

2025

Pre-Election Report



Basis of preparation

This report is being released in the pre-election period. Special care has been taken to ensure that it is politically neutral.

It is presented as an apolitical document, and is not a manifesto, either in whole or in part, for any candidate or political grouping taking part in the election campaign.

While this report has not been audited, much of the information presented has been sourced from audited reports. For example, the first two years' retrospective financial data has been audited as it has been taken directly from the respective Annual Reports and Long Term Plan.

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WELCOME

From the Chief Executive

Kia ora tatou

Local Government elections are an exciting time for any community.

They give residents a chance to have their say on the direction of the district as well as allow new leaders to emerge.

Councils across the country put together these 'Pre-election Reports' in the interests of promoting discussion about the challenges facing the community and Council in the coming years.

Whether you're considering standing for Council or a Community Board, or simply want to understand Waimakariri's future, this report is for you.

This report brings together information contained in previously published Council documents such as our Long Term Plan, Annual Plans, and Annual Reports, all of which have been independently audited.

Growth and Its Challenges

Waimakariri has been a high-growth district since the Canterbury earthquakes. Our population is projected to reach nearly 100,000 by 2050.

Managing this growth—through infrastructure, services, and public facilities—will shape how residents experience and interact with the Council going forward.

Our 2024–2034 Long Term Plan had a focus on responsible rate increases while ensuring service provision remains high, and public services grow in line with demand from residents. The Council proudly supported 'localism' and local delivery of services.

A growing district, especially one experiencing mostly urban growth, can be challenging to manage.

Residents continue to expect high levels of infrastructure and services while also wanting to retain the characteristics that attracted them to the region in the first-place.

Candidates with their finger on the pulse of the district and a vision for Waimakariri will be well served.

The Outcomes of Reform

In recent years there has been a significant reform agenda being led by Central Government including reviews of Affordable Water Services, the Resource Management Act (RMA), as well as a review into the future of local government among others. This caused many years of uncertainty.

The review of local government has been put aside, the review of the RMA is continuing, and the reform of Affordable Water Services has evolved into Local Water Done Well, where ownership and decision continue to be made by councils and communities.

Waimakariri District Council played a key role in shaping this policy, advocating for local control over water infrastructure.

Key Issues for the Coming Term

- **Transport:** A major concern in any growing community. We welcome NZTA's commitment to the Woodend Bypass, which will significantly benefit Woodend, Pegasus, and Ravenswood. Meanwhile, the Council is advancing plans for the Rangiora Eastern Link road to ease congestion and accommodate future growth.

- **Water Service Deliver Plans:** 97.2% of submitters to the Annual Plan supported the Council's preference to establish an in-house business unit to manage water services going forward. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) recently accepted this proposal and the Council has until July 2027 to fully establish this new way of operating.
- **Climate Change:** The Council is working to reduce carbon emissions, expand community planting, and ensure infrastructure resilience. Our participation in the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan demonstrates our commitment to a low-emission future.
- **Costs:** Rising costs for goods, services, insurance, and infrastructure are significantly impacting household and in turn council budgets. We continue to push Central Government for funding solutions and an end to unfunded mandates.
- **District Plan Review:** We have been reviewing our key planning document, the District Plan, and put in place provisions and outcomes we believe will preserve and protect the unique character of our District as we grow.

The Opportunity

Elected representatives will need to balance growth, financial prudence, and evolving regulatory demands while shaping Waimakariri's future. Strong networks—locally, regionally, and nationally—will be essential for navigating challenges and opportunities.

It can be a challenging environment, but you will play a pivotal role in shaping the direction of the District's development.

The Council's recent Long Term Plan, Annual Plan, Annual Report, Sustainability Strategy, and other key documents provide more information about our future vision as well as detailing future challenges facing the District. You can find these at Waimakariri.govt.nz.

In these documents you'll find information about what's been done, what's being worked on, and what's planned. But know that you'll be a part of an organisation in great shape.

Waimakariri District Council is financially in good shape.

Credit rating agency Standard and Poor's recently reset Waimakariri District Council's rating to AA-/A-1+ with a stable outlook.

The change puts Waimakariri District Council in line with retail banks ANZ and BNZ and is reflective of pressures on the local government sector overall.

It is expected that the credit rating of the sector could increase again if the institutional settings for local government change.

For example, this could include the completion of water reform through Local Water Done Well, or through changes to funding avenues which have been signalled by central government.

Financials aside, the Council is one of a select few who have obtained a second AA CouncilMARK rating. Launched by Local Government NZ (LGNZ), CouncilMARK is a rigorous, transparent assessment of Council performance, as well as a pathway for continuous improvement for the sector.

Help Shape The Future

I encourage voters and potential candidates to engage in meaningful discussions about Waimakariri's future. If you have ideas, energy, and a passion for our community, consider getting involved.



Jeff Millward
Chief Executive





2025

Election and Key Dates

Local authority elections take place every three years on the second Saturday in October, via postal voting.

This year, the election will be held on **Saturday 11 October 2025**. The elections are held under the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001, The Local Electoral Regulations 2001, and the Local Government Act 2002.

The Waimakariri District Council is comprised of:



Four Community Boards representing the community comprised of:

-  **Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board**
5 members + 2 councillors
from Kaiapoi-Woodend Ward
-  **Woodend-Sefton Community Board**
5 members + 2 councillors
from Kaiapoi-Woodend Ward
-  **Oxford-Ohoka Community Board**
6 members + 2 councillors
from Oxford-Ohoka Ward
-  **Rangiora-Ashley Community Board**
8 members + 4 councillors
from Rangiora-Ashley Ward

Responsibility of the Council and Community Boards:

The Council is responsible for the overall governance of the District Council. It sets Council policy and strategic direction and monitors its implementation. (what and why)

The Council employ the Chief Executive, who in turn employs all staff for the operation, execution and service delivery of the council. (how and when)

The Community Boards represent their community's views and advocate for the interests of their community. They contribute to the Council decision making processes by informing the Council of community views. The Boards also make decisions related to community issues where authority has been delegated to the Boards from the Council.

Key dates

JULY
4

Nominations open

AUGUST
1

Nominations close
(closes 12 noon)

SEPTEMBER
9-22

Delivery of voting papers

SEPTEMBER
9
- 11 October

Voting period

OCTOBER
11

Election Day
(voting closes 12 noon)

OCTOBER
16

Official result declaration
(anticipated)

OCTOBER
29-30

Elected members are sworn into office
(anticipated)

District ward map



- Kaiapoi-Woodend Ward (41% population)
- Rangiora-Ashley Ward (40% population)
- Oxford-Ohoka Ward (19% population)
- Board boundary
- Subdivision



WAIMAKARIRI

Location and Character

The Waimakariri District lies to the north of Christchurch on the Canterbury Plains, extending from the Waimakariri River to the south, Pegasus Bay in the east and the Puketeraki Range in the west.

It is bounded to the north by Hurunui District. More than 80% of the population is concentrated in the eastern part of the District in the main urban areas of Rangiora, Kaiapoi, and Woodend/Pegasus/Ravenswood. Oxford is the largest town in the western part of the District.

These larger towns are supplemented by smaller rural villages and four beach settlements. The District also has a large number of people living on smaller lots in the rural and rural residential areas, with around 2,400 households living on properties sized between 0.5ha and just under 4ha, and around another 3,300 households living on small holdings sized between 4ha and just under 8ha. Many of these properties have their own sewerage

system and some have their own water supply systems. Most people live within a 30 minute drive from one another and all of these areas are within commuting distance of Christchurch City. Despite rapid population growth, Waimakariri has retained its small town/rural character and the District's close proximity to Christchurch makes it an attractive location for those wanting to live near a city but enjoy the country environment.

The Land

225,500ha

Land area of the District

\$15.1b

Land value (January 2025)

\$28.7b

Capital value (January 2025)

30,204

Rateable properties (January 2025)

The People



72,000

Estimated usually resident population as at 30 June 2025

Source: Formative

Population age

0–14 years (12,826 people)
15–39 years (19,078 people)
40–64 years (24,683 people)
65+ (15,413 people)

Gross income

46% earn < \$30,000 pa
36% earn between \$30–\$70,00 pa
18% earn > \$70,000 pa
Mean income \$33,600

Home ownership

82.2% of households live in a privately owned dwelling

Ethnic groups

European (92.1%)
Māori (9.9%)
Asian (3.8%)
Pacific Peoples (1.6%)
Other (1.3%)

+16%

Population change
2018 - 2023

Employment

Employed full time (50%)
Employed part-time (16%)
Not in the labour force (31%)
Unemployed (3%)

Household composition

One-family households (77%)
One-person households (20%)
Multi-person households(3%)

Waimakariri	Canterbury	National
Population		
72,000	687,100	5,330,600
GDP/Economic growth measure		
-0.6%	-0.4%	-1.1%
Average household income		
\$132,000	\$132,300	\$135,092
House values		
\$668,550	\$695,000	\$881,338
Consumer spending		
+0.2%	-0.2%	-1.4%
Average weekly rent		
\$562	\$560	\$575
Unemployment		
3.6%	4.6%	4.9%

Sourced from NZ Statistics and Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor December 2024



OUR PURPOSE

Community Outcomes

Community Outcomes describe how Waimakariri District Council aims to achieve meeting the current and future needs of our communities with good-quality local infrastructure, providing local public services and performance of regulatory functions.

Community outcomes set the direction for our Long Term Plan (LTP) and all activities included in the 2024-2034 LTP that the Council undertakes contribute towards achieving these outcomes. The key groups of activities that contribute to each outcome are displayed.

Central Government has signalled they will likely remove Community Outcomes from the Local Government Act. However, they still remain important as objectives the community wish the Council to deliver on.

SOCIAL

A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging...

- Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation
- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimising the risk of social harm to its communities
- Housing is available to match the changing needs and aspirations of our community
- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

CULTURAL

...where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity and heritage...

- Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society
- The distinctive character of our Takiwā/District, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued
- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all
- Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL

...that values and restores our environment...

- People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment
- Land use is sustainable; biodiversity is protected and restored
- Our District is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change
- Our District transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district
- The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe
- Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

ECONOMIC

...and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- Enterprises are supported and enabled to succeed
- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the District
- Our District recognizes the value of both paid and unpaid work
- Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable
- Our District readily adapts to innovation and emerging technologies that support its transition to a circular economy
- There are sufficient and appropriate locations where businesses can set up in our District
- There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

Strategic Priorities

From the Long Term Plan 2024-2034, adopted by Council on 25 June 2024.

Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural and built environment

Respond to the challenges posed by climate change by building resilient infrastructure, managing adaptation, and minimising council's carbon emissions.



Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness

Waimakariri District is a high growth area with an increasingly diverse population. We want to build a wellbeing centred community where all feel safe and welcome; are accepted and connected.



Advance an integrated and accessible transport network

Improve transportation options across the District by working to reduce congestion, providing alternative transport options, and ensuring the choices cater to a range of accessibility needs.



Enable economic development and sustainable growth

Enable economic prosperity of the District through sustained population growth, direct investment and business friendly practices that attract new and support existing local businesses.



Embrace partnership with Ngāi Tūāhuriri

Pursue a meaningful, open and trusting relationship based on the principles of Te Tiriti with Ngāi Tūāhuriri.



Refer to the Waimakariri District Council website for Strategy and Plans

KEY

Community Outcomes — Wellbeing Dimension





MĀORI

Contribution

The continued development of Maori contribution aids decision making process of the Council.

The Council in partnership with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, continue to build their relationship towards mutual understanding, through on-going discussion and consultation on relevant issues. This is provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and the Council, initially signed in 2003 and reviewed in December 2012.

Shared Decision-Making

Opportunity for active involvement in shared decision making includes regular hui between the Council and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga. Current issues and possible joint ventures or shared projects are discussed and matters for Council consideration in developing its Long Term and Annual Plans identified.

There is continued Council representation and dialogue at Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga meetings as requested, so that the Rūnanga can contribute to issues before the Council, like resource consents and plan changes, and hear about Council projects and developments that are of interest to them.

The Council continues to be open to a variety of partnering opportunities with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, to ensure shared decision making on key relevant issues.

Consultation

To facilitate consultation, Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga liaise with Council staff at bi-monthly forums, participate in statutory and non-statutory consultation processes and provide

advice and guidance on resource management matters of significance to the hapū and whānau of Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

Mana whenua, where relevant, are acknowledged in hearings and pre-hearings. The Council encourage pre-hearings with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga before resource consent and plan change/variation hearings to address issues of concern, use of venues and provision for tikanga Māori.

At hearings recognition and provision for tikanga Māori and te reo Māori, is provided for, where appropriate, and information considered sensitive and confidential by mana whenua is protected.

Other Relationships

The Council works closely with Whitiara Centre Limited and Paenga Kupenga Limited as organisations authorised to represent Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga on a variety of matters of interest to mana whenua.

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga also have two representatives on the Waimakariri Zone Committee under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

The Council and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga (through Ngāi Tahu) each appoint Trustees to Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust that manages over 700ha of coastal conservation land. Management responsibility of the Mahinga Kai area in Kaiapoi, as a result of the regeneration plans post-earthquakes, was delegated to the Trust.

FINANCES

At a glance



Value for money

The cost of running council's services (per day)

Governance



Roads and Footpaths



Libraries



Swimming Pools



Planning

(Admin, District Development, Civil Defence)



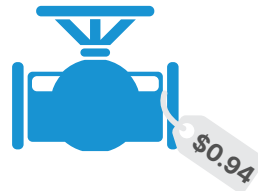
Economic Development

(Promotion CBA's)



Stormwater Drainage

(Urban & Rural areas)



Health and Safety

Cemeteries, Rural Fire, Health, Animal & Buildings control)



Community Buildings



Parks and Reserves



Christchurch Museum



Sewerage Disposal



Water and Water ways



Earthquake Recovery



This all equates to approximately \$11.52 per day.

Rates on an average residential property equate to around 3% of the average household income.

**Figures sourced from Infometrics December 2024, Quarterly Economic Monitor.*

Other



Waste Collection and Disposal



**Based on average residential property rates per the Annual Plan for 2025/26.*

Managing our finances

Like the majority of Councils in New Zealand, the Waimakariri District Council borrows money to ensure we can provide infrastructure and invest in our community ahead of time in line with growth.

Councils need to respond to the rising expectations that communities have of them, and with higher environmental and government-imposed standards. Councils will need to continue investing in their districts, with debt funding providing the best means of ensuring inter-generational equity.

Council's level of external borrowing is \$220m, as at the end of June 2025.

The Long Term Plan proposed that debt levels would peak at about \$324m. This equates to a debt to operating revenue of 160%. Our repayment programme brings this down to 134% in year 2034.

This is well within limits imposed by the Local Government Funding Agency and Council's self-imposed conservative policy limits.

Local government debt is used to build infrastructure and with this in mind our annual Capital expenditure is between \$45–100m. Relative to this is our interest cost of about \$11–18m per annum. Council's current average cost of borrowing was 4.5% in 2024/25.

Rates

In the 2024-2034 LTP, average rates increases were:

In 2025/26 the average property rate increased 4.98%. The following four years from 2025–2029 average rates increases were signalled to range between 4.6%–4.9%. The remaining years of the ten year plan range between 2.7%–4.6%.

Capital spending

- \$234m on replacement capital projects
 - 31% of which will be in the Wastewater, Stormwater and Water Supply areas, 45% on Rooding and 17% on Recreation, including Libraries and Aquatic services.
- \$218m on improved levels of service capital projects on meeting water quality standards, improving drainage, and other levels of service. 58% of which will be in the Wastewater, Stormwater and Water Supply areas, 21% on Rooding and 9% on Recreation, including Libraries and Aquatic facilities.
- \$282m on projects relating to growth, 32% of which will be in the Wastewater, Stormwater and Water Supply areas, 44% on Rooding and 19% on Recreation, including Libraries and Aquatic facilities.

KEY PROJECTS

Present day and
future focus





Local Water Done Well / Three Waters Reform

The Council proposed establishing an internal business unit to deliver three waters services while continuing to explore future collaboration with our northern neighbours, Hurunui and Kaikōura. This approach maintains local ownership, governance, and operational control. It also enables integrated planning, builds on over

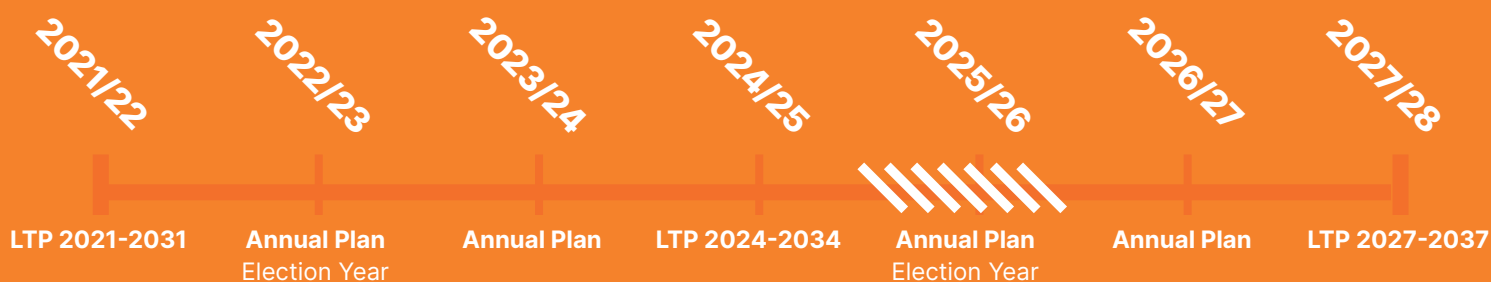
two decades of investment, and is the lowest-cost option for the next 10 years. We're pleased to report that 97.2% of submitters supported Council's preferred option. In July the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) approved this model to manage water services going forward. Council has until 2027 to have this fully operational.

2025–26 Challenges

The adopted 2025/26 Annual Plan also responds to several other challenges and opportunities this year, including:

- Addressing a \$13.5m shortfall in road and transport funding from NZ Transport Agency over the next three years
- Managing the impact of increased asset values, which drive up depreciation and insurance costs
- Progressing consultation on a proposed rates remission policy for secondary dwellings
- Reviewing our Development Contributions policy.

Refer to the 2025-26 Annual Plan waimakariri.govt.nz for further information.



Present Day

Key projects for 2025 to 2026

District Development

- Completion of the District Plan Review.

Roads and Footpaths

- Townsend Road Culvert Widening – Construction in 2025/26.
- Fernside Road/Todds Road Intersection Upgrade – Complete design in 2025/26.
- School Safety Improvements (Variable Speeds Outside Schools) – 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- West Rangiora Route Improvements (Skewbridge Road) – Design in 2025/26.
- Lees Valley Resilience Improvements – Continuing in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- Tram Road/No. 10 Road Intersection Upgrade – Design in 2025/26 and construction in 2026/27.
- Rangiora Eastern Link Road – Business Case preparation and preliminary design 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Water Supply

- Continue with upgrades to comply with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules, specifically (UV) treatment.
- Continue with the ongoing programme to renew pipes and equipment.
- Growth related works involving new reservoirs and extending distribution network at Rangiora and Oxford.

- Additional sources to either cater for growth, improve resilience or both. Examples are for the Cust, Mandeville and Ohoka schemes.

Wastewater

- Network renewals in Rangiora with a focus on Council owned pipes located within private properties.
- Growth related works involving upgrade of the Rangiora WWTP aeration basin, Woodend WWTP UV upgrade, network extension in Rangiora.
- Level of service related works involving wetland upgrades at Woodend and Kaiapoi WWTPs.
- Growth and level of service triggered network upgrades in Rangiora and Kaiapoi.

Stormwater Drainage

- Progress implementation works to achieve improved water quality compliance as part of network discharge consents.
- Progress the Box Drain improvement works in Woodend/Tuahiwi.
- Progress Stage 1 of the Mandeville Resurgence Channel Upgrade Project.
- Continue to implement stormwater capacity upgrades and flood resilience works in Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Waikuku Beach and surrounding rural areas.
- Progress Stage 2 of the Mandeville Resurgence Channel Upgrade Project.



Present Day

Key projects for 2025 to 2026

Solid Waste

- Southbrook RRP upgrades – \$6.5m design and construction, 2025/26 to 2028/29.
- Remediation of Closed Landfill cover deficiencies – 2025/26 to 2028/29.
- Historic Closed Landfill Global Consents – 2025/26 to 2026/27.
- Diversion infrastructure improvements at Oxford transfer station 2025/26 to 2026/27.
- Southbrook Transfer Station Upgrade Construction – \$4.4m design and construction, 2025/26 to 2027/28.

Recreation

- **Arohatia te awa** This existing project looks to enhance the districts streams and waterways to improve water quality, biodiversity and public access.
- **Pegasus Community Centre Construction** purpose built community centre in Pegasus to replace the existing leased space.
- **Huria Reserve Heritage and Mahinga Kai (stage 5).**
- Murphy Park and River Access (including Rowing/paddlesports precinct).
- **Natural Environment Strategy.**

Libraries and Museums

- Consultation and planning for an extension to Rangiora Library will continue.
- Canterbury Museum Project (\$4.8m over 3 years).

Emergency Management (Civil Defence)

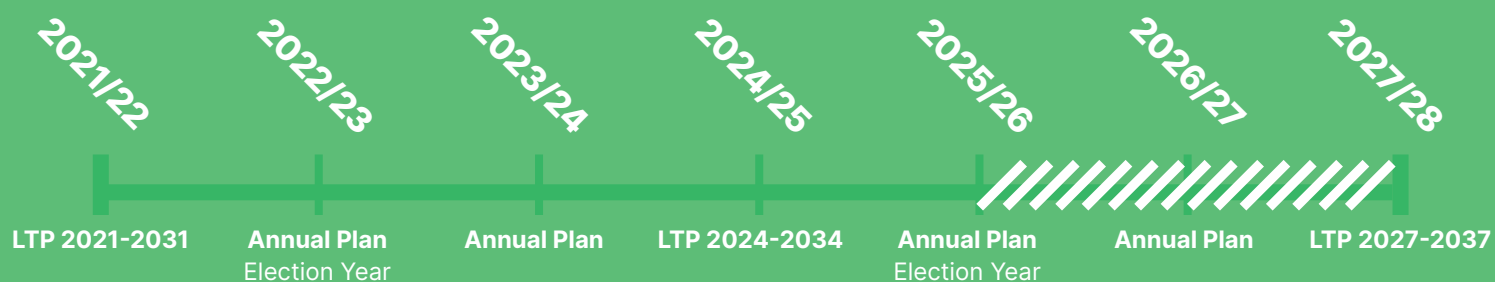
- Multiple Community Emergency Hubs.
- Public education programme on the potential impacts of a major rupture of the Alpine Fault and a Hikurangi Subduction Zone tsunami.
- Upgrade of Civil Defence Digital Radios.

Community Development

- Youth Action Plan development.
- Community Development Strategy adoption and implementation.
- Welcoming Communities Plan development and implementation.
- Accessibility Plan adoption and implementation.
- Ongoing support for Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention, Wellbeing Promotion and Suicide Prevention, Kaiapoi Community Hub, Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) initiatives.

Property Management

- Pensioner Housing Refurbishment Programme and Asset Management Plan.



Future Focus

Key projects planned for 2026 and beyond

District Development

- Implement national direction including National Policy Statements on Urban Development Capacity and Highly Productive Land.

Roads and Footpaths

- Fernside Road/Todds Road Intersection Upgrade construction in 2026/27.
- Skew Bridge Replacement (multi-year project) Construction 2027/28 to 2029/30.
- Tram Road/No. 10 Road Intersection Upgrade – construction in 2026/27.
- Tram Road/Bradleys Road/McHughs Road Intersection Upgrade – Construction 2027/28.
- Oxford Road/Lehmans Road Intersection Upgrade – Design in 2026/27 and construction in 2027/28.
- Rangiora Eastern Link Road (multi-year project) Construction 2028/29 and 2029/30.

Solid Waste

- Closed Landfill remediation works – 2027/28 to 2033/34.
- Historic Closed Landfill Global Consents through to 2027/28.
- New Solid Waste Contracts (Collections, Facility Operations) commencing 1 July 2029.

Recreation

- Southbrook Sports Club contribution to upgrade facilities.

- Cricket Oval Development Contribution towards development of a second cricket oval and training facilities at Mainpower Oval.
- Community Facility Replacements To ensure aging facilities meet current and future demands.
- Williams Street Bridge Balustrade upgrades (2027/28).
- Recreation and Ecological Linkage – Kaiapoi East Rural area (2027/28).
- Feldwick SMA Drainage EQ Recovery (2028/29).
- Kaiapoi Town Centre.

Libraries and Museums

- An extension and refurbishment to Rangiora Library is anticipated to commence 2027/28.

Emergency Management (Civil Defence)

- Public engagement on Tsunami 2026–2028.
- Public engagement on Flood risk 2028–2030.

Animal Control

- Relocate the Dog Shelter in 2027/28 due to Eastern Link Road Project.

Community Development

- Ongoing support for Relationship violence education and prevention, community-led housing issues response, Food Secure Waimakariri, Civil Defence event welfare response and social recovery, 'Age-friendly', accessibility and 'In Common', capacity building series for community groups, clubs and organisation.

Significant Capital Projects

Significant Capital Projects Over \$250,000	2025/2026
	\$'000
To replace existing assets	
<i>The following projects have been identified within the activity management plan to be replaced in order to provide continued levels of service The funding sources are a combination of reserves, rates and loans.</i>	
ROADS AND FOOTPATHS	
Subsidised Renewal Works	
Remetalling ****	773
Pavement Rehabilitation ****	1,360
Drainage Renewals	664
Resurfacing - Chipseal ****	2,125
Resurfacing - Thin Asphaltic ****	716
Signs Renewal ****	577
Bridge Component Replacement	402
Bridge Reconstruction Renewals	292
Unsubsidised Renewal Works	
Footpath Reconstruction ****	394
Bridge Component Replacement	319
Old Waimakariri Bridge Renewals	484
WATER SUPPLY	
Rangiora: Pipeline Renewals	838
Rangiora: Ayers Street Water Treatment Plant to East Belt Supply Main	677
Rangiora: Johns Road East Supply Main **	793
Rangiora: Northbrook Road Boost Main - Stage 2 **	280
Kaiapoi: Pipeline Renewals	366
Oxford Urban : Pipeline Renewals	387
SEWAGE AND THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE	
Rangiora: Pipeline Replacement	314
Woodend: Wastewater Headworks Renewals	419
Woodend: Wastewater Treatment Plant Step Screens Replacements	459
Kaiapoi: Wastewater Headworks Renewals	314
Kaiapoi: Wastewater Treatment Plant Screens Replacements	457
RECREATION	
Reserves	
General Reserve Renewals	381
Roads and Carparks ***	821
Play Safety Surface/Equipment	306
Community Buildings	
Community Buildings General Renewals	408
Public Conveniences	
Toilet Renewals	798
Swimming Pools	
Kaiapoi Pool Renewals	267
Camping Grounds	
Waikuku Camp Ablutions Block Replacement	310
Ashley Camp Renewals and Strengthening	369
LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS	
Resource Purchases	432

* Project consists of both Level of Service and Growth work

** Project consists of both Renewal and Growth work

*** Project consists of both Renewal and Level of Service work

**** Project consists of both Subsidised and Unsubsidised work

Significant Capital Projects Over \$250,000	2025/2026
	\$'000
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Pensioner Housing: Capital Asset Management Plan	451
Pensioner Housing: Unit Refurbishment Programme	451
PROPERTY	
Rangiora Service Centre Infrastructure Strategy Renewals	439
EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY	
Kaiapoi Riverbanks Rowing Precinct	290
To improve level of service	
<i>The following projects have been identified within the activity management plan as required to increase the level of service or rectify any existing deficiency The funding sources are a combination of reserves, rates and loans.</i>	
ROADS AND FOOTPATHS	
Subsidised Level of Service Works	
Widen Culvert on Townsend Road	350
Lees Valley Willow Walls	500
Kaiapoi to Woodend Cycle Connection	965
Unsubsidised Level of Service Works	
School Safety Improvements	1,000
Minor Improvement Projects *	1,347
Subdivision Projects	879
North/South Collector Rd	800
WATER SUPPLY	
Mandeville: Two Chain Rd 3rd Well *	501
District Water: Ohoka UV Upgrade	1,318
Oxford Urban: Source Upgrade 1	726
SEWAGE AND THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE	
Rangiora: Percival Street - Charles to Matawai	890
Rangiora: Brick Kiln Lane Sewer Main Repair	314
Kaiapoi: Wastewater Treatment Plant Planting	300
Oxford: Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade *	424
STORMWATER DRAINAGE	
Rangiora: Three Brooks Enhancement Work - North Brook / Geddis Street	338
Coastal Urban: Box Drain Improvements	391
District Drainage: Infrastructure Resilience Fund	1,570
District Drainage: Mandeville Resurgence Channel Diversion / Upgrade	570
District Drainage: 1030 Loburn Whiterock Road	1,097
SOLID WASTE	
Construction of New Shop and Education Centre	508
Southbrook: Disposal Pit Upgrade and Road Realignment	294
RECREATION	
Reserves	
District: Non-specified Reserve Enhancement	426
District: Aroatea Te Awa (Cam River Walkway)	661
Airfield	
Connection to Water Services	691
Connection to Wastewater Services	527
Community Buildings	
Solar Panels at Multi-use Sports Facility	314
Land Purchase Community Centre Pegasus	1,096
Pegasus Community Centre Building	3,040
Land Purchase Community Centre Ravenswood	4,204

* Project consists of both Level of Service and Growth work

Significant Capital Projects Over \$250,000	2025/2026
	\$'000
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Pensioner Housing: Housing HUD Funded	11,881
PROPERTY	
Kaipoi Subway - Seismic Strengthening	350
EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY	
Heritage and Mahinga Kai	357
To meet additional demand	
<i>The following projects have been identified within the activity management plan to allow for future growth. The funding sources are a combination of reserves, rates and loans.</i>	
ROADS AND FOOTPATHS	
Subsidised New Growth Works	
Widen Culvert on Townsend Road	350
Unsubsidised New Growth Works	
New Eastern Link Road	256
Delivering Strategic Cycling Networks	320
North/South Collector Road	1,200
WATER SUPPLY	
Rangiora: Ayers Street Supply Main	900
Rangiora: Ayers Street to EB (Lovers Lane extra over)	267
Rangiora: Merton Road and Priors Road Water Servicing	904
Rangiora: East Belt Booster Main Stage 2	674
Rangiora: Ayers Street Water Treatment Plant to East Belt Supply Main	1,171
Rangiora: Source Upgrade 1	817
Woodend: Additional Equestrian Source Well	471
Mandeville: Source Upgrade 2	300
Oxford Rural #1: Back-up Well	667
Oxford Rural #2: Source Upgrade 1	354
Garrymere: Backup Well	272
SEWAGE AND THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE	
Rangiora: Merton Road and Priors Road Wastewater Servicing	871
Rangiora: Northbrook Road South Pumpstation and Rising Main	2,262
Woodend: Increase UV Capacity **	251
RECREATION	
Reserves	
District: Future Sports Ground Development *	774
Land Purchase - Neighbourhood	1,925
Land Development - Neighbourhood	363
Kaipoi Tuahiwi: Support for MUBA (Area directly adjacent to KTC)	255

* Project consists of both Level of Service and Growth work

** Project consists of both Renewal and Growth work

Refer to the 2025-26 Annual Plan waimakariri.govt.nz for Financial Policies.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Funding impact statement

This financial statement sets out the funding mechanisms and forecast budgets Council will use to pay for its capital and operating programme from 2025 to 2028.

	Actual 2022/23 Year -3	Actual 2023/24 Year -2	Forecast 2024/25 Year -1	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Sources of operating funding				
General Rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	12,047	13,395	14,747	
Targeted Rates (other than a targeted rate for water supply)	68,675	75,522	84,432	
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	5,648	6,810	5,375	
Fees and charges and targeted rates for water supply	18,589	21,232	26,594	
Interest and dividends from investments	2,573	4,031	3,408	
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	1,290	1,578	639	
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDING	108,822	122,568	135,194	
Applications of operating funding				
Payments to staff and suppliers	92,370	103,904	112,150	
Finance costs	8,112	10,813	11,015	
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	
TOTAL APPLICATIONS OF OPERATING FUNDING	100,482	114,717	123,165	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF OPERATING FUNDING	8,340	7,851	12,030	
Sources of capital funding				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	9,457	6,426	5,162	
Development and financial contributions	11,291	16,812	10,373	
Increase (decrease) in debt	10,000	20,000	20,000	
Gross Proceeds from sale of assets	3,629	2,520	2,470	
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	
TOTAL SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING	34,377	45,758	38,005	
Applications of capital funding				
Capital expenditure				
- to meet additional demand	9,274	15,330	12,452	
- to improve the level of service	39,078	24,704	24,745	
- to replace existing assets	18,203	15,632	18,655	
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(24,387)	(2,725)	(7,668)	
Increase (decrease) in investments	550	669	1,851	
TOTAL APPLICATIONS OF CAPITAL FUNDING	42,718	53,610	50,035	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) OF CAPITAL FUNDING	(8,340)	(7,851)	(12,030)	
FUNDING BALANCE	-	-	-	

	LTP 2024-2034 2025/26 Election Year	LTP 2024-2034 2026/27 Year +1	LTP 2024-2034 2027/28 Year +2	LTP 2024-2034 2028/29 Year +3*
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	13,782	14,870	15,884	17,446
	91,963	98,409	105,186	111,560
	6,659	6,292	6,499	6,769
	25,475	25,720	26,816	27,624
	1,830	1,943	2,105	2,151
	598	885	698	1,150
	140,307	148,119	157,188	166,700
	110,869	108,606	110,184	115,050
	12,894	13,712	14,496	15,347
	-	-	-	-
	123,763	122,318	124,680	130,397
	16,544	25,801	32,508	36,303
	16,878	10,410	15,496	16,614
	26,496	21,497	19,732	16,947
	15,845	15,004	18,778	30,365
	379	562	379	385
	-	-		
	59,598	47,473	54,385	64,311
	26,473	25,840	48,621	51,611
	31,925	22,238	15,556	23,728
	21,798	24,656	24,880	24,805
	(4,450)	165	(2,633)	(289)
	396	375	469	759
	76,142	73,274	86,893	100,614
	(16,544)	(25,801)	(32,508)	(36,303)
	-	-	-	-

Consolidated balance sheet

The consolidated balance sheet shows what the Council owns (our assets) and what we owe (our debt/liabilities) and the net worth (represented by net assets).

	Actual 2022/23 Year -3	Actual 2023/24 Year -2	Forecast 2024/25 Year -1	LTP 2024- 2034 2025/26 Election Year	LTP 2024- 2034 2026/27 Year +1	LTP 2024- 2034 2027/28 Year +2	LTP 2024- 2034 2028/29 Year +3
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	36,890	43,607	39,601	34,236	33,100	31,272	31,334
Non-current assets							
Forestry	2,552	2,479	2,621	2,625	2,677	2,709	2,788
Investment properties	6,880	6,896	6,519	7,128	7,258	7,392	7,530
Property, plant and equipment	100,472	102,311	104,144	103,763	102,778	106,389	123,449
Infrastructure	2,353,864	2,700,318	2,754,337	2,770,781	2,887,361	3,012,527	3,133,463
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2,463,768	2,812,004	2,867,621	2,884,297	3,000,074	3,129,017	3,267,229
TOTAL ASSETS	2,500,658	2,855,611	2,907,222	2,918,532	3,033,174	3,160,289	3,298,563
Current liabilities							
Borrowing	20,000	40,000	55,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Other current liabilities	27,367	29,351	31,124	27,528	26,753	27,899	28,598
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	47,367	69,351	86,124	67,528	66,753	67,899	68,598
Non-current liabilities							
Borrowing	160,000	160,000	165,000	212,024	227,028	245,806	276,171
Other non-current liabilities	-	49	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	160,000	160,049	165,000	212,024	227,028	245,806	276,171
TOTAL LIABILITIES	207,367	229,400	251,124	279,552	293,781	313,705	344,769
TOTAL RATEPAYERS' EQUITY	2,293,291	2,626,211	2,656,098	2,638,980	2,739,393	2,846,583	2,953,794

Note: The outer year figures are projected from the 2024 Long Term Plan and are subject to annual review.

Credit rating

Credit rating agency, Standard and Poor's, has rated the Council with a long term credit rating of AA-in March 2025.

This is the same rating given to retail banks ANZ, ASB, and BNZ.

Financial strategy and performance

The Financial Strategy outlines key financial parameters and limits within which Waimakariri District Council will operate for the life of a ten year Long Term Plan.

The Strategy provides a guide for which proposals for expenditure and funding may be considered and a context for public disclosure of the overall effect of long term expenditure on levels of service, rates, debt and investments.

Significant factors considered in the Strategy

Canterbury Earthquakes

The financial impact of the Canterbury earthquakes and the associated rebuild continues. Although some of the costs were met from insurance and others from borrowing, the ongoing servicing cost of these loans will be met from rates for the next ten years and beyond.

Growth

The estimated population of the District is expected to increase from 72,000 on 1 July 2025 to 77,700 by 2033/34.

Strategic objectives

To maintain levels of service, respond to community expectations and meet the requirements of national standards, there are four key objectives set out in the Strategy:

- Reinstate Council's community assets to pre-earthquake condition
- Restrict operating expenditure movements to the rate of Local Government Cost Inflation, excluding catering for population growth and improved levels of service
- Maintain debt within policy limits, while maintaining headroom for significant natural disasters long term
- Maintain the current prudent financial management while still providing high levels of service to both current and future generations.

Financial benchmarking

Local Government (Financial Reporting Prudence) Regulations 2014.

Forecast for 2024/25

The result for 2024/25 is a forecast.

The forecast is based on the most recent financial information available for 2024/25 plus an estimate of financial transactions until 30 June 2025.

This information has not been audited.

Budgets for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

The budgets for 2025/26 to 2028/29 are taken from the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP).

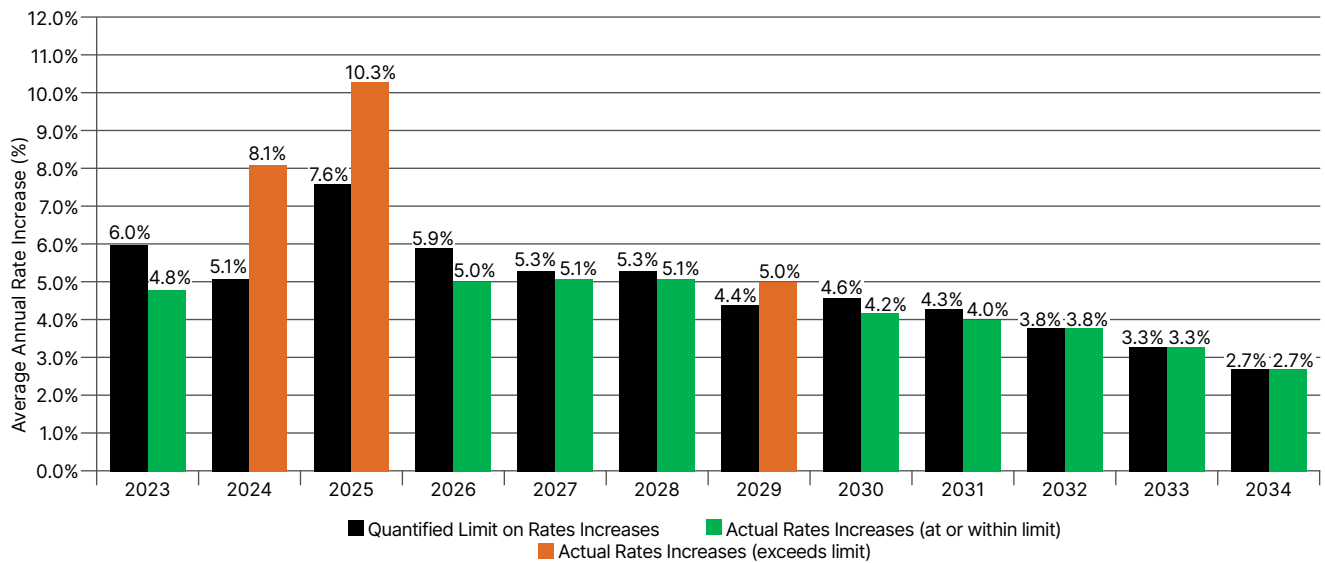
The 2024-2034 Long Term Plan was audited by Audit New Zealand.

The graph compares the Council's actual/forecast rates increases with a quantified limit on rates increases included in the financial strategy.

Rates affordability

The rates increase for 2024 is over the limit due to the level of inflation being greater than forecast that was included in the Long Term Plan.

The rates increase for 2025 is over the limit due to roading costs increasing 25% over the prior 3 years.

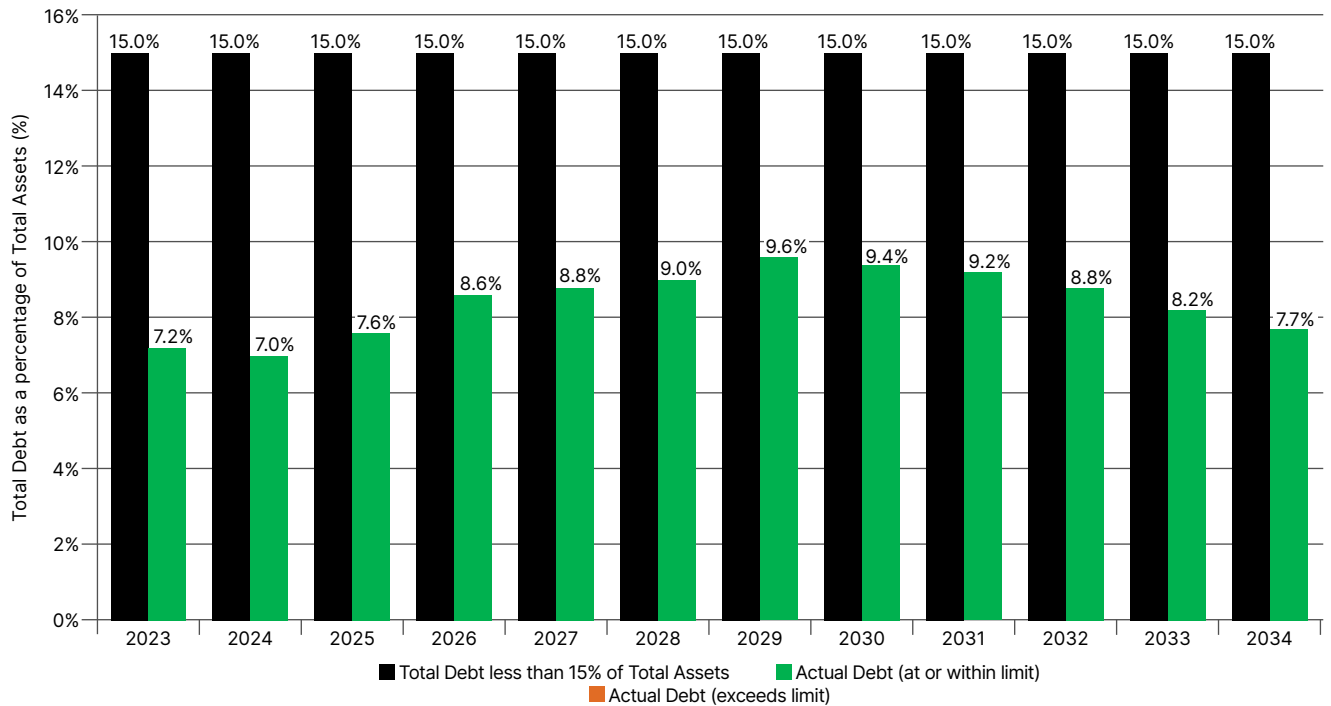


Debt affordability

The debt affordability benchmark is met if Council's planned borrowing is within each quantified limit on borrowing.

This graph compares the Council's actual/ forecast borrowing with a quantified limit set in the financial strategy.

The quantified limit is total debt as a percentage of total assets will not exceed 15%.

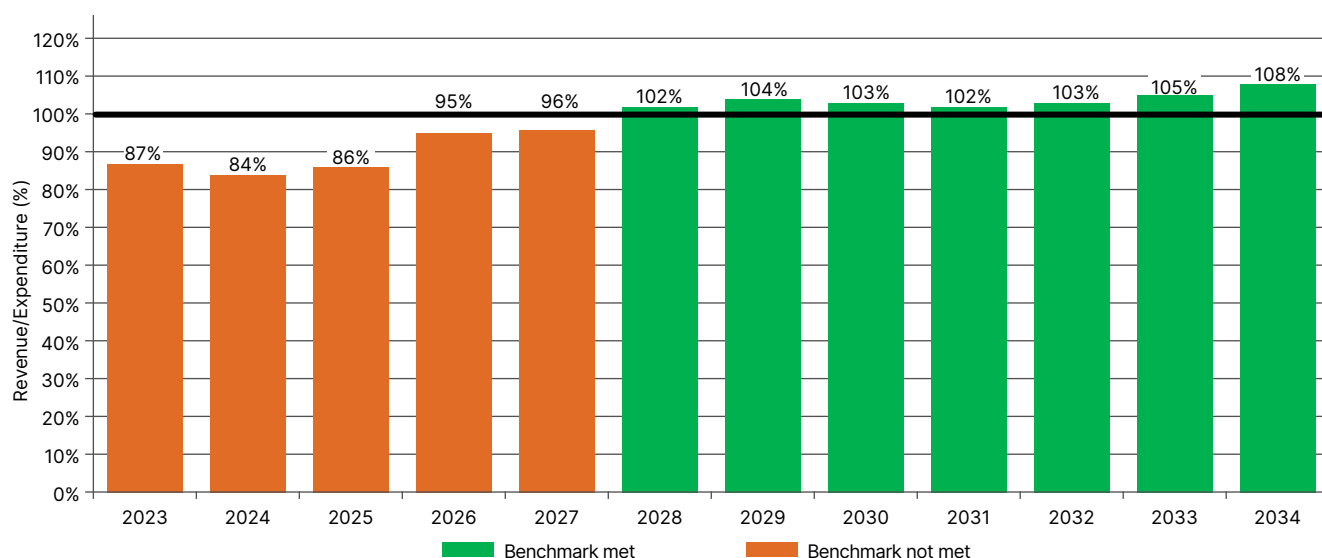


Council is not meeting the benchmark in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027. The primary reasons are due to:

- The funding costs relating to the earthquakes being spread over the outer years and progressively funded
- The depreciation funding policy where the full amount of depreciation is shown as an operating cost but is not fully funded due to depreciation funds being invested at higher rates than inflation over the life of the asset

Balanced budget

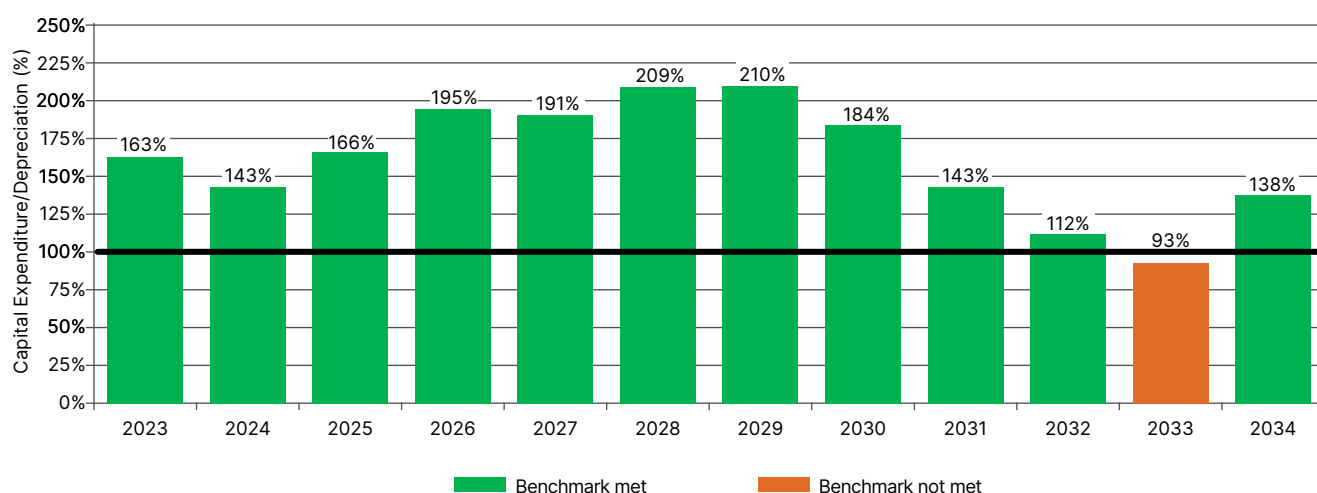
The Council meets this benchmark if its revenue equals or is greater than its operating expenditure. Council revenue excludes development contributions, financial contributions, vested assets, gains on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant, or equipment, as a proportion of operating expenses (excluding losses on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant, or equipment).



Essential services

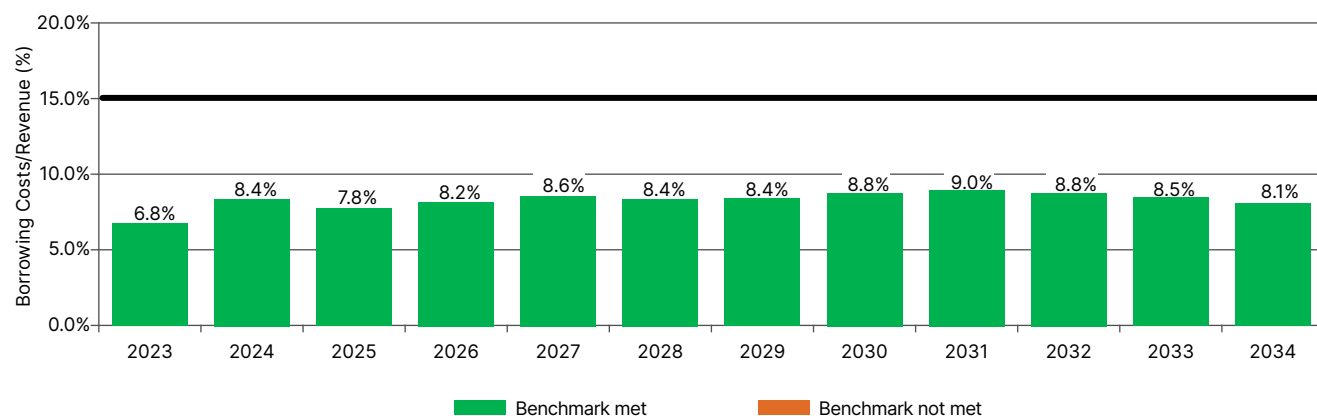
This benchmark is met if capital expenditure on network services equals or is greater than depreciation on network services.

Network services are classified as water supply, sewerage and the treatment and disposal of sewage, stormwater drainage, flood protection and control works and the provision of roads and footpaths.



Debt servicing as a percentage of total revenue

The limit for Council borrowing is set at 15%. Borrowing costs as a proportion of revenue excluding development contributions, financial derivative financial instruments, and contributions, vested assets, gains on revaluations of property, plant, or equipment.



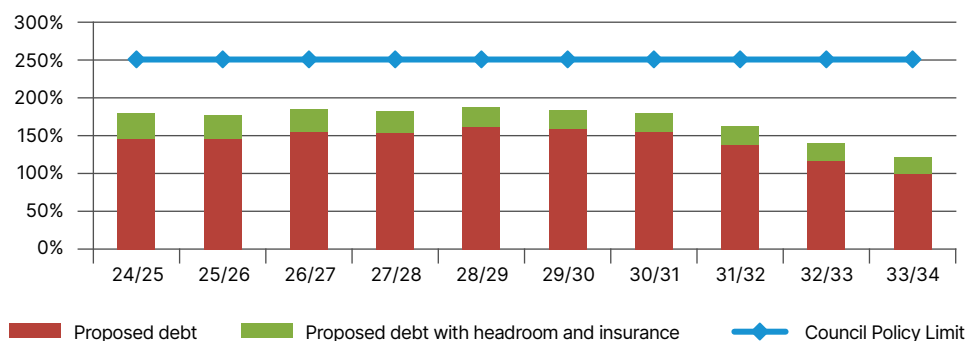
Other policy limits

These Policy limits measure the Council's ability to pay its debts and pay interest on those debts. The Council has stayed within its Policy limits and is budgeted to remain within those limits.

Performance measure for debt levels and interest costs	Target	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 LTP	2025/26 LTP	2026/27 LTP	2027/28 LTP	2028/29 LTP	2029/30 LTP	2030/31 LTP	2031/32 LTP	2032/33 LTP	2033/34 LTP
Net Debt as a percentage of Operating Revenue	<250 %	135.4 %	137.9 %	147.2 %	146.6 %	155.7 %	154.9 %	162.6 %	159.7 %	155.5 %	138.7 %	117.9 %	100.0 %
Net Cash Inflow From Operating Activities exceeds gross interest by two times	>2	3.4	2.6	3.7	4.6	4.1	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.4	5.4
Total Debt as a percentage of Total Assets	<15 %	6.4 %	6.2 %	8.4 %	8.6 %	8.8 %	9.0 %	9.6 %	9.4 %	9.2 %	8.8 %	8.2 %	7.7 %
Liquidity ratio	>1.1	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.8	3.2

Debt with limits

This illustrates the "headroom" Council has to raise debt should it be required to help pay for infrastructure repairs after a natural disaster.



Equity investments and other interests

The Council has equity investments in three companies and interests in four trusts. The primary reason for holding equity in these entities is to achieve efficiency and community outcomes and not for financial return on investment.

Company	Shareholding percentage	Principal reason for holding	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 LTP	2026/27 LTP
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Transwaste Canterbury Ltd	3.9%	Develop and operate the regional land facility at Kate Valley	750	735	735
Local Government Funding Agency	0.4%	Borrowing	7	-	-
Civic Assurance	0.8%	Insurance and risk management	-	-	-

Transwaste Canterbury Ltd

Transwaste Canterbury Limited (TCL) is a joint venture company, established in 1998, owned by five councils and one private company within the Canterbury region. They are Christchurch City Council and the Ashburton, Hurunui, Selwyn, Waimakariri District Councils, and Canterbury Waste Services Ltd (CWS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management NZ Ltd.

TCL developed a Landfill at Kate Valley in North Canterbury, to serve the Canterbury region with the transport and disposal of waste and other transfer station operations. This private/public model provides a built-in obligation for all parties to work together to ensure the safe and secure disposal of waste and longterm waste minimisation.

The Council shareholders appoint representatives to the joint Canterbury Regional Landfill Committee, which has authority to appoint directors to the board of Transwaste Canterbury Limited.

Trust	Shareholding percentage	Principal reason for holding	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 LTP	2026/27 LTP
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara	50%	Environment and recreation	NA	NA	NA
Enterprise North Canterbury	50%	Economic Development	NA	NA	NA
Waimakariri Art Collection	33%	District Art	NA	NA	NA
Waimakariri Libraries	50%	District Libraries	NA	NA	NA
Waimakariri Public Arts Trust	100%	District Art	NA	NA	NA

Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara

Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust was established under the Ngāi Tahu (Tūtaepatu Lagoon Vesting) Act 1998, set up between the Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to manage and administer the Tūhaitara Coastal Park.

The Park covers approximately 700ha of land along the coastline from the Waimakariri River mouth to the Waikuku Beach Township. The Trust seeks to revitalise and conserve the indigenous biodiversity within the park's diverse ecosystems. The Trust works on strong ecological, conservation and cultural values. There are a range of opportunities to preserve Ngāi Tahu values, retain and enhance biodiversity, and offer recreational and educational experiences for all people of New Zealand. The Council provides administrative support and financial management for the Trust, and from time to time the Trust may request assistance from the Council to contribute to various projects on Trust land. Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust has three trustees appointed by the Waimakariri District Council and three from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Enterprise North Canterbury

ENC works alongside businesses to generate an innovative and prosperous region by encouraging the development of exceptional infrastructure, businesses and experiences.

A key focus in developing exceptional business is working one-on-one with business owners, project instigators and key players in the growth of North Canterbury to enable successful outcomes. This is supported with connections to business training, coaching and mentoring and provision of networking opportunities.

The Trust receives grant funding from the two District Councils to enable it to initiate economic development. In addition ENC has a service contract with Waimakariri District for the provision of District Promotion services.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for corporate governance of ENC. The Board guides and monitors management of the business and affairs of the Trust on behalf of Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils. The Mayors of each Council are Trustees, and the two Chief Enterprise North Canterbury Executive Officers (CEOs) are Advisory Trustees. (ENC) was established by the Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils in 2002 to promote economic development in the region.

Since 2005, ENC has been contracted by Waimakariri District Council to promote the Waimakariri District as an innovative and progressive place to stay and play. Subsequently, from 2012, ENC has been working closely with local developers and the Council to promote the District as a destination for business relocation and start-ups.

Waimakariri Libraries

Waimakariri Libraries is a modern, future-focused district library network consisting of Trevor Inch Memorial Library, Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre, and Oxford Library. In addition to holding around 125,000 physical books and borrowable items, Waimakariri Libraries hosts a growing digital library of around 70,000 electronic books and resources which are available via their website and mobile application. Library members also have access to a growing library of digital subscriptions including Ancestry, LinkedIn Learning, and movie streaming platform Kanopy.

Waimakariri Libraries understand the social and economic potential of utilising its spaces to support a range of community-focused activities including promoting literacy and lifelong learning, microenterprise and spaces to connect socially with friends and family.

Waimakariri Public Arts Trust

The Waimakariri Public Arts Trust has been established to administer the Council's Art in Public Spaces policy and to foster, evaluate and commission art in public spaces.

The Trust will identify and seek independent funding through various methods including donations, grants, sponsorship and applications to funding agencies. Council have allocated \$8,500 per year to assist with and support administration of the Trust. Council approved the exemption for the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust from reporting on performance requirements under the Local Government Act 2002.





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