



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Kia Reretahi Tātau

Pre-Election Report



**VOTE
2025**

LOCAL ELECTIONS

**PŌTI
2025**

NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

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About this report

The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Chief Executive of each local Council to prepare a pre-election report for voters and candidates independently of elected members. This report should be especially helpful for anyone thinking about standing for South Wairarapa District Council, any of its three Community Boards, and for everyone voting this September and October. It is an chance to describe the role of Council, our opportunities, the challenges we face, our priorities, and high level finances.

We hope that by reading it you'll get a better picture of where we are now, where we want to be and how we are going to get there.

Audit information

While this report has not been audited, most of the financial information in it has been reviewed by independent auditors either as part of previous Annual Reports or the 2025-34 Long-Term Plan (which informs the Annual Plan forecasts for the next nine years). The 2025-34 Long-Term Plan needs to be published before 25 July and the 2024/25 Annual Report will be available later this year. Please read this document in conjunction with those base documents for a full picture of Council's priorities.

Tena koutou katoa

Between 9 September and 11 October 2025, residents in our district will be able to vote for who they want to represent them on the Council and Community Boards. Some folks are already thinking about running for Mayor, Councillor or as a Community Board member — and a few have already put their hands up.

If you're thinking of running or just want to understand the big issues facing our district, I encourage you to read this report, previous annual reports and our 2025-34 Long-Term Plan (LTP).

Local government's role is to make decisions for our communities, with our communities. It also works to improve the social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes for everyone who calls South Wairarapa home. We are developing a clear induction pathway for those of you who join the governance team to ensure you are equipped from day one and can “hit the floor running”.

Work is also underway to develop a Terms of Reference for a Coastal and Rural Advisory group. This was a key response to the Representation Review that was undertaken in 2024, to ensure that the rural voice can be heard around the governance table.

The 2025-34 LTP is our roadmap for the future, and it helps us to stay focused. Keeping rates affordable while continuing to deliver good services remains one of our primary goals.

We have undertaken a structural review to ensure that we internally aligned to improve our service delivery to our customers. We are focused on a cultural shift to “put the customer at the heart of everything we do”. This will involve our systems, our processes, and our people.

We're also building stronger partnerships with iwi, hapū and marae. Our Principal Advisor Māori (Pou Māori) enables us to have more impactful conversations with Māori in the South Wairarapa. A big thank you to the Māori Standing Committee for their efforts in helping to establish this important role.

In recent months we have seen some of our services that we share with our neighbouring councils revert to delivery by individual councils. We remain committed to working with our neighbours whenever the opportunity arises and look forward to furthering these discussions in the new triennium.

Like many households and businesses, Council is dealing with things like rising costs, inflation and changes to insurance and interest rates. Our infrastructure — water pipes, treatment plants, roads, footpaths, and public spaces — is critical to everyone's daily life. But some parts of it, like our water systems, are getting old and require upgrades. Featherston needs a new wastewater solution and both Martinborough and Greytown need increased wastewater capacity so that new connections can start again. The pipeline through the Tauwharenikau River also needs a long-term repair.

To get these jobs done more efficiently, we are shifting the responsibility for water related capital projects back from Wellington Water to the Council so that we can use local contractors where possible. This will engrain a Value for Money approach to when and where valuable funding is allocated.

We are also moving ahead with the Local Water Done Well plan for the Wairarapa-Tararua region. By 1 July 2027, all drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services will be managed by a new entity. The four-council team are working towards delivery of the Water Services Delivery Plan, which is required by 3 September 2025. We are focused on ensuring that this creates long term benefits to all four regional communities, is financial sustainable for the future and provides flexibility in delivery of key essential investment in water infrastructure.

Big changes are happening at the national level, too. Central government reforms, such as updates to the Resource Management Act and how building consents are handled, mean that we will need to adjust how we do some things and that may come with extra costs. The Government is moving at pace, and we are ensuring that we have the flexibility to mirror the pace of change.

Climate change is already here. Storms like Cyclone Gabrielle and the May 2025 red wind warning are proof that extreme weather is happening more often. We are working on creative, community-led solutions to help mitigate some of the impacts, such as the Ecoreef trial on Cape Palliser Road. Even though the road had to close for safety reasons, the area protected by the Ecoreef held up well, withstanding challenging conditions.

We are continuing talks with New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) about funding support for Cape Palliser Road beyond 2027, when its current classification of a Special Purpose Road, expires. We are pushing for funding based on the road's economic and tourism value.

There is no shortage of challenges, but we have passionate people and strong communities. As kaitiaki (guardians), we are committed to working together to build a better, stronger, more resilient future for our mokopuna (grandchildren) and the generations to follow.

Ngā mihi

Janice Smith
SWDC Chief Executive



Maori ward poll

South Wairarapa District Council will introduce a Māori Ward (Te Karu o Te Ika a Māui) as part of its representation structure for the 2025 Council term.

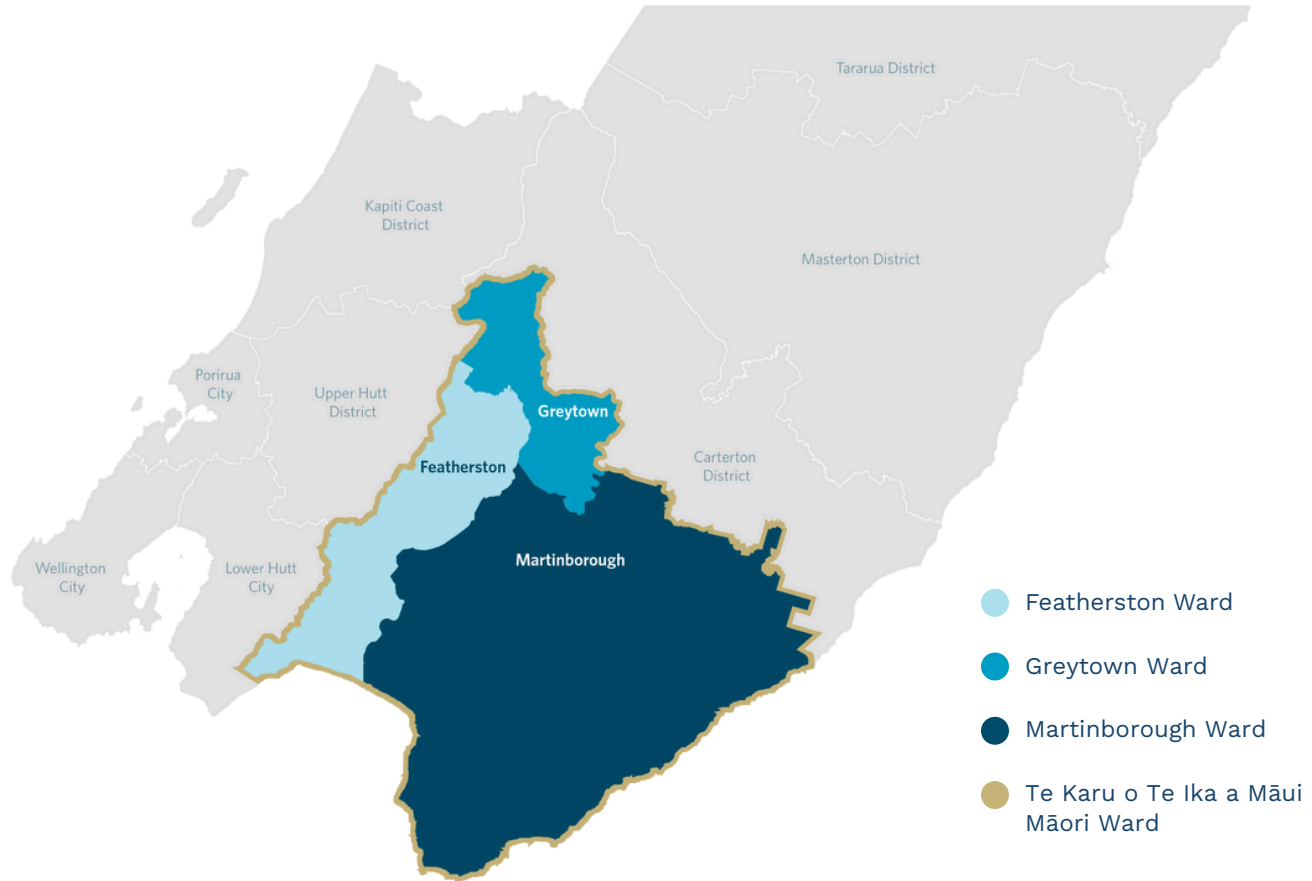
Following a recent law change, any Council that established a Māori ward since 2020 without holding a poll, is required to hold a poll during their 2025 local elections whether to retain

them for the 2028 and 2031 Council terms. Our Council is part of this group, so must hold a binding poll at this year's election.

Anyone who is enrolled to vote, whether on the Māori or general electoral roll, is eligible to vote in the poll that will be included in your 2025 Local Election voting papers.

Our district

South Wairarapa District Council is part of the Greater Wellington Region and is one of three local authorities operating in the Wairarapa.



The South Wairarapa district covers a vast geographic area and has a relatively small population of ratepayers and residents. 11,811 people call South Wairarapa home, and the population is growing. The main population centres in the district are the Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough townships, with smaller coastal and rural communities dotted across the district.

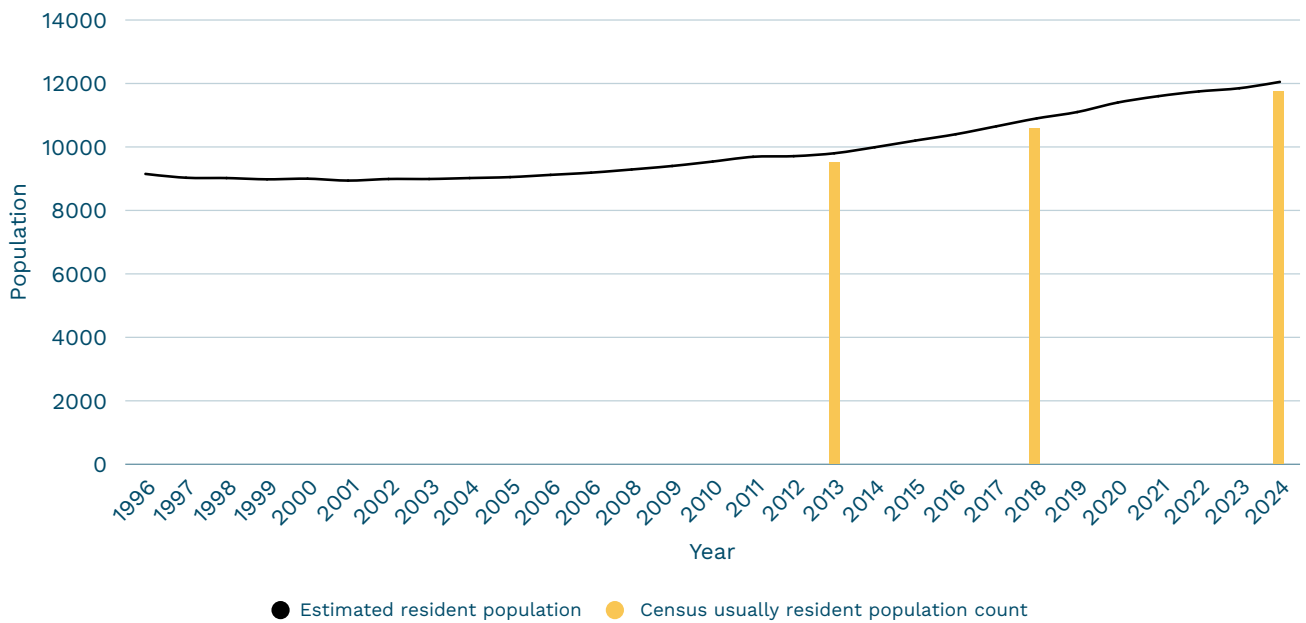
Our district has an area of approximately 248,455 hectares (2,484 square kilometres). Our rural landscape is distinctive with three forest parks, surfing and fishing beaches, vineyards, sheep and dairy farms and the charming small towns.

The South Wairarapa coastline features some of New Zealand's oldest inhabited sites, and local tradition states that the explorer Kupe lived for a period. The southernmost point of the North Island, Cape Palliser, is known to Māori as Matakītiki a Kupe, and other points along the coast also commemorate Polynesia's most famous explorer.

We're an hour from the capital city by car or train. Visitors to our district are tempted by countless activities such as tramping, fishing, camping, cycling, cafes and restaurants, wine tours, olive oil tasting and boutique shopping.

South Wairarapa (along with Horowhenua) has had the highest population growth for the Wellington Region. Between 2018-23 South Wairarapa population grew by of 11.7% (the average for NZ was 6.3%) and is projected to reach a population of 12,200 by the end of 2025.

Population of South Wairarapa District
1996 - 2024



At a glance

The annual average growth rate for the district's resident population was

1.8%

per annum from **2018 to 2023**.

By comparison, projections used for our last LTP indicated a population annual growth rate of

2.2%

per annum from **2021-2031**.



Growth in South Wairarapa has historically been split evenly between urban and rural areas, but **future growth** is project to be concentrated in urban centres, with **Greytown** and **Featherston** identified as the "growth nodes".



The projected resident population annual growth rate for the 2025-34 LTP is

1.1%

per annum between **2023 and 2032**

The ethnic mix of the district's population is projected to continue to change in line with national trends, with **Pasifika and Māori having a higher population increase** across the Wairarapa region.



South Wairarapa is projected to see an aging population over the next 25 years with the average age rising from

44.5 to 45.6

by **2048**.



Agriculture, forestry and fishing remains the largest industry in the district.

The aging population, along with increasing life expectancy and societal trends towards small families are components of an **increase in smaller households**.

Role of Council

Local government is a crucial part of democracy in Aotearoa New Zealand. It's the way communities make democratic decisions about how our towns and regions work and how they'll grow and develop. City, district, and regional councils are governed by representatives elected by their communities.

South Wairarapa District Council is responsible for delivering a wide array of services. These include infrastructure services such as roading, water supply, wastewater and stormwater services; refuse collection and disposal and recycling services; community facilities such as parks, reserves, libraries, swimming pools and community centres; resource management planning; and bylaw-making powers of specific matters including public health and safety, protection against nuisances, and minimising the potential for offensive behaviour in public places.

Regional councils are primarily responsible for environmental management in the region, air and water quality, and pest control (see Greater Wellington Regional Council).

The Elected Members are responsible for making decisions about local or Wairarapa wide activity to ensure a healthy environment, thriving families and businesses, safe spaces for all and a culture that supports every individual's sense of belonging.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, South Wairarapa District Council is responsible for enabling democratic local decision-making and promoting social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, as well as more specific functions for which they have delegated authority.

Social wellbeing	Economic wellbeing	Environmental wellbeing	Cultural wellbeing
Residents are active, healthy, safe, resilient, optimistic and connected	A place of destination, new business and diverse employment that gives people independence and opportunity	Sustainable living, safe and secure water and soils, waste minimised, biodiversity enhanced	Strong relationships with whānau, hapū and marae, celebrating diverse cultural identity, arts and heritage



Strategic Framework

Council needs a strong strategic framework that encapsulates our long-term aspirations for the district, the outcomes we want to achieve for the community and the strategic drivers that will help us get there.

Our Strategic Framework			
Our community outcomes			
Social wellbeing Residents are active, healthy, active, safe, resilient, optimistic and connected	Economic wellbeing A place of destination, new business and diverse employment that gives people independence and opportunity	Environmental wellbeing Sustainable living, safe and secure water and soils, waste minimised, biodiversity enhanced	Cultural wellbeing Strong relationships with whānau, hapū and marae, celebrating diverse cultural identity, arts and heritage
Strategic drivers			
Creating better connections & social wellbeing	Supporting sustainable growth, employment, economic wellbeing & development	Enhancing three waters delivery & environmental quality	Nurturing & creating the district's special character
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Strengthen social connections within the community › Encourage civic pride and participation › Provide universally accessible. › Safe and diverse spaces to strengthen connection between people and place › Advocate for better transport and technology to improve social and business opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Plan for growth that protects rural land character › Contain rural residential expansion › Support quality urban development › Limit growth in coastal and other areas subject to climate change impacts › Support the transition to a low carbon economy › Encourage economic diversity and local vibrancy › Leverage partnerships with central and regional agencies to enable economic development and employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Deliver sustainable, clean, clear safe and secure water services › Design and implement innovative, sustainable, efficient and affordable wastewater and stormwater systems › Protect and replenish our natural environment and biodiversity › Minimise waste and provide environmentally sustainable Council services › Take active measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change › Empower and enable our community to drive behavioural change for the benefit of the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Work in partnership with mana whenua and iwi, respecting tikanga (customs), kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and taha Māori (heritage) › Take opportunities to embrace and celebrate diversity › Take opportunities to advance and showcase arts, culture and heritage › Protect town and rural community character, retaining our unique look and feel Improve urban design and integrate what we build with natural features
Work with Treaty partners	Strong and Efficient Council	Our Communities and District	

Strategic Framework cont.

Our vision

The best of country living with the community at the heart of everything we do

Where we are today

- › Steady population growth: an estimated 1.2% average* annual increase by 2031, from 11,700 to 13,600
- › Rapid increase in house prices in 2020 resulting in Featherston median price \$484,100, Greytown \$732,800, Martinborough just over \$700,000
- › 1 in 5 people over the age of 65
- › Workers challenged to find affordable houses
- › GDP per capita is \$27,000 compared to \$62,000 for NZ average, indication relatively low incomes per person
- › Unemployment rate pf 4% which is slightly higher than NZ average of 3.3% - high employment but low GDP
- › Climate change with extreme weather events, droughts, higher temperatures, coastal erosion

**Sense partners Population Prediction for Council*

Three key roles of our district in the region & New Zealand

Roles of Council

Advocate for sustainable living and community wellbeing Influence, facilitate, partner, provide services, plan and regulate



A place for agriculture, fishing, forestry, horticulture and viticulture with new and growing business and job opportunities



A destination highlighting diverse cultures, heritage, environmental sustainability and recreational experience



A town and country lifestyle choice



Partnership and collaboration

Working with our Treaty Partners

The South Wairarapa district is rich in Māori history and culture. Some of the earliest known occupational sites exist within its boundaries, and for centuries the natural environment has provided both material and spiritual sustenance. Its place in the Māori political history of New Zealand is a matter of national record.

Council recognises its obligations to Māori and upholds these obligations by respecting the intrinsic relationship mana whenua have with their ancestral land, water bodies, waahi tapu sites and other taonga tuku iho. Engagement with local hapū, marae, iwi entities and hāpori whānui must show manaaki and be authentic.

The principals of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are upheld by Council, by ensuring opportunities for Māori to be part of decision-making processes are considered and presented. Future protection of Māori culture and heritage extends to Te Reo Māori, and Council's ability to proactively protect this through policy which requires partnering with mana whenua to ensure that the reo is correct and the translations are appropriate.



Council assets and services that support our communities

We provide a wide range of services and facilities for its communities which help make the district a safe, healthy and enjoyable place to call home.

18
public
toilets



4
community
buildings

3
campgrounds



4
drinking water
systems

884
streetlights

3
pools



63km
of footpath

4
playgrounds



3
dog parks



4
wastewater
systems

20+
parks and
reserves



140
bridges
and
culverts



34
senior
housing units

3
libraries



3
cemeteries



3x
recycling stations

3,945
signs



667km
of roading

1x
transfer station



Emergency Management, grants, building consents, liquor licensing, dog control, town seating, noise control, food registration, urban kerbside rubbish collection, illegal dumping cleanup, planting, walking and biking tracks, community events and more.

Our services are grouped into the following Significant Activities:

Democracy and Engagement	Land Transport
Planning and Regulatory Services	Water Supply
Finance and Corporate Support	Wastewater
Community Facilities and Services	Stormwater Drainage

The scope and cost of providing each significant activity is determined through levels of service. We have chosen levels of service that are important to the delivery of the activity and our community outcomes. The quantity and quality of each level of service translates into cost – generally the higher the service, the higher the cost. In several cases, the minimum levels of service are determined by statutory and regulatory compliance.

These significant activities can be found in detail as part of the Council’s 2025-34 LTP and are reported on each year in the Annual Report as part of the Council’s Key Performance Indicators.



Challenges and opportunities

Like many councils throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, South Wairarapa District Council has been navigating its way through an uncertain time. It's important that we consider these when planning so we can budget realistically and achieve what we set out to do.

Investment for growth

Over recent years, South Wairarapa has become a popular tourist destination due to the beautiful scenery, relaxed atmosphere and history. The district boasts world famous wineries, good shopping, great eating, bush walks and rugged coastlines. It has also seen significant growth in permanent population over recent years with people choosing to move here from the cities for a more relaxed and affordable lifestyle. A growing number of residents commute to Wellington city and beyond for work.

The growth in the region puts pressure on Council services and infrastructure and it is important to manage this growth in a sustainable way. The South Wairarapa Spatial Plan has identified Greytown as a potential urban growth area, and the Regional Growth Framework, has identified Featherston as a growth node.

Wastewater treatment plants in Martinborough and Greytown are currently unable to take on any new connections due to performance and compliance issues. An abatement notice has been issued for Martinborough that requires SWDC to pause applications for new connections. Although Greytown wastewater is not under an abatement notice, Wellington Water have advised that future connections to the treatment plant need to be carefully considered. This is a result of aging infrastructure across the whole water network, which has historically had low levels of investment over its lifetime.

The future Council must deal with historic underinvestment in infrastructure, while considering growth for the district. This is a big task for our small communities, with future decisions around the level of investment needed to serve a growing population base.

Sustainable funding for public facilities

Over the next triennium Council will need to determine the appropriate level of service for facilities and consider the right balance between user charges and ratepayer funding.

While funding is identified in the 202, historic under-investment has placed additional pressures on keeping current assets at required levels and in a condition to meet our community's expectations. There will likely be a need for deliberate and strategic decision-making on each asset to determine the appropriate response – that may be to divest the asset, improve the asset, or simply run to end of life.

Climate change

Climate change will see the need for future councils to respond to extreme weather, and changing weather patterns, with a focus on what that means to our community, our assets and our infrastructure. Projects like the EcoReef at Cape Palliser and preparing our communities in emergency management will play a part in future council decisions.

Major challenges from Central Government

Councils are directed by legislation to oversee regulation, strategies, by-laws, and policies. These documents guide local government direction, decisions elected members make, and how the council operates. Reviews and reforms by central government have the potential to fundamentally change the system that local government operates within, including what local government does and how it does it.

Local Water Done Well

As part of the Government's Local Water Done Well (LWDW) reform, Council voted this year to deliver South Wairarapa's water services under a new model - a multi-council Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) in collaboration with Carterton, Masterton and Tararua District Councils. This will be a shift away from delivering water via Wellington Water Ltd (WWL).

A multi-council CCO model will enable access to higher debt limits to finance critical renewals, upgrades and capacity improvements, all of which will improve the quality of water services for our community.

The other advantages of the Wairarapa-Tararua CCO that we have identified are:

- Building local economic capacity and jobs for local businesses due to a new local infrastructure organisation.
- Enabling scale and efficiency in the provision of water services, which will reduce costs for the community over time. This will allow us to improve both the scope and the scale of efficiencies in our water services and the legal requirements we need to adhere to.

The next major milestone is the submission of the Water Services Delivery Plan, which sets out how the Councils will work together to establish the regional water organisation. This plan will be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September and is expected to be approved by the end of 2025. Once the plan is submitted, the Council will begin the process of legally establishing the organisation - the organisation will be established by July 2026 (at the latest) and up and running delivering services to the community by July 2027 (at the latest).

Beginning the implementation of the new governance arrangements for the Water Services Organisation is expected to start in November/December 2025 with the appointment of nominated elected members to the Shareholders' Committee.

Resource Management Reform (RMA) Act

The RMA has been the cornerstone of New Zealand's planning framework for more than two decades and successive governments have indicated their displeasure with how it is working and resolved to repeal and replace it.

Current government direction will narrow the scope of the resource management system, with simplified planning rules and standardised zones. It will also enhance local decision making, allowing elected local representatives to focus more time on deciding where development should and should not occur in their community.

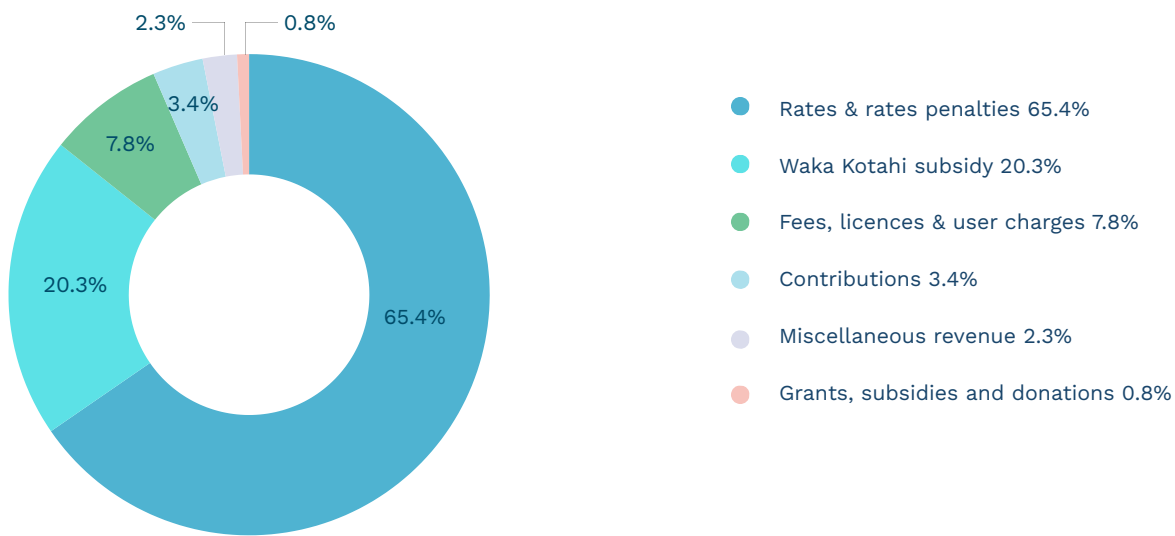
The current version of this reform is going through Parliament and is likely to be enacted by mid-2026. When the legislation passes, work will be required to determine how the new national legislation will apply locally.

Where does Council's funding come from, and where do my rates go?

Council's revenue sources

65.4% of Council funding comes from rates, collected from property owners through a combination of fixed and variable charges. We try to maximise our use of available Government subsidies and grants and have adopted a "user pays" policy through fees and charges and targeted rates.

Council revenue sources for the nine years of the 2025-34 LTP

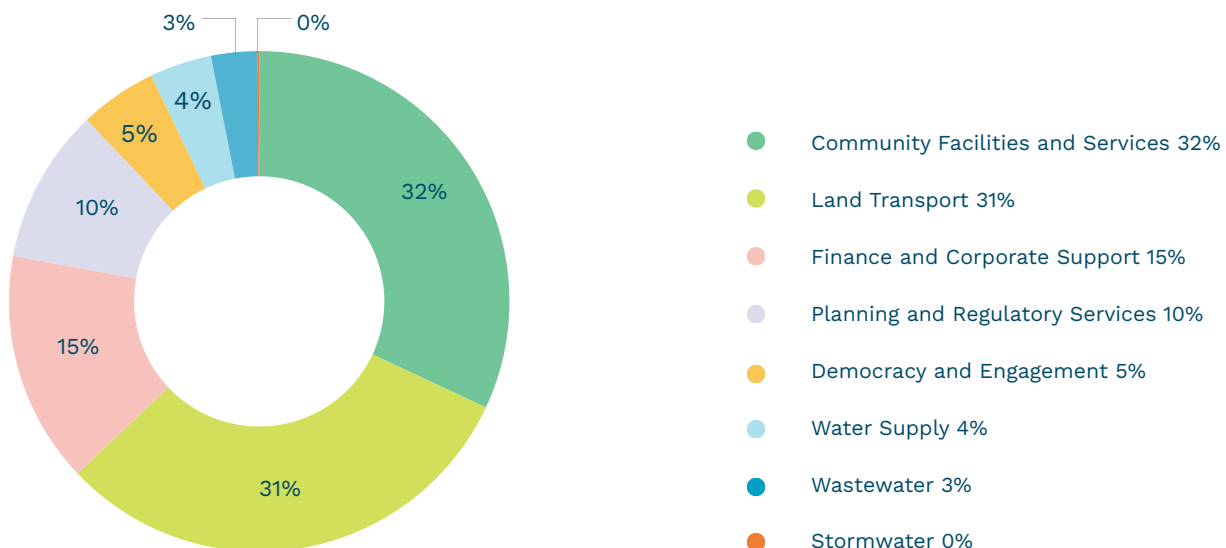


Council expenses

Just under one third of Council's income is spent on Community Facilities & Services; maintenance and development of spaces like our parks, sportsgrounds, libraries, pools, and community buildings. Another significant portion maintains and upgrades our roading and water infrastructure.

Council expenses by activity for the nine years of the 2025-34 LTP

Note - from July 2027, water activities will transfer to the new entity



Major projects ahead

Council has several major projects planned over the coming years. The table below provides details of the capital projects that will get underway as part of the 2025-34 LTP. These focus on upgrading existing facilities, improving levels of service, or enhancing the quality of service offered to the community.

This is not a full list of Council's projects and activities. Please refer to the 2025-34 LTP, and the 2023/24 Annual Report for more information.



Water supply \$82.1m

Including:

- › Greytown water supply treatment upgrade
- › Drinking water pipe renewals
- › Firefighting upgrades

Wastewater \$170.3m

Including:

- › Martinborough and Greytown treatment plants compliance upgrades
- › Featherston wastewater treatment plant upgrade
- › Lake Ferry consent and upgrades
- › Wastewater pipe renewals

Stormwater \$23.7m

Including:

- › Flooding improvements



Land transport \$80.4m

Including:

- › Glue Pot stability
- › East Coast stability planting
- › Ecoreef extension
- › 182km of resurfacing
- › Walk and cycle way improvements



Community amenities \$19.9m

Including:

- › Campground upgrades
- › Public toilet development and upgrades
- › Library book collections
- › Playground refurbishments
- › Transfer station upgrades

Our finances

Funding Impact Statements

For the years ended 30 June 2023-2029

Our Funding Impact Statement outlines how we plan to fund our activities and projects, and how those funding sources will be applied. It details where our income comes from (e.g. rates, fees, grants) and how it will be spent on various services and infrastructure.

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL							
FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENTS	AR	AR	AP	LTP	LTP	LTP	LTP
	Annual Report 2023 \$000	Annual Report 2024 \$000	Annual Plan 2025 \$000	LTP 2026 \$000	LTP 2027 \$000	LTP 2028 \$000	LTP 2029 \$000
Sources of Operating Funding							
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	10,944	13,809	12,456	12,768	13,030	14,834	15,497
Targeted Rates	10,563	12,070	17,292	18,259	20,022	8,024	8,465
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	4,927	4,020	4,142	3,457	2,964	3,863	3,987
Fees and charges	2,483	2,238	2,292	2,641	2,964	3,040	3,114
Interest and dividends from investments	422	618	0	32	53	80	86
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	1,125	1,824	1,272	1,827	1,771	2,285	2,353
Total Operating Funding (A)	30,464	34,580	37,454	38,985	40,803	32,125	33,502
Applications of Operating Funding							
Payments to staff and suppliers	27,052	27,716	32,860	34,080	33,306	28,446	29,356
Finance costs	854	941	1,213	2,087	3,130	1,144	1,348
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Applications of Operating Funding (B)	27,906	28,658	34,073	36,167	36,435	29,589	30,704
Surplus (Deficit) of Operating Funding (A-B)	2,558	5,922	3,381	2,818	4,368	2,536	2,797
Sources of Capital Funding							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	1,831	2,914	3,746	4,728	3,686	4,282	4,433
Development and financial contributions	1,869	1,101	1,036	1,409	1,436	1,175	1,336
Increase (decrease) in debt	2,500	(2,000)	20,000	18,820	23,146	5,698	1,375
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	96	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lump sum contributions	749	401	470	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Sources of Capital Funding (C)	7,044	2,416	25,252	24,957	28,269	11,155	7,144
Applications of Capital Funding							
Capital Expenditure:							
- to meet additional demand	1,700	111	4,709	2,178	6,650	410	494
- to improve the level of service	3,970	4,393	12,413	10,634	15,613	5,339	2,521
- to replace existing assets	5,125	6,676	12,068	14,930	10,321	7,862	6,840
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(1,193)	(2,841)	(558)	(438)	(526)	(63)	51
Increase (decrease) of investments	-	-	-	471	579	142	34
Total Applications of Capital Funding (D)	9,602	8,339	28,633	27,775	32,637	13,691	9,942
Surplus/(Deficit) of Capital Funding (C - D)	(2,558)	(5,922)	(3,381)	(2,818)	(4,368)	(2,536)	(2,797)
Funding Balance ((A - B) + (C - D))	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023-2029

Our Summary Statement of Financial Position, also known as a balance sheet, is a snapshot of the our financial standing. It outlines our assets (what we own), liabilities (what we owe), and equity (the difference between the two, representing our net worth).

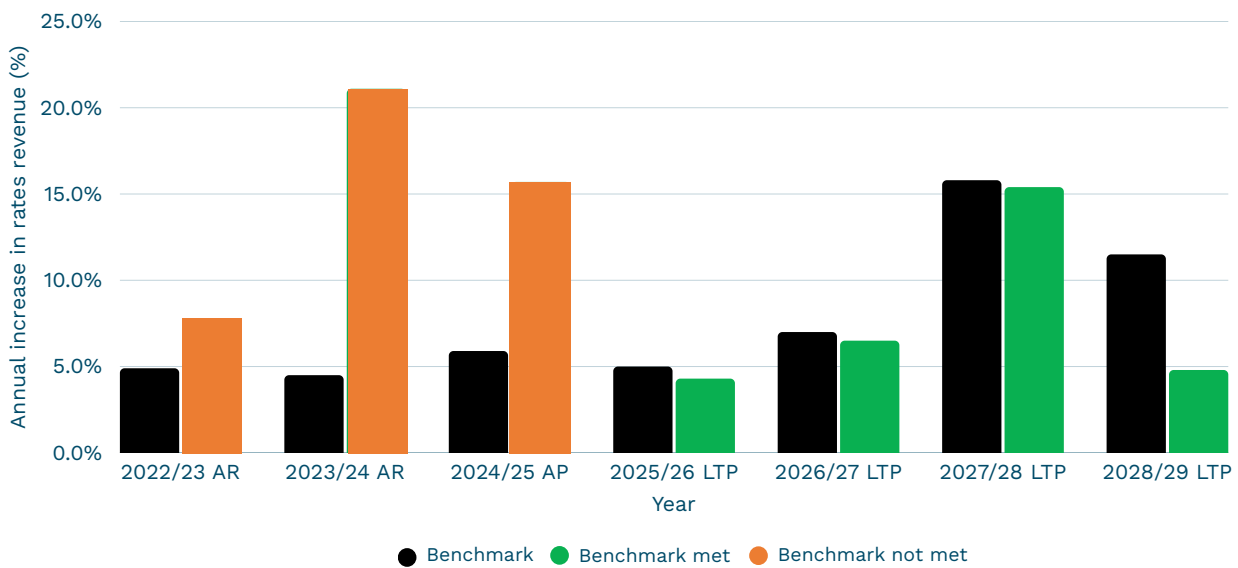
SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL							
	Annual Report 2023 \$'000	Annual Report 2024 \$'000	Annual Plan 2025 \$'000	LTP 2026 \$'000	LTP 2027 \$'000	LTP 2028 \$'000	LTP 2029 \$'000
ASSETS							
Current assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	6,722	3,912	916	5,082	4,960	2,921	3,149
Investments - current	6,169	5,891	120	446	446	446	446
Debtors and other receivables	4,007	3,183	2,969	3,395	3,249	3,391	3,547
Inventories	46	26	35	26	26	26	26
Total Current Assets	16,943	13,012	4,040	8,949	8,681	6,785	7,169
Non-current assets							
Investments - non-current	894	581	1,008	1,381	1,959	2,102	2,136
Other financial assets	258	284	278	133	133	133	133
Investment properties	13,991	14,427	15,274	14,847	14,891	14,937	14,984
Intangible assets	109	346	337	662	662	662	662
Property, plant and equipment	570,581	625,631	630,697	701,721	554,645	595,525	604,150
Council controlled organisation	-	-	-	-	118,024	118,024	118,024
Total non-current assets	585,834	641,269	647,594	718,744	690,315	731,383	740,089
Total assets	602,777	654,281	651,634	727,693	698,996	738,167	747,258
LIABILITIES							
Current liabilities							
Creditors & other payables	6,857	5,385	2,429	7,259	7,504	5,641	5,950
Employee benefit liabilities	625	669	548	866	880	908	932
Other current liabilities	33	33	34	333	333	333	333
Borrowings	2,000	15,400	3,600	-	-	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	9,515	21,487	6,611	8,458	8,716	6,882	7,215
Non-current liabilities							
Provisions	300	299	280	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	26,900	11,500	43,200	56,654	20,027	25,725	27,100
Total Non-Current Liabilities	27,200	18,881	43,480	56,654	20,027	25,725	27,100
EQUITY							
Reserves							
Public equity	166,683	174,249	183,152	196,824	316,536	322,017	326,348
Restricted reserves and trust funds	31,000	29,480	14,495	5,449	12,384	10,059	8,969
Asset revaluation reserve	368,378	417,266	403,896	460,307	341,333	373,485	377,627
Total Reserves	566,061	620,994	601,543	662,581	670,253	705,561	712,943
Total Equity	566,061	620,994	601,543	662,581	670,253	705,561	712,943
Total liabilities and equity	602,777	654,281	651,634	727,693	698,996	738,167	747,258

Financial Strategy

Our Financial Strategy is set out in the 2025-34 LTP and includes limits on rates increases, total rates collected, and debt levels. It outlines how we will manage our finances over the long term to achieve our strategic objectives.

Rates (increases) affordability

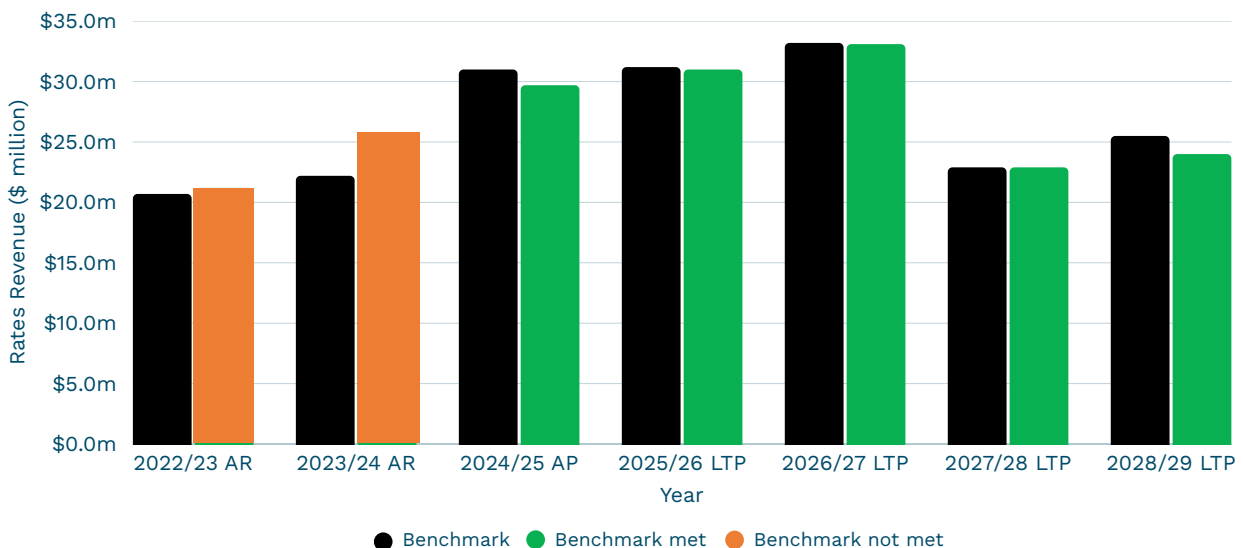
Rate increases for the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years were higher than the internally set limits while forecast rate increases for the 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 have met the benchmarks.



Rates (revenue) affordability

The following graph compares our planned rates revenue with the limit on rates contained in the Financial Strategy and included in the 2025-34 LTP.

Rates increases are in line with the financial strategy rates limit and over in the 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years.

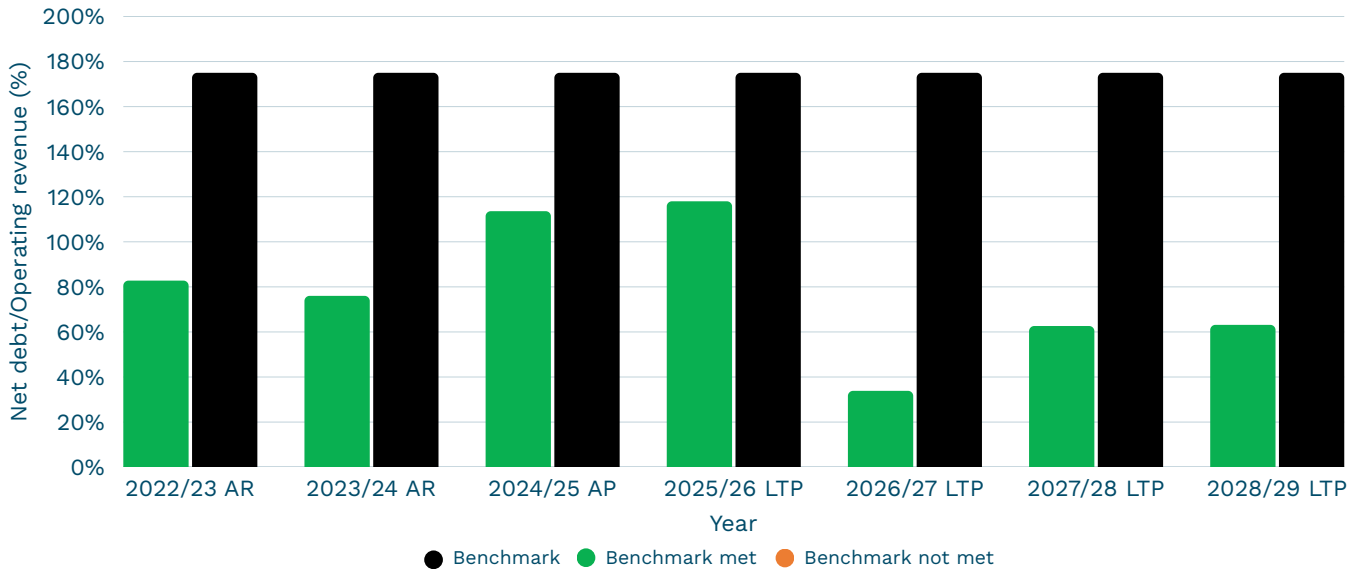


Financial Strategy

Debt affordability benchmark

The following graph compares our planned debt with the maximum debt borrowings as outlined in the Financial Strategy as part of the 2025-34 LTP. It also shows the impact of removing waters from Council and transferring to a new Waters entity from 30 June 2027.

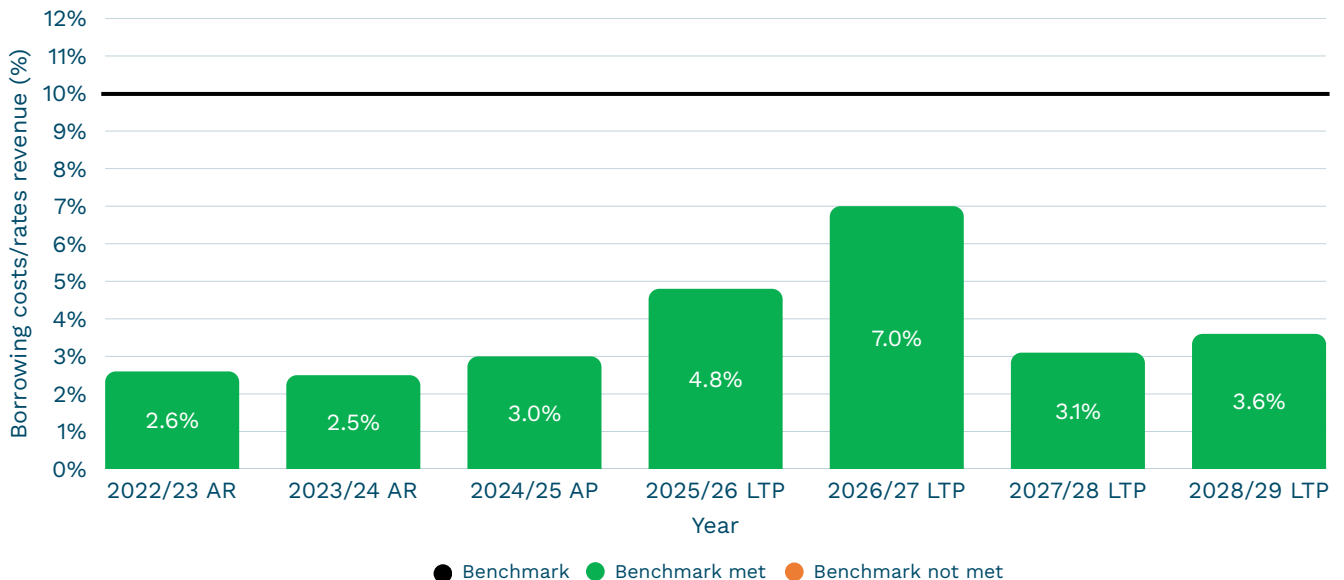
Debt affordability



Debt servicing benchmark

The 2025-34 LTP sets a maximum limit on interest costs at no more than 10% of rates revenue. The graph below illustrates that interest costs are well below this limit as a percentage of rates revenue in all years from 2023 to 2029.

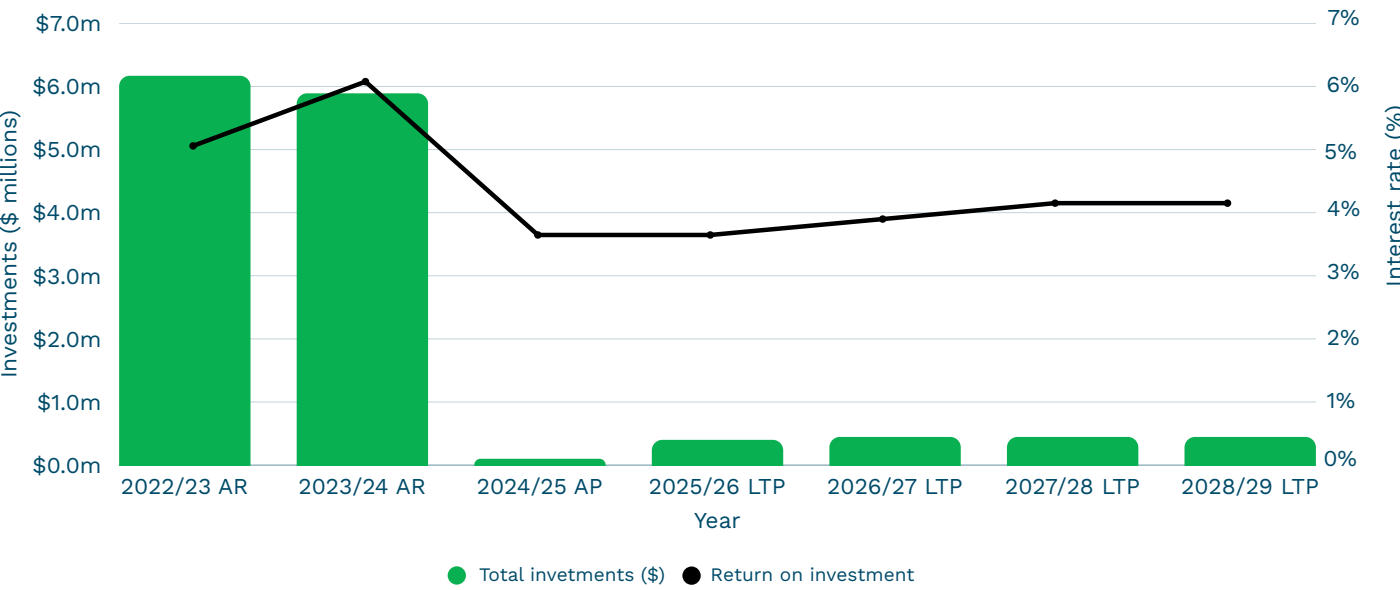
Debt servicing



Investments

As per the Annual Plan and Treasury Policy, the Council no longer collects rates for repayment of loan principal, as was done in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Instead, the Council is now utilising existing investments to reduce the amount of borrowing required.

Investments



2025 Elections

Stand

Stand because you are ready for healthy, well-informed, meaningful discussions so the right decisions are made for the right reasons while representing the diverse communities of South Wairarapa.

To stand, you must be:

- A New Zealand citizen (by birth or naturalisation ceremony)
- Enrolled as a parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand)
- Nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective ward that a candidate is standing for.

Nominations open on 4 July 2025 and close at noon sharp on 1 August 2025.

Check the Council's website for more information: www.swdc.govt.nz/elections

Enrol

Enrol to vote or check your enrolment details today. You must be correctly enrolled on the parliamentary roll to be able to vote, nominate a candidate and stand in local elections.

Visit vote.nz to check you are eligible – enrol or update your details or pop into our reception at Martinborough Library for an enrolment form.

Enrolling after 1 August 2025

If you enrol or update your address after 1 August 2025, you won't get your voting papers sent to you in the mail. You'll need to make a special vote, organise to make special vote by calling 06 306 9611, emailing elections@swdc.govt.nz or dropping into Martinborough Library to talk to our elections staff.

Vote

To get the best, you must vote. Make your voice heard so that our district has the best of leaders and decision-makers with the best interests of our community at heart. Voting is your way of having a say on what matters most to you by choosing people who can represent that.

If you're enrolled to vote, you'll receive your voting papers in the post. Use the Freepost envelope provided to cast your vote and mail back your papers to the Council electoral Officer before Tuesday 7 October 2022 as this is the last day for postal voting. After this date, votes must be returned to council's secure ballot boxes which will be located at our libraries and supermarkets in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough.

- Voting closes at all South Wairarapa Libraries and Supermarkets (Featherston FreshChoice, Greytown FreshChoice and P&K Martinborough) at midday 11 October 2025.



Key election dates

4
July

Candidate nominations open

1
Aug

Candidate nominations close at 12 noon

6
Aug

Candidates announced

9
Sept

Voting papers sent to enrolled voters, voting opens

11
Oct

Election Day, voting closes at 12 noon
Preliminary results available

Where to find further information

Elections information

swdc.govt.nz/elections

Candidates handbook

swdc.govt.nz/stand-for-local-council

LGNZ information for candidates

swdc.govt.nz/stand-for-local-council

Annual Reports

swdc.govt.nz/governance/reports

Long-Term Plan and Annual Plans

swdc.govt.nz/governance/plans

Past Council meetings and decisions

swdc.govt.nz/meetings



