**Feedback** **form**

Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034

Draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25

The closing date for submissions is **Friday, 19 April 2024**

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| Giving your feedback  We encourage online feedback, as it helps keep costs down and reduce our impact on the environment: [nrc.govt.nz/futureplan](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/futureplan)  Otherwise, complete this form and return it:   * By mail Freepost 139690, Northland Regional Council, Private Bag 9021, Te Mai, Whangārei 0143 * By email [submissions@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@nrc.govt.nz) * In person to our main office at 36 Water Street, Whangārei; or to any of our regional offices. |

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| This form is designed to be read in conjunction with the Long Term Plan 2024-2034  Consultation Document, available on our website above and at NRC service centres |

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| Kōrero mai Come and talk to us  Keen to talk to councillors and staff? Come along to one of our hui and information sessions to give your feedback in person.   * Whangārei: Wednesday, 27 March 9 – 11am, 36 Water St (NRC building) * Online: Wednesday, 27 March 6.30 – 8pm (register online at [www.nrc.govt.nz/futureplan](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/futureplan)) * Kaikohe: Wednesday, 03 April 11am – 1pm, Mahinga Innovation Centre, 5449A State Highway 12 * Awanui: Saturday, 06 April 9am – 12pm, Māhimaru Marae, 6083 State Highway 10, Awanui * Ruawai: Saturday, 13 April, Naumai Marae, 4936 State Highway 12, Ruawai |

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| Your details  *Please provide your name and at least one other piece of contact information*  Full name:  Organisation (if giving feedback on behalf):  Mailing address:  Email:  Phone/Mobile: |

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| Privacy statement  *Please be aware that submissions are part of a public consultation process. All information provided will be made publicly available, including submitters’ names and contact details. Please see our Submissions Policy at* [*nrc.govt.nz/submissionspolicy*](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/submissionspolicy) |

**Natural environment**

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| **Environmental management – How do we meet growing needs?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Meet the growing needs:** Fund required policy and planning work, increase our consent processing and compliance capacity to meet increased current and future demands, and invest in new scientific initiatives.  **Another option – Bare minimum:** We could fund the minimum work required to meet legal obligations to progress freshwater farm plan regulations, through our Land Management Reserve.  **None of the above.** | Please comment on environmental management: |

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| **Biosecurity and biodiversity – How should we address new challenges?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Re-prioritise within current budget:** Scale back existing activities as outlined to support the $0.91M a year of new mahi within our existing budget.  **Another option – Bare minimum:** Scale back activities as outlined in our Consultation Document, and redirect most of the savings into other core work. Of the new work listed, we could only fund the minimum required to meet our legal requirement to review our Regional Pest and Marine Pathways Management Plan.  **None of the above.** | Please comment on biosecurity and biodiversity: |

**02. Community resilience**

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| **Climate resilience and emergency management – How can we best support the region?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Do this important mahi:** Grow capacity to support climate policy development, zero carbon programme, delivery of climate resilience funding and natural hazards information. Develop early warning system for flooding for Te Taitokerau (largely funded by government funds). Add three emergency management roles from year 3 of this plan (2026) to meet increased needs.   * **Another option – Bare minimum:** None of this work. * **Another option – Do even more than proposed:**  Along with the climate change mahi outlined in our proposed option, we could do even more by adding more capacity for geospatial analysis to support resilience planning from 2024/25 and increase climate policy and zero carbon programme delivery from 2026/27. * **None of the above** | Please comment on climate resilience and emergency management: |

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| **Joint emergency coordination centre – How should we fund the increased cost?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Fund the shortfall:** This would mean continuing to rate for the centre for two years longer, in order to fund the shortfall and continue with plans to build a multi-agency coordination centre.   * **Another option – Look for other funding:** Under this option, we’d stick to our current funding contribution, and try to secure the shortfall elsewhere (e.g. through central government). * **None of the above.** | Please comment on the joint emergency coordination centre: |

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| Changing the region-wide flood rate  *Our region-wide flood infrastructure rate helps share the cost of flood risk management projects in Te Taitokerau. The region-wide rate funds 70% of the capital cost of new projects, and the remaining 30% is funded by local targeted rates that just apply to the affected area.*  *Currently the 70/30 split applies to capital works over $0.5M (lower value projects, and things like investigation and design, are funded fully by the region-wide rate).*  *To better align with increasing costs, we are proposing to increase this threshold to $1.0M.*  Please comment on changing the region-wide flood rate*:* |

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| **Flood risk management – How should we fund the work that’s needed?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Do the new flood work:** Fund the cost of increased borrowing for all of our existing flood management schemes, and start work on 12 new projects across the region.   * **Another option – Bare minimum:** Fund the cost of increased borrowing for existing schemes, and new projects where external funding has already been secured. * **None of the above.** | Please comment on flood risk management: |

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| **Harbour safety and navigation – How should we meet the growing needs?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Grow capacity:** Grow our capacity to meet increased demands in harbour safety and navigation work and fund the berth for our critical maritime vessel from borrowing to be paid back over time by rates.   * **Another option – Bare minimum:** We could fund the berth required for our new maritime vessel. * **None of the above.** | Please comment on harbour safety and navigation: |

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| **Public transport – How should we fund what’s needed to keep it moving?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Grow capacity:** Increase funding for driver subsidies, investigate decarbonisation of the CityLink Service, and fund the work needed to re-tender the Whangārei bus service.   * **Another option – Bare minimum:** Only fund the cost of re-tendering the Whangārei bus service and driver wage increase (both with 54% subsidy from NZTA). * **None of the above.** | Please comment on public transport: |

**03. Regional leadership**

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| **Te Tiriti partnerships and relationships – How can we best strengthen these?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Grow capacity to deliver on Te Tiriti relationships:** Grow our capacity to deliver on Tāiki ē (our Te Tiriti strategy and implementation plan) through more resourcing for technical Māori expertise and capability across the sector, and growing cultural competency across the organisation including kaupapa Māori adaptation work.   * **Another option – Bare minimum:** Only fund the existing independent tāngata whenua subcommittee advisors. * **None of the above.** | Please comment on Te Tiriti partnerships and relationships: |

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| **Supporting the mahi across council – What’s needed to keep things running smoothly?** | |
| **Our proposed option – Catch-up with growth:** Support the growth in council work programmes by increasing staff capacity and investing in necessary licencing and systems. Grow the salary budget to help with staff attraction and retention. Meet increasing costs for insurance, systems licensing and maintenance.   * **Another option – Bare minimum:** We could still catch up on some of the essential areas we're already behind on, including the minimum required for health and safety, salaries, and IT operations. We'd fund increased insurance and audit costs, licence costs and our agreed contribution to inter-council IT projects. * **None of the above.** | Please comment on supporting the mahi across council: |

**04. Other decisions**

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| **Emergency services, sporting facilities – Should we stop our funding contributions to these activities?** | |
| **Our proposed option:** Stop our funding contribution to emergency services and regional sporting facilities from June 2024. Redirect this $2.7M a year of funding to reduce rate rises, and deliver core work.   * **Another option:** Continue our funding contribution to support emergency services at current levels of funding ($1.11M a year). Rate for an extra $1.11M to cover the growth in core business. * **Another option:** Continue our funding contribution to help smaller sporting facilities ($1.59M a year). Rate for an extra $1.59M to cover the growth in core business. * **Another option:** Continue to rate for our funding contribution of $2.7M a year to support emergency services and regional sporting facilities. * **None of the above.** | Please comment on our funding contribution to emergency services and sporting facilities: |

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| **Reviewing reserves:** Reserves help us to be able to have money ready to go when it’s needed. We've made some minor changes to ensure that the reserves are accurate and fit-for-purpose, and these can be found in the Supporting Information Document on our website: [nrc.govt.nz/futureplan](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/futureplan) | Please comment on reviewing reserves: |

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| **Updates to policies:** Make updates to some of our policies, including:   * Revenue and financing policy * Rating policies * Significance and engagement policy * Policy on Te Tiriti Partnerships with Māori   The policies and proposed changes can be found in the Supporting Information Document on our website: [nrc.govt.nz/futureplan](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/futureplan) | Please comment on updates to policies: |

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| **Draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25**  **Please see our Statement of proposal at nrc.govt.nz/futureplan for a full breakdown of changes** |
| We are proposing changes to our user fees and charges, which we do every year. This year there is a suite of changes to keep up with increased costs, including changes to staff charge-out rates and equipment hire, increases to field test and permit fees, and significant increases to some charges to keep cost estimates accurate and sufficiently cover costs to council. The full list of changes is set out in detail in the front section of the Draft User Fees and Charges document on our website [nrc.govt.nz/futureplan](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/futureplan) |
| If you have feedback on these proposed changes, tell us here: |

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| **Overall rates increase – What do you think?** | |
| We know our communities are under real financial pressure, so we’ve presented at least two options for you to consider.  » Our proposed option, which is the high-priority work we believe is needed to maintain momentum on existing programmes, address new challenges, foster partnerships, and meet new legislative requirements. This would mean an overall rates increase of 11.05%, or $58 per rates bill on average for the coming year.  » An alternative option, the bare minimum, that’d keep rate increases in line with inflation. While this would fund the bare minimum of what’s required to meet legislative and contractual obligations, there are some big consequences with this pared-back option. We’d risk losing momentum on important mahi, and be unable to address many issues and opportunities we’re facing. This option would mean an overall rates increase of 2.9%, or $13 per rates bill on average for the coming year.  Both options prioritise existing work and reallocate budget to keep rate increases as low as possible. | |
| **Our proposed option:** 11.05%, or $58 per rates bill on average for the coming year.   * **An alternative option:** 2.9%, or $13 per rates bill on average for the coming year. * **None of the above.** | Please comment on our overall rates increase: |
| **Any other comments?** | |
| Tell us if you have any other comments on either document:  ***If you have more to say, feel free to attach more pages to this feedback form.*** | |

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| Hearings – would you like to be heard in support of your feedback? We will hold hearings in Whangārei (and online) shortly after the feedback period closes |
| **Yes,** I would like to present my feedback in person (36 Water St, Whangārei)  **Yes,** I would like to present my feedback online (a registration link will be sent to your email address, please ensure you have provided this in the 'Your details' section of this form)  **No,** I would not like to speak to my feedback (your feedback will still be formally considered as part of this process) |

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| We’re all different! Please let us know if you’d like to give us your feedback in another way |
| **Sign language:** I would like to use sign language to present my feedback at one of the scheduled events or hearings (please let us know which one)  **Te Reo Māori:** I would like to use te reo Māori to present my feedback at one of the scheduled events or hearings (please let us know which one)  **Other:** I would like to use another way to present my feedback at one of the scheduled events or hearings (please let us know which one) – let us know how and we will accommodate as best as we can |
| Please let us know how we can assist you: |

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| We’ve tried to provide good, clear information to help you have your say (for example, in our consultation document). Did the information we provided meet your needs? |
| **Yes,** the information provided met my needs  **No,** the information provided did not meet my needs |
| Please tell us why or why not: |

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| Please tell us how you found out about this consultation | |
| Community group  Social media  Email from us  Digital advertising | Newspaper  Word of mouth  Website alerts service  Other |
| **Please tell us any other ways you found out about this consultation:** | |

**P** 0800 002 004 **W** nrc.govt.nz/futureplan