

# ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2021

---

## Introduction from the Mayor and Chief Executive

The 2020/2021 financial year was an extraordinary year for Waipā District Council.

Our focus was on our district's recovery from the first stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, as we moved through the changing alert levels; while rolling out an ambitious district-wide renewals and growth programme to keep our assets in good condition; and together with our community's support, we established a Māori Ward for the first time in the district's history.

We are guided through our partnership with mana whenua and have committed to create a new Māori Ward so we can better represent our residents for greater collaboration, inclusivity, openness and transparency.

We consulted with our community on our 2021-31 Long Term Plan, and received record levels of feedback on new concept plans for two of our key park reserves – War Memorial Park in Te Awamutu and Lake Te Koo Utu in Cambridge. We also received a high level of feedback on our local Innovative Streets project 'Streets for People', part of a nationwide programme to trial safer pathway initiatives across New Zealand communities, led by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

We're one step closer to bringing Te Ara Wai into being, after purchasing a vacant building bordering State Highway 3 for the new museum to be located. This new chapter is in the early stages, as we get ready to share our stories with visitors for many years to come.

Waipā remains in a strong financial position to keep our district thriving. We maintained an AA-Fitch credit rating for the fourth year running, which allows Council to access lower interest rates, saving ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars in interest costs. The Waipā economy is going from strength to strength, and we continue to be resilient as we ride out the waves of COVID-19.

Our primary sector has remained strong with expectations of a total dairy pay-out of \$543m to Waipā farmers, up \$40 million on a year prior.

Strong employment growth over the year to March 2021 has led to an increase in the number of filled positions, up 1.5 percent from the same period to March 2020. Unemployment in Waipā is at 3.1 percent, lower than the rest of the Waikato at 4.1 percent and the New Zealand unemployment rate of 4.7 percent. Building construction was a contributor to employment growth with council issuing 1,459 building consents valued at \$456 million over the course of the 2020/21 year.

Waipā residents are supporting local, with spending outcomes remaining better than the regional or national average. Card spending rose 6.6 percent per annum in the December 2020 quarter and then 4.8 percent per annum in the March quarter, even as nationwide spending fell 1.4 percent per annum in the March quarter.

Along with residents, we're looking to the year ahead and have put in place mechanisms to support local, by increasing spending and opportunities and implementing a 'buy local, spend local' initiative in our own procurement processes to ensure the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our communities is supported and maintained.

Growth continues to have a huge impact on Waipā. Last year our population grew by 2.7 percent as our district continues to be one of the most attractive places to live in New Zealand.

Council's brand is Waipā Home of Champions, and we achieve this through a vision of building champion communities. Ensuring we grow our district in a well-planned, strategic way, we unlocked a number of new growth cells, and laid the foundations installing three waters infrastructure for industrial, commercial and residential areas.

Once the infrastructure and key transport connections are complete, these new areas are handed over to developers to build homes and businesses that will provide for our future Waipā families. We're nearing completion of the new Hamilton Road cycleway that will cater for our new growth cells to the north west of Cambridge, offering a safer sustainable transport option for our residents to move around.

Keeping rates affordable, while also catering for a high standard of living, we approved an average 4.6 percent rate after-growth increase for the 2021/22 year and a 2.2 percent average annual rates increase over ten years. Growth-related development is paid for through development contributions, so our current ratepayers don't foot the bill.

These development contributions go towards key pedestrian and cycling pathways, roads, new and upgraded existing water mains, sewer mains, treatment plants, and new and improved parks and reserves to cater for our growing population.

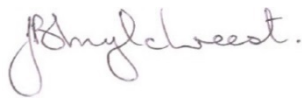
We officially opened the new Cambridge pool facility, Perry Aquatic Centre Puna Kaukau O Te Oko Horoi in May 2021 at a total cost of \$23.8 million. This state-of-the-art facility offers a hydrotherapy pool, sauna, 50m outdoor pool, 25m indoor pool, toddlers pool and a splash pad for visitors to enjoy.

But we don't just plan ahead locally, we're also a key player in what's happening at a sub-regional Waikato level. We had input into Futureproof, funded economic and tourism development via Te Waka and WaikatoNZ.com and we collaborated with our neighbouring councils for the Hamilton-Waikato metro spatial plan and sub-regional detailed business case looking at wastewater treatment plant options for the districts benefit.

As always, community engagement is at the core of what we do. Our team led campaigns over the last 12 months that received national recognition and provided other Councils with a model to follow.

Two notable campaigns were the Lake Te Koo Utu and Te Awamutu War Memorial Park concept plan consultations, which achieved one bronze and two silver awards, and the Smart Water 2019/20 summer campaign which achieved two silver awards in the annual Public Relations Institute of New Zealand awards. We're very proud to have these acknowledgements, giving you confidence in our commitment to engage with our communities and achieve meaningful outcomes.

We've had some robust, meaningful and insightful ideas and talking points from our community this year and we thank you sincerely for that. We believe that a district is successful when everyone plays their part. We continuously focus on working together with our communities, to not only make Waipā a great place to live, work, play and invest in, but a home we are all proud of.



Jim Mylchreest JP  
**MAYOR**



Garry Dyet JP  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



## **Financial summary 2020/21**

The following summary financial statements were extracted from the full audited financial report of Waipa District Council for 30 June 2021. The summary financial statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial statements.

This summary and the full annual report were authorised for issue by the Council on 30 November 2021. The full annual report is available from Council offices or can be downloaded at [www.waipadc.govt.nz](http://www.waipadc.govt.nz).

An unmodified audit report was issued on the full financial statements. An emphasis of matter was included in the audit opinion in relation to the impact of the Three Waters Reform. The Council and group have disclosed the impact of the Three Waters Reform as set out on page 10 of the summary annual report.

## Financial summary statements

	Council			Group	
	Actual	Budget	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
	2021	2021	Restated	Actual 2021	Restated
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year ended 30 June 2021</b>					
Operating Income	135,631	124,381	105,187	137,694	106,716
Operating Expenditure	94,703	95,949	89,307	95,887	90,712
Finance costs	1,328	1,870	1,580	1,332	1,587
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>\$39,600</b>	<b>\$26,562</b>	<b>\$14,300</b>	<b>\$40,475</b>	<b>\$14,417</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense recognised directly in Equity</b>					
Property Plant and Equipment Revaluation gains / (losses) taken to equity	53,690	20,819	34,164	53,690	34,164
Intangible gains / (losses) taken to equity	186	-	146	186	146
Investment gains / (losses) taken to equity	6,325	-	1,549	6,325	1,549
Cash flow hedges gains / (losses) taken to equity	494	206	29	494	29
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year</b>	<b>\$60,695</b>	<b>\$21,025</b>	<b>\$35,888</b>	<b>\$60,695</b>	<b>\$35,888</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year</b>	<b>\$100,295</b>	<b>\$47,587</b>	<b>\$50,188</b>	<b>\$101,170</b>	<b>\$50,305</b>
<b>Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2021</b>					
Balance at 1 July	1,749,295	1,782,731	1,699,107	1,750,273	1,699,968
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year	100,295	47,587	50,188	101,170	50,305
<b>Total Equity at End of the Year</b>	<b>\$1,849,590</b>	<b>\$1,830,318</b>	<b>\$1,749,295</b>	<b>\$1,851,443</b>	<b>\$1,750,273</b>
<b>Equity represented by:</b>					
Retained Earnings	573,802	570,075	517,674	575,655	518,652
Council Created Reserves	46,515	21,177	40,306	46,515	40,306
Revaluation Reserves	1,230,071	1,239,066	1,192,607	1,230,071	1,192,607
Cashflow Hedge Reserve	(798)	0	(1,292)	(798)	(1,292)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,849,590</b>	<b>\$1,830,318</b>	<b>\$1,749,295</b>	<b>\$1,851,443</b>	<b>\$1,750,273</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021</b>					
Current Assets	21,124	8,421	11,871	23,114	13,028
Non current Assets	1,946,923	2,035,401	1,830,029	1,947,295	1,830,331
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,968,047</b>	<b>2,043,822</b>	<b>1,841,900</b>	<b>1,970,409</b>	<b>1,843,359</b>
Current Liabilities	26,401	81,066	35,316	26,910	35,708
Non Current Liabilities	92,056	132,438	57,289	92,056	57,378
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>118,457</b>	<b>213,504</b>	<b>92,605</b>	<b>118,966</b>	<b>93,086</b>
<b>Equity and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,849,590</b>	<b>\$1,830,318</b>	<b>\$1,749,295</b>	<b>\$1,851,443</b>	<b>\$1,750,273</b>
<b>Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2021</b>					
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	36,304	52,006	43,784	37,569	43,562
Net Cash Flows used in Investing Activities	(70,852)	(170,157)	(80,393)	(70,852)	(80,393)
Net Cash Flows used in Financing Activities	44,381	120,000	38,351	44,381	38,471
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	9,833	1,849	1,742	11,098	1,640
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,261	952	519	2,962	1,322
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>\$12,094</b>	<b>\$2,801</b>	<b>\$2,261</b>	<b>\$14,060</b>	<b>\$2,962</b>

## Net Costs

2021

Net Movement

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Parent Actual</b>	<b>Parent Budget</b>
	<b>000s</b>	<b>000s</b>
Governance	(8,223)	(8,499)
Planning and Regulatory	(2,411)	(2,550)
Community Services and Facilities	(19,072)	(21,851)
Roads and Footpaths	(6,970)	(12,893)
Stormwater	(4,771)	(3,918)
Wastewater Treatment & Disposal	(10,143)	(8,080)
Water Treatment & Supply	(1,639)	(2,106)
Support Services	376	(300)

## Additional disclosures and accounting policies

### Reporting entity

Waipa District Council is a territorial local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002. The group consists of the ultimate parent, Waipa District Council, the Waipa Community Facilities Trust and the Cambridge Town Hall Trust. These summary financial statements are for the group. The full Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which include the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The full financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE accounting standards and comply with PBE standards. This summary complies with FRS 43 and this Standard does not include a requirement to comply with New Zealand GAAP or PBE standards. These summary financial statements are for the year ended 30 June 2021.

### Measurement base

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000).

## Covid-19 Impacts

Management have considered the current and future impacts on the Council caused either directly or indirectly by COVID-19. The impact on the overall results was not material due to the nature of Waipa District Council as a territorial authority and a lot of the work unable to be performed over lockdown periods being caught up. The increase in demand for property in the Waipa district positively impacted all revenue types related to property development. Including infrastructure growth charges, development contributions and regulatory revenue

In the current environment it is challenging to predict the potential future effects of this pandemic on Waipa District Council. Management believe that any potential negative effects would likely be limited, unless there is a sustained economic downturn, which has been predicted by some economic commentators. In that event, Management believe the effect on the key elements in the financial statements would be:

- 1) Rates Revenue – unlikely to change significantly due to powers under the rating act. Rates growth is likely to flatten out.
- 2) Fees & Charges – may decrease significantly by up to 15 percent in the case of a sustained economic downturn.
- 3) Development Contributions - may decrease significantly by up to 15 percent in the case of a sustained economic downturn.
- 4) Vested Assets - may decrease significantly by up to 15 percent in the case of a sustained economic downturn.
- 5) Subsidies and grants – unlikely to change significantly due to the large proportion of our subsidies and grants coming from Central Government funding (NZTA subsidy) which is likely to remain unchanged.
- 6) Operating Expenses – unlikely to change significantly. Significant costs such as employee benefits and depreciation are unlikely to be materially affected. Bad debts have not been material to Council in prior years but there is a potential for a slight increase from the default of payment from non-rating debtors.
- 7) Property plant and equipment are valued at fair value and therefore have the ability to move significantly based on market factors. Management consider that the values may increase in market prices for our infrastructural assets of between 2-4% due to the construction market and an increase in Central Government Spending in this area.
- 8) Trade receivables are accounted for at net realisable value, these are likely to increase slightly due to a reduction in penalties for ratepayers but will remain collectable due to powers under the rating act. Non rates receivables are likely to increase slightly also with a small increase in bad debts likely.
- 9) The carrying value of most other assets and liabilities is unlikely to change significantly.



### **Three waters reform**

In July 2020, the Government launched the Three Waters Reform Programme – a three-year programme to reform three waters service delivery arrangements. The reform programme proposes the establishment of four new multi-regional entities who will own and operate drinking water, wastewater and stormwater (three waters) services across New Zealand. On 30 June 2021 the Government announced the proposed regional boundaries of the four water providers, governance arrangements, the role of iwi, and how the providers would be regulated. Waipa District Council is proposed to fall within “Entity B”, with includes 22 councils in the central North Island.

Waipā’s three waters network is currently owned and operated by Waipa District Council, at the date this report was approved for issue, the reforms were still at early stages, so impacts on the group were unknown.

### **Significant Variances Against Budget Include:**

#### **Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense**

- Fees and charges were \$4.2 million higher than budget mainly due to \$3.7 million of revenue from Fonterra transferred from Rates (this also explains rates being under budget), \$1.8 million of revenue from the Community Facilities Trust on consolidation, \$1.3 million of additional revenue from regulatory income offset by a reduction in revenue of \$2.4 million from forestry income.
- Development contributions were \$2.4 million lower than budget due to timing of developments.
- The gain on revaluation of Forestry and Investment Properties was \$3.1 million higher than budget due to current market conditions.
- The value of assets vested from developers was \$6.7 million higher than budget, this mainly relates to higher than anticipated growth in the district and the timing of receiving assets from developers. Included in this is the Waikeria Prison expansion.
- The lower than budget finance revenue of \$261,000 is due to interest rates being significantly lower than anticipated.
- Subsidies and grants are \$6.8 million higher than budget mainly due to \$2.3 million for the New Zealand Government Three Waters reform programme, \$2.7 million increase in NZTA funding for the Hanlin Road Intersection, \$1.4 million extra funding received from NZTA subsidy for District Wide Cycleway projects and an increase in NZTA funding of \$535,000 for Innovating Streets – Safer routes to schools and businesses.
- Depreciation and amortisation is \$1.3 million higher than budget. This is mainly due to higher than anticipated asset values from valuations and vested assets.

- Other expenses are \$1.5 million lower than budget, this is mainly due to the reduction in forestry harvesting costs due to the delay in harvesting until the 2022/23 year.
- Finance costs are \$538,000 lower than budget due to lower than anticipated debt balances and a reduced interest rates.

### Capital commitments

Council has contracts committing it to spend \$12.7 million on future capital works (2020 \$52.6 million).

	Council	
	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
<i>Capital Commitments</i>		
Roading network	6,725	9,293
Drainage network	285	503
Wastewater treatment and disposal	1,323	26,597
Water treatment and supply	2,610	9,821
Community Facilities	1,228	6,427
Property development	548	-
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<b>12,719</b>	<b>52,641</b>

### Contingent liabilities

	Council		Group	
	2021 \$000	2020 \$000	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
a) Guarantees	33	46	33	46
b) Waipa Community Facilities Trust	-	119	-	119
d) Outstanding legal matters	-	-	-	-
	<b>33</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>165</b>

Council is listed as sole guarantor for a number of community organisation bank loans. The Council is obligated under each guarantee to make loan payments in the event that the organisation defaults on a loan arrangement.

### Contingent liabilities not able to be quantified

#### **Local Government Funding Agency**

Council is a shareholder of the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Limited (NZLGFA) and is party to the guarantee of all borrowings of the entity.

Council is one of 30 local authority shareholders and 54 local authority guarantors of the NZLGFA. In that regard, the LGFA has total uncalled capital of \$20 million of which Council's portion is

\$100,000. When aggregated with the uncalled capital of other shareholders, \$20 million is available in the event that an imminent default is identified. Also, together with the other shareholders and guarantors, Council is a guarantor of all of the LGFA's borrowings. At 30 June 2021, NZ LGFA had borrowings totalling \$13,610m (2020 \$11,908m).

Council has been unable to determine a sufficiently reliable fair value for the guarantee, and therefore has not recognised a liability. The Council considers the risk of NZLGFA defaulting on repayment of interest or capital to be very low.

### **Erinic Investments Limited v Waipa District Council**

In August 2020, proceedings were initiated in the High Court by Erinic Investments Limited against the Council (as first defendant) and four other defendants. The claimants allege that the Council was negligent in issuing building consents, inspecting the building work and issuing Code Compliance Certificates in respect of a building owned by the claimant. The claimant seeks at least \$2,000,000 in damages with additional consequential losses to be quantified, interest and costs.

At present, there is still insufficient information to conclude on potential liability and claim quantum, if any.

### **Atkinson v Waipa District Council**

In November 2020 June Atkinson and Wayne Atkinson served the Council with a notice of proceedings in the District Court. The plaintiffs allege, among other things, that the Council has been negligent, breached its statutory duty and has created a nuisance in relation to the private drain on the plaintiffs' property in Kihikihi. The plaintiffs seeks unquantified damages. The Council intends to defend the proceedings. At present, there is still insufficient information to conclude on potential liability and claim quantum, if any.

### **Contingent assets**

Council is a 2% capital beneficiary of the WEL Energy Trust. The life of the Trust ends in 2073 unless terminated earlier if its purpose is completed. Given the uncertainties surrounding the life of the Trust, Council is unable to accurately establish the appropriate value of the 2% shareholding.

### **Related parties**

Council entered into a lease arrangement with Waipa Community Facilities Trust in 2013, for the Trust to occupy the Trust Waikato Te Awamutu Event Centre and the Cambridge Swimming Pool

Complex. The lease covers a term of twenty years and attracts a rental charge of one dollar plus GST per annum, payable on 16 September each year.

### Senior management and councillors' compensation

	Council	
	2021 \$000	2020 \$000
<i>Councillors</i>		
Remuneration	602	595
Full-time equivalent members*	14	14
<i>Executive Team, including Chief Executive</i>		
Remuneration	1,193	1,203
Full-time equivalent members	5	5
<b>Total key management personnel remuneration</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>1,798</b>
<b>Total number of members</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>

\*Due to difficulty in determining the full-time equivalent for Councillors, the full-time equivalent is taken as the number of Councillors.

### Prior year error correction

The council and group has adjusted its 30 June 2020 comparative year financial statements for the correction of a prior period error.

They relate to the 30 June 2020 and 1 July 2019 opening balances of property, plant and equipment and equity.

The adjustments are shown in the table below.

	Actual 2019 Closing			Actual 2020 Closing	
	Before adjustments \$000	Correction of error \$000	After adjustments \$000	Before adjustments \$000	After adjustments \$000
<b>Council</b>					
<b>Non Current Assets</b>					
Property plant and equipment	1,689,066	-17,911	1,671,155	1,808,740	1,790,829
Total Equity	1,717,018	17,911	1,699,107	1,767,206	1,749,295

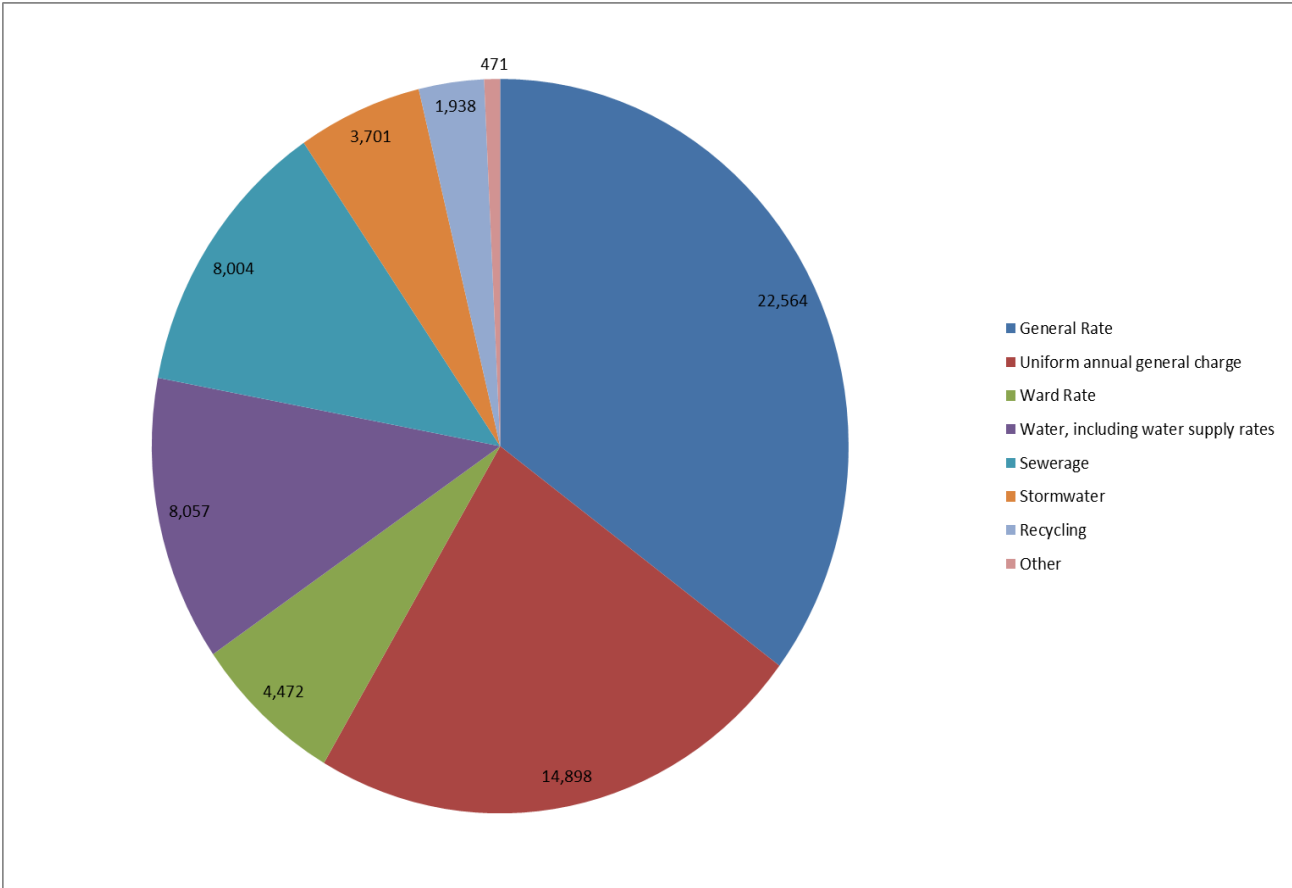
	Actual 2019 Closing			Actual 2020 Closing	
	Before	Correction	After	Before	After
	adjustments	of error	adjustments	adjustments	adjustments
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Group</b>					
<b>Non Current Assets</b>					
Property plant and equipment	1,707,373	-17,911	1,689,462	1,809,042	1,791,131
Total Equity	1,717,879	17,911	1,699,968	1,768,184	1,750,273

### Events after balance date

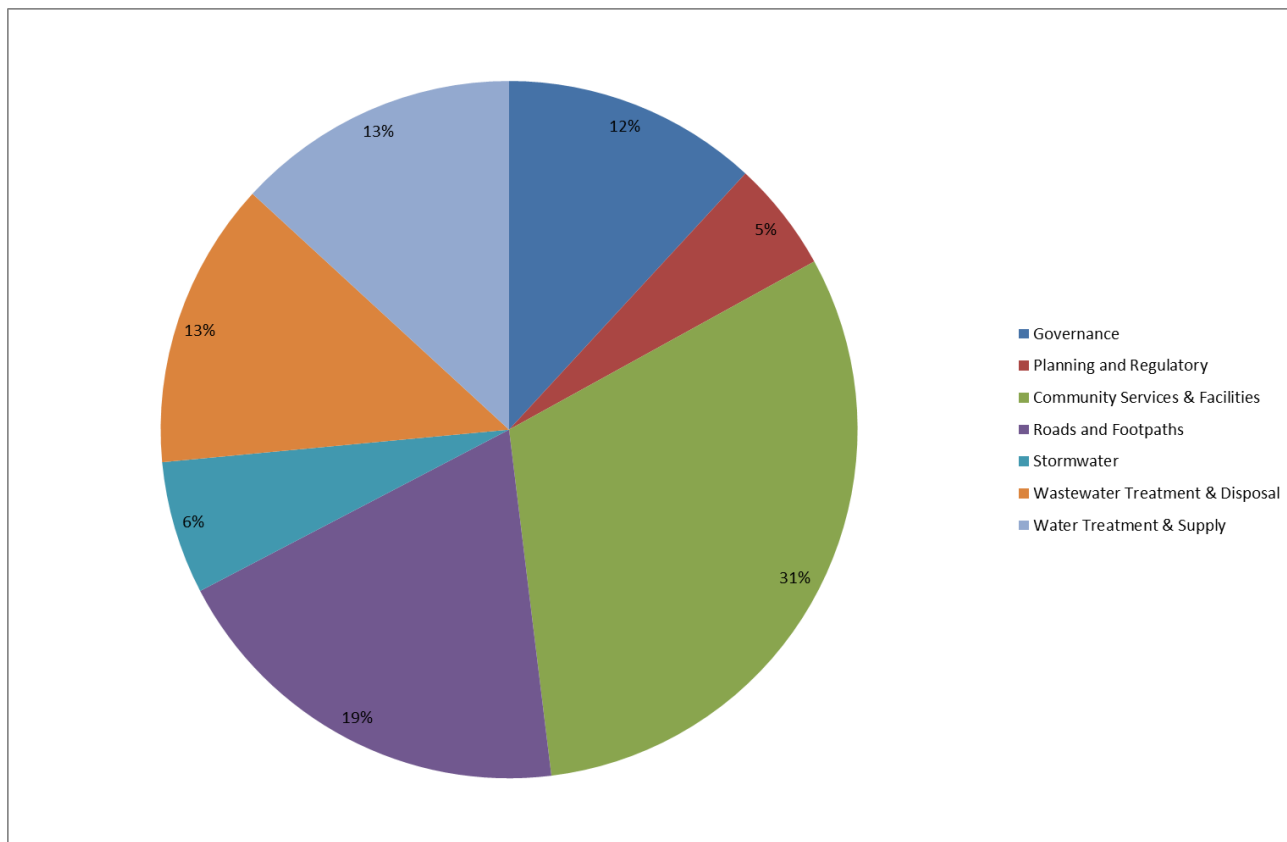
On 17 August 2021, at 11.59pm New Zealand entered into COVID-19 alert level 4 lockdown which locked down all but essential services. Since then, alert levels in the Waipā district have dropped to level 2 and then increased again to level 3. These changes had no significant impact on Council Services with most staff working remotely and operations stopping for only a short period in the Waipa district. Although the financial impact is expected to be non-trivial, the 2021/31 Long Term Plan anticipated ongoing COVID-19 effects in the first three years and our financial limits are conservative. This change had no impact on the financial statements at 30 June 2021.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta confirmed the next step in the Governments Three water Reform programme. Legislation will be introduced to establish four publicly owned water entities to manage the delivery of water, wastewater and stormwater services. A new agency (Taumata Arowai) will take over the drinking water compliance from the Ministry of Health.

# Rates Collected



## What were the rates spent on?



### How we did

Our projects and work programmes are contained in eight groups of activities. This table summarises how we did, where we met expectations and where we need to improve. Our performance measures provide us with targets to meet, such as responsiveness, safety, timeliness, meeting statutory requirements and compliance.

### Non-Financial Summary

Group of Activity	Achieved	Not Achieved	Unable to Assess
Governance	1	3	0
Planning and Regulatory	6	5	0
Community Facilities	17	8	2
Roads and Footpaths	5	5	0
Stormwater	8	0	0
Wastewater	7	1	0
Water Supply	28	3	1
Support Services	3	0	0

## Community feedback

Each year we check in with our community to see how satisfied residents and ratepayers are with their council's performance.

### Key results

1. Public swimming pools, the Te Awamutu Museum and the Cambridge Museum have this year seen an increase in satisfaction among users. Both museums have seen a rise in satisfaction, Te Awamutu increasing by 12 percent and Cambridge 11 percent.
2. Overall, around seven out of ten residents are satisfied with parks reserves and open spaces, district's libraries, playgrounds, sports fields and cemeteries.
3. Over the year there was a 7 percent increase in satisfaction with the convenience of making an enquiry, 89 percent opting for email as the most convenient channel.
4. The annual resident perception survey results also highlights areas where there are opportunities for improvement.
  - Satisfaction declines were seen across the areas of Leadership, and Trust and Emotional Appeal. Council has engaged with the community on a number of challenging topics over the year which may have influenced these results.
  - There has been a decrease in the level of satisfaction with the performance of local Community Boards and members. There has been a trend over the past 24 months where the proportion of residents who "Don't know" what the role of the Community Boards is has been increasing year on year.
  - Satisfaction with overall water management remains on a downward trend and shows a significant decrease over 24 months.
  - Continuing to increase residents knowledge of Council remains a focus. The proportion of residents who believe they know a lot about the Council and what it does remains relatively low with only 16 percent of residents reporting that they know 'a lot'.
  - Residents perception of value for money has reduced slightly and continues to have a significant impact on perceptions of Council's overall performance



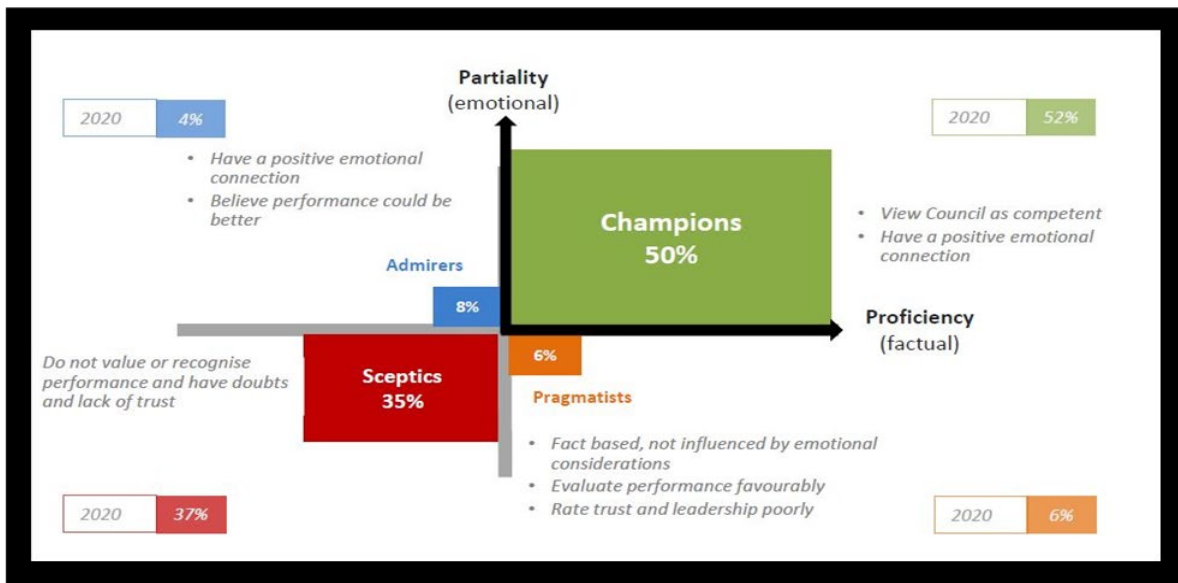
### Overall performance summary

% scoring 8-10	2021	2020	2019
Pride in the Waipā District	64%↓	70%	75%
Satisfaction with Community Boards	28%↓	41%	35%
Overall reputation	35%↓	42%	40%
Leadership	26%↓	40%	39%
Trust	26%↓	35%	35%
Financial management	18%↓	25%	25%
Overall value for money	22%	25%	22%
Service, infrastructure and public facilities	35%	38%	43%
- Overall water management	40%	44%	51%
- Overall roads and footpaths	36%	38%	45%
- Overall public facilities	53%	56%	68%
- Regulatory services	37%	32%	46%

Source: Waipa District Council Annual Residents Survey Report. Key Research June 2020

- We have also maintained our strong reputation with the majority of residents classified as ‘Champions’ (50%), trusting and supporting our vision and leadership. Our reputation is still considered ‘Excellent’.

#### Reputation profile



Source: Waipa District Council Annual Residents Survey Report. Key Research June 2021

For a full presentation of the results please see Council’s website.

## **A 12 month snapshot**

### **JULY 2020**

#### **Consultation period closed for two beloved parks**

Community consultation on new concept plans for two beloved parks, War Memorial Park in Te Awamutu, and Lake Te Koo Utu in Cambridge, came to a close mid-July, with an overwhelming number of responses.

The consultation period had been extended to eight weeks due to COVID-19 lockdown, allowing for a change in alert levels for residents to visit the parks and provide feedback online, in person, or via a survey; and residents responded in droves.

### **AUGUST 2020**

#### **Youth recognised in Waipā Youth Awards**

Young locals were recognised for their outstanding efforts in this year's Waipā Youth Awards – announced online for the first time in its 18-year history. The annual awards celebrate achievement in academia, arts and culture, community service, leadership and sport.

The awards evening was cancelled due to restrictions around mass gatherings earlier in the year. Instead, head students from Te Awamutu College, Cambridge High School and St Peter's, Cambridge, featured in a video announcing the top award winners. Students contributed to the creation of the film by working together with Waipā District Council on the video script, sourcing props and choosing filming locations.

### **SEPTEMBER 2020**

#### **Retain and restore – Te Awamutu's War Memorial Park**

Following consultation months earlier, the general consensus was to retain and restore the original memorial park facilities for the beloved War Memorial Park in Te Awamutu.

Te Awamutu Community Board heard from residents of Te Awamutu who presented their feedback on the draft War Memorial Park concept plan at the September meeting.

Speakers echoed the key themes presented in a Waipā District Council feedback report, to retain and restore the original memorial features and to put efforts into an improved park maintenance regime.

## **OCTOBER 2020**

### **Iwi representatives appointed**

Four iwi representatives have been appointed to formal Committees of Waipā District Council.

The four members, known as Te Kanohi, were chosen following a robust selection and interview process by Waipā Deputy Mayor Liz Stolwyk alongside Kataraina Hodge, Marae Tukere and Shane Te Ruki. Their appointments were formally approved by the full Council.

The appointed iwi representatives were Miriata Tauroa (Strategic Planning and Policy Committee), Bill Harris (Service Delivery Committee), Bronwyn Koroheke (Finance and Corporate Committee) and Poto Davies (Regulatory Committee).

## **NOVEMBER 2020**

### **Stimulus funding received to deliver water projects**

Waipā District Council received \$6.8 million in stimulus funding to deliver water projects in the district from the Department of Internal Affairs for water supply, wastewater and stormwater projects, following approval of a delivery plan put forward by Council in September.

The funding would support economic recovery through job creation and maintaining, increasing and accelerating investment in core waters infrastructure renewal and maintenance.

Council said the funding enabled water services to move forward on a number of local and regional initiatives without ratepayers footing the bill.

## **DECEMBER 2020**

### **Plan to address Lake Te Koo Utu water quality put forward**

A plan to address poor water quality at Lake Te Koo Utu was put forward by Council. The plan has three stages, construction of raingardens and implementation of proprietary devices to treat stormwater runoff before it enters the lake.

## **JANUARY 2021**

### **Commencement of Te Awa River Ride Hamilton to Cambridge section**

Construction of the Hamilton to Cambridge section of Te Awa River Ride began, following a successful tender at the end of the previous year.

The \$5.92 million project received two major funding contributions – \$2.95M from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and a \$2.84M investment managed by the Provincial Development Unit.

The Waipa section includes 3km of 3m-wide concrete path, 1.4km of boardwalks, two bridges, drainage, culverts, landscaping and fencing alongside the Waikato River.

## **FEBRUARY 2021**

### **Streets for People rolled out**

The Streets for People project was rolled out which saw more than 25 bold but temporary changes made to streets around Cambridge in an effort to make them safer and easier for kids – and all residents - to walk, bike and scooter to school and around town.

The plan also included the addition of speed cushions at locations across the selected routes to provide safe spaces for pedestrians to cross, the improvement of many existing crossings and changes to three intersections where no-entry controls will be installed.

## **MARCH 2021**

### **Completion of the Waikeria wastewater pump station**

The new Waikeria wastewater pump station, a major wastewater construction project is completed.

The \$30M project, jointly funded and delivered by Ara Poutama Aotearoa - The Department of Corrections and Waipā District Council, involved installing two new pump stations and a length of wastewater pipelines between Waikeria Prison, Kihikihi and Te Awamutu.

## **APRIL 2021**

### **What's Next, Waipā?**

In April we asked our community ‘What’s Next, Waipā?’ for our 2021-31 Long Term Plan. More than 20 events were held across the district during March and April, to find out what our community thought about five key topics that were dear to residents hearts: Te Awamutu War Memorial Park; Lake Te Koo Utu; Pirongia – Ngā Roto – Te Awamutu Cycleway; a new Resource Recovery Centre and Urban Mobility which would change the way we move around our largest towns.

We also asked the community if they wanted Council to establish a Māori Ward in Waipā district for the next election term

April also saw Council put the final touches on the highly-anticipated Cambridge Pool complex, Perry Aquatic Centre - Puna Kaukau o Te Oko Horoi, which opened mid-May. The facility features an indoor 10 lane 25m pool, a learner/hydrotherapy pool, toddlers pools and splash pad, and a 50m outdoor pool used in summer months.

## **MAY 2021**

### **Council establish first ever Māori ward**

Council made the decision, following community consultation during April, to establish the its first ever Māori ward in time for the 2022 local body elections.

Council received 879 submissions on the establishment of a Maori ward over a four-week consultation period. Of those submissions, 84 percent supported a Waipā Māori ward with 16 percent against. Of submissions from within the Waipā district, 73 percent supported a Māori ward.

## **JUNE 2021**

### **Council adopts the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan**

Council adopted the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, which confirmed Council will invest \$2.2 billion in capital and operating costs over the next decade of which \$0.95 billion, that will be funded by rates and a ten year average annual rates increase of 2.2 percent.

## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the readers of Waipā District Council and group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Waipā District Council and Group (the District Council and group) for the year ended 30 June 2021.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following summary statements on pages 6 to 13 and 15:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2021;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the non-financial summary.

### Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

### Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

## **The full annual report and our audit report thereon**

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 in our auditor's report dated 30 November 2021.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to the disclosures about the Government's three waters reform programme announcement as set out in the full annual report in Note 27 to the financial statements. The Government announced it will introduce legislation to establish four publicly owned water services entities to take over responsibilities for service delivery and infrastructure from local authorities from 1 July 2024. The impact of these reforms, once legislated, will mean that the District Council will no longer deliver three waters services. These matters are addressed on Page 10 of the summary annual report.

## **Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report**

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

## **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have carried out engagements in the areas of a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's debenture trust deed and the audit of the long term plan, which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with, or interests in the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.



Leon Pieterse,  
Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Tauranga, New Zealand  
30 November 2021