

OIR: 2425/1141

14 October 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your email of **26 September 2024** requesting the following information:

- 1. When were we informed of a water rate rise?**
- 2. How do raise water rates when the quality hasn't changed for the better?**
- 3. You may not think it's much of a change but as usual the council doesn't take this into consideration during tough times?**
- 4. Do you want to pay the difference for me?**
- 5. And how do you justify a 10% penalty when you cannot provide better water quality?**

I want detailed information and breakdown of the costs. I am entitled to that.

The Council [consulted](#) on a 17.19 percent average rates increase as part of the Long-term Plan 2024-34 consultation which ran from Thursday 28 March to Sunday 28 April 2024. Elected members held several Council briefings and workshops to confirm their strategic direction, consider recent feedback from our community, and most importantly, consider the impact cost increases will have on ratepayers.

During the consultation period elected members received strong feedback emphasising the importance of focusing on our core services, such as roading and water. The Council worked hard to get operating costs down so the impact on rates was as low as possible without compromising service levels.

The Council then [adopted](#) the Long-term Plan 2024-34 on Thursday 27 June 2024. The key decisions of the Long-term Plan included tackling a Three Waters funding shortfall, reducing debt, and to strike a balance between affordability, building capacity to borrow, and keeping our core assets in good shape.

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.

A 17.19 percent average rates increase refers to the increase in total rates revenue, including water rates, required by Kapiti Coast District Council for 2024/25 compared to the 2023/24 rating year.

The Council appreciates that any rates rise is not ideal, especially in these constrained economic times. The Council worked hard to balance affordability for ratepayers, with financial sustainability and building resilience for the district and over the coming year it will continue to look for ways to reduce spending without comprising services.

Year on year, the Council faces real and definite cost increases. These include increased depreciation from asset investment and/or asset revaluation from the prior financial year, personnel cost increases, increased interest costs from increasing debt in the prior year, inflation, increased utility costs, additional activities mandated by central government etc. Without increasing rates year on year, the Council would need to either reduce levels of service or fund everyday costs through borrowing more money.

Late payment penalties are levied under [Section 57 and 58](#) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and were agreed to by elected members as part of the [Rates Resolution](#) (pages 3-6) this rating year. A ten percent late payment penalty is correctly incurred when the amount due on an invoice is not cleared in full by the due date.

The Council's Long-term Plan 2024-34 [Long-term Plan 2024-34](#), page 69 and 70 outline the water supply strategies and planned expenditures for the next 30 years.

The Council's Annual Report 2022/23, on the Council's website [Annual Report 2022-23](#) pages 41 to 46, outlines the activity for water supply, page 114 outlines revenue from rates, and detailed financials are supplied from pages 107 to 165 (page 158 outlines specific financials for water management). The Council's Annual Report 2023/24 will be available later this year.

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast

Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū