



# Annual Report Summary 2022/23

## Introduction from the Mayor and Chief Executive

If we were asked to describe the 2022-23 financial year in one word, it is the word uncertainty that springs to mind. As we settled into life with many COVID-19 restrictions having been lifted, we found ourselves faced with a number of new challenges.

Like all other local authorities in New Zealand, we were faced with an unprecedented number of reforms being advanced by Central Government, and ones in which there had been little consultation. These included the constant moving parts to the Affordable Waters Reform, with a name change and growing from four entities to 10, National Policy Statements on Urban Intensification, and the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land. Much of these moves caused a stir in the community and brought with them significant cost in both time and money.

It would be fair to say, the Government has had a big agenda for the centralisation of services which will distance our community from Council as the service delivery agents. The political landscape of an election year has compounded and exaggerated the uncertainty, with opposition parties advising they will repeal much of this legislation if they form a government. As this was being written, many of our plans for the future were hanging on the outcome of the October General Election.

Financially, along with the rest of the country, we are facing increasingly strong headwinds. Difficult economic conditions and big inflation and interest rate pressures have the potential to impact rates affordability for some of our residents. This is a concern for us all. Early responses by staff, as we prepared our 2022/23 Annual Plan, meant the average rates increase was contained to the expected level and set without the need to cut back key services from what had been outlined in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

However, even with this high level of distraction, we have continued to look forward as an organisation in the face of shifting expectations from our community. This year we asked the community for feedback on our future. The Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan received unprecedented levels of community engagement. This puts us in a strong position when it comes to advocating for the services and allocating the resources we need for our future.

The results of our resident's perception survey were disappointing but provided confirmation that some levels of service warranted our immediate attention. Along with our community, we were disappointed by the contracted recycling service standards this past year. The driver shortage and massive contamination issues that led to the disposal of huge volumes of recycling and resulted in additional disposal fees of up to \$30,000 a month, was disheartening.

We've also had to weather the storms this year. The constant rain has caused considerable surface damage to our roads and impacted the maintenance schedule throughout the district for the entire year, not just the winter months.

Speaking of storms, we cannot forget the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle in February. A significant storm that caused months of clean-up in Waipā. All council staff were on high alert as the storm

rolled in. Our customer support team took hundreds of calls, our parks crews, transport teams and contractors worked tirelessly to get roads open, paths cleared, and the district to a safe state in the days following. More than 100 Council-owned trees fell in Cambridge alone. Staff assisted in the civil defence response following these events in our own area and were also deployed to support Thames/Coromandel and Hawke's Bay in their response. The connection and shared support our people offered was inspiring as we recovered from it all. Our thoughts will continue to be with other areas that are still reeling from the devastation.

If this year has taught us anything, it's that there is no denying the impacts of climate change or how vital good planning and infrastructure development is.

However, there were also some highlights.

The overall quality of life benchmark was above average for Waipā in the perception survey results, compared with other councils surveyed.

We also hosted 3000 athletes and visitors to the district for the International Breast Cancer Participatory Dragon Boat Festival and celebrating these cancer survivors and painting the town pink in Cambridge was a great boost for the community.

We partnered with Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and the Cambridge Town Hall Trust in their celebrations of Matariki for the first time too. Events like these certainly bring our district to life.

As we look ahead to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan, our focus to build connected communities will be at the forefront of decision making for staff and elected members. No matter what challenges may lie ahead we will continue our work to develop a strong future for the Waipā District and its people.



Susan O'Regan JP  
**MAYOR**



Garry Dyet JP  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## Financial summary 2022/23

The following summary financial statements were extracted from the full audited financial report of Waipa District Council for 30 June 2023. 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 31 October 2023. 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 7 of the summary annual report.



## Financial summary statements

The following summary financial statements were extracted from the full audited financial report of Waipa District Council for 30 June 2023. An unqualified audit report was issued on the full financial statements.

	Council			Group	
	Actual 2023 \$000	Budget 2023 \$000	Actual 2022 Restated \$000	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2022 Restated \$000
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year ended 30 June 2023</b>					
Operating Income	132,037	156,696	132,628	134,790	135,122
Operating Expenditure	125,527	108,605	99,293	127,688	101,554
Finance costs	5,458	2,892	2,005	5,458	2,005
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,052</b>	<b>\$45,199</b>	<b>\$31,330</b>	<b>\$1,644</b>	<b>\$31,563</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense recognised directly in Equity</b>					
Property Plant and Equipment Revaluation gains / (losses) taken to equity	259,385	81,490	127,809	259,385	127,809
Intangible gains / (losses) taken to equity	(571)	-	531	-571	531
Investment gains / (losses) taken to equity	3,279	-	10,135	3,279	10,135
Cash flow hedges gains / (losses) taken to equity	169	1,292	624	169	624
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year</b>	<b>\$262,262</b>	<b>\$82,782</b>	<b>\$139,099</b>	<b>\$262,262</b>	<b>\$139,099</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year</b>	<b>\$263,314</b>	<b>\$127,981</b>	<b>\$170,429</b>	<b>\$263,906</b>	<b>\$170,662</b>
<b>Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2023</b>					
Balance at 1 July	2,023,741	1,863,165	1,853,312	2,025,827	1,855,165
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year	263,314	127,981	170,429	263,906	170,662
<b>Total Equity at End of the Year</b>	<b>\$2,287,055</b>	<b>\$1,991,146</b>	<b>\$2,023,741</b>	<b>\$2,289,733</b>	<b>\$2,025,827</b>
<b>Equity represented by:</b>					
Retained Earnings	625,622	605,987	609,568	628,299	611,654
Council Created Reserves	39,160	44,314	42,865	39,160	42,865
Revaluation Reserves	1,622,278	1,340,845	1,371,482	1,622,278	1,371,482
Cashflow Hedge Reserve	-5	-	-174	-5	-174
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$2,287,055</b>	<b>\$1,991,146</b>	<b>\$2,023,741</b>	<b>\$2,289,732</b>	<b>\$2,025,827</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023</b>					
Current Assets	36,988	5,295	24,228	39,044	26,389
Non current Assets	2,497,107	2,266,524	2,167,643	2,498,010	2,168,019
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,534,095</b>	<b>2,271,819</b>	<b>2,191,871</b>	<b>2,537,054</b>	<b>2,194,408</b>
Current Liabilities	68,540	51,664	63,403	68,817	63,849
Non Current Liabilities	178,500	229,009	104,727	178,505	104,732
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>247,040</b>	<b>280,673</b>	<b>168,130</b>	<b>247,322</b>	<b>168,581</b>
<b>Equity and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,287,055</b>	<b>\$1,991,146</b>	<b>\$2,023,741</b>	<b>\$2,289,732</b>	<b>\$2,025,827</b>
<b>Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2023</b>					
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	31,756	56,325	47,259	32,542	47,658
Net Cash Flows used in Investing Activities	(97,358)	(162,640)	(93,175)	(97,333)	(93,320)
Net Cash Flows used in Financing Activities	76,500	105,000	51,500	75,844	51,505
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,335	(1,315)	5,584	11,053	5,843
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year	17,678	3,930	12,094	19,903	14,060
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>\$28,013</b>	<b>\$2,615</b>	<b>\$17,678</b>	<b>\$30,956</b>	<b>\$19,903</b>

## Net Costs

2023  
Net Movement

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Parent Actual</b>	<b>Parent Budget</b>
	<b>000s</b>	<b>000s</b>
Governance	(9,805)	(9,392)
Planning and Regulatory	(7,771)	(4,784)
Community Services and Facilities	(25,174)	(11,446)
Roads and Footpaths	(18,894)	(12,995)
Stormwater	(6,311)	(4,689)
Wastewater Treatment & Disposal	(14,984)	(13,400)
Water Treatment & Supply	(2,441)	(1,225)
Support Services	(3,255)	(1,648)

## 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 Community Trust. These summary financial statements are for the Council and 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 2023.

### 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).

### **Three waters reform**

The New Zealand Government is implementing a water services reform programme that is intended to ensure all New Zealanders have safe, clean and affordable water services. The Government believes this will be achieved by establishing new public entities to take on the delivery of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services across New Zealand. The reform will be enacted by three pieces of legislation:

- The Water Services Entities Act 2022, which (as amended by the Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023 on 23 August 2023) establishes ten publicly owned water services entities and sets out their ownership, governance and accountability arrangements. A water services entity is established (for transitional purposes) on the date on which the appointment of the entity's establishment board takes effect, and its establishment date (operational date) will be a date between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026.
- The Water Services Legislation Act 2023, which amended the Water Services Entities Act 2022 on 31 August 2023 to provide for the transfer of water services assets and liabilities to the water services entities.
- The Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Act 2023, which provides the economic regulation and consumer protection framework for water services. The consumer protection framework will come into force on 1 July 2024 and the rest of the Act came into force on 31 August 2023.

Waipa's Three Waters network is currently owned and operated by Waipa District Council.

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

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

- Fees and charges were \$2.4 million lower than budget mainly due to a reduction of \$9.4 million from property sales, offset by an increase of \$3.9 million of revenue from Fonterra rates transferred (this also explains rates being under budget) and \$2.6 million of revenue from the Waipa Community Facilities Trust on consolidation.
- Development and reserve contributions were \$17.9 million lower than budget due to timing of developments coupled with a general downturn in the economy.
- The value of assets vested from developers was \$1.4 million lower than budget, this mainly relates to slower than anticipated growth in the district along with a general downturn in the economy and the timing of receiving assets from developers.
- Subsidies and grants are \$5.5 million lower than budget mainly due to budget changes resulting in a reduction in budget of \$2.1 million of external funding for Te Ara Wai, \$1.9 million for external funding for Cemetery land acquisition and \$1.4 million of external funding for Cycling – Te Awamutu/Ngaroto/Pirongia Connection.
- Other revenue was \$562,000 higher than budget mainly due to revenue received from forestry harvesting.

- Depreciation was \$1.7 million higher than budget. This is due to higher than anticipated asset values from valuations.
- Other expenses were \$14.9 million higher than budget, this is mainly due to:
  - Loss on disposal of infrastructure assets \$12.4 million higher than budget mainly due to asset database improvements.
  - Transfer and impairment of assets and prior year capital costs for capital projects that are no longer proceeding or the scope has significantly changed of \$1.3 million.
  - Legal costs \$2.6 million higher than budget mainly due to legal claim settlements.
  - These increases have been offset by net savings in other areas.

### Capital commitments

Council has contracts committing it to spend \$87 million on future capital works (2022 \$74.7 million).

	Council	
	2023 \$000	2022 \$000
<i>Capital Commitments</i>		
Roading network	33,544	27,239
Drainage network	20,459	20,818
Wastewater treatment and disposal	15,657	19,637
Water treatment and supply	9,476	2,030
Community Facilities	7,204	4,644
Information Technology	46	34
Animal Control	7	46
Property development	574	257
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<b>86,967</b>	<b>74,705</b>



## Contingent liabilities

	Council		Group	
	2023 \$000	2022 \$000	2023 \$000	2022 \$000
Guarantees	168	175	168	175
	168	175	168	175

Council is listed as sole guarantor for a number of community organisation bank loans or bank overdrafts. The Council is obligated under each guarantee to make payment 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 2023, NZ LGFA had borrowings totalling \$17,684m (2022 \$15,789m).

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.

### Legal Proceedings

There are two current legal claims against Council relating to allegations of Council negligence. The plaintiffs seek in total over \$3.5 million in damages plus interest and costs. The Council intends to defend both proceedings.

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

## **Riskpool**

Waipa District Council was previously a member of the New Zealand Mutual Liability Riskpool scheme ('Riskpool'). The scheme is in wind down, however the Council has an ongoing obligation to contribute to the scheme should a call be made in respect of any historical claims (to the extent those claims are not covered by reinsurance), and to fund the ongoing operation of the scheme. The likelihood of any call in respect of historical claims diminishes with each year as limitation periods expire. However, as a result of the Supreme Court decision on 1 August 2023 in Napier City Council v Local Government Mutual Funds Trustee Limited, it has been clarified that Riskpool has a liability for that member's claim in relation to non-weathertight defects (in a mixed claim involving both weathertight and non-weathertight defects). Riskpool has advised that it is working through the implications of the Supreme Court decision. At this point any potential liability is unable to be quantified.

## **Kodiak Consulting/Jon Hall**

This matter involves fraudulent producer statements provided by Jon Hall/Kodiak Consulting Limited to Waipa District Council (design and construction). Waipa District Council is one of a number of councils throughout New Zealand affected by this situation. Council is in the process of identifying affected properties, these properties falling into one of three categories. Category 1 is those properties that have applied for building consent but not yet granted. Category 2 is where consent has been granted but CCC not yet issued and category 3 is those properties where CC has been issued. Council has notified its insurer on a precautionary basis. There are no claims against Council at this time. This matter is also the subject of a Police investigation.

## **Loan guarantee for New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame**

In June 2022, Council confirmed its intention to assist the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame in their fundraising endeavours by committing to act as guarantor to its loan facility, should this be required in the future. The timing and amount of the guarantee is uncertain at period end.

## **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	
	2023 \$000	2022 \$000
<i>Councillors</i>		
Remuneration	649	606
Full-time equivalent members*	16	14
<i>Executive Team, including Chief Executive</i>		
Remuneration	1,630	1,286
Full-time equivalent members	7	7
<b>Total key management personnel remuneration</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>1,892</b>
<b>Total number of members</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</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 have adjusted its comparative year financial statements (for the year ended 30 June 2022) to correct prior period errors.

During 2022/23, the Council discovered that \$28.6m of infrastructure assets were incorrectly disclosed as Work-in-Progress at 30 June 2022, as they had been completed by that date. This correction is to classification only, and has no impact on the total balance of property, plant and equipment.

Council also discovered that \$6.3m assets vested by 30 June 2022 had not yet been recognised as of that date in accordance with Council's accounting policy. Of this amount, assets of \$3.7m had been vested by 30 June 2021, resulting in a correction to the opening balances of the 2022 financial year. Corresponding corrections were also made to vested assets revenue.

The financial statements for 2022, which are presented as comparative information in the 30 June 2023 financial statements, have been restated to correct these errors.

The adjustments are shown below:

	Before adjustment		Adjustment	After adjustment	
	Council	Group	Both	Council	Group
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense</b>					
Vested asset	14,853	14,853	2,626	17,479	17,479
Total Revenue	130,002	132,496	2,626	132,628	135,122
Operating surplus	28,704	28,937	2,626	31,330	31,563
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	167,803	168,036	2,626	170,429	170,662
<b>Statement of changes in equity</b>					
Balance 1 July	1,849,590	1,851,443	3,722	1,853,312	1,855,165
Total comprehensive revenue	167,803	168,036	2,626	170,429	170,662
Balance 30 June	2,017,393	2,019,479	6,348	2,023,741	2,025,827
Retained earnings	603,220	605,306	6,348	609,568	611,654
Total equity	2,017,393	2,019,479	6,348	2,023,741	2,025,827
<b>Statement of financial position</b>					
Property, plant and equipment	2,081,565	2,081,941	6,348	2,087,912	2,088,288
Total non current assets	2,161,296	2,161,672	6,348	2,167,643	2,168,019
Total Assets	2,185,523	2,188,060	6,348	2,191,870	2,194,407
Retained earnings	603,220	605,306	6,348	609,568	611,654
Total equity	2,017,393	2,019,479	6,348	2,023,741	2,025,827
<b>Statement of cash flows (reconciliation to surplus/(deficit) after tax)</b>					
Surplus/(deficit) after tax	28,704	28,937	2,626	31,330	31,563
Vested/discovered assets	(14,931)	(14,931)	(2,626)	(17,557)	(17,557)
<b>Note 24 - Breakdown of equity and further information</b>					
As at 1 July	573,802	575,655	3,722	577,524	579,377
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	28,704	28,937	2,626	31,330	31,563
Total retained earnings as at 30 June	603,220	605,306	6,348	609,568	611,654

	Sewerage system treatment	Sewerage system reticulation	Water system treatment	Water system reticulation	Drainage network	Roading network	Land under roads	Total infrastructural assets
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Note 13 - Property, plant and equipment</b>								
Movement schedule (infrastructure assets)								
Balance as at 1 July Cost/valuation	69,990	116,489	61,668	146,491	129,616	770,736	234,638	1,529,628
Adjusted	-	589	-	661	405	2,066	-	3,721
Restated 1 July Cost/valuation	69,990	117,078	61,668	147,152	130,021	772,802	234,638	1,533,349
Additions (constructed by Council)	-	229	-	14,683	3,878	5,913	-	24,703
Adjusted	13,836	346	950	5,213	1,244	7,051	-	28,640
Restated Additions (constructed by Council)	13,836	575	950	19,896	5,122	12,964	-	53,343
Additions (vested to Council)	656	2,428	-	2,123	5,002	4,617	-	14,826
Adjusted	-	407	-	254	2,197	(232)	-	2,626
Restated Additions (vested to Council)	656	2,835	-	2,377	7,199	4,385	-	17,452
Work in progress (net transfers)	2,429	5,190	3,785	3,098	(1,501)	3,038	-	16,039
Adjusted	(13,836)	(346)	(950)	(5,213)	(1,244)	(7,051)	-	(28,640)
Restated Work in progress (net transfers)	(11,407)	4,844	2,835	(2,115)	(2,745)	(4,013)	-	(12,601)
Balance as at 30 June Cost/valuation	73,075	124,319	65,453	152,718	136,972	781,715	234,638	1,568,890
Adjusted	-	996	-	915	2,602	1,834	-	6,347
Restated 30 June Cost/valuation	73,075	125,315	65,453	153,633	139,574	783,549	234,638	1,575,237
Closing carrying amount	69,926	121,722	63,686	149,355	135,014	770,568	234,638	1,544,909
Adjusted	-	996	-	915	2,602	1,834	-	6,347
Restated Closing carrying amount	69,926	122,718	63,686	150,270	137,616	772,402	234,638	1,551,256

	Before adjustment		After adjustment
	Council	Adjustment	Council
	2022	2022	2022
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Note 13 - Property, plant and equipment</b>			
WIP summary			
Wastewater treatment and disposal	25,978	(14,182)	11,796
Water treatment and supply	16,133	(6,163)	9,970
Drainage network	9,390	(1,244)	8,146
Roading network	17,918	(7,051)	10,867
Total	79,322	(28,640)	50,682

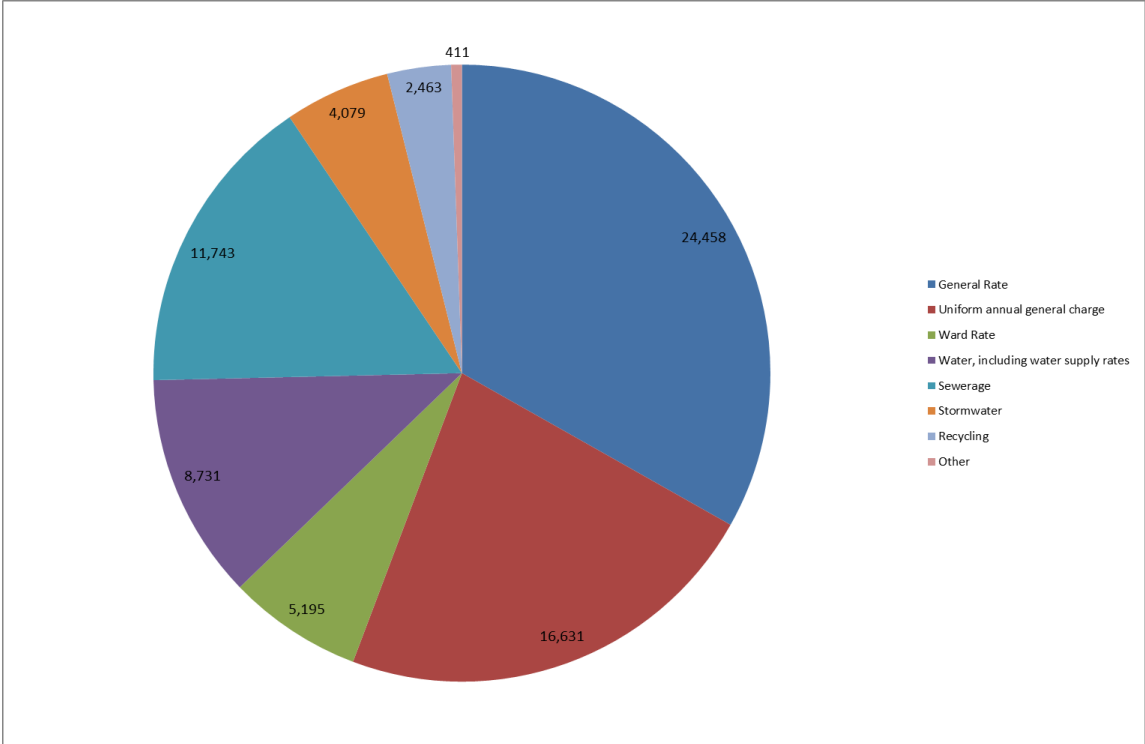
	Before adjustment		After adjustment
	Council	Adjustment	Council
	2022	2022	2022
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Reconciliation between FIS and SoCRE</b>			
Total revenue and expense wholly attributable to District Council	168,036	2,626	170,662
Difference	137,576	2,626	140,202
Vested assets	14,853	2,626	17,479
Total explained difference	137,576	2,626	140,202

### Events after balance date

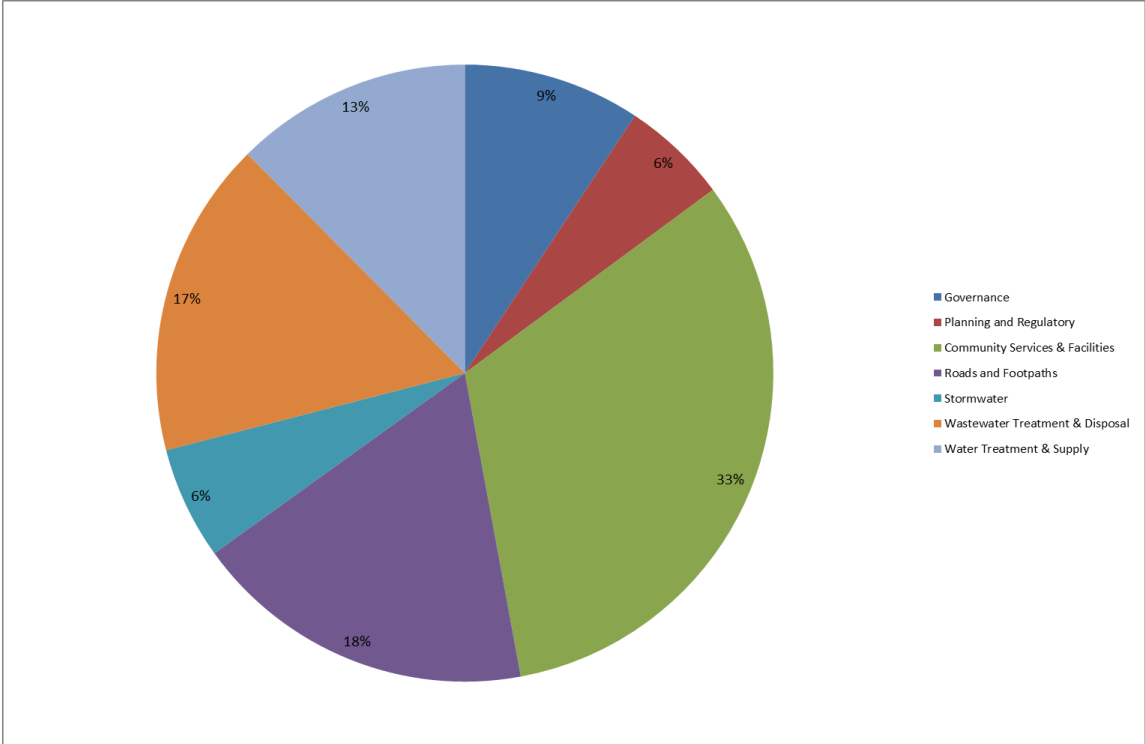
There were no significant events after balance date.



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	Within 5%
Governance	2	3	0	1
Planning and Regulatory	7	2	0	3
Community Facilities	11	13	4	5
Roads and Footpaths	8	2	0	0
Stormwater	8	0	0	0
Wastewater	8	0	0	0
Water Supply	28	3	0	1
Support Services	3	1	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

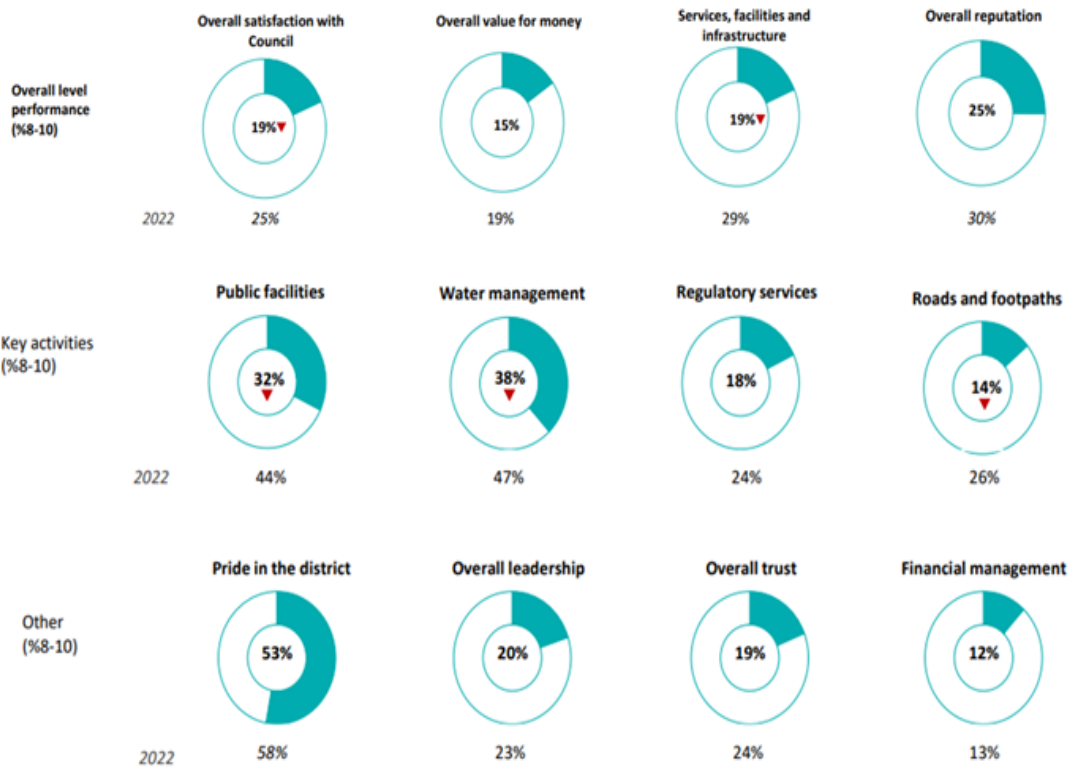
The results of the survey 2022-23 indicate it has been another challenging year and influenced by a number of factors. The district is still recovering from COVID-19 with the current economic environment difficult; escalating supply chain costs and interest rates are impacting affordability. Several Central Government reforms are underway creating uncertainty. The district has also experienced a number of weather events with a wet year overall affecting the delivery of some maintenance programmes.

The key results show dissatisfaction across various areas with some continuing decline from the previous year. Verbatim results indicate concern in some services where Council is already actively looking to improve such as recycling services and the maintenance of roads affected by weather. There are concerns over the impact of growth and change and how Council can balance these while retaining the unique look and feel of the district.

Despite these challenges however there were results that indicated Council is on the right track. The majority of residents are still proud to live in Waipā and quality of life continues to be considered high. Council's reputation benchmark also stayed within the 'acceptable' range.

Looking forward Council already has a number of pieces of work underway and planned which will positively impact many of the lower scoring areas. Of particular note is the continued development of Ahu Ake, Waipā's Community Spatial Plan, the Cambridge Connections project and the implementation of Council's waste minimisation strategy. A bench marking report will be available in September incorporating numerous Council's across New Zealand which will provide further information as to how WDC has performed in relation to the sector.

The results from the Residents Perception Survey help shape our priorities, our risk management practices and Council's ongoing communication and engagement with the Community. We continue to work both internally and externally to improve our delivery of services and deliver on the vision for Waipā. For full results see Council's website <https://www.waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/haveyoursay/annualresidentssurvey>



# 12-month snapshot

## July 2022

### War Memorial Park bridge replaced

Work began on replacing two bridges in Te Awamutu’s War Memorial Park, despite some challenges in sourcing materials. The upgrades are part of the wider concept plan for the area. The two bridges were designed in collaboration with mana whenua and the Te Awamutu Returned and Services Association (RSA). The overall project aims to strengthen connections to the Mangaohoi and Mangapiko Streams through storytelling signage, and revitalising the playground, adding a māra hūpara play trail and maintaining memorial features such as the Peace Fountain, Pergola and stone wall.



## August 2022

### Museum wins education contract

Te Awamutu Museum welcomed students from all over the North Island as it began another three-year contract with the Ministry of Education. The museum is the only Waikato museum to have secured a prestigious contract from the ministry to enrich local curriculum experiences.



## September 2022

### Light show honouring Queen

We joined many people around the world honouring Queen Elizabeth II with iconic pictures from her reign lighting up Cambridge’s Town Hall. The images included the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the front steps of the Cambridge Town Hall in 1954, the first ever visit to New Zealand from a reigning monarch. We also opened the refurbished Skate and Parkour Park at Centennial Park in Te Awamutu.



## October 2022

### New Mayor elected

Mayor Susan O’Regan won the Mayoralty in the local body elections, being the first female to hold this office, with Liz Stolwyk being appointed Deputy Mayor. Two new councillors, which included Waipa’s first Māori Ward Councillor, and three new community board members joined the elected team.





### November 2022

#### An award-winning month!

Two projects received awards in November. The Perry Aquatic Centre Puna Kaukau o Te Oko Horoi Development in Cambridge claimed the Central Property People Awards for Urban Design, and the Ahu Ake – Waipā Community Spatial Plan project took out a top geospatial award at the Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence awards.



### December 2022

#### Waka Kotahi supports new walking and cycling paths

Waka Kotahi backed two new walking and cycling paths in Waipā to the tune of \$10.4 million. The two projects in Cambridge and Kihikihi are part of the government's transport choice programme aimed at opening streets and helping people safely opt out of cars.



### January 2023

#### Mayor seeks young leaders to 'step up, give it a go'

Mayor Susan O'Regan began the hunt for smart, inspiring young people to join the Tuia programme. The programme is an intentional, long term, intergenerational approach to develop the *leadership* capacity of young Māori in communities throughout the country. Maude Rewha from Te Awamutu was selected in March.



### February 2023

#### We recovered from Cyclone Gabrielle

The North Island was hit by Cyclone Gabrielle, which caused immense damage in Waipā, particularly in Cambridge. Our amazing staff kept things humming as they joined forces with other Councils in the official civil defence response and ensured our call centre team was available to take our communities calls. Staff continued the clean-up with contractors for months after with the storm, tidying up the mess left by more than 100 damaged and fallen trees!



### March 2023

#### Council awards largest contract ever

We awarded our largest contract, to the tune of \$86 million for a brand-new wastewater treatment plant for Cambridge. The plant will receive, treat and discharge wastewater from Cambridge, Leamington, Hautapu and Karāpiro Domain. It will replace the existing plant at Matos Segedin Drive in Cambridge west, which has been operational since the late 1970s.



### April 2023

#### It was all on in Waipā!

We had events happening almost every weekend in April. We welcomed 3000 paddlers from every corner of the globe for the International Breast Cancer Participatory Dragon Boat Festival. We painted the town pink while the athletes raced at Mighty River Domain Lake Karāpiro. We also opened the newly refurbished John Rochfort Park in Kihikihi and held an engagement event at Leamington Domain in Cambridge to ask the community how they want the space developed in the years to come.



### May 2023

#### King's coronation honoured in Waipā

The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, New Zealand's Sovereign, was honoured in Waipā with community facilities lit in royal purple and two tree planting ceremonies in Te Awamutu and Cambridge.



### June 2023

#### Council staff doggy-deep in feedback

We asked and you responded! We received 275 formal submissions about dogs as part of our Dog Control Bylaw and Policy consultation. We knew this would be a hot topic for our community following significant community feedback received last year, which helped us prepare the proposed dog policy and bylaw.



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the readers of Waipā District Council's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023

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 2023.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 4 to 14 and page 17:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2023;
- 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 2023 in our auditor's report dated 31 October 2023.

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 water services reform programme announcement as set out in the full annual report in Note 1 on pages 39 and 40 to the financial statements. The Water Services Entities Act 2022, as amended by the Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023 on 23 August 2023 and the Water Services Legislation Act 2023 on 31 August 2023, establishes ten publicly owned water services entities to carry out responsibilities for the delivery of three waters services and related assets and liabilities currently controlled by local authorities. Water services entities' establishment dates are staggered, with all the water services entities becoming operational between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026. The financial impact of the waterservices reform on the Council as outlined on page 7 of the summary annual report, remains uncertain until the relevant water services entity's establishment date is known, and the allocation schedule of assets, liabilities, and other matters to be transferred is approved.

## **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.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.



René van Zyl

Audit New Zealand

On behalf of the Auditor-General

Auckland, New Zealand

31 October 2023



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