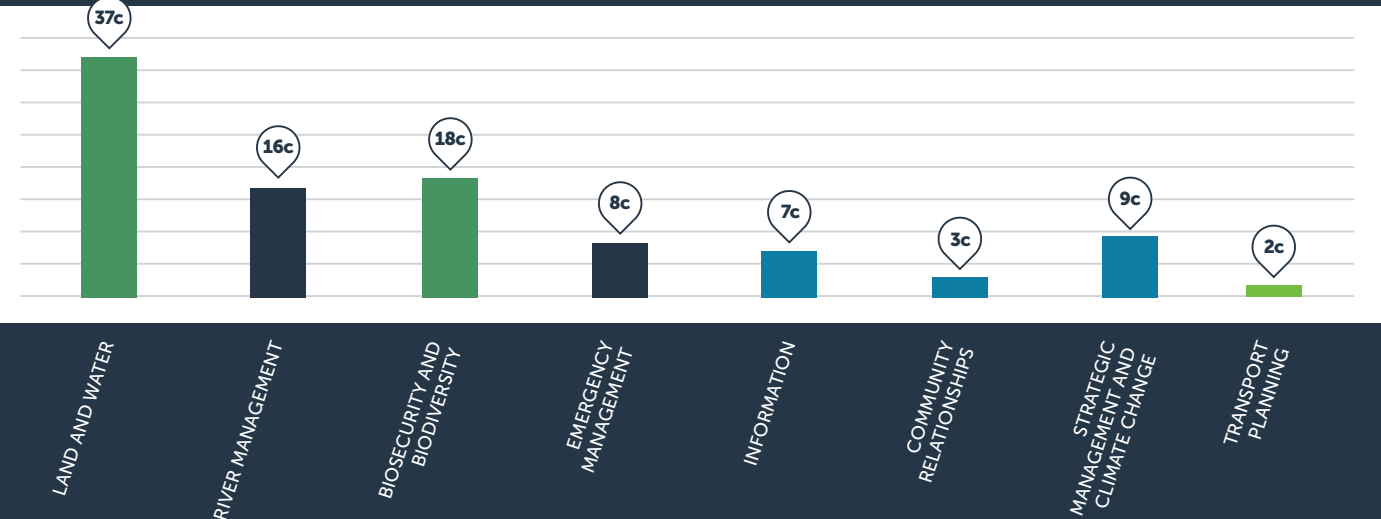
PLANNING FOR YOUR REGION

- Strategic management
- Data and information
- Climate Change
- Community relationships

MANAGING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

- Water quality and quantity
- Biosecurity and biodiversity
- Consent management
- Sustainable land use initiative
- Science and monitoring

FOR EVERY \$ OF YOUR RATES BILL THIS IS HOW IT IS DIVIDED:



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.



BILL PAYMENT:

Log on to your internet banking. Using the payments section, search for 'Horizons Regional Council- Rates' as the Payee. **Use your valuation number as the reference** following the instruction prompts.



AUTOMATIC PAYMENT:

This allows for a set amount on a regular basis to be paid off. Please use bank account number **02-0630-0024883-005** and **use your valuation number for reference**. Please ring freephone **0508 700 800** to confirm how much should be paid per frequency.



DIRECT DEBIT:

You can choose to pay in annual, quarterly, monthly or fortnightly 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 Manawātū Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442** or email it to **rates@horizons.govt.nz**



CREDIT CARD:

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 using a Visa or MasterCard. Please be aware a bank fee is charged for this payment method.



PAY AT THE COUNTER:

Make a payment at one of our offices using cash, eftpos or credit card. Participating NZ Post Shops also accept payments, excluding credit cards and cheques. Our offices are located at: 11 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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR RATES INVOICE BY EMAIL?

Please follow the instructions on your rates notice and enclosed flyer to receive your invoice via email in the future.

YOUR RATES INVOICE

will look a bit different from now on, we have reduced the number of lines on it so you can better understand where your money is going.

RATES REBATES

A rates rebate is a partial refund. For ratepayers who earn under \$26,510 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.

COVID-19

If you are having difficulty paying your rates due to financial implications of COVID-19, please get in touch with us on freephone **0508 700 800**.

Your Rates EXPLAINED 2021-2022

Tēnā koe, I roto i ngā mihi o te wā.

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. It has a population of approximately 250,000 residents. As one of the region's 110,000 ratepayers, your contribution plays a vital role in helping us make our place a healthy environment, where the people thrive.

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. We also manage pest plants and animals, enhance biodiversity, contract passenger transport services, plan regional transport, work to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding, undertake science and monitoring, and lead the planning for and response to natural disasters to help keep people and property safe.

This year, Council adopted their Long-term Plan (LTP) for 2021-31. This document sets out how Horizons plans on managing the region's natural

resources for the next 10 years, and sets the rating amounts required to do so. If you would like to read the LTP you can find it on our website.

Your enclosed rates invoice is for your individual property/properties for Year 1 of our LTP (2021-22). Across the region this has equated to an average rate increase of 8.4 per cent, however, it is important to note that this average changes from district to district and in fact from neighbour to neighbour. Your rates increase may be higher or lower than the 8.4 per cent average, particularly if you are in a district where properties have recently received new valuations.

Inside this brochure you will find information on some of our works programme and their associated costs. Covid-recovery has played a role in planning this year's work, as some programmes were delayed last year. We've also received significant central government funding to accelerate other activities such as Jobs for Nature and Infrastructure Climate Resilience projects that will improve water quality,

enhance indigenous fish populations and build community resilience to the effects of climate change.

Essential Freshwater is another substantial central government package that we are required to deliver. This national policy reform sets the direction for improving the health our rivers, lakes and streams. As well as implementing new rules and regulations within stringent timeframes, we need to revise our Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan (collectively referred to as the One Plan) by 2024, as well as build the capacity of iwi and Council to strengthen our collective decision making, particularly in relation to fresh water.

Inside you will also find ways in which you can pay your rates, as well as how you can stay informed on our activities throughout the year. In the meantime, thank you for being a part of this vast and varied region.

Ngā mihi nui

Rachel Keedwell

Rachel Keedwell
Chair



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

Horizons in your NEIGHBOURHOOD

We're working across the districts to make our place a healthy environment, where the people thrive.

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



ORANGA WAI - OUR FRESHWATER FUTURE

The management of freshwater remains a priority for Horizons, with a particular focus on implementing central government's Essential Freshwater package. This package includes a revised National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-FW), and Resource Management Act s360 regulations for stock exclusion.

Horizons is referring to this work as Oranga Wai Our Freshwater Future, which in addition to implementing the new rules and regulations gives consideration to the non-regulatory programmes we offer. We have already introduced many elements of the NES-FW requirements that have stringent timelines and new rules, many of which have already come into

effect. While the NPS-FM changes require an increase in the level of service in our policy, science, and regulatory areas to enable us to deliver a revised One Plan by 2024 (The One Plan is Horizons resource management planning document). This increase in work equates to \$752,000 or \$1.16 per \$100,000 of capital value in Year 1. As part of the NPS-FM we will be asking our communities and tangata whenua to help shape this policy alongside us, for more information head to Oranga Wai on our website.



BIODIVERSITY

In addition to managing iconic sites such as Te Āpiti-Manawatū Gorge, Tōtara Reserve Regional Park, Bushy Park, and Kia Wharite we have established a new contestable fund, the Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community grant. This new grant has incorporated a previous biodiversity grant with increased funding, providing more than \$260,000 towards projects that support connections between nature and people, and projects that work to restore and protect indigenous biodiversity including those that support the regeneration and continuation of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).

PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Horizons goal is to create bus networks that are simple, connected, frequent, and fast, and an attractive alternative to a private car. Funding for passenger transport comes from a combination of targeted rates to the communities who have direct access to our bus services, as well as contributions from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. This year we are engaging with the Palmerston North community to understand where changes to public transport need to be made for the city, with \$1 million set aside in Year 3 to implement any changes as a result.

A new bus service between Feilding and Palmerston North will also be created as result of a mid-term review. This service will see a targeted rate of \$35,000 per year, plus inflation, for Manawatū ratepayers.

In 2020, employment laws were changed resulting in further driver rest and meal breaks for our Massey University and Palmerston North bus services. This change has resulted in an additional targeted rate of around \$46,000 per year plus inflation for Palmerston North residents.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Horizons' Emergency Management team manage the Manawatū-Whanganui Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MWCDEM) Group Office. Emergency Management is also responsible for ensuring we are prepared and responsive to emergencies, this includes: flood warnings to the public, ensuring there is adequate staff numbers trained for emergencies, navigation safety functions, and contracted services with maritime New Zealand for responses to oil spills in our region. When

Civil Defence is required this is a coordinated multi-agency response through the MWCDEM Group which includes emergency services, Horizons Regional Council, health boards, and lifeline agencies such as power, gas and telecommunications companies. The most common events for Civil Defence in the Horizons region are flood events, however we also have other hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic activity, tsunami, and pandemics.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Responding to climate change touches most of Horizons' work programmes such as flood protection, erosion control, and pest management. However, up until now Council has not had a dedicated funding activity for climate change.

The work to be carried out within this new activity is informed by our organisation's greenhouse gas footprint, evolving government policy, consultation with our communities, further discussion with iwi partners, and progress of the Climate Action Joint Committee that includes representatives from iwi, Horizons, and the region's seven city and district councils. Our Climate Action Joint Committee oversees

action on climate change across the region. This new activity has three main objectives over the next 10 years; the risks associated with a changing climate are identified and addressed; the transition to a low-emission economy and lifestyle is supported, and barriers removed; communities, councils and central government work together effectively. This work equates to \$0.86 per \$100,000 of capital value on your rates. Within this activity is an annual \$50,000 contestable fund for community-initiated projects in response to climate change.

COVID RECOVERY

Before we started building the 2021-31 Long-term Plan Horizons had already committed \$1.34 million in Year 1, equating to a 2.8 per cent average rate rise, to Jobs for Nature and Infrastructure Climate Resilience projects. These both received central government funding in 2020 towards COVID-19 recovery initiatives to accelerate work programmes Council already had planned or underway.

Central government's investment of \$18.4 million has contributed to three Jobs for Nature projects which include further riparian planting and stream fencing across the region to improve freshwater, remediation to fish passages to enhance indigenous fish populations, and Lake Horowhenua water quality interventions. These projects will create approximately 185 jobs, help progress the objectives of national freshwater policy reforms, and provide an opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with iwi and

hapū, landowners, and community groups. Horizons local funding share equates to \$4.3 million with the balance of \$4.3 million made up by landowner contributions.

We also have four Infrastructure Climate Resilience projects that received \$26.9 million of central government funding in 2020.

This work will build community resilience to protect against and mitigate the effects of climate change in Foxton, Lower Manawatū, Palmerston North, and Rangitīkei. This programme of work includes working to improve stop banks, improving drainage networks, constructing and maintaining pump stations, and improvements to retaining walls. These projects form part of Horizons' key strategic direction for managing flood hazards and is consistent with our 2021-51 Infrastructure Strategy.

