FACT SHEET - COUNCIL SERVICES

Understanding the Rates Categories

Waimakariri District Council collects a mix of district-wide rates and rates targeted to specific locations or types of property. Rates are based on property value, land area, fixed charges, a sewer pan charge and rates per bin.

This fact sheet provides more detail on the various charges on your rates assessment and explains where you can go to find more information.

General Rates

General rates fund activities that benefit the total community but cannot be identified as benefiting any one property or group of properties more than others. Examples include policy planning, district planning and regulation, Mayoral honorarium, Council and Committee expenses, subscriptions, grants, public toilets, cemeteries, community development, and contributions towards promotion and economic development and the Central Business District (CBD) area maintenance.

General rates are paid by every ratepayer and are collected as a combination of a fixed charge of $135 and a rate in the dollar multiplied by capital value. The rate in the dollar is the same regardless of the location or use of the property.

General rates make up 12.77% of Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Earthquake Recovery Rate

Funds repairs to earthquake damage to Council property and infrastructure and the cost of earthquake recovery. This is a fixed amount on each rating unit.

Earthquake recovery rates make up 3.43% of Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Community Services Rates

The Parks & Reserves, Buildings and Grants rate funds the net cost of the district parks and reserves, community buildings and community grants.

This rate varies depending on where the property is located and the use to which the land is put. It is generally targeted to residential or commercial premises.

The Community Library and Community Pools rates are fixed charges across the whole district on property used for residential and commercial premises.

Community Services rates make up 23.84% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Roading Rates

Roading rates pay for the construction and maintenance of roads, streets, footpaths, kerb and channel, bridges, traffic management and road safety.

Percentage figures in this document are calculated from the Funding Impact Statement in the Annual Plan 2026-2027.

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Roading rates are collected from all properties as a combination of a fixed charge on each property and a rate on capital value across the whole district.

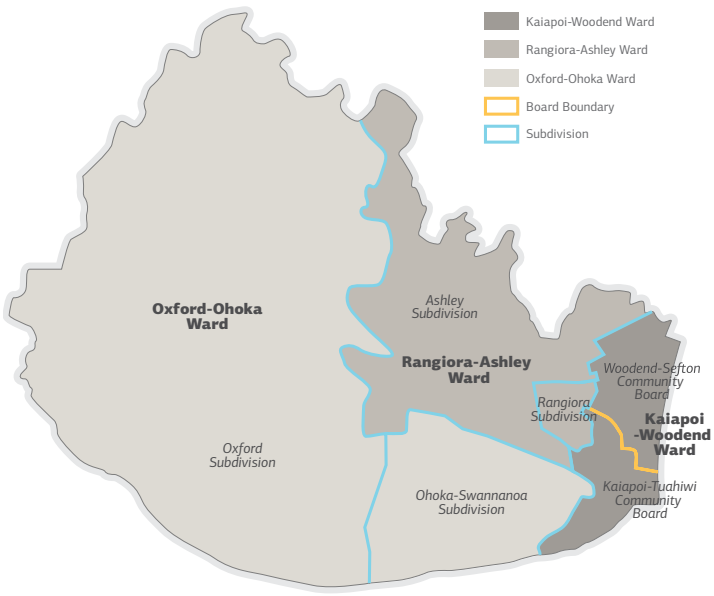
The seal extension loan rates are fixed rates targeted to properties within the seal extension areas.

Roading rates make up 15.96% of Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Community Board Rates

Rates are collected from the constituent area of each board to fund the operating cost of the Community Boards. This is a fixed charge on each property plus a rate on capital value.

Community Board rates make up 0.60% of Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.



Canterbury Museum Operational Levy Rate and Redevelopment Levy Rate

These rates fund the annual operating levy that the Canterbury Museum charges the Council each year. There is a separate levy for Museum redevelopment.

This is a fixed amount on properties that contain residential or commercial premises.

Canterbury Museum Operational rates make up 0.85% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Animal Control Rate

This is a rate on capital value on rating units in the Large Lot Residential, Rural Lifestyle (including SPZ Kainga Nohoanga) and General Rural zones of the Waimakariri District Plan.

This funds the cost of stock control (other than dogs) that cannot be recovered through impounding fees and other sources.

Animal control rates make up 0.06% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

CBD Area Maintenance and Street Works Rate

This pays for 20.00% of the higher level of service in the Rangiora and Kaiapoi Central Business districts including additional street cleaning, landscaping, lighting and street banners, and the cost of maintaining and operating security cameras.

This is a charge on capital value on all properties in the central business districts other than private dwellings. The remaining 80.00% is funded by all ratepayers through the general rate.

CBD Area maintenance and street works rates make up 0.07% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Promotion and Economic Development

The rate funds 20.00% of the cost of business, district and events promotion activities and economic development. The other 80.00% is funded from the general rate over all properties.

It is collected as a rate on the capital value on all properties used for business or commercial purposes across the district.

Promotion and economic development rates make up 0.16% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Water Rates

All properties that have a connection to a Council water supply pay water rates. Actual water consumption is not measured although the supply from some schemes is controlled by restrictors.

Water rates fund the cost of operating the 18 public water schemes and includes the UV treatment rate.

Most water schemes have rates based on a fixed amount per property, or a separately used and inhabited part of a property. Rural supplies generally have a fixed rate per unit of water or a combination of both charging methods.

Water rates make up 14.63% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Water Race Rates

Properties that have access to the water race system including access across a boundary pay this rate. It covers the cost of operating the water races.

The Waimakariri-Ashley stock water race system is funded by a combination of a fixed charge per property plus a rate per hectare of land area. The fixed charge is less on properties with a land area less than 1 acre.

Water race rates make up 0.51% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Sewer Rates

Sewer rates fund the operating costs and loan charges of the sewerage collection, treatment and disposal facilities. This rate is based on a fixed charge per property in the smaller schemes and a charge per connected water closet or urinal in the Eastern District's sewer area.

A private residence for one household is not treated as having more than one water closet or urinal for the purposes of this charge.

Sewer operating rates make up 13.73% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection

This rate funds the net cost of the household and commercial refuse and recycling collection and disposal.

It is charged only on properties where the household and commercial refuse collection and recycling service is available. In Ohoka, a reduced rate is charged for recycling only. Actual use of the service is not measured, and the charge is still made where the ratepayer has engaged a contractor for refuse removal.

The cost of an annual supply of rubbish bags is not covered by the rates, and no delivery of bags is made. The sale price of rubbish bags pays most of the cost of collection and disposal of the bag.

Kerbside refuse and recycling rates make up 2.07% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Rubbish and Organics Wheelie Bins

Optional rates for kerbside wheelie bin rubbish and organics collection within the collection contract areas.

Property owners may select the type of service and size of bin.

Rubbish and organics wheelie bin rates make up 4.00% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Stormwater Drainage

Collected as a rate on land value on all properties in the defined urban and rural-residential drainage districts. The rate funds the provision of capital works and operation of the urban stormwater drainage networks that provide protection from flooding.

Stormwater drainage rates make up 6.11% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Rural Land Drainage

This rate pays for the provision of capital works, the repayment of loans and operation of the rural drainage networks that provide protection from flooding and drain farmland for production.

It applies to all rating units in the defined rural drainage districts. The method of collection varies depending on the scheme, and includes a combination of fixed charges, rate on land value and rate on land area.

Rural drainage rates make up 1.09% of the Waimakariri District Council rates collected in 2026-2027.

Keen to learn more ....

You can find more information on the Council website waimakariri.govt.nz

Targeted Rates and Rating Areas

- View the rating policy maps for rates based on location - waimakariri.govt.nz/services/rates/targeted-rating-areas
- Use the Rates Explorer Tool to see how the rates on your property are made up - gisservices.waimakariri.govt.nz/apps/YourRates/index.html

Rating Policies

- Read the Council's rating and rates remission/postponement policies - waimakariri.govt.nz/services/rates

Rates Rebates

- Find out more information about the Government Rates Rebate Scheme - waimakariri.govt.nz/services/rates/rates-rebates
- Check your eligibility using the rates rebate table
- Link to the rates rebate calculator, key your information in to see if you qualify.

Talk to us

Email your enquiries to rates@wmk.govt.nz or phone Customer Services 0800 965 468.

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.