



Financial Policies

for the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034

Have your say on the proposed policies



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

Introduction and what's changed

Alongside the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034 consultation, New Plymouth District Council (the Council) is also consulting on three financial policies that support the LTP 2024-2034. You can have your say on these policies:

1. Revenue and Financing Policy

This policy sets out the high level approach for how the Council will fund each activity, as well as the general approach for the Council's rating system including rating differentials, targeted rates and uniform annual general charges.

2. Rates Remission and Postponement Policies

This policy sets out when the Council may remit rates or defer when they are due by, on a case by case basis.

3. Development and Financial Contributions Policy

This policy sets out how developers will help contribute towards funding new or upgraded community facilities (network infrastructure, community infrastructure and reserves) required for growth.

The Council consults on these policies alongside the LTP due to their inter-relationships. Any significant change to one of these policies may also have implications for the LTP, and vice versa. For instance, a change to the Revenue and Financing Policy could change how a Council activity is funded, thereby resulting in more, or less, rates required. On the other side, a change to proposed capital projects in the LTP could impact on the Development and Financial Contributions Policy and therefore change the cost of development contributions.

While these policies affect everyone in our community, you may be particularly interested in the proposed changes to these policies if you:

- Have a residential water connection (Revenue and Financing Policy).
- Own a property with a significant natural area identified in the Proposed District Plan (Rates Remission and Postponement Policies).
- Receive a rates remission or postponement at present (Rates Remission and Postponement Policies).
- Are a developer, are you looking to build a new home or are you considering other development (Development and Financial Contributions Policy).

Revenue and Financing Policy

The Revenue and Financing Policy sets out how the Council will fund its operating and capital expenditure for each Council activity. We are proposing some changes to the existing policy which will have a significant impact for some ratepayers. The two most significant changes are:

1. **Adjusting the general rate differentials** – meaning that residential properties will pay relatively more rates and commercial and farmland properties will pay relatively less.
2. **Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge to \$150 (2025) and \$100 (2026)** – meaning that higher value properties will pay relatively more rates and lower value properties will pay relatively less.

Other changes include:

- Introducing a half charge for properties not connected to water and/or wastewater, where a connection is serviceable.
- Introducing an urban property stormwater capital value based targeted rate to fund 50 per cent of the activity, with the balance of funding to continue to come from the general rate.
- Adjusting the transportation fixed targeted rate to 20 per cent of the activity, with the balance of funding to continue to come from the general rate.

The Draft Policy can be found at npdc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay



Rates Remission and Postponement Policies

This policy sets out when the Council may remit rates or defer when they are due by, on a case by case basis.

We have reviewed our Rates Remission and Postponement Policies to make sure they are still fit for purpose for our community.

There are no significant changes to the policies proposed, with the exception of Rates Policy 11 (Rates remission and postponement for a rating unit affected by a natural hazard).

Whilst no applications have been received for this policy in the past three years, the policy has been rewritten to allow for the postponement and/or remission of rates (not just rates penalties). The policy proposes to broaden the criteria for this policy, allowing for the postponement and potential remission of rates for an owner-occupied residential rating unit which is detrimentally affected by erosion, subsidence, submersion or other natural hazard event. This has been done to allow for a fair and equitable approach to rates remission and to align with the policies of peer councils who now generally include a policy of this nature within their suite of remission policies.

No increased budget provision has been allowed for in the LTP for the application of the proposed change in this policy because the timing and impact of an event is unknown. Applications for the postponement and/or remission of penalties can still be applied for and remitted under Rates Policy 2.

Rates Policy 1 (Rating of community, sporting and similar organisations) has an expanded definition to give greater clarity to those organisations which may qualify. This has been included in the draft policy as staff have received applications under the current policy that do not align with the intent of the policy.

Rates Policy 4 (Rates remission on Māori land policy) has changed the definition of general land that is beneficially owned by two or more Māori to 10 or more Māori.

The Draft Policy can be found at npdc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay

Development and Financial Contributions Policy

This policy sets out how developers will help contribute towards funding new or upgraded community facilities (network infrastructure, community infrastructure and reserves) required for growth.

The policy explains how the Council will use development contributions to recover a fair, equitable and proportionate amount of the total cost of capital expenditure necessary to help service growth in the district.

The policy has been prepared utilising a national standard policy template produced by the Department of Internal Affairs. Along with ensuring the policy is consistent with the capital expenditure over the next 10 years, the key changes proposed include:

1. Using more realistic yield forecasts to minimise the potential for under collection of contributions.
2. Including libraries in a district-wide catchment.
3. Creating an urban stormwater catchment in addition to the district wide stormwater catchment.
4. Creating a new Inglewood stormwater catchment.
5. Separating the Waimea wastewater catchment into two distinct catchments being Waimea and Sutherland/Patterson within a Sutherland/Patterson Development Area.
6. Reflecting a change of approach for Puketapu (Area Q) Development Area with Council expanding its lead for infrastructure.
7. Supporting the principles in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Further details on these changes can be found on the 13 March 2024 Council Meeting agenda report.

The Draft Policy can be found at npdc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay



Have your say!

The Financial Policies that support the LTP 2024-2034 are now open for feedback. This is your chance to let the Council hear your views and preferences about the policies. Please take the time to get involved and have your say.

There are several ways you can have your say. You can fill in the submission form on the next page or you can complete your submission online.

To get your submission to us, either:

Do it online: npdc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay

Email it to: submissions@npdc.govt.nz

Post it to: Financial Policies Submission, Reply Paid DX, DX Box NP90081, New Plymouth

Deliver it to: NPDC Civic Centre, Liardet Street, New Plymouth; or a library and service centre in Bell Block, Inglewood or Waitara.

**Be sure to get your submission to the Council by
5pm on Friday 19 April 2024**

Late submissions will not be accepted

Financial Policies Submission Form

Your details

Your submission must include your name and contact details (preferably email and phone)

First name: Last name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal address:

Phone:..... Email address:.....

Do you want to speak to the Council about your submission? (please tick one) Yes No
 If you don't select an option, we will assume you don't want to be heard.

If you do wish to speak, how long would you want to speak for and what is your preferred time**? (please tick one)

Hearings will be held 1-2 and 6-7 May.

- 5 mins 10 mins 15 mins
 morning afternoon evening

** Those wanting to speak will be contacted soon after submissions close. if we get a large number of requests and to fit everyone in, we may need to restrict speaking time.

Revenue and Financing Policy

Details of submission (please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views):

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All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council officers and elected members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with individuals names only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. If there are good reasons why your details and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact our Privacy Officer on 06-759 5688 or through enquiries@npdc.govt.nz



Financial Policies

Submissions close at 5pm Monday 19 April

Rates Remission and Postponement Policies

Details of submission (please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views):

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Development and Financial Contributions Policy

Details of submission (please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views):

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Need more space? Fill out this form online or attach more pages

Thank you for your submission