

# Puka Tāpae

## Submission form

### Kōrero mai Have your say

All submissions must be received by **midnight Sunday 10 May 2026**

You feedback matters. This consultation is about the future of Wellington and it affects everyone who lives and works here. That's why we want to hear from as many people as possible. Your views will inform the next steps we take.

You don't have to give feedback on every question - you can simply choose the ones you're interested in.

Before you start, read about our key proposal and the other supporting information in Section 1 and 2 of the consultation document or on our website:

There are multiple ways to make a submission. However, each individual or organisation can only submit once. You can include supporting information along with your submission.

- Fill out this form and email to **annualplan@wcc.govt.nz**, drop it off at any of our libraries, or post it to:  
**LTP and AP Team**  
**Wellington City Council**  
**PO Box 2199**  
**Wellington 6140**
- This form can also be completed online and you can submit supporting information: **wcc.nz/haveyoursay**
- If you would like to make an oral submission, please indicate this preference in the form, or by emailing **annualplan@wcc.govt.nz**. You do not need to complete a written, audio or video submission to provide an oral submission.

#### Privacy statement

Submissions including your name and opinions are published and made available to Wellington City Council elected members, pouiwi and the public as a hardcopy (on request only) and on our website. If you have made an audio or video submission, a transcription will be made available in the same way a written submission or survey would be.

Councillors may wish to contact you about your submission. We will contact you first to obtain your permission to pass on your contact details to them. Contact information will be used for the administration of the consultation process. For example, informing you on the outcome of the consultation or contacting you to arrange an oral submission.

Our staff will have access to submissions in their capacity as Council employees.

Except for your name, personal details like contact information and demographic information will be redacted prior to publishing. Please note that you should not include any personal information in the free text fields of this questionnaire or in your video or audio submission if you do not wish it to be made public.

For further details about privacy please see our extended privacy statement at **wellington.govt.nz/contact-us/privacy-statement**. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. You have a right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. Please contact us at **annualplan@wcc.govt.nz**.

Full name:		
<b>Contact details</b>		
Address:		
Phone number:		
Are you making this submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?		
Individual	Organisation ( <i>please state</i> )	
What is your connection to Wellington? ( <i>Tick all that apply</i> )		
I am a Wellington City ratepayer	I live in Wellington	I work in Wellington
I own a business in Wellington	I study in Wellington	I am a visitor to Wellington
Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at an Oral Hearing?		
Yes	No	
If yes - please tick which option(s) you would prefer? <i>Please ensure you have included contact details above so we can book your oral hearing.</i>		
<b>Oral Hearing</b> Formal hearing with set times to speak to full Council, 5mins per individual, 10mins per organisation	Morning	
	Afternoon	
	Evening	

## Thank you for your submission

If you need extra room or have additional information to provide please feel free to attach a document to your submission.

## Our key proposals

Your voice is a critical and essential part of the Annual Plan process and we need to hear from you. The public will have their say, the Council will listen, and are committed to making decisions that reflect the communities' values and concerns. The proposals we are consulting on are some of the ways we can reduce spending, while protecting what matters most to Wellingtonians.

The first questions relate to proposed changes to the Annual Plan from what was set out in the 2024-34 Long-term Plan as amended.

- Introduction of Short-Term Accommodation rate differential
- Changes to the Paneke Pōneke bike network plan
- Increases to contaminated waste fees
- Increases to cremation fees

### No final decisions have been made on these projects.

Detailed information on these proposals is on pages 15 to 21 of the Consultation Document.

#### Key Proposal 1 - Short-term accommodation rating

<p>The city's short-stay accommodation (STA) sector provides an effective alternative to motels and hotels, and adds capacity when major events are held in Wellington. This accommodation is most often provided through peer-to-peer platforms such as Airbnb or Bookabach.</p> <p>Currently, most short-term accommodation providers pay residential rates, even though the Council's policy is that some should pay commercial rates. The commercial differential rate is 3.7 times the base rate.</p>	<p><b>Annual Plan changes</b></p> <p>We propose to introduce a new general rates differential covering short-term accommodation.</p> <p>This differential, equal to 2.6 times the base rate, will apply to all units that are used for short-term accommodation, meaning the rental, or availability for rental, of houses or units on the property that would otherwise be used for residential purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. for periods of less than one month and</li> <li>b. where that house or unit is, or has been, made available for short-term accommodation for more than 60 days within the financial year.</li> </ol> <p>There will be exceptions for properties renting out only part of the property, such as single room(s), granny flats, dual key homes and/or sleepouts.</p> <p>This differential only applies to general rates - other commercial targeted rates would still apply.</p> <p>If this proposal is adopted, we will work on an implementation plan in 2026/27.</p>
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Do you support the proposed short-term accommodation changes?

I strongly support the proposed changes	I somewhat support the proposed changes	Neutral	I somewhat oppose the proposed changes	I strongly oppose the proposed changes	Don't know
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If your property would fall under this new differential, would you be interested in joining an interest group which consults with the Council? *The Council may also share relevant information (e.g. about events etc) with this interest group*

Yes	No
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Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for short-term accommodation rating changes, or why you don't support what we have proposed?

## Key Proposal 2 - Paneke Pōneke bike network

The Paneke Pōneke Bike Network Plan was adopted in March 2022. The plan is for 92km of primary network and 74km of secondary network. The first funding for the plan was allocated in the 2021 LTP.

The current prioritisation was agreed through the 2024-34 LTP Amendment after public consultation. It altered the timeline from a 10-year timeline to a 20-year timeline, with the completion of the primary network in the 2024-34 LTP and the secondary network from 2034 onwards.

### Annual Plan changes

To help us reduce our capital expenditure for the year, the Council is proposing to reduce the cycleways work programme planned for 2026/27 and complete the Bunny St (\$2.5 million) connection to the waterfront and the Brooklyn upgrade (\$4.1 million) to connect the primary network.

The next phase of the bike network programme, including all connections to the north of the city and Victoria St, will be deferred for prioritisation in the 2027 LTP.

Which of these options do you prefer?

**Option A: Reduce cycleways programme for 2026/27 and review (preferred).** For 2026/27, the budget is proposed to be \$3.4 million, a saving of \$7.1 million.

**Option B: Keep as budgeted in LTP:** The 2026/27 budget will be \$10.5 million.

None of these options  
*(Please provide a comment with any alternative suggestions)*

Don't know

Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for these bike network plan changes, or why you don't support any of the options we have proposed?

### Key Proposal 3 - Contaminated waste fees

The Council's current per tonne charge is \$267 for contaminated soil and \$350 for asbestos disposal. The Silverstream Transfer Station's per tonne charges are \$510 for contaminated soil and \$398 for asbestos.\*

#### Annual Plan changes

We are proposing incremental increases to these fees over the next three years to limit impact on the city's current, budgeted construction projects, while bringing them into alignment with the region.

As the landfill surplus is ringfenced, any revenue increases will not offset rates, but will increase the operating surplus/reduce the operating deficit of the landfill.

Contaminated soil		Asbestos	
Financial Year	Proposed % increase	Financial Year	Proposed % increase
2026/27	36.8%	2026/27	6.4%
2027/28	27.0%	2027/28	4.0%
2028/29	21.3%	2028/29	3.9%

The details of the fees payable under each option in 2026/27 is in Appendix 1 on page 33 of the Consultation Document.

\* Note: Fees stated are inclusive of GST. Revenue stated is exclusive of GST.

Which of these options do you prefer?

<p><b>Option A: Increase the Contaminated Soil and Special Waste (Asbestos) fee incrementally over the next three years (preferred):</b> This will generate about \$1.3 million in increased revenue for the Council in 2026/27.</p>	<p><b>Option B: Increase the Contaminated Soil and Special Waste (Asbestos) fees by 5 percent:</b> This will generate about \$220,000 in increased revenue for the Council in 2026/27. Note this will mean contaminated soil disposal will be less than is proposed for commercial waste.</p>	<p><b>Option C: Keep fees to inflation increases only:</b> This will generate about \$110,000 in increased revenue for the Council, to cover the inflation increases in costs. Note this will mean contaminated soil disposal will be less than is proposed for commercial waste.</p>	<p>None of these options <i>(Please provide a comment with any alternative suggestions)</i></p>	<p>Don't know</p>
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Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for these contaminated waste fee increases or why you don't support any of the options we have proposed?

## Key Proposal 4 - Cremation fees

The Council is proposing to increase cremation fees to have a higher proportion of the funding being paid by the user and to align with similar charges in the region.

Some other crematoria in the region currently charge higher fees than those operated by the Council.

Fees charged for cremation services currently make up about 30 percent of the total revenue for all cemetery services.\*

There is a risk that if fees are increased too high that people will choose to use other services in the region, meaning less or no increase in revenue.

\* Note: Revenue stated is exclusive of GST.

The details of the fees payable under each option in 2026/27 is in Appendix 1 on page 33 of the Consultation Document.

Which of these options do you prefer?

<p><b>Option A: Increase cremation fees by 20 percent (preferred):</b> This will generate about \$75,000 in increased revenue for the Council, if there is no decrease in use.</p>	<p><b>Option B: Increase the fees by 5 percent:</b> This will generate about \$15,000 in increased revenue for the Council, if there is no decrease in use.</p>	<p><b>Option C: Keep fees to inflation increases only:</b> This will generate about \$7500 in increased revenue for the Council, to cover the inflationary increases in costs. This is not likely to impact use.</p>	<p>None of these options <i>(Please provide a comment with any alternative suggestions)</i></p>	<p>Don't know</p>
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Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for these cremation fee increases, or why you don't support any of the options we have proposed?

## Other Annual Plan changes

### Operational expenditure changes

The Council has reviewed its budgets and made changes to ensure the rates for the year remain as low as possible and that the Council was spending wisely.

We are proposing \$6 million savings in the operating budget, plus to gather \$165,000 in increased revenue.

These savings, along with the decision to not fund a further \$13.5 million in depreciation, reduce the total amount of rates we require for the year.

The proposals include:

- \$500,000 reduction in Economic Grants. These fund WellingtonNZ, Destination Wellington marketing, support major events, and includes the City Growth Fund.
- \$255,000 reduction in Heritage Resilience and Regeneration Fund through removing funding for earthquake prone building works due to Government changes in this area.
- Investigating establishing an Urban Development Office to make efficiency savings of \$1 million and streamline services for the public.
- \$500,000 saving in support for community Climate mitigation activities and transport education initiatives, focusing instead on Climate adaptation, and mitigation activities that deliver demonstrable emission reductions.
- \$760,000 reduction in the budget for activities in the re-opened Te Ngākau Civic Square (\$350,000), and general savings across the Council's Creative Capital services (\$410,000) which include the allocation of grants, Toi Pōneke, management of the art collection, events, Te Ngākau, and venue subsidies eg. NZSO subsidies.
- \$650,000 reduction across the total in the budget for the Council's Social and Recreation activity area (0.4% of budget), which includes swimming pools, community centres and libraries, our public health services, public toilets, playgrounds and sportsfields, and social wellbeing and safety initiatives.
- \$15.9 million in targeted internal savings including:
  - \$13.5 million reduction in depreciation funding
  - \$1.1 million reduction in the consultancy budget
  - \$70,000 reduction in international tourism attraction funding for WellingtonNZ
  - making changes to our Communications, Engagement, International Relations, and Property services to make efficiencies where possible.

Do you support the proposed operational expenditure changes?

I strongly support the proposed changes	I somewhat support the proposed changes	Neutral	I somewhat oppose the proposed changes	I strongly oppose the proposed changes	Don't know
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Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for these operational expenditure decisions, or why you don't support all or some of what we have proposed? *Please clearly indicate which proposal/s you would like to provide further feedback on.*

## New fees

We are proposing new fees in the following areas to streamline some Council booking processes or to offer new services:

- **Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library** - New fees for the bookable spaces and services in the new library.
- **Toi Pōneke** - New fees for the bookable spaces and services in the new arts centre.
- **Gardens, beaches & green open spaces** - new fee for hire of new spaces/facilities at the Begonia House, and Gardens.
- **Parks and reserves** - new hourly fee for Reserve Planner, and a new fee for after-hours vehicle release.
- **Recreation Centres** - new fee for hiring out courts to commercial groups or enterprises.
- **Sportsfields** - new room hire offerings.
- **Cemeteries** - new fee for re-attaching plaques, hourly fees for staff time, and an after-hours vehicle release fee in Council cemeteries.
- **Public health regulations** - including Alcohol Licencing, Animal Control, Animal Boarding, and Health Licencing & Inspection.
- **Building control and facilitation** - new hourly fees to address pending legislative changes (e.g., those relating to Small Stand Alone Dwellings and Self-Certification).
- **Development control and facilitation** - new hourly fees to address pending legislative changes.
- **City Archives** - a new fee for online search of archives for building consents and documents.

Do you have any comments you would like to provide about the introduction of these new fees or why you don't support all or some of what we have proposed?

## Other fee changes

We are proposing other fee changes including fee increases above inflation for the following areas due to changes to existing council policies and raising costs for service provisions:

- **Gardens, beaches & green open spaces** - for hiring the Begonia House foyer space following its upgrade.
- **Waterfront** - aligning berthing fees to reflect similar berthage fees in the region, and to recognise the CBD locality.
- **Marina** - increased charges proposed to achieve R&F policy compliance.
- **Waste minimisation** - higher disposal charges due to increased Waste Minimisation Act and recycling levies.
- **Public health regulations (animal control)** - increased dog transfer/change of ownership fees to ensure internal alignment with similar charges and higher dog euthanasiation charges to reflect increased costs.
- **Swimming pools** - increases are proposed for Child Swim and School Swim charges. Prices have not increased since 2022 but the costs to run these programmes have increased.

■ **Sportsfields** - for keys and access cards.

■ **Recreation Centres** - proposed fees for some programmes have increased to ensure internal alignment.

■ **Parking** - the maximum weekday charge at both the Tory Street and Clifton carparks, and for motor home parking at Barnett Street are proposed to increase to align these charges towards 'market rates' for parking in Wellington.

For 2026/27 an increase of 5 percent is proposed for encroachment fees. These fees are governed by the Council's Road Encroachment and Sale Policy which provides for encroachment fees to be adjusted annually according to inflation changes and reviewed every three years by the Council as part of its Long-term Plan process. The proposed increase is slightly more than the annual inflation adjustment of 4.5 percent.

We also have standard inflation increases proposed and these are outlined in the Consultation Document on page 25.

Do you have any comments you would like to provide about these fee changes or why you don't support all or some of what we have proposed?

## Support for Annual Plan

From 1 July 2026, your Wellington City Council rates will no longer include water charges. You'll be billed for water services by a new, separate organisation called Tiaki Wai. So this year, while your Council rates bill will go down, the total amount you pay will not.

For the remaining Council rates, now excluding water costs, we are proposing a 7.4 percent average increase this year (after growth in the ratepayer base), including a 2.0 percent increase for the Sludge Levy. The Council proposes to collect a total of \$433 million in rates during 2026/27.

This increase is mainly due to inflation and increased depreciation costs as our asset base grows.

The sludge levy, which is in addition to general rates, was introduced from 2024/25 and goes towards the Te Whare Wai Para Nuku Sludge Minimisation Facility.

We also have a significant capital expenditure programme in place, with \$391 million planned for 2026/27. Our standard review of the budget meant we have rephased some projects to align funding with work planned and also removed funding where it is no longer required.

Do you support the proposed 2026/27 budget?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
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Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for the plan overall, or why you don't support all or some of what we have proposed?

## About you

The next few questions help us understand the range of people we have heard from across Wellington City.

Where do you currently live?					
Aro Valley	Berhampore	Breaker Bay	Broadmeadows	Brooklyn	Churton Park
Crofton Downs	Glenside	Grenada North	Grenada Village	Haitaitai	Highbury
Horokiwi	Houghton Bay	Island Bay	Johnsonville	Kaiwharawhara	Karaka Bays
Karori	Kelburn	Khandallah	Kilbirnie	Kingston	Lyll Bay
Makara	Makara Beach	Maupuia	Melrose	Miramar	Moa Point
Mornington	Mount Cook	Mount Victoria	Newlands	Newtown	Ngaio
Ngauranga	Northland	Ohariu	Oriental Bay	Ōwhiro Bay	Paparangi
Pipitea	Rongotai	Roseneath	Seatoun	Southgate	Strathmore Park
Takapu Valley	Tawa	Te Aro	Thorndon	Vogeltown	Wadestown
Wellington Central		Wilton	Woodridge		

Are you...?		
Male	Female	Prefer not to say
Prefer to self-describe		

Which of the following age groups do you fall into?					
Under 18	18 or 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39
40 to 44	45 to 49	50 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64	65 to 69
70 to 74	75 to 79	80+			

What is your ethnicity?	
New Zealand European	Māori
Samoan	Cook Islands Maori
Tongan	Niuean
Chinese	Indian
Other (e.g. Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan)	

## What happens next?

We appreciate the feedback we get, and we take time to consider it.

The Mayor and Councillors are given copies of all submissions. We also prepare reports on the submissions, so Councillors know how many there were and what the main themes and comments are.

If you wish to speak to your submission, please indicate that preference clearly when you make your submission. The start of this form includes a question on oral submissions.

The Mayor and Councillors are scheduled to adopt the final plan on **25 June 2026**.

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Staple here

2nd fold here

Freepost Authority Number 2199



Long-term Plan  
Policy and Reporting  
Wellington City Council  
PO Box 2199  
Wellington 6140

**Absolutely Positively**  
**Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke