

# ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENT

Draft Annual Plan 2022/23  
Year 2 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan



SOUTH WAIRARAPA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Kia Reretahi Tātau*



This public engagement document on the 2022/23 Annual Plan priorities is based on the Long Term Plan – please tell us what you think of the priorities.

## Whakatauki

Mei te tatū o ngā whakaaro ki ngā āhuatanga o te hinengaro,  
Mei te ngāwari ake o te ahunga ki nāianei,  
Kua tū nei te tūranga ki runga i ngā pakahiwi o te nehenehe.

If I am confident with where we'll be in the future,  
Composed with how we are at present  
It is merely because I am standing on the shoulders of the past.



# Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive

## Welcome to this brief explanation of what is proposed for the next Annual Plan. It outlines what has been achieved and what is planned.

Following on from the consultation process we undertook in 2021 for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP), Council wishes to engage with ratepayers and residents on key elements of the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

### The 2022/23 Annual Plan is year 2 of the 2021-31 LTP, and continues the projects and programmes of work outlined in it.

We have not identified any material changes to the adopted 2021-31 LTP. Please check out the LTP consultation document and the approved plan on our website for detailed information on what was consulted on and then approved <https://www.swdc.govt.nz/governance/plans>

The amount of income Council will need for 2022/23 is just over \$30.5M. Of this \$21.5M will come from rates. This amount equates to an increase of around \$1.5M, or 7.8% more on last year's income (7.6% increase, accounting for growth).

Despite the budget constraints within which we operate, it is crucial we continue to invest in infrastructure so we may continue to have essential

services, such as clean water and safe roads.

In the coming year Council will also come under considerable cost pressures due to the impacts of legislative and regulatory changes, as well as the effects of climate change, on our environment. The 3 Waters reform, local government reform, Resource Management Act review, Combined District Plan, ratings review, and representation review will feature strongly throughout the next financial year. Many of these are driven by central Government so we will keep you informed as new information is provided and these progress.

Severe weather events are occurring on a more regular basis, and in concentrated periods, putting immense pressure on an already ageing infrastructure.

A large portion of the costs for urban ratepayers can be attributed to water related costs. Some of the drivers for increased water costs are driven by central Government regulations, such as the new drinking water standards from Taumata Arowai. This has continued to grow disproportionately due to the age of our infrastructure and more frequent severe weather events. The additional drivers for the increase in operational costs are as a result of inflation and labour market constraints, such as cost of freight, contractors and construction materials. This has been a constant message for the last three years and shows no signs of abating. We have no choice in the matter. Our programme of work ensures service levels are maintained with nothing that could be construed as 'vanity projects'.

We are very much aware that rates costs impact a number of our residents financially, and it's important to note there is support available through funding from the Department of Internal Affairs for low income households plus Council's flexible repayment options. Please call our Rates team for more information and help.

In spite of the challenges of working under the Government's varying COVID-19 settings and the impact of supply and material shortages so far, we are pleased to report on the progress made in the 2021/22 financial year.

This context is essential for you to understand why our costs are what they are, where your rates go, and why. Please take the time to read this supplement which outlines the 2022/23 priorities and their current status and consider providing feedback. The Annual Plan will be adopted on 30 June 2022.

Ngā mihi



Alex Beijen  
Mayor



Harry Wilson  
Chief Executive

## Total Proposed Income excl. GST

Funding sources	LTP 2021/22	LTP 2022/23	Proposed AP 2022/23
	\$	\$	\$
Rates: general and targeted	19,920,769	21,526,594	21,470,846
Fees and licences	2,292,950	2,436,082	2,890,267
Grants, subsidies & donations	3,814,421	3,566,034	3,180,124
Rental/hire	682,500	721,422	757,655
Financial contributions	1,297,000	1,377,925	1,377,925
Other income	694,832	657,050	827,449
	28,702,472	30,285,107	30,504,265

## Total Proposed Expenditure excl. GST

Proposed Costs*	LTP 2021/22	LTP 2022/23	Proposed AP 2022/23
	\$	\$	\$
Governance, Leadership, Advocacy, Planning	2,050,586	2,223,301	2,327,660
Planning and Regulatory Services	3,169,273	3,305,553	3,202,503
Community Facilities and Services	6,866,158	7,391,942	7,320,522
Land Transport	5,902,149	6,293,928	6,105,030
Water supply, Wastewater, Stormwater Drainage	5,930,110	6,858,262	7,789,904
Other	20,000	21,180	28,000
	23,938,277	26,094,165	26,773,620
Reserves <sup>1</sup>	4,764,195	4,190,942	3,730,645

\*Categories from LTP, Significant Activities, page 23

<sup>1</sup> Some income is ring-fenced to contribute to Council's reserves for future use.

## Allocation of proposed budget



# What's driving our costs?

## Globally

- Climate change
- Labour market dynamics
- Supply chain issues
- Pandemic
- Inflation

## Nationally

- Three Waters Reform
- Review into the Future for Local Government
- Legislated minimum service levels e.g. water standards
- Inflation – increased cost of goods and services
- Maintaining legislative requirements for security and privacy
- Significant weather events, e.g. Cyclone Dovi
- Resource Management Act review
- New legislation to improve fresh water quality

## Locally

- Business need to digitise public records and strengthen transparency
- Aging water assets
- Increased development and construction
- Increased demand from media enquiries
- Pressure on spatial planning due to demand for new services and infrastructure

Much of our costs are driven by factors outside of our influence. Despite this, we must respond appropriately to maintain service levels.



We have almost 700km of rural and urban roads under our care, including this section of Cape Palliser Road being re-sealed.



# Where did your money go in 2021/22? Progress made to April 2022

Key area of spend

Land transport

Refer LTP pages 50-55

Safe and reliable roads are a critical part of our South Wairarapa community. Over the past 12 months our roading team has been busy across our network of 662km of local roads (excluding SH2 and SH53).

- The Hinekura Road rebuild is progressing following significant damage from a landslide, and the road was completely re-formed before Christmas to allow all traffic to pass.
- We have started the Eco reef project on the South Coast to prevent coastal erosion and protect an important road asset.
- Major weather events are increasing in frequency and severity and pose a threat to our infrastructure. The most recent example was the emergency response by our teams in mid-February to repair the damage caused by ex-Cyclone Dovi across multiple roads and structures.
- Ruamahanga Roads, our shared service agreement with Carterton District Council and Fulton Hogan initiated in 2019, is functioning well. Despite disruptions to staffing levels and costs/supply of materials due to COVID-19, the Ruamahanga Roads team is on track to complete an intensive programme of road maintenance and renewals on time and on budget.
- We are pleased to report that South Wairarapa continues to out-perform national and regional averages for road safety and road quality.

A typical month's data

Potholes identified/fixed	44	
Bridges inspected	10	
Bridges painted	3	
Signs inspected	101	
Culverts inspected	161	
Streets swept	45 km	
Pavements repaired	240 sqm	
Sealed roads inspected	204 km	
Unsealed roads inspected	72 km	
Unsealed roads graded	138 km	
Rural drains cleaned	40 km	
Vegetation trimmed	36 km	

Key area of spend

Water, wastewater, stormwater

Refer LTP pages 56-77

Drinking water

Focus on increasing storage capacity

- New 8 million litre treated water reservoir at Waiohine – increased storage resilience for Featherston and Greytown

Focus on improving drinking water safety

- Installation of automatic chlorination dosing at Pirinoa water treatment plant (WTP)
- Sewer renewal of the Memorial Park swimming pool and sporting building
- Effectively responded to a boil water notice

in Featherston. Undertook repairs to the damaged Boar Bush concrete reservoir tank as well as decommissioned redundant chlorine tank to mitigate and reduce the contamination risk

Focus on improving resilience.

- Commencement of a smart meter trial in Greytown, and run to the end of 2022.

Wastewater

- Upgrade Papawai Road pipeline – reduce overflows and accommodate growth, 1160m completed

All waters:

- Initial urban models completed for all towns – for future growth planning
- Completion of asset condition assessments for the very high critical assets – to inform priority future investment
- New surge protection at WTPs & WWTPs – to reduce the risk of supplying non-compliant water or environmental discharge for all 3 towns.

Key area of spend

Planning & regulatory services

Refer LTP pages 38-43

- The South Wairarapa Spatial Plan – Residential Growth Areas is our 30 year spatial strategy for the district and was completed in December 2021.
- Featherston Masterplan – The Featherston Masterplan is an implementation project from the Spatial Plan. Work has commenced on this project, with recent focus involving stakeholder and public engagement. The masterplan will outline a strategy and integrated plan for the future growth and development of Featherston including how growth

may take advantage of the train station for transit-oriented development.

- Wairarapa Combined District Plan Review – The three Wairarapa Councils commenced the review of the Plan in 2021. A review is required to ensure the Plan reflects the councils’ and community aspirations for the future and respond to any new regional and national policy directions.
- Council Dog Pound. Further investigation on costing and design for a modern local facility.





# Where did your money go in 2021/22? Progress made to April 2022

Key area of spend	Community facilities and services	Refer LTP pages 44-49
<b>Parks &amp; reserves</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Commenced engagement on Greytown Wheels Park</li><li>■ Starting process to upgrade Greytown's sports facility in Soldiers Memorial Park</li><li>■ Installed more bench seats throughout Greytown</li><li>■ Upgraded Peace Gardens Featherston using funding from Heritage NZ</li></ul> <b>Playgrounds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Upgraded play equipment</li><li>■ Installed extra seating</li></ul> <b>Swimming pools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Renovated all three pools including retiling, painting, repairs, and put up new murals at Greytown pool</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Converted storage room to a renovated changing room for people with disabilities in Martinborough</li></ul> <b>Cemeteries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Digitising cemetery data into Plotbox software</li><li>■ Extended Greytown cemetery</li></ul> <b>Waste management &amp; recycling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Installed recycling hubs</li><li>■ Renovated road into and upgraded Martinborough Transfer Station</li></ul> <b>Community development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs – engaged with 135 businesses, with 35 job placements in April 2022, and more underway. Focus is on young people who struggle to find employment</li></ul>	<b>Other projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Provincial Growth Funding used to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Upgrade Hau Ariki Marae</li><li>▪ Construct Tauherenikau Bridge</li><li>▪ Renovate Featherston Community Centre</li><li>▪ Upgrade Featherston's ANZAC War memorial</li></ul></li><li>■ Upgraded senior housing units</li><li>■ Developed Five Town Trails Masterplan</li></ul> <b>Library</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Refreshed and widened range of collection and increased range of reading, STEM, digital literacy programmes</li><li>■ Enabled ongoing access to library material during COVID-19</li><li>■ Installed new library management system.</li></ul>

Key area of spend	Governance, leadership, advocacy & planning	Refer LTP pages 24-37
<p>This year Governance has focused on strengthening the systems and processes that enable Council decisions to be transparent, robust, fair, and legally compliant. We continue to support the delivery of annual commemorations and the grants programme both of which have a positive impact and contribute to the social and cultural wellbeing of our communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Continued to deliver meetings remotely (due to COVID-19); meeting our legal obligations for transparency and access to information</li><li>■ From July to December, responded to 78% of LGOIMAs within the legislated timeframe while the rate of LGOIMA enquiries almost doubled from last year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Adopted a new Code of Conduct in line with LGNZ best-practise</li><li>■ Held the 100 year Martinborough Memorial Gate commemoration, on a small scale</li><li>■ Committed to the appointment of a Principal Advisor, Māori who will build our capability to develop meaningful relationships with iwi, hapū, and marae</li><li>■ Delivered our annual perception survey with updated methodology (new baseline) showing 43% overall satisfaction</li><li>■ Begun a full policy review, representation review, climate change risk and impact assessments and preparing for the upcoming local government elections.</li></ul>	

Key area of spend	Internal support	Refer LTP pages 31-37
<b>Finance &amp; Corporate Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Maintained continuous improvements in HR policies to ensure future-ready workforce</li><li>■ Undertook targeted and proactive communications with the public using a range of channels</li><li>■ Maintained ongoing improvements to website content</li><li>■ Strongly supported partner agencies such as DHB on COVID-19 response; Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs</li><li>■ Continued upgrade aging vehicle fleet, in alignment with climate change strategy</li><li>■ Invested in IT to improve efficiencies and support flexible workforce</li></ul>	<b>Emergency management and COVID-19 response</b> <p>Council has taken a lead role in responding to our district wide emergency events including the significant impacts of Cyclone Dovi. This has required us to coordinate and mobilise our services to ensure continuity of key infrastructure and the wellbeing of our communities across the South Wairarapa.</p> <p>By drawing upon our strategic relationships, we have ensured the continuance of Council-funded and supported community development, health, education, and welfare services during the COVID-19 pandemic whilst balancing our legal obligations. We have engaged extensively with central and local government agencies and community organisations, to ensure that our communities receive the support and services they need.</p>	

Ecoreef installation to control coastal erosion to Cape Palliser Road





# What is the impact of proposed rates on ratepayers?

The new proposed budget for 2022/23 is \$30,504,265. Of this, \$21,470,846, or 70%, will be from rates.

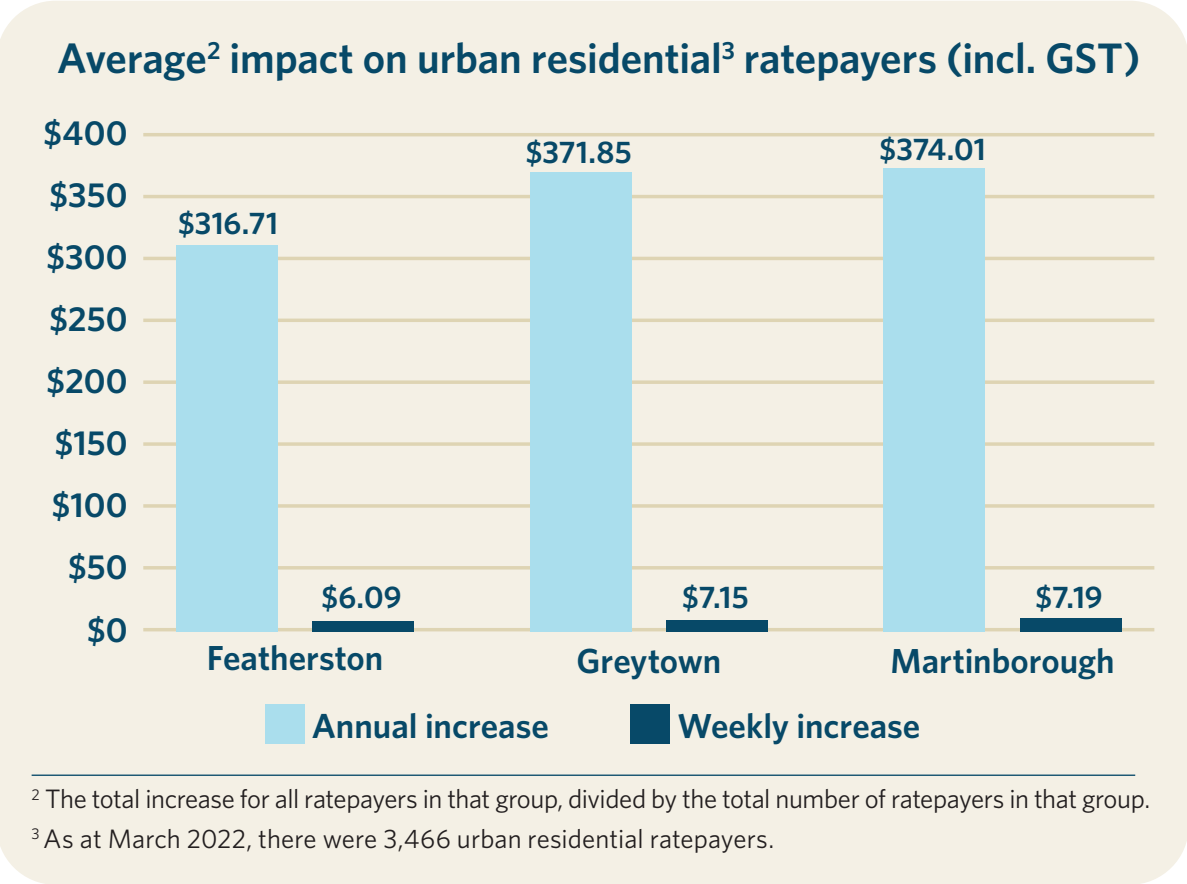
For the 2022/23 year, the proposed rates income increase is lower than forecast in the LTP. The rates income to fund the cost of running Council is expected to be 7.8% higher than 2021/22 year, which is lower than the 8.06% increase forecast in the LTP.

The impact of this rates income increase on ratepayers will be unique to each ratepayer, depending on their land value and targeted rates. Urban ratepayers make up half of all South Wairarapa ratepayers.

- Urban residential ratepayers will, on average, pay an extra \$6-7 per week in 2022/23
- To estimate your rates for 2022/23, visit Council's website to use the Rates Estimator <https://swdc.govt.nz/services/rates>

- 75% of urban rates increase can be attributed to water costs as the cost to deliver water has increased at a higher rate than other areas/activities/services of Council.
- What about impact of Three Waters Reform? The Government is currently working on the Three Waters Reform Programme which intends to reform local government's three waters service delivery arrangements. The reform's effect on our water services are uncertain while we wait for decisions to be made and passed through legislation. This document was prepared as if these services will continue to be provided by the Council, but future decisions may result in significant changes.

The plan is made up of essential and mandatory work with more requirements yet to come from central Government. There are no vanity projects.



Mayor's Taskforce For Jobs found job placements for more than 50 young people in 2020/21.

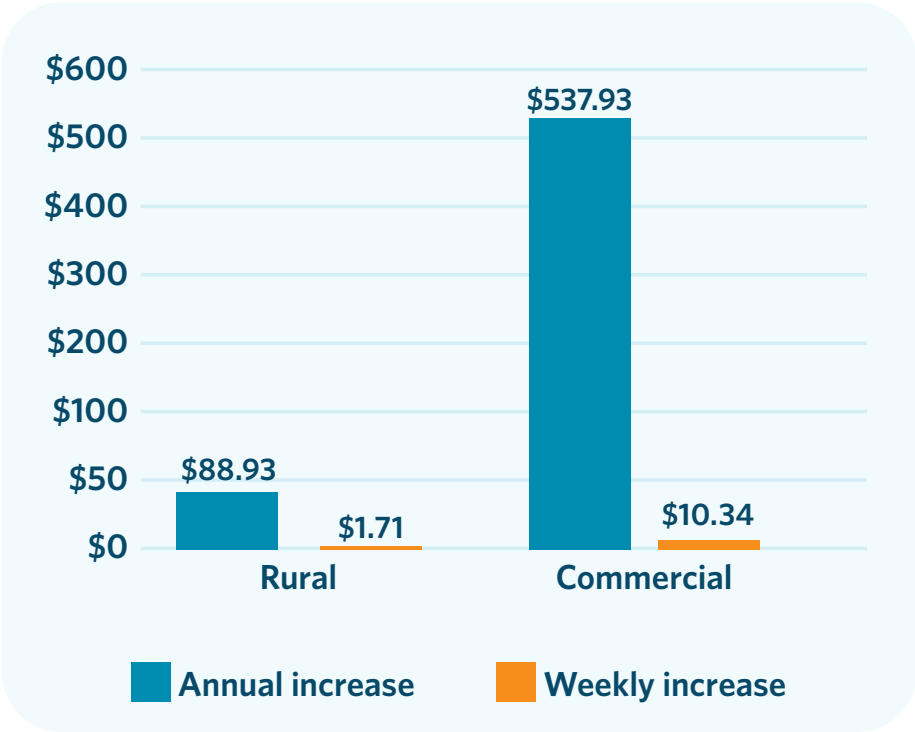


Wellington Water replacing a sewer line in Memorial Park, a proactive move to ensure the town's drinking water remained uncontaminated.

## Average impact across rural and commercial ratepayers

Most rural ratepayers are not connected to town water supply or sewerage systems so they do not pay targeted rates for water, sewerage or rubbish.

- However, some rural ratepayers do pay for the care of water races, as they use water races for stock water and irrigating plants grown for stock.
- Rural ratepayers would on average pay an extra \$1.71 per week.





Where is your money going in 2022/23?

2022/23 priorities	Governance, Leadership, Advocacy, Planning	Planning and Regulatory Services	Community Facilities and Services	Land Transport	Water Supply	Wastewater	Stormwater Drainage	Other (Rates remissions & bad debts)
LTP 2022/23	2,223,301	3,305,553	7,391,942	6,293,928	3,857,582	2,578,648	422,032	21,180
Proposed 2022/23 Annual Plan budget	2,327,660	3,202,503	7,320,522	6,105,030	4,262,412	2,912,258	615,235	28,000
Change in budget	104,359	- 103,050	- 71,420	- 188,898	404,830	333,610	193,203	6,820

Some of the priorities from the LTP for delivery in 2022/23 and beyond.

Governance, Leadership, Advocacy, Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reviewing how rates are set</li><li>Reviewing the number of councillors, the way they are elected, and the ward geographical boundaries</li><li>Council Mark quality standards</li><li>Digitisation of Council records</li></ul>
Planning and Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spatial Plan – master planning</li><li>Wairarapa Combined District Plan review</li><li>Dog pound project</li></ul>
Community Facilities and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Greytown Wheels Park</li><li>Increase recycling, reduce waste to landfill, consider composting at gate</li><li>Rebranding public signage</li><li>Libraries – new books and added-value services</li><li>Plant more trees and improve gardens</li><li>Undertake City Care &amp; Earthcare contract overview</li><li>Greenspaces in towns</li><li>Refresh painted areas</li><li>Cycle trails</li><li>Improve Council facilities for accessibility</li><li>Work on new cemetery in Featherston including planting trees</li><li>Solid waste and recycling management</li></ul>
Land Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved levels of service</li><li>Capital projects for road resealing, footpaths, drainage, road metalling etc.</li></ul>
Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Featherston water treatment plant</li><li>Martinborough new water source</li><li>Smartmeters to reduce water loss through leaks</li><li>Network renewals</li><li>Humphries Street upgrade</li></ul>
Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Martinborough and Featherston wastewater treatment plant planning</li><li>Reticulation renewals</li><li>Greytown trunk main upgrade</li></ul>



Our libraries’ school holiday programme went to a new level this year, designed especially with kids at home in mind.



This year we have made considerable improvements to all three pools, including Greytown, above.



An extension at the Waiohine Water Treatment Plant near Greytown means Greytown and Featherston’s water supply is more secure, with five times the water storage.

Please tell us what you think of the 2022/23 Annual Plan priorities from the Long Term Plan. Public engagement is open until 30 May 2022. Visit our website for more detailed information on roading, water and other essential services from the officers' reports to Assets and Services Committee and Council meetings: [swdc.govt.nz](https://www.swdc.govt.nz)

Please provide your details below should you wish to be contacted on this.

Email: 

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your feedback will help inform annual planning.**



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
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