



## NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - 21 MARCH 2021

Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council are pleased to announce that the **Dirty Dog Challenge is back for 2021.**



This is a unique event where people navigate their way through a mud-filled obstacle course with their dogs. All profits from this event will go to helping animals in Hamilton and Waikato District's communities. The event is open to dogs of all shapes and sizes, but they must be vaccinated and in good health. They will need to be kept on a lead through the course.

**Terms and conditions do apply. Go on line to register and pay your entry fee.**

**WHEN:** From 12pm, Saturday 26 June 2021

**WHERE:** Christian Youth Camp, 48 Waingaro Rd,  
Ngaruawahia

**EVENT DISTANCES:** 2.5km or 6km options

**COST:** \$40 for one person and one dog. Second runner \$20.  
(Please note you may only have one additional runner and the second runner must be at least 8 years old.)

For more information about the event and to register visit

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/animal-control/dirty-dog-challenge>



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### Long Term Plan 2021-2031

Consultation is now open on the Long Term Plan 2021-2031. The decisions Council makes will affect you, your family/whānau and your neighbours. We need to make sure we get the best outcomes and strike the right balance.

#### We're consulting on three main topics:

- Proposed general rate increase (\*\*)
- Inorganic kerbside rubbish collection and
- Pensioner housing.

You can find the LTP documents at <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/long-term-plan/draft-long-term-plan-21-31>

Tell us what you think:- ONLINE Go to [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp) ; POST Phone us on 0800 492 452 to request a submission form. We'll post one out to you. EMAIL Send your feedback to [consult@waidec.govt.nz](mailto:consult@waidec.govt.nz) **SUBMISSIONS CLOSE AT 5PM 7 MAY, 2021.**

**\*\* For further information on the proposed general rate increase read the following media release**

16 April 2021

**Media Release**  
FOR IMMEDIATE USE



### **General rate options up for debate during consultation on our plan for the next ten years**

**We want your views about the general rate increase we are proposing between 2021 and 2024. Should we 'go hard and go early' or be more cautious and spread rate increases more evenly over the first three years?**

Waikato District Council is proposing a 'hard and fast' general rate increase in year 1 of 9% and then 3.5% for year 2 and 3 of the plan. The other option sets the general rate increase at 7% in year 1, 6% in year 2 and 4% in year 3.

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We are proposing ways to respond to the district's growth and changing community and regulatory expectations. Managing these, against a background of uncertain economic and social conditions and our COVID-19 recovery, is not going to be easy.

We have listened to community feedback from our Blueprints, customer surveys and service requests and lined these up with what is required to maintain our current services. We have put together a plan for our district's future, but this all has an impact on the level of debt and the rates we charge.

Ratepayers, users of our services and developers each pay a portion of the costs to run the services they receive. This year we would like your thoughts on which general rate option we should go with.

Council's preferred option is to have a one-off larger increase in year 1 as this provides a slightly lower level of debt over 10 years and would cost ratepayers less across the first three years.

The other option is to have a slightly lower increase in year 1, followed by two more years of moderate increases. This option results in a slightly higher level of debt across the 10-year period and slightly higher costs across the first three years, but has a smaller increase in year 1.

Making things a little tricky is the timing of our district valuation, which changed this year due to COVID-19. This means the impact on each individual property value is still unknown. This means you will need to check your property details for the impact these rate options will have when it becomes available from 1 May 2021 at [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/RID](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/RID).

Waikato district Mayor Allan Sanson says we need to balance what we can deliver with what is affordable in terms of rates and debt. "As a fast growth area council this balancing act will prove to be a huge challenge for us all in the coming years. We need to keep up with this growth, while making sure our community is a desirable place to live, work and play.

"We need to balance the services we provide with what our community can afford. As elected members representing you, we have had to make some tough decisions. We've had to weigh up what is best and right for the district, with what we feel is affordable. Trust me when I say there have been many sleepless nights mulling this dilemma over," he says.

Feedback on our ten year plan opened on 7 April and closes at 5pm on 7 May 2021. Along with the general rates option, this consultation period we're also asking if we should sell our pensioner housing and if we should discontinue our inorganic kerbside rubbish collection service. At the same time, we are also asking for feedback on the way we hand out funding, user fees and charges, our development contributions policy and the community hall catchment review.

You can find out more about these topics in the consultation document, which is available at all Council offices and libraries and by phoning us on 0800 492 452, otherwise check out [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp) for more information and have your say today.

## **WHAT'S STILL TO COME**

We need your help – delivering on bold plans needs to be a genuine collaboration between us as the council and you as the community. We need to make sure we get the best outcomes and strike the right balance.

The decisions we need to make affect you, your whaanau, your neighbours and even your dog. Make sure you get involved and have your say before 5pm Friday 7 May 2021. Do this by visiting [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp) or by phoning us on 0800 492 452 and we'll post you out a submission form.

To make sure everyone can get involved, we will be coming to a town near you soon to answer your questions. Check out [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp) for all the details of our drop-in sessions. "Please get involved and make sure you have your say before Council makes its final decisions in June. I hope as many people as possible take the time to get involved and speak up," Mayor Sanson says.

**END**

