

5 for our future

Kia Rima mō te Anamata

Have your
Say!



Hakaterere: Te rohe ka whiria mō te āhua noho, me te haporī

*Ashburton:
The district of choice for
lifestyle and opportunity*

Have your
Say!

*We have some big decisions to
make, and it's your chance to
help us shape our future*

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Five for our Future
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Let us know if we've got
the balance right, at
ItsOurPlace.nz

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Welcome | *Nau Mai*

We have a vision to make our district
“the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity” *Hakatere – te rohe ka whiria mō te āhua noho, me te hāpori.*

We've made great progress over the last three years, with the opening of a fantastic new library and civic building, Te Whare Whakatere, upgrading the CBD, installing new water treatment facilities and water storage in Methven, and upgrading large sections of our 2,600km roading network.

There's still much to do. This document provides a summary of our plans for the next 10 years and details the key projects and issues ahead. We face some tough choices, and it's important to acknowledge that we can't afford everything.

Within this plan, we're attempting to find a delicate balance between affordability, delivering essentials like roads, wastewater and drinking water, and progressing exciting projects that make the district a great place to live.

To fund these, the plan proposes a 9.9% increase (including inflation) in what we collect in rates for 2024/25 and an average rate increase across the 10 years of 6.5% (including inflation). As always, rates will vary area by area.

This plan is just a draft. Your feedback will help us know where we have the balance right, and where changes need to be made. We want your feedback on our plans and have five big questions we believe are of particular importance to the district over the next few years. However, we welcome your feedback on any aspect of the plan.

As we saw during early feedback, our community is passionate about the future of the Ashburton District. While there are tough decisions to make, we believe that through partnership with the community, there's also much to look forward to over the next 10 years.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.

You can read more and share your thoughts at [ItsOurPlace.nz](https://www.itsourplace.nz)



Neil Brown
Mayor



Hamish Riach
Chief Executive



Early feedback from our community

To help shape our plan we asked you for early feedback on how our district was doing through the 'Take 10 for our future' campaign.

We combined this with other feedback we've received, such as that collected through our Annual Residents' Survey, to help shape the proposals we're putting in front of you now.

See [ItsOurPlace.nz](https://www.itsourplace.nz) for a summary of the feedback received through early engagement

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

During the 2023 **Take 10 for our future** survey

we received over

980

responses

and heard from

29

groups and organisations

Your Council | *Tō koutou Kaunihera*

Mayor



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Cr Phill Hooper
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Cr Russell Ellis
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How to have your say | *Me pēhea te kōrero mai*

When

You can provide your feedback from
Wednesday 27 March until Sunday 28 April.

Key dates



How

There are different ways to share your feedback.

- ✓ You can submit your feedback online at ***ItsOurPlace.nz***
- ✓ Email ***submissions@adc.govt.nz***
- ✓ Request a paper feedback form by calling us on (03) 307 7700 or grab a copy from any of our facilities or community events.
- ✓ Contact a councillor directly
- ✓ If you feel more comfortable speaking to us than writing your thoughts down, make sure to talk to us at one of the events listed.



ItsOurPlace.nz

We need to hear from you!

Have your Say!

We are keen to talk to you about the future of the Ashburton District and the issues addressed in this document.

Long Term Plan Community Events

Learn more about the topics in the Long Term Plan, ask questions and chat with councillors at any of our upcoming community events.



Saturday Sausage Sizzles

Visit any time between 10am and 2pm, grab a free sausage from our BBQ and chat with a councillor about anything in our Long Term Plan.

10am-2pm

Sat 6 April	Tinwald Pool
Sat 13 April	Baring Square East, Ashburton
Sat 20 April	Methven iHub



Community Meetings

Hear directly from councillors about the key topics in this Long Term Plan. These presentations will include time for questions, followed by tea and coffee.

7pm-8pm

Thu 4 April	Rakaia Community Centre
<i>Hosted by the Rakaia Community Association</i>	
Tue 9 April	Mount Somers War Memorial Hall
Mon 15 April	Hinds Community Centre
<i>This meeting has a stockwater focus</i>	
Tue 16 April	Ashburton Library Event Space
<i>This meeting will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube</i>	
Wed 17 April	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall



Pop-up Events

In a hurry? Stop by for a five-minute chat and grab a copy of the consultation document to read.

Thur 4 April	12pm-2pm	New World Ashburton
Mon 8 April	3.30pm-6.30pm	EA Networks Centre
Wed 10 April	12pm-2pm	Methven Four Square
Thur 18 April	12pm-2pm	Ashburton Library
Fri 19 April	12pm-2pm	Ashburton CBD



Talk It Up Tuesdays

Our regular Talk It Up Tuesday sessions continue in April. No booking required, simply pop in to speak with a councillor.

Every Tuesday	1pm-2pm	Ashburton Library
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Community Groups

We'll also be visiting local schools, community groups and organisations, check our website for more details.

Thu 28 March	Mt Hutt College
Tue 2 April	Ashburton Plains & Ashburton Rotary
Tue 2 April	Mayfield Lions
Wed 3 April	Keep Learning Mid Canterbury
Mon 8 April	Ashburton College
Mon 8 April	Hakatere Marae
Tue 9 April	April Falls - Ashburton Library
Fri 12 April	Mid Canterbury Rural Women
Wed 17 April	Ashburton Business Networking
Thu 18 April	Hakatere Multicultural Council
Thu 18 April	Ethnic Leaders Forum
Mon 22 April	GreyPower Ashburton



Wet weather?

In heavy rain or windy conditions our Saturday Sausage Sizzles and pop-up events may move indoors or be postponed to later date.

Check the Ashburton District Council Facebook page for updates.

Our Strategic Direction

Our strategic direction includes a vision, community outcomes and guiding principles.

Our vision is the overall, future focused goal we are working towards. Community outcomes also look to the future and take a 'whole-of-community' view. They are focused on improving the district's social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing. Everything we do contributes to these outcomes. Our guiding principles outline how we will function and deliver, activities and services to our community.

Our Vision and Community Outcomes



Guiding Principles

Plan and provide fit-for-purpose services.

Represent the district on regional/national issues and partner with others when needed.

Work with the community and engage in meaningful conversations.

Lead the community with clear and rational decision-making.

What is a Long Term Plan?

The Long Term Plan is our most important planning tool.

It lays out what we plan to do over the next 10 years and how it will be paid for. It includes detailed information on the activities, services and projects we intend to deliver, and attempts to answer the when, where and how for each.

It also includes a detailed look at our funding and financial management, and forecasts what our rates might look like over the next 10 years.

As circumstances and priorities often change over time, we're legally required to review the Long Term Plan every three years.



Our Long Term Plan in 12 key points

12 mea matua i tā tātau Mahere Pae Tawhiti

We've condensed the details of the draft plan into 12 key points:

- 1 Developed in uncertain times** - We've developed this Long Term Plan during a challenging time following the Covid pandemic, and amidst a cost of living crisis and ongoing global unrest.
- 2 Government changes** - We're adapting to changes with how the government wants local government to provide services. There have been two different governments during this planning period, and some significant decisions are currently being reversed.
- 3 Infrastructure investment** - Some of our key assets are reaching the end of their life, and we need to invest more to keep them up to scratch, and to provide services safely to the community.
- 4 Roding network focus** - Roads remain a big focus. We'll spend more to maintain and improve them to a level that our residents expect. Due to our extensive and ageing roading network, this will come at a cost.
- 5 Water services improvements** - We'll continue work to improve our water services by replacing ageing pipes and upgrading both drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment systems to meet higher standards.
- 6 Long term focus** - Over the next 10 years, we'll continue to focus on important issues, such as handling district growth, adapting to climate change, meeting higher regulatory standards and building a more resilient district. All of this is aimed at achieving our vision for Ashburton: The district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity.
- 7 New green waste service** - We'll introduce a food waste collection service as government has required us to do. Additionally, we're proposing to introduce a more extensive kerbside collection service for green waste, to meet resident demand and to help cut down material going to landfill.
- 8 Enhancing recreational services** - We're tackling some challenges in our recreational areas, by proposing to add courts to the EA Networks Centre stadium, deciding the future of the Balmoral Hall and figuring out whether refurbishing the Tinwald Pool or providing other water leisure options would be better.
- 9 The future of stockwater** - There's a big decision to make around our future role in stockwater, with Council proposing to stop providing the service in three years.
- 10 Continued service delivery** - We'll keep delivering a whole heap of other services at the current standards, from the stunning Te Whare Whakare to approving building consents, upgrading parks, playgrounds and gardens, licensing food premises, providing district grants and maintaining cemeteries, just to name a few.
- 11 The cost of delivery** - Running a district doesn't come cheap. Much like many households in New Zealand, we're facing big increases to the costs of providing services. To meet these inflationary pressures and realise our plans for the district, overall rates are proposed to increase about 30% in the next three years, including inflation. It sounds a lot, but this translates to around an additional \$300 annually for an average Ashburton residential property.
- 12 Increasing debt** - Under this Long Term Plan, we'll take on more debt. While debt needs to be managed carefully, it's often considered fair to borrow for building things that last for a long time, as it spreads the cost across the generations of people who will benefit.

So, this is where we've got to! What do you think?
Read through this document and give us your views.



ItsOurPlace.nz





for our future

Our Place | Our Plan

What decisions do we need to make?

He aha kā whakatau nui kai mua i te aroaro?

The feedback we received during early engagement shows that you share our vision for making Ashburton District the place of choice for lifestyle and opportunity.

However, we can't do everything! It would be unaffordable and we don't have the capacity to deliver every project on our wish list.

For this reason, we have to carefully prioritise and decide which projects we progress over the coming years and which can be left for a later time.

Our initial focus is on getting the basics right. For many in our community, this means improvements to our roads and other essential infrastructure. To read more about this, check out the Infrastructure Strategy.

The following pages provide detailed information about some of our key projects, including cost estimates and their potential impact on rates.

We want to hear whether you support the priorities and preferred options proposed in this plan.

What's a preferred option?

As part of developing the Long Term Plan, Council have considered different choices related to these five key decisions.



The option that Council currently favours is called the '**preferred option**'. The costs of this option are included in the Long Term Plan budget. We're seeking feedback on all these options.

Following public feedback on the draft Long Term Plan or if we learn new information, Council may change its preferred option. So, it's important we hear your views on each of these key decisions.

Key decision 1:

What should our
kerbside green waste
collection look like?

*Kia pēhea kā riteka o te kohika
taparori o te para tipu?*

OPTION 1

**Introduce a green waste
collection service**

OPTION 2

**Only provide the mandatory
food waste service**

Have your
Say!



The key decision for this issue is whether we should only introduce the mandatory kerbside food waste collection service or a full kerbside green waste service.

Background

We currently lack a Council-provided kerbside collection service for green waste. The Government has mandated the introduction of a food waste collection by 2027, with our plan to begin this service in September 2026, aligned with the start of a new waste management contract.

While we must start collecting food waste, feedback from previous consultations and our Annual Residents' Survey shows that the community desires a more comprehensive green kerbside service which would also collect organic waste, like garden and lawn clippings.

Did you know?

Around 43% of what we currently collect in rubbish bins consists of organic and green waste.

How would the services work?

Option 1: With the full kerbside green waste service, each property would get a 240-litre wheelie bin – the size of your yellow bin – for both your kitchen scraps and other green waste. This bin would be emptied weekly.

Option 2: With the mandatory food waste only collection, each household will get a small 23-litre bin just for food scraps. This small bin would be emptied weekly.

For both options the collected waste would be taken to the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park, and then sent to a plant in Canterbury for composting.

You cannot opt out of whichever service is finally agreed. If your property already gets kerbside collection, you'll get the food waste collection service and be charged. If the full kerbside green waste collection was approved, you would receive this service. Under both scenarios, your regular red bin for general rubbish would still be collected every week.



Funding a new service

We can secure a grant from the government's Waste Minimisation Fund to help implement kerbside collection for both options. This funding would help cover the capital costs of establishing the service – such as the purchase of the new kerbside bins and construction of a storage bunker at the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park.

It's important to note that the ongoing costs of collecting and transporting both food and green waste are higher than collecting just food waste alone. However, encouraging everyone to use green bins for organic waste instead of their red bins, will mean some cost savings from less organic waste going to landfill.

“

We need to meet national environmental standards for collecting food waste, and this is a great opportunity to think about whether we should go one step further and collect green waste as well.



Lynette Lovett
Councillor - Eastern Ward

What are the options?

OPTION 1

Introduce a green waste collection service

This service would provide a 240-litre wheelie bin for green organic waste and food waste, collected weekly.

Collection of the organic waste would begin in September 2026.

✓ Green organic waste and food waste

✓ 240-litre

✓ Collected weekly

✓ September 2026



OUR
PREFERRED
OPTION



What's the impact?



RATES:

\$72

This is the extra charge included in the targeted rates for refuse collection, that is paid each year by those who get the service.



CAPITAL
COST:

\$1.66 million

We expect to get a subsidy from the Waste Minimisation Fund of around \$918,000 to cover the capital costs of the scheme. The remainder would be funded through loans.



OPERATING
COST:

\$1.24 million
annually

Operating costs would be covered through increased targeted rates for waste collection and savings from less refuse collected.



DEBT:

\$742,000

- ✓ Provides the level of service the community has been asking for.
- ✓ Simpler collection service than food only waste.
- ✓ A higher diversion rate of green organic waste going to landfill.
- ✓ Environmental benefit of diverting green waste from landfill where it produces methane.
- ✓ Meets our legal obligations.
- ✗ More expensive annual cost than the food waste only collection.

OPTION 2**Only provide the mandatory food waste service**

We are required by Government to provide a food waste collection service. This service would provide a small 23-litre bin for food waste only, collected weekly.

- ✓ Food waste
- ✓ **23-litre**
- ✓ Collected weekly
- ✓ September 2026

**What's the impact?****RATES:****\$35**

This is the extra charge included in the targeted rates for refuse collection, that is paid each year by those who get the service.

**CAPITAL COST:****\$764,000**

We expect to get a subsidy from the Waste Minimisation Fund of around \$458,000 to cover the capital costs of the scheme. The remainder would be funded through loans.

**OPERATING COST:****\$524,000**
annually

Operating costs would be covered through increased targeted rates for waste collection and savings from less refuse collected.

**DEBT:****\$306,000**

- ✓ Meets our legal obligations.
- ✓ Smaller rates increase for this service.
- ✗ No additional diversion of organic waste from landfill.
- ✗ Does not meet the requests of the community.
- ✗ Bins when full might be heavy to carry, prone to tipping in strong winds, and appealing to cats and dogs.
- ✗ More expensive option per tonne of green organic waste collected.
- ✗ Less environmental benefits when green organic waste continues to be added to the landfill.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

Key decision 2:

If we invest in **water-based leisure**, where should it be?

Ki te haumi mātau ki kā mahi rēhia i te wai, me tū ki kea?

- OPTION 1** Refurbishing Tinwald Pool
- OPTION 2** Creating a new waterplay area at Ashburton Domain
- OPTION 3** **Building an outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre**
- OPTION 4** Building a hydroslide at EA Networks Centre
- OPTION 5** Do nothing

Have your
Say!



The key decision for this issue is about determining our spending priority for approximately \$3 million on water-based leisure.

Background

In response to ongoing requests from the community, there are four water-based leisure projects that have been proposed. Except for the hydroslide (\$3-4 million), each is priced at about \$3 million. Although we'd like to do all of them, we can't afford it.

All options are loan funded, meaning it would be considered an investment and the money would not go to another (*non-waterplay related*) project if we decide to not do any of the proposed projects. We'd like to know which project you prefer for us to proceed with or, if you don't want us to do any of the options at all.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz



What is happening with the Tinwald Pool?

We decided not to open the Tinwald Pool for the 2023/24 summer due to significant water leaks, low visitation, staff shortages, and increased operational costs. We recently received a petition from community members with 872 signatures from people based locally and overseas, requesting the pool to be saved.

There are two significant challenges associated with retaining the pool. Firstly, the pool has reached the end of its useful life and a significant upgrade is required to get it back in use. It has been leaking around 17,000 litres per day from unknown locations when full, and the water treatment and circulation equipment is not expected to last another season, nor does it meet New Zealand swimming pool standards. A fix would require a full replacement of pipework and plant, at a cost of around \$3M, excluding improvements to changing rooms, entrances or other lifeguard facilities.

Secondly, operating and staffing the pool is more expensive compared to other facilities. As a satellite pool, Tinwald Pool requires more staff to safely operate, and recruiting lifeguard staff is increasingly challenging. During its busiest season in recent times (2020/21, around 3,050 users), the pool ran at a \$66,000 loss, equating to a cost to the ratepayer of around \$18 per swimmer for that season. Since that time patronage has reduced. While for all pools, including the EA Networks Centre, it is challenging to meet costs, the difficult combination of issues at Tinwald Pool mean Council is considering what represents the best long-term solution for the wider Ashburton community. Aquatic facilities are important community facilities, and we want to ensure the money is spent wisely.

Because of these issues and the urgent need for upgrades, if this option isn't chosen, the pool will be permanently closed and alternative uses for the site will be investigated.

Why is a new paddling pool one of the options?

The Ashburton Domain paddling pool is an older asset and we've had lots of requests for an upgrade recently.

This is a project in the Ashburton Domain Development Plan, adopted in 2020, to relocate the paddling pool next to the children's playground and add a water splash deck.

We also need a spot to house new water treatment equipment in the Ashburton Domain. The building by the paddling pool, which currently houses the filtration equipment and public toilets, is one potential site. If we use this site, new toilets and an equipment shed would need to be built and it makes sense to time the move of the paddling pool with the construction of this needed item.

If this option isn't chosen, the current paddling pool can be used in the short to medium term and a new toilet block and equipment shed will be built near the existing pool.

We might revisit this project in future, but there would be no plans included in the next 10 years.



Going outdoors at EA Networks Centre

Building an outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre was investigated due to the community's desire to retain an outdoor pool with a relaxed picnic space within Ashburton.

Being a new construction, the pool's features, depth and surrounding landscaping are only limited by available funding. This project emerged as Council's preferred option due to lower annual operating costs when compared to the Tinwald outdoor pool.

This pool project has several operational staffing efficiencies (*approximately one less staff member*), increased projected revenue and provides customers with higher quality amenities like changing rooms, accessibility, a café, along with several other heated pools. Our Recreation Facility Utilisation Study last year has shown that the swim school at EA Networks Centre is at capacity, and another pool could help ease this issue.

As this project has been included within the draft **EA Networks Centre Masterplan**, it does not stop future aquatic development at EA Networks Centre. Therefore, a hydroslide or additional indoor pool complex could still be added in the future.

The case for a hydroslide

In 2015, we consulted on a hydroslide at EA Networks Centre and received considerable community feedback.

At the time we decided not to continue with this project, however, since then we have continued to receive requests from the community for a hydroslide.

During pre-engagement on our draft Long Term Plan we received comments requesting a hydroslide, as well as frequent comments requesting more entertainment for youth and teenagers.

Compared with the other projects, a hydroslide operates year-round and will generate extra income through user fees. Council could also consider entering into a joint venture to offer the service with lower financial investment.

What are the options?

OPTION 1

Refurbishing Tinwald Pool

The Tinwald Pool would be repaired and relined with a full replacement of piping and plant. The rebuild only improves the pool itself, no work is included in the budget to improve the changing rooms, entrance and lifeguard facilities.

Like with all renovation projects, there are likely to be unknown costs associated with this project.

If this option isn't chosen, the pool will be permanently closed and an alternative use for the site investigated.



What's the impact?



RATES:

Approximately extra \$26 per UAGC¹ from Year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.



CAPITAL COST:

\$3.025 million

(loan funded)



OPERATING COST:

\$480,000

Approximately net costs of \$480,000 from Year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.



DEBT:

Would increase by \$3.025 million (Year 1-\$155k/ Year 2 a further \$2.87 million)

1. What's the UAGC?

Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) – is a fixed rate set on every property, meaning it is a charge that is the same for all ratepayers (regardless of capital value or location).



Tinwald Pool is retained for use by locals.



Responds to the requests of some in the community.



Provides an alternative urban pool option when EA Networks Centre is closed for maintenance.



Public swimming options (*in summer*) are offered in different locations in Ashburton District.



Some income generated by pool entrance fees.



High investment to repair with similar to what is there now.



High investment for a small number of users.



Likely to be used predominantly by Ashburton residents but paid for by ratepayers across the district (*like the EA Networks Centre*).



Highest operating costs per opening hours of all the options.



Would not solve the Swim School capacity issue at EA Networks Centre.



Would not solve the lifeguard shortage issue.

OPTION 2

Creating a new waterplay area at Ashburton Domain

The children's paddling pool in the Ashburton Domain would be replaced with a new waterplay and paddling pool facility. This would sit in a new location alongside the children's playground area.

The project would include a new paddling pool, a splash deck, and other waterplay features.

If this option isn't chosen, the current paddling pool will be able to be used in the short to medium term.



What's the impact?



RATES:

Approximately extra \$25 per UAGC from Year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.



CAPITAL COST:

\$3.025 million
(loan funded)



OPERATING COST:

Approximately net costs of \$451,000 from Year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.



DEBT:

Would increase by \$3.025 million (Year 1-\$155k/ Year 2 a further \$2.87 million).



Got questions?
Check out the FAQ at

ItsOurPlace.nz

- ✓ Remains a free activity and therefore has fewer barriers to use than the other options.
- ✓ Does not require lifeguards and is not restricted by opening hours.
- ✓ Enhances current paddling pool offering to also include a splash deck and other water activities.
- ✓ Able to be modernised and future-proofed due to relocating rather than upgrading.
- ✓ Aligns with the Ashburton Domain Development Plan and current Long Term Plan 2021-31.
- ✓ Responds to the requests of the community for an upgraded paddling pool at the Ashburton Domain.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed permanently.
- ✗ Does not appeal to a broader age range.
- ✗ May be deemed unnecessary given the current paddling pool could continue to operate in the short-medium term with a new building that houses the filtration equipment, which is already budgeted for.

OPTION 3

OUR
PREFERRED
OPTION

Building an outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre

An enclosed and landscaped area with an outdoor pool would be built at EA Networks Centre. The pool would likely include an integrated child splash area/beach entry, as well as outdoor spaces to relax.

Co-locating the outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre will make lifeguarding the pool easier than at Tinwald. It is envisioned that the lifeguards would rotate through the area.



Concept image for illustrative purposes only

What's the impact?



RATES:

Approximately an extra \$25 per UAGC from Year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.



CAPITAL COST:

\$3.025 million

(loan funded)



OPERATING COST:

Approximately net costs of \$451,000 from Year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period



DEBT:

Would increase by \$3.025 million (Year 1-\$155k/Year 2 a further \$2.87M)

- ✓ Greater opening hours than the Tinwald Pool due to greater flexibility with utilising lifeguards at EA Networks Centre.
- ✓ Lower operating costs than Tinwald Pool in relation to opening hours due to fewer lifeguards required.
- ✓ Would be built to modern pool design and standards.
- ✓ Customers would be able to utilise other EA Networks Centre facilities.
- ✓ Provides an alternative pool option when the indoor pool is closed for maintenance.
- ✓ Some income generated by pool entrance fees.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed permanently.
- ✗ Upgrading of the Ashburton Domain paddling pool area not currently included in this Long Term Plan, but could be reviewed in three years.
- ✗ May be seen as an extravagant option given there are several outdoor community pools across the district already.

OPTION 4

Building a hydroslide at EA Networks Centre

A hydroslide would be added to the current indoor pool at the EA Networks Centre. Initially one slide would be built with a further slide able to be added later.



What's the impact?



RATES:

Approximately extra \$22 per UAGC from year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period (lowest rate due to highest expected income)



CAPITAL COST:

\$3.5 million
(loan funded)



OPERATING COST:

Approximately net costs of \$403,000 from year 3 slowly decreasing over a 20-year period



DEBT:

Would increase by \$3.5 Million (Year 1-2)

- ✓ Available for use all year round.
- ✓ Meets the requests for more activities for teenagers within the district.
- ✓ Will generate additional income as the users would pay an additional cost.
- ✓ Council could enter into a joint venture and save costs and have a renewed slide after 20 years.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed permanently.
- ✗ Upgrading of the Ashburton Domain paddling pool area not currently included in this Long Term Plan, but could be reviewed in three years.
- ✗ Depending on the design, this option may not be able to be used by young children (e.g. under 5s).
- ✗ Depending on design features, this option may be the most expensive option (\$3.5 million) but could be subject to a cost lowering joint venture agreement with a specialist hydroslide company if desired.

OPTION 5**Do nothing (status quo)**

This is the status quo option.

No investment in these projects would happen in the next 10 years.

“

Each option has pros and cons to weigh up, and it's worth taking the time to get this decision right as it will affect all ratepayers over the next 20 years.

Leen Braam
Councillor - Ashburton Ward

**What's the impact?****RATES:****\$0****CAPITAL COST:****\$0****OPERATING COST:**

Minimal costs to keep current paddling pool in the domain operating.

**DEBT:****\$0**

- ✓ Costs would be minimal.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed permanently.
- ✗ Upgrading of the Ashburton Domain paddling pool area not currently included in this Long Term Plan, but could be reviewed in three years.
- ✗ Does not meet the requests of the community for more options for teenage entertainment, an upgraded paddling pool, nor the request to save the Tinwald Pool.
- ✗ Does not help to solve the swim school capacity issues at EA Networks Centre.
- ✗ Outdoor water leisure options would be limited to township outdoor pools across the district during summer.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

Key decision 3:

What should we do with **Balmoral Hall** and the old **Polytech land**?

Me aha te Hōro Balmoral me te whenua Kuratini o mua?

OPTION 1

Retain and repair Balmoral Hall and the Polytech site

OPTION 2

Sell both sites

OPTION 3

Demolish or relocate buildings and redevelop the site

Have your
Say!



The key decision for this issue is what Council should do with the existing Balmoral Hall and old Polytech land located in central Ashburton.

Background

Currently, the Council owns the Balmoral Hall and the old Polytech site on Cameron Street, Ashburton.

Balmoral Hall is not classified as a heritage building but was built in 1936 and has been used by many generations and people since.

Balmoral Hall needs significant repairs – it has watertightness issues, unsuitable heating, and inadequate kitchen and bathroom facilities. Originally, we allocated around \$480,000 in the current Annual Plan (2023/24) for these upgrades, but a recent estimate put the costs at around \$1.3 million. This excludes any ongoing operational costs.

Further investigation of the work Balmoral Hall needs triggered the requirements of a building consent. As this is a public building, it is subject to additional requirements including fire protection systems, having the right ratio of sanitary fixtures, and accessibility. This is where the additional work, and costs, have arisen from.

The hall is underutilised, and due to its layout, can only be booked by one group at a time.

On the Polytech site, the main classroom is outdated and is possibly past the end of its useful life.



Maintaining and operating both sites is expensive, and the income received doesn't currently cover the costs. We expect that in time the income will reduce further, partly because some users are unwilling to pay higher fees. Currently, we charge \$25/ hour for hall hire, up to a maximum of \$150/day.

	2022/23 Income	2022/23 Expenditure
Balmoral Hall	\$11,445	\$44,733
Polytech Site	\$30,597	\$48,172

“

It's a tough decision, but it comes down to balancing the community value of these buildings against their need for significant investment.

*Russell Ellis
Councillor - Ashburton Ward*



What are the options?

OPTION 1

Retain and repair Balmoral Hall and the Polytech site

Balmoral Hall would be repaired and retained for its current use. This would include making the building watertight and fit for purpose.

The Polytech land would also be retained and continue to be leased until a clear future for the site is determined. Some deferred maintenance would need to be funded in the short term, but the exact cost is yet to be determined.

It's important to note we do not see any benefit in retaining the hall if the repairs and maintenance are not carried out.



What's the impact?



RATES:

Approximately an extra \$1.89 per \$100,000 capital value from Year 1 slowly decreasing over a 10-year period. Funding for repairs and maintenance and ongoing operational costs (*currently \$45,000 per annum*) would mostly come from the general rate, with the balance coming from the fees and charges paid by users.



CAPITAL COST:

Estimated at \$1.3 million (*this excludes any ongoing operational costs*).



OPERATING COST:

Approximately net costs of \$388,000 from Year 1 slowly decreasing over a 10-year period to repay the loan.



DEBT:

Would increase by at least \$1.3 million

- ✓ Community assets retained for use by community groups.

Balmoral Hall

- ✗ Increase in budget required, with no real improvement to the level of service the hall provides.
- ✗ Unlikely to see an increase in use or income following refurbishments.
- ✗ Current groups using the hall are unwilling or unable to pay more if fees were increased proportionally to repair costs.
- ✗ General ratepayers would be subsidising the operating costs of Balmoral Hall for the facility users.

Polytech site

- ✗ Funds will need to be committed to undertake deferred maintenance.
- ✗ Long-term use will need to be found and the site redeveloped to suit.

OPTION 2**Sell both sites****OUR
PREFERRED
OPTION**

The Balmoral Hall and Polytech site would both be sold 'as is where is'. The capital value for Balmoral Hall is \$1.007 million and Polytech is \$1.45 million.

There is a plan to construct a multi-use studio at the EA Networks Centre to meet dance community needs.

See page 29 for more information.

**What's the impact?****RATES:****\$0****CAPITAL
COST:**

There would be a commission on the sale of the sites, which would come from the revenue received. No cost to the ratepayer.

**OPERATING
COST:**

Nil

**DEBT:**

Overall debt would reduce as Council have previously indicated the sale proceeds would be used to offset debt incurred by construction of Te Whare Whakare.

- ✓ Sale proceeds used to offset debt incurred by construction of Te Whare Whakare (*library and civic centre*).
- ✓ Repairs and maintenance budget no longer required for Balmoral Hall or the Polytech land.
- ✓ A modern dance studio at EA Networks Centre would likely be available to replace the sprung floor being lost at Balmoral Hall.
- ✗ It is likely that the hall and main Polytech classroom would be demolished by the purchaser, so community groups are likely to lose their current facilities.
- ✗ The dance studio proposed at EA Networks Centre would be smaller and more expensive to hire than the current space at Balmoral Hall.
- ✗ Heritage groups are unlikely to agree with selling Balmoral Hall.



*Got questions?
Check out the FAQ at*

ItsOurPlace.nz

OPTION 3**Demolish or relocate buildings and redevelop the site**

Both Balmoral Hall and the Polytech site would be cleared. Some buildings on the Polytech site would be relocated. The main two-storey classroom building on the Polytech Land and Balmoral Hall would be demolished, and the sites redeveloped.

At this stage, there are no specific plans for what the redevelopment would include, and the associated budget would need approval later.

There is a plan to construct a multi-use studio at the EA Networks Centre to meet dance community needs.

See the facing page for more information.

What's the impact?**RATES:**

Approximately an extra \$3.07 per 100,000 capital value for Year 1.

**CAPITAL COST:**

Costs for redevelopment would likely be funded through debt. These are unknown and would need to be approved through a future Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.

**OPERATING COST:**

Demolition costs: \$180,000 for Balmoral Hall; \$450,000 for Polytech buildings.

**DEBT:**

Redevelopment would be funded through debt, repaid from the general rate. The amount of debt is unknown at this time.



Likely to create income from the redevelopment.



A modern dance studio at EA Networks Centre would likely be available to replace the sprung floor being lost at Balmoral Hall.



Heritage groups are unlikely to agree with demolishing Balmoral Hall.



Loss of community assets used by community groups.



The dance studio proposed at EA Networks Centre would be smaller and more expensive to hire than the current space at Balmoral Hall.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz



Polytech land

Balmoral Hall

EA Networks Centre Internal Building Changes and Multi-Use studio

The sprung floor at Balmoral Hall is a unique aspect to the hall and is sought after by dance groups. If the hall is sold or demolished, to address the needs of the dance community, construction of a multi-use dance studio is proposed as part of internal building changes planned for the EA Networks Centre in Year 1 of the Long Term Plan.

This studio would have a 100m² floor space, which is smaller than the current floor space at Balmoral Hall. It is likely that the cost to hire this would increase. The total cost of this project (including the dance studio) is \$325,000 which would be funded through debt. The effect of the total project would add around \$8 annually to the UAGC from Year 2.

If the hall was retained, it would be likely that the multi-use studio was not included as part of the project.



Key decision 4:

Should we get out of providing **stockwater**?

*Me mutu rānei tā mātau
whakarato wai kararehe?*

OPTION 1

Stay and invest

OPTION 2

Maintain with a closure
programme over time

OPTION 3

**Exit the stockwater
service by 30 June 2027**

Have your
Say!



The key decision for this issue is whether Council should remain involved in the delivery of stockwater in the future.

Background

We currently operate a stockwater network made up of around 1,600km of channels and related infrastructure to provide water for livestock. About 1,000 properties pay specific rates for the service, and all ratepayers contribute a small amount. These channels are mostly manmade, but some are natural waterways or fed by springs under the Canterbury Plains.

The service is mostly used to provide water for animals, but there are also other benefits such as supporting biodiversity, providing food sources (*mahika kai*), land drainage, and contributing to community amenities (e.g. *supplying water to the Ashburton Domain ponds*).

Over the past two decades, some races have been closed, reducing the network from around 4,000km to its current size. Closure requests are regularly received, and we believe that it's because landowners either don't use the service or have switched to different, more efficient services, like piped irrigation.



Challenges facing the stockwater service

Inefficient water delivery

The stockwater network is an inefficient method of delivering water for livestock to farms. The service relies on having sufficient water in the system to keep the water flowing. This means farms closer to the coast can face water shortages, especially during summer. Channels need regular maintenance such as removing weeds and obstructions and significant water is also lost to ground seepage. During summer, water sources often dry up, meaning we can't always guarantee the service. There are other, more modern ways for properties to get water.

Ageing infrastructure and increased maintenance

Maintaining the system is getting costlier because the infrastructure is ageing and needs replacement. Many components, related to the channels (e.g. *gates, pipes, pumps*) will need replacing over the next few decades. Severe weather events also damage the channels and

stockwater infrastructure. Running the stockwater service costs a lot, around \$1.3 million annually to maintain and keep it working. Looking ahead, we'll need significant funding to upgrade the network, address other issues and maintain the current level of service.

Increased environmental requirements

Meeting new environmental requirements will add extra cost to ensure the system is viable in the future. This includes the installation of fish screens on some intakes to meet these new standards.

Funding the service

If you have a stockwater channel on or alongside your property, you have to pay for it, whether you actually use it or not. A lot of people who pay for this service don't use it because they've found more efficient ways to get water, like through other irrigation schemes. As stockwater races are closed, there will be fewer people left to contribute and pay for the service.

What are the options?

OPTION 1

Stay and invest

We would continue to provide the service, based on the current operation. However, investment would be required to upgrade our ageing assets so that the system remains viable in the future.

We would need to install fish screens on key locations as required under the Canterbury Regional Land and Water Plan. This would be a significant expense for Council.

We would introduce a fairer way to pay for this service, including the community contributing more through the general rate than what is currently charged.

Under this option, closures would only be user-driven.

What's the impact?



RATES:

It varies for individual properties that pay for the service. There is a proposal to increase the minimum charge to \$700 in this Long Term Plan. All ratepayers contribute a small portion through the general rate.



CAPITAL COST:

Unknown.



OPERATING COST:

\$1.28-\$1.32 million
annually + inflation



DEBT:

Unknown, depending on capital expenditure needed.

- ✓ Current users would continue to receive this service.
- ✓ Biodiversity and community benefits from the stockwater system would be maintained.
- ✗ High investment required to maintain levels of service for a relatively small number of users.
- ✗ Still an inefficient approach to delivering water for agricultural purposes.

“

Stockwater transformed the Mid Canterbury Plains, but with the ageing network in its twilight, we have to consider its function in our future.

*Richard Wilson
Councillor - Eastern Ward*



OPTION 2**Maintain with a closure programme over time**

We would continue to provide the service, based on the current operation. However, investment would be minimal, and assets that fail would not be replaced. Fish screens would be considered, where they were necessary.

We would introduce a fairer way of funding this service, including a small community contribution through the general rate.

**What's the impact?****RATES:**

It varies for individual properties that pay for the service. There is a proposal to increase the minimum charge to \$700 in this Long Term Plan. All ratepayers contribute a small portion through the general rate.

**CAPITAL COST:**

Unknown.

**OPERATING COST:**

\$1.28-\$1.32 million
annually + inflation

**DEBT:**

Unknown, depending on capital expenditure needed.

- ✓ Current users would continue to receive this service.
- ✓ Biodiversity and community benefits from the stockwater system would be maintained.
- ✗ Still an inefficient approach to delivering water for agricultural purposes.
- ✗ No active investment may compromise the future of the system.
- ✗ No planned approach to decommission the system would lead to poorer outcomes.
- ✗ Current users would bear the burden of the scheme.
- ✗ Less certainty for current users.



*Got questions?
Check out the FAQ at*

ItsOurPlace.nz

OPTION 3

OUR
PREFERRED
OPTIONExit the stockwater
service by 30 June 2027

We would stop providing stockwater by 1 July 2027. However, we'll still look after specific races that cannot be closed, like natural watercourses, those that are spring-fed, or those that have community or ecological benefits.

Investment would be minimal and assets that fail would not be replaced. We would not actively build fish screens.

We would develop an active closure programme with targets. The timeframe allows current users of the stockwater to arrange alternative plans.

We would introduce a fairer way of funding until we have exited this service. From 1 July 2027, the general rate would likely cover the remaining system.

What's the impact?



RATES:

It varies for individual properties that pay for the service. There is a proposal to increase the minimum charge to \$700 in this Long Term Plan. Under this option, all ratepayers would contribute a bit more through the general rate to fund work needed to exit the service.

CAPITAL
COST:

Unknown.

OPERATING
COST:

\$1.45-\$1.48 million until Year 3 + inflation. Additional cost of \$175,000 annually is to pay for the work needed to exit the service.



DEBT:

\$0

- ✓ Current users would continue to receive this service until closure.
- ✓ Biodiversity and community benefits from the stockwater system would be maintained before and after exit.
- ✓ Water would be better managed.
- ✗ Some customers may not want their race closed or may not have an alternative source of stockwater.
- ✗ May be a need to collect more money from the general ratepayer.

Some community and biodiversity benefits from stockwater will continue to be maintained under all the options proposed.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz



Key decision 5:

Should we extend the
EA Networks Centre
stadium?

*Me whakawhānui rānei te
taiwhaka EA Networks Centre?*

OPTION 1

Two court extension

OPTION 2

Three court extension

OPTION 3

Do nothing

Have your
Say!



The key decision for this issue is whether Council should extend the EA Networks Centre stadium.

Background

The EA Networks Centre (EANC) stadium currently has four indoor courts and two outdoor courts. At peak times, our stadium is at capacity, and we don't have enough courts to meet current demand. We're proposing to extend the stadium to provide more indoor courts, starting in 2028/29 with an estimated cost of \$23.7 million.

Once a final decision on the stadium size is known, initial scoping and build methodology would be finalised. This could result in a lower project cost. However, at this stage a traditional design and build method has been costed.



Why should we extend the stadium?

Last year we completed a study to assess the use of recreational facilities across the district. This study showed that the EA Networks Centre stadium is experiencing a high level of usage. While it's pleasing to see a community asset so well supported, it's also leading to capacity challenges.

During peak times (5pm-9pm) in winter, occupancy reaches 96% on weekdays and 70% on Saturdays. Bookings surged from 3,116 hours in 2021/22 to 4,209 hours in 2022/23 and projections indicate that demand for the facility will only keep growing.

Compounding the issue is the increasing number of sporting groups who struggle to get sufficient court time. Expanding the stadium will help address these issues, give more sporting groups a chance to meet their needs and allow for district growth. Increased capacity will also help attract regional and national sporting events and tournaments to the centre that provide an economic benefit to the district.

What's proposed?

Council's preferred option is for a three-court extension, starting 2028/29 and taking two years to complete, with the expanded stadium opening in 2031. It's expected this would cost around \$23.7M (including inflation) which would be loan funded and paid back over time through rates and increased user fees.

Proposed EA Networks Centre Masterplan

The expansion of the stadium is one of the projects included in the Draft EA Networks Centre Masterplan, which outlines our long-term vision for the development of EA Networks Centre and its surrounding land.



We want to hear what you think about this plan, so please take a moment to check it out and share your views at the link below (*note that this is a separate consultation from the Long Term Plan*)



View the consultation document for the Draft EA Networks Masterplan at

ItsOurPlace.nz

What are the options?

OPTION 1

Two court extension

Two new courts would be added to the stadium. Planning and design is proposed for 2028/29, and construction would happen between 2029 and 2031.

This option includes additional spectator seating, storage and alternative entrances to enable two separate smaller events to occur at once. Alternative flooring options will be explored for use to make it more versatile and suitable for other non-sporting purposes.



What's the impact?



RATES:

Approximately extra \$21 per UAGC from Year 6, peaking at \$81 in Year 8 and then reducing over time for 40 years.



CAPITAL COST:

\$16.4 million

(Years 5-7)



OPERATING COST:

\$382,000

in Year 6, peaking at \$1.56million in Year 8.



DEBT:

Would increase by \$16.4 million (Years 5-7)



Goes some way to meeting the community requirements.



Consistent response to the findings of the Recreation Facilities Utilisation Study.



Unlikely to address all capacity issues for sporting groups seeking court space.



Will not address short-term capacity issues over the next five years.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

OPTION 2**OUR
PREFERRED
OPTION****Three court extension**

Three new courts would be added to the stadium. Planning and design is proposed for 2028/29, and construction would happen between 2029 and 2031.

This option includes incorporating three multipurpose courts, repurposing the existing concertina seating for a more suitable area, and building an area for play (e.g. *inbuilt trampoline, foam pit, climbing area*).

We are exploring alternative flooring options to enable other events such as expos, prizegivings and others. The extension would be a separated area, allowing other activities to continue in the existing stadium without disruption.

The new area would be identified as the event/show court area with seating for up to 1500 people, including a mezzanine viewing area and provision for TV cameras. Conversations with major sporting organisations have confirmed that three courts would offer EA Networks Centre the ability to host a numerous national and regional sporting events, delivering significant economic benefits to the community.

What's the impact?**RATES:**

Approximately extra \$31 per UAGC from Year 6, peaking at \$117 in Year 8 and then reducing over time for 40 years.

**CAPITAL
COST:****\$23.7 million**

(Years 5-7) (includes inflation)

**OPERATING
COST:****\$552,000**

in Year 6, peaking at \$2.248 million in Year 8.

**DEBT:**

Would increase by \$23.7 million (Years 5-7)

- ✓ Meets the demand we are seeing for stadium space and future-proofs for additional growth.
- ✓ Potential economic benefit.
- ✓ Consistent response to the findings of the Recreation Facilities Utilisation Study.
- ✓ Maximises the EA Networks Centre site.
- ✗ This is the most expensive option.
- ✗ Will not address short-term capacity issues over the next five years.



Concept image for illustrative purposes only

OPTION 3**Do nothing**

This is the status quo option.

No extension of the stadium would happen in the next 10 years. We would continue to manage the use of the stadium within the current capacity. However, we could revisit this project in future.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

What's the impact?

RATES:

\$0



CAPITAL COST:

\$0



OPERATING COST:

\$0



DEBT:

\$0

- ✓ Requires no additional funding.
- ✗ Participation in sport would be restricted to current levels.
- ✗ No wider opportunities to expand use of the stadium could be taken up.
- ✗ This would be inconsistent with the findings of the Recreation Facilities Utilisation Study which was an action in the *Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2022*.

“

It's exciting that sport based at the stadium is flourishing in our district, but it also presents us a challenge - how do we keep up with the growth?

Phill Hooper
Councillor - Ashburton Ward



Draft EA Networks Centre & Surrounding Land

30 Year Masterplan

Have your
Say!

Concept image for illustrative purposes only

The EA Networks Centre is a \$35 million council-community project, initiated in 2007, opening its doors in May 2015. The centre is 100% owned and operated by Council. It features four indoor pools, four indoor courts, two outdoor courts and a fully equipped fitness centre.

We know this asset is valued by the community, it contributes to our wellbeing and it provides significant economic benefit for our district when larger events are held. The initial site selection, building design and subsequent land purchases by Council were made with an eye to the future, envisioning a larger sporting hub.

As a result, we have prepared a 30-year Masterplan for the development of the Centre and surrounding land. This reflects various conversations with users and stakeholders over the last few years. It outlines a potential roadmap for the next 30 years for development that could occur to provide our community greater play, active recreation and

sporting opportunities based at the centre and on the surrounding Council land. The plan will help us to maximise the space available, aims to prevent ad hoc, unplanned development and ensure that future development is supported by the community it serves.

As part of this Long Term Plan, we're asking your views on two of the projects, the potential for a stadium extension and an outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre, because we believe it's important to consider this development in the next 10 years.

We don't know the full cost of the plan, nor are most of the projects included as part of this Long

Term Plan. If the plan gets support, the projects will be considered in future, with more chances for the community to have your say.

Head over to ***ItsOurPlace.nz*** to give your view on the proposed Masterplan.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

What else is a priority? | *He aha atu anō hai whakaarotau?*

Increasing our investment in roading

Te whakarahi i tā mātau haumitaka ki kā huanui

Roads are a core service provided by Council. Despite significant ongoing expenditure and effort, community feedback indicates increasing dissatisfaction with the state of the roading network.

Several factors have contributed to the deteriorating condition of our roads including age of the roading network, increased traffic volumes, heavier commercial and farming vehicles, and insufficient investment over many years. Most roads were not originally constructed or designed to cope with this load, which means some sections need significant upgrading. Compounding these challenges are the increasing cost of road maintenance (such as materials and contract costs) and the impact of extreme weather events.

To address these concerns, we are proposing a substantial increase to our roading budget. Over the next three years, we plan to invest a total of \$32M; an increase of 24% on year one to offset some of these rising costs and carry out routine maintenance and necessary upgrades. This will assist us to maintain our current level of service. This proposed budget increase will impact rates, accounting for around 4.2% of the overall proposed rate rise in 2024/25.



we plan to invest

\$32M

over the next
three years



↑ increase

24%

on year one

What does 'levels of service' mean?

A level of service is a measurable description of a service being provided (or intended to be provided) by Council



Construction costs have skyrocketed, so we need to boost our spending on roading if we want our network in good shape.

*Rob Mackle
Councillor - Western Ward*





What about the second Ashburton River bridge?

Ka pēhea te arawhiti tuarua i Hakatere Awa?

A new bridge over the Ashburton River bridge is expected to be built in the next three years. The new government have indicated this is a top priority and they plan to cover most of the construction costs. While this is yet to be formally confirmed, Council is confident that this funding and support will be finalised. In the Canterbury Regional Transport Plan, the bridge is the top priority.

Council have maintained \$7.5 million in funding we included in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. The whole project, including connecting the bridge to existing roads, is expected to cost at least \$113M (*plus inflation*). We have budgeted for construction to start in 2025/26 on the Chalmers Road route, east of the current State Highway 1 bridge.

expected to cost
\$113M
 plus inflation



“

The Government has made a second bridge for Ashburton a priority and we've put aside \$7.5 million as our contribution. We're hopeful to see construction start soon.

*Tony Todd
 Councillor - Ashburton Ward*



Upgrading our water services infrastructure

Te whakapai ake i tā mātau tūāhaka
Ratoka Wai

Water services include providing drinking water, managing wastewater and handling stormwater, essential services you rely on daily.

The recent change in government has reversed previous proposals for the delivery of these services, keeping them under the control of Council. At this point, we are uncertain how this may change in future. In the meantime, Council will continue to upgrade these services:



Drinking Water

We'll keep making progress on complying with new drinking water standards through upgrading existing water supplies, replacing ageing pipes and other infrastructure, and reducing water wastage.



Wastewater

We'll focus on meeting compliance with resource consents, replacing old pipes and infrastructure, and addressing wastewater sludge.



Stormwater

We'll roll out improvements to stormwater management to enhance the quality of stormwater entering waterways.

Developing and maintaining our parks

Te whakawhanake me te tiaki i ō tātau pāka

Numerous initiatives to progress the Ashburton Domain Development Plan are included in the plan.

This key district space will see new pathways installed, playground upgrades, trail development, waterway enhancements and lighting improvements. However, the proposed Walnut Avenue promenade, relocation of the main entrance and upgrade to the central hub have been dropped from this Long Term Plan.

Several projects are planned across other parks, reserves and sportsgrounds across the district, including upgrading playgrounds, resealing pathways, replacing park bridges and improving signage. Carpark improvements are also planned for Argyle Park in Ashburton.



Our parks and reserves help make our district a great place to live and I believe we need to keep investing in them for the future.

Liz McMillan
Deputy Mayor



Upgrading our district's recreational facilities

Te whakapai ake i kā whaitua rēhia i te rohe

Over the next decade, several key district facilities will undergo upgrades.

At the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum, a full refresh of the permanent museum display is planned, starting in 2029. For the EA Networks Centre, an internal reconfiguration is planned to improve the use of the building (with the possible inclusion of a multi-use studio). An upgrade to the EA Networks Centre roading entrance is also planned, along with ongoing expenditure to maintain and enhance the facility.

We have 16 reserve boards and four memorial hall boards overseeing a number of important community facilities throughout the district (*including recreation reserves and domains, community and memorial halls*). Over the next 10 years we will focus on ensuring we understand the usage and patronage of these facilities and establish regular maintenance schedules and plans.

This will support current and future volunteers to prioritise upgrades and projects. This includes the Rakaia Memorial Hall earthquake strengthening project, which is currently being scoped and investigated, with the goal of having a proposal to discuss with the community in 2024/25.

Delivering on our strategic intentions

Te whakatutuki i ā mātau takune rautaki

We have several strategies which aim to enhance the wellbeing of our communities in different ways.

These include the Economic Development Strategy, Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy, Surface Water Strategy, Walking and Cycling Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy.










This Long Term Plan recognises key projects and priorities from these strategies, including:

- ✓ Increasing the budget for district promotion by \$50,000 from Year 1
- ✓ Developing a business case for the 'District Learning Hub' at a cost of \$50,000 in Year 2
- ✓ Installing Welcome to Ashburton signage - \$161,000 in Year 4
- ✓ Addressing our contribution to climate change \$50,000 from Year 1
- ✓ Continuing to enhance walking and cycling networks \$400,000 from Year 1
- ✓ Installing festive lighting in Ashburton for \$98,400 in Year 5

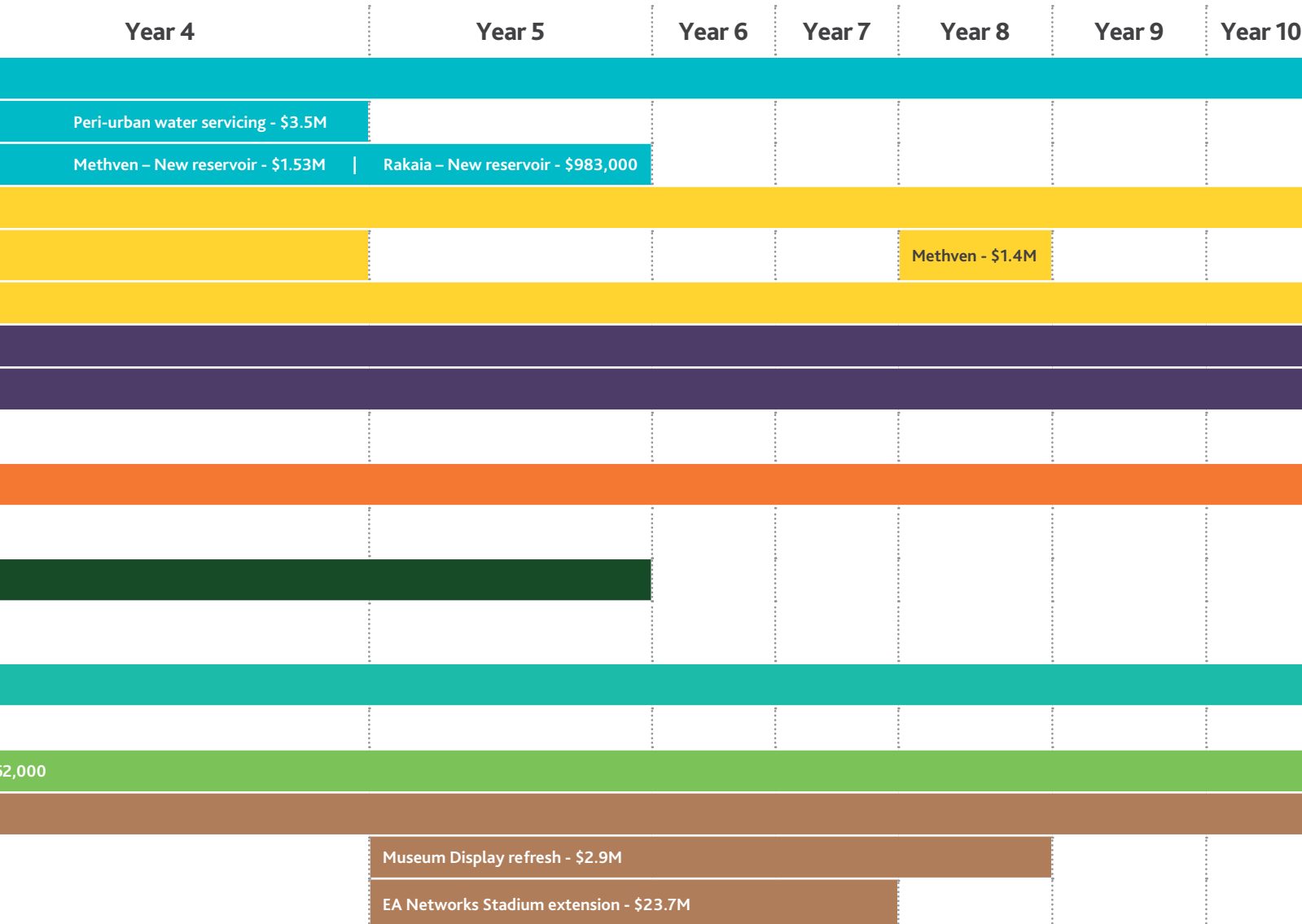


What else are we planning over the next 10 years?

He aha anō kā mahere kai tua, i kā tau tekau e heke mai nei?

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
 Drinking Water	Drinking Water network renewals (district-wide) - \$33.9M		
	UV Treatment upgrades/project (Ashburton, Rakaia, Chertsey, Mayfield, Fairton) - \$10.9M	Mount Somers - additional source investigation - \$92,250	
 Wastewater	Ashburton wastewater renewals and upgrades - \$22.6M		
	Ashburton Wastewater – Grit Chamber - \$7M		Desludging – Ashburton - \$7.7M
 Stormwater	Methven wastewater renewals - \$4.58M Rakaia wastewater renewals - \$513,000		
	Ashburton Stormwater capital upgrades - \$25M		
 Transportation	Unsealed roads metalling - \$13.8M Sealed roads upgrading - resealing and reconstruction - \$67.6M		
	Second Ashburton River bridge - \$117M (\$7.5M Council contribution)		
 Waste Reduction and Recovery	Local Road Improvements - \$16.5M		
		Green waste kerbside collection introduction - \$1.66M	
 Economic Development and Commercial Activities	Ashburton Landfill - Southwest slope strengthening - \$1.17M		
	Northeast industrial park - Ashburton Business Estate Stage 3 - \$5.5M		
 Community Services	District wide Public Toilet upgrades - \$5.17M Elderly Persons Housing upgrades and rebuilds - \$1.67M		
	Elderly Housing – Demolition and Rebuild of Friendship Lane units - \$3.2M		
 Parks and Open Spaces	Ashburton Domain Development Plan projects - \$3.74M Methven parks and open space projects - \$578,500 Rakaia parks and open space projects - \$56		
	Library Books and Materials new items - \$1.9M		
 Recreation Facilities	EA Networks Building changes - \$325,000		
	Water-based leisure - \$3.025M		

The graphic shows some of the projects planned for the Ashburton District over the 10 years of the plan. More information can be found on ***ItsOurPlace.nz***



The following projects haven't been included in the Long Term Plan

Equally as hard as choosing what to prioritise is choosing what isn't a priority right now. Projects we're not planning to progress in the next 10 years include:

- Ashburton Domain projects – including the new entrance way, northern side promenade, and central hub
- Development of the northern sports fields at Argyle Park
- Upgrade to Balmoral Hall
- Rebuild of the Ashburton Resource Recovery Park Re-use Shop
- Redevelopment of Methven Transfer Station
- Online reporting system for monitoring Council performance
- Community booking system for community facilities and spaces

Shaping our tomorrow - Infrastructure Strategy

*Te tārai i āpōpō -
Rautaki Tūāhaka*

Our Infrastructure Strategy looks ahead 30 years and lays out the probable scenarios for managing our core infrastructure – roads, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. It also identifies key decisions we'll face as a community.

The strategy considers key factors like compliance with national and regional rules and regulations, planning for growth and demand, improving the resilience of infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change, and ensuring cost-effective improvements and upgrades over time.

In the Ashburton District, we look after a significant amount of infrastructure. If all our roads were connected end-to-end, they would span nearly twice the length of New Zealand.

We have good understanding of our infrastructure, constantly improving it as more information becomes available.



Drinking water



Ensuring safe and accessible, high quality drinking water is a primary responsibility of Council. Key issues that will impact on drinking water in the next 30 years include:

- Meeting stricter drinking water standards and regulations
- Ensuring we can meet demand by reducing water lost from the network
- Upgrading our ageing water network
- Exploring how we can use technology to enhance water delivery
- Continuing to improve our knowledge of water infrastructure

The strategy also outlines some of the key decisions for our drinking water services over the next 30 years. Some are part of this Long Term Plan, while others will be made in future years.

Decisions include:

- ✓ **Reticulation extensions** – deciding where and how our drinking water network should expand to reach properties not currently serviced.
- ✓ **Water meter installation** – installing water meters on our remaining schemes to better manage water demand. This will be used for detection of water leakages, not to charge for water.
- ✓ **Adjusting our renewal programme** – determining the pace at which we replace (*renew*) our drinking water assets (*e.g. pipes, pumps and equipment*).
- ✓ **Upgrading Montalto Water Supply** – deciding the approach to be taken to upgrading Montalto Water Supply to meet standards.
- ✓ **Water charging** – considering introducing a water charging system in the future.

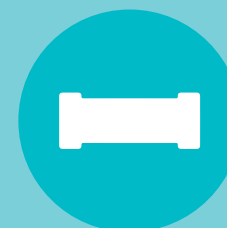
Key infrastructure at a glance



12
drinking water
schemes



14
water treatment
plants



520km
water mains

Wastewater



Ensuring safe, reliable and proper disposal of wastewater is another key responsibility of Council. Key issues affecting wastewater in the next 30 years include:

- 💧 Meeting stricter standards and regulations for wastewater treatment
- 💧 Reducing the impact of stormwater and groundwater infiltrating our wastewater network
- 💧 Dealing with wastewater sludge and ensuring proper disposal
- 💧 Upgrading our ageing wastewater network
- 💧 Continuous improvement in our understanding of wastewater infrastructure
- 💧 Enhancing the cost-effectiveness of running our wastewater infrastructure, such as improving energy efficiency

The strategy also outlines some of the key decisions for our wastewater services over the next 30 years. Some are part of this Long Term Plan, while others will be made in future years. Decisions include:

- ✓ **Adjusting our renewal programme** – determining the pace at which we replace or renew our wastewater assets (*e.g. pipes, pumps and equipment*)
- ✓ **Upgrading the Ocean Farm wastewater disposal irrigation system**– deciding how we upgrade Ocean Farm irrigation to meet consent requirements
- ✓ **Approach to renewing consents** – assessing any future treatment requirements to meet the conditions of future consents

Key infrastructure at a glance



3
wastewater
treatment plants



18
wastewater
pumping stations



202km
of wastewater
mains

Stormwater

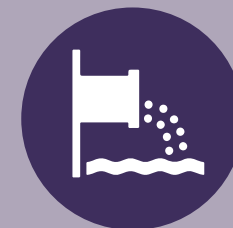


Stormwater involves collecting, conveying, treating and disposing of excess water. Key issues impacting stormwater in the next 30 years include:

- 💧 Meeting stricter treatment requirements for disposal of stormwater
- 💧 Formalising resource consents for stormwater disposal and treatment to improve the quality of stormwater entering waterways
- 💧 Improving stormwater disposal in Ashburton due to new bridge construction

The strategy also outlines some of the key decisions for our stormwater services over the next 30 years. Some are part of this Long Term Plan, while others will be made in future years. One such decision is determining our approach to land drainage associated with stockwater as a result of exiting the stockwater service.

Key infrastructure at a glance



42km
of stormwater
mains







7.5ha
of stormwater
basins

Transportation



Ensuring a safe, efficient, and fit-for-purpose transport system is critical to the district's economy and for people to travel easily. There are diverse expectations from various users, ranging from drivers of large tractors to kids scootering to school or parents taking their children to sports.

The plan includes a \$2.7M per year increase in road funding for 2024-27. Key issues affecting our transportation network over the next 30 years are:

-  Upgrading an ageing roading network, some of which is not suitable for today's traffic
-  Addressing an historic backlog of work affected by significant cost escalation
-  Improving road drainage across a flat landscape to prolong road life, exacerbated by increasing heavy rain events
-  Ensuring improving connectivity between Ashburton and Tinwald through the construction of a new bridge



Providing a network that accommodates the needs of various users, including cyclists and walkers

The strategy also outlines some of the key decisions for our transportation activity over the next 30 years. Some are part of this Long Term Plan, while others will be made in future years. Decisions include:

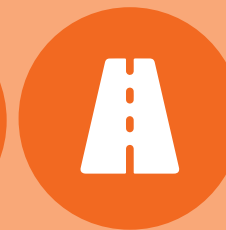


Implementing and funding Ashburton – Tinwald connectivity – building the new Ashburton bridge is a key focus of the Council



Affordably maintaining and improving our roading network – determining how we can meet community expectations for roads, while ensuring affordability.

Key infrastructure at a glance



2,623km
of sealed and unsealed roading



257km
footpaths



188
bridges



10,440
signs

Setting our financial future - Financial Strategy

Te haka Pae Tawhiti Ahumoni - Rautaki Ahumoni

Our Financial Strategy outlines how we plan to handle our finances over the next 10 years, addressing financial challenges and their impacts.

Council remains in a strong financial position with a Fitch Credit rating of AA+ since 2019. The main aim of our Strategy is "to ensure Council remains financially stable, while financing key priorities". To do this, we'll spend wisely to provide our services, accommodate growth and manage our key assets well.

Various issues will impact our finances over the next 10 years, including legislative change, compliance, building district resilience, population and land use changes, and national and global financial trends.

The strategy details what we'll spend and how we'll cover those expenses, along with an overview of Council borrowing and investments. It also outlines some key limits that Council is required to set under law.

The infographic gives some key summary financial numbers for this Long Term Plan.

Over the Life of this plan



We are budgeting to spend

\$1.07B

on running our district



Rates will fund the costs of

\$721M

of running our district.
The rest is funded through fees
and other sources



We'll spend around

\$457M

on replacing and
renewing assets



The rates increase for
2024/25 is forecast to be

9.9%



Our average rates increase over
the full 10 years will be

6.47%

annually, peaking at 11.1% in
2025/26

Debt will peak at

\$197M

in 2029/30

Dropping to

\$151M

by 2033/34

Even at peak debt in 2029/30,
we will have room to borrow

\$138M

if we have to

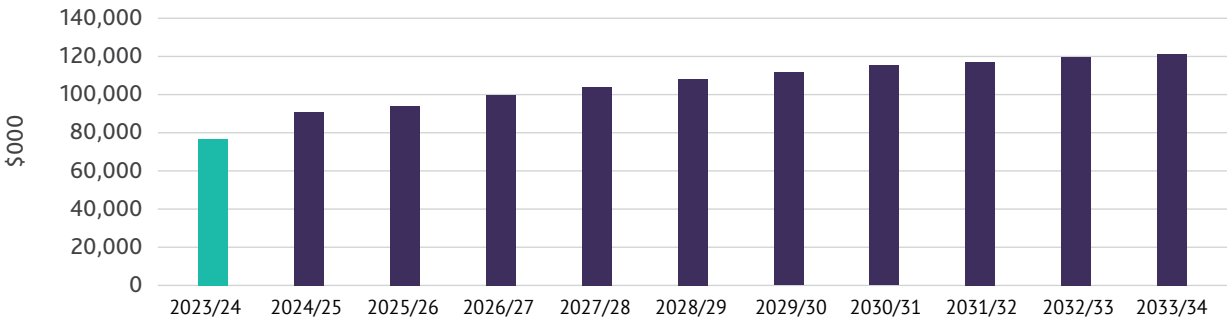
What we'll spend

In simple terms, our day-to-day spending to maintain services (*i.e. operating expenditure*) will increase from \$76M to \$121M between June 2024 and June 2034 (*taking inflation into account*). The money we invest in rebuilding roads, replacing pipes and refurbishing or building facilities (*i.e. capital expenditure*) will fluctuate between \$26M and \$94M throughout the 10 year period.

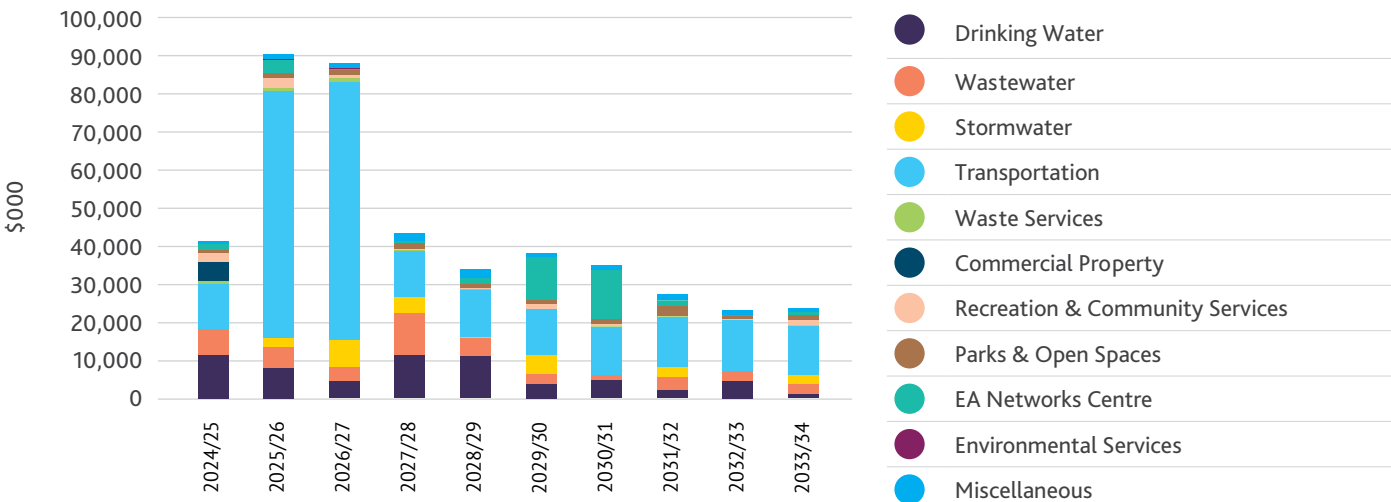
You can see these spending trends in the graphs showing expenditure over time. In the capital expenditure graph, this includes expenditure on construction of the second Ashburton River bridge in Years 2 and 3, which is expected to be mostly funded by central government and the EA Networks stadium extension in Year 6 and 7.

For 2024/25, all financial statements have been prepared using 2024 dollars. Price adjustments for inflation have then been included in all financial statements for the following nine years.

Operating expenditure
Current year and 10 year budget projections



Our capital programme
2024/25 - 2033/34



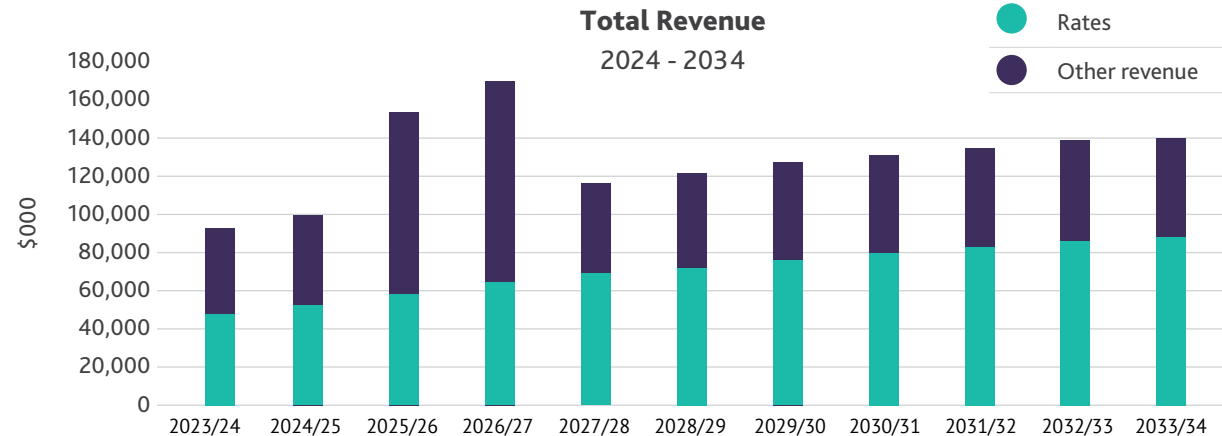
How we'll pay for it

Council will use a combination of income sources over the 10 years, including rates, fees and charges and government subsidies (e.g. *NZTA Waka Kotahi roading subsidies*). Additional income will come from investments and loans to fund various projects and initiatives.

Rates are a major funding source, covering around 50-63% of our total budget annually. Over the life of the Long Term Plan, we are proposing an overall increase in rates of around 65% or around \$41M. For 2024/25, the total amount of money we're proposing to collect from rates is \$51.5M (an increase of 9.9% (\$4.6M) over 2023/24).

The graph shows where the money will come from over the 10 years. Other sources of income include fees and charges, subsidies and grants and investment income (e.g. *dividends*). Council have used some funding from reserves and other sources to reduce the rate impact in the first three years of the Long Term Plan. You can see details of how this change affects various property types in the Ashburton District under the *What's happening to my rates – Proposed 2024/25* section.

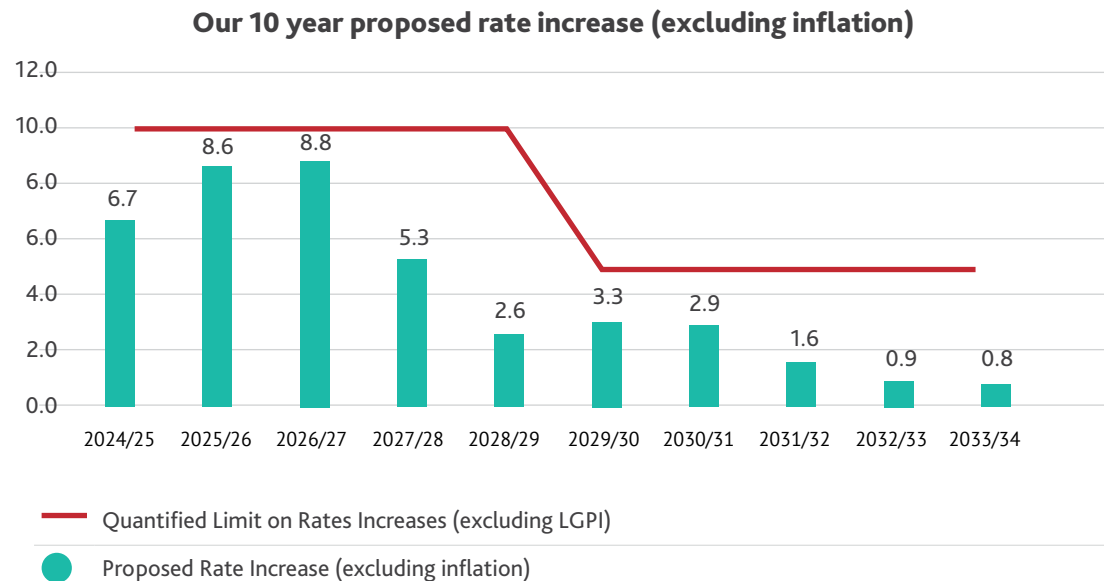
The Local Government Price Index or LGPI is effectively, the inflation rate for councils. It is a value that is calculated specifically for us, based on the price of items that councils use, such as bitumen and civil contracting services. The amount that affects your rates bill, is the rates increase plus LGPI.



As part of the Financial Strategy, Council has set rates limits as required by law. These are proposed at:

- 2024/25 - 2028/29 - Total rates increase to be no greater than 10%, exclusive of LGPI each year.
- 2029/30 – 2033/34 - Total rates increase to be no greater than 5%, exclusive of LGPI each year.

The graph below shows the proposed rates forecast in the Long Term Plan against these proposed rates limits.

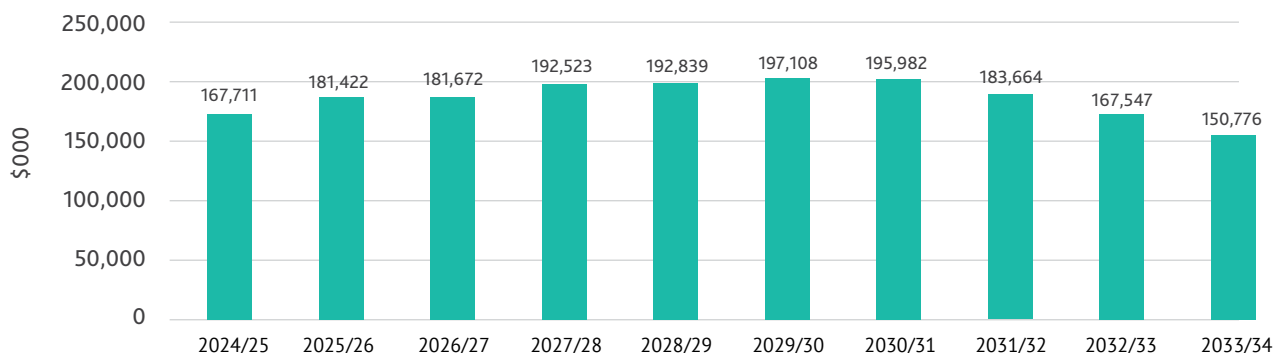


How much will Council borrow?

Just as you would get a loan for your family home, we use loans to build or renew our infrastructure. Borrowing allows us to spread the cost of a project across multiple generations who benefit from it. Charging ratepayers the entire cost of a project in the year it is built wouldn't be fair or affordable. This principle is known as intergenerational equity, ensuring fairness in sharing the costs and benefits across different generations.

Going into the Long Term Plan 2024/34 period, Council has \$153 million of debt. Over the life of the Long Term Plan, this is projected to peak at \$197M, which represents around 20% of the total assets owned by Council. By the end of the Long Term Plan period, debt is forecast to be \$151M which equates to roughly \$3,900 per resident in the district.

Total external debt
10 Year budget projections



We're proposing some changes to how we rate for some activities in our Revenue and Financing Policy. There are also changes proposed to fees. See later in this document for more information.

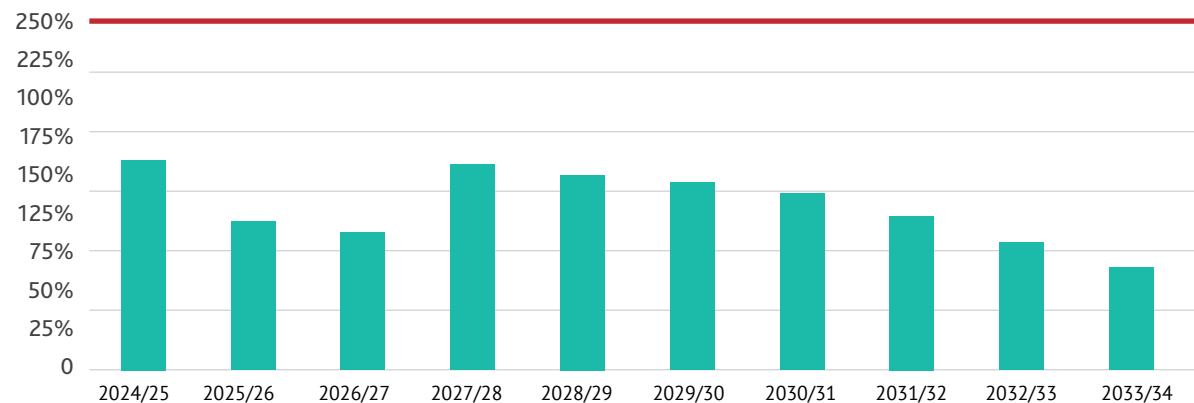


As part of the Financial Strategy, Council have set debt limits as required by law. These are proposed as:

- Net interest payments to service external debt must be less than 20% of our total revenue *(excluding vested assets, infrastructure revaluations and other gains)*.
- Net interest payments to service external debt must be less than 25% of total rates for the year.
- Net debt shall not exceed 250% of total revenue.
- Council must maintain access to liquidity of not less than 110% of projected core debt.

The graph shows the projected debt forecast in the Long Term Plan compared against one of our key debt limits.

Net Debt as a Percentage of Total Revenue



“

Our Council is in strong financial shape, but we still need to be prudent about how we manage the books. We plan to reduce Council debt over the 10-year term of this LTP.

Neil Brown
Mayor



More information

This is just a summary.
You can view our full draft
Financial Strategy at

ItsOurPlace.nz

What's happening to my rates | *Kai te ahatia āhaku tāke kaunihera?*

Over the next 10 years we are proposing a rates increase of an average 6.47% each year. This revenue will cover the costs of our budget, pay back debt, and store some away for future renewals (also called depreciation).

It doesn't mean everyone's rates will increase by this amount though.

In 2021, rates revaluations were completed for all properties in our district. These valuations consider the trends in market value for properties and provide us with the land and capital values that we calculate your rates on.

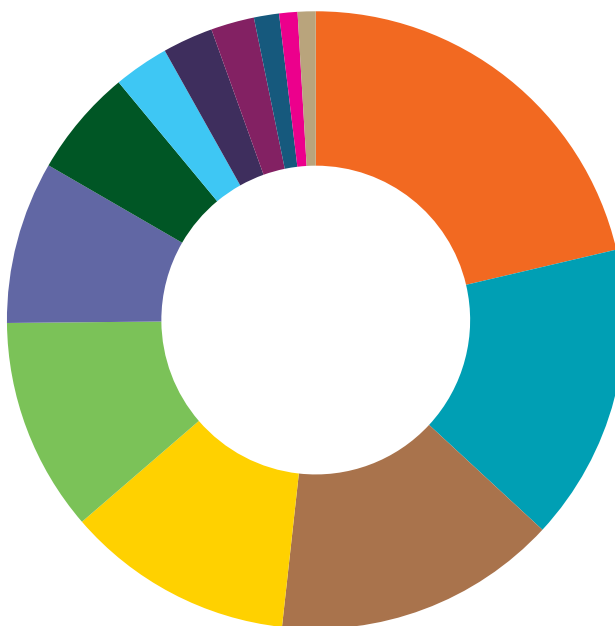
The graph shows on average how much a property will pay towards Council services. This will differ according to the factors in the box below, but provides a rough breakdown of what your rates go towards.

Everyone's rates are different. How much you pay depends on:

- where you live
- changes to the capital value of your property
- the type of property you have (e.g. rural or residential)
- the services your property receives (e.g. drinking water, kerbside rubbish collection)

For 2024/25, our activities will cost an average household

\$61.60 each week



Activity	\$
Roads & Footpaths (Transportation)	\$13.15
Drinking Water	\$9.58
Recreation Facilities	\$9.16
Wastewater	\$7.35
Parks & Open Spaces	\$6.89
Democracy	\$5.24
Waste Reduction & Recovery	\$3.47
Community Services	\$1.78
Stormwater	\$1.63
Stockwater	\$1.40
Economic Development	\$0.81
Regulatory Services	\$0.59
Miscellaneous	\$0.58



Proposed rate changes | *He marohi panoni uturēti*

The examples included below represent the proposed increase for the average capital value for each property category.

Ashburton residential		Ashburton commercial		Ashburton commercial (inner CBD)		Chertsey	
Increase in Year 1: \$288.49 (10.06%) An extra \$5.55 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$327.41 (6.90%) An extra \$6.30 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$523.08 (9.67%) An extra \$10.06 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$189.98 (10.38%) An extra \$3.65 per week in 2024/25	
2021 average capital value	\$441,000	2021 average capital value	\$1,248,433	2021 average capital value	\$1,279,986	2021 average capital value	\$289,603
Current rates	\$2,866.33	Current rates	\$4,742.53	Current rates	\$5,409.91	Current rates	\$1,829.83
Proposed rates 2024/25	\$3,154.82	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$5,069.94	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$5,932.99	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$2,019.81
Proposed rates 2025/26	\$3,501.25	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$5,536.40	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$6,392.58	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$2,281.07
Proposed rates 2026/27	\$3,895.78	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$6,188.04	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$6,955.23	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$2,513.50

Rakaia residential		Rakaia commercial		Methven residential		Methven commercial	
Increase in Year 1: \$249.32 (9.42%) An extra \$4.79 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$305.01 (8.05%) An extra \$5.87 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$358.85 (12.48%) An extra \$6.90 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$480.19 (11.86%) An extra \$9.23 per week in 2024/25	
2021 average capital value	\$366,390	2021 average capital value	\$977,225	2021 average capital value	\$435,400	2021 average capital value	\$961,713
Current rates	\$2,646.41	Current rates	\$3,788.53	Current rates	\$2,876.37	Current rates	\$4,050.31
Proposed rates 2024/25	\$2,895.73	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$4,093.54	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$3,235.22	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$4,530.50
Proposed rates 2025/26	\$3,196.59	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$4,428.38	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$3,560.82	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$4,903.30
Proposed rates 2026/27	\$3,503.86	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$4,817.37	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$3,877.97	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$5,284.53

Dromore		Fairton		Hakatere		Hinds	
Increase in Year 1: \$324.78 (2.99%) An extra \$6.25 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$190.29 (10.26%) An extra \$3.66 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$209.36 (13.91%) An extra \$4.03 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$163.52 (8.70%) An extra \$3.14 per week in 2024/25	
2021 average capital value	\$10,726,184	2021 average capital value	\$317,516	2021 average capital value	\$233,440	2021 average capital value	\$273,307
Current rates	\$10,864.66	Current rates	\$1,854.73	Current rates	\$1,505.13	Current rates	\$1,879.02
Proposed rates 2024/25	\$11,189.44	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$2,045.02	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$1,714.49	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$2,042.54
Proposed rates 2025/26	\$12,592.43	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$2,309.34	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$1,963.27	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$2,302.82
Proposed rates 2026/27	\$14,208.51	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$2,545.72	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$2,099.89	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$2,534.32

Lake Hood		Mayfield		Mount Somers		Rural	
Increase in Year 1: \$299.49 (8.71%) An extra \$5.76 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$190.22 (10.29%) An extra \$3.66 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$190.22 (10.26%) An extra \$3.66 per week in 2024/25		Increase in Year 1: \$176.89 (2.07%) An extra \$3.40 per week in 2024/25	
2021 average capital value	\$764,399	2021 average capital value	\$311,254	2021 average capital value	\$311,254	2021 average capital value	\$8,790,768
Current rates	\$3,436.80	Current rates	\$1,849.14	Current rates	1,849.14	Current rates	\$8,558.77
Proposed rates 2024/25	\$3,736.29	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$2,039.36	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$2,039.36	Proposed rates 2024/25	\$8,735.66
Proposed rates 2025/26	\$4,149.99	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$2,303.00	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$2,303.00	Proposed rates 2025/26	\$9,814.15
Proposed rates 2026/27	\$4,649.61	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$2,538.48	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$2,538.48	Proposed rates 2026/27	\$11,114.04

What's happening to fees 2024/25? | *Kai te ahatia kā utu?*



Proposed fee increases

Certain Council services are funded through fees and charges, such as using the EA Networks Centre, getting building consents, or applying for a liquor licence. To cover the costs of providing these services, most charges are proposed to increase by around 6% (compared to 2023/24 charges).

Some fees, specifically animal control and food licensing are proposed to increase by a higher amount – 7% and 12% annually over the next five years. This is proposed to ensure the users of these services are those paying for the costs of providing them. At present, the general ratepayer is contributing more than they should towards these services.

New membership structure for EA Networks Centre

We are proposing the introduction of a new fee structure for EA Networks Centre memberships to simplify the existing complicated system, increase use of the facilities and remove barriers to participating.

The new structure will offer a facility-wide membership only, with an adult membership at \$20.30 per week and \$17.30 for discounted memberships (*seniors, students, corporates and community services cardholders*). In addition, all members could receive a discount if they commit to a membership of six months or more.

Ashburton Airport charges

There have been discussions on the increase and composition of the aeronautical charges, including the proposal to change the previous “touch and go movements” charge into a ‘fixed wing training circuit’ charge, which will increase from \$3.00 per movement to \$10.00 per 20 minutes.



More information

You can read more about changes to fees and charges at

ItsOurPlace.nz



What else are we consulting on?

*He aha atu anō
kā kaupapa e
wānakahia ana?*

Long Term Plan Policy Reviews

*Kā arotake Kaupapahere mō te
Mahere Pae Tawhiti*

We're also seeking input on various policies and other information associated with the development of this Long Term Plan.

There are several other minor changes to consider as well. Some of these changes are to make the policies clear and more robust, whereas others are new proposals.



More information

The full draft policies can be found at

ItsOurPlace.nz



Rates Remission Policy

*(including remissions on Māori
freehold land)*

Enables Council to remit rates (*in part or in full*) under certain circumstances where it is fair and reasonable

Key changes proposed

- ✓ Excludes waste collection charges from remission
- ✓ Clarifies a section relating to Māori freehold land as required by law
- ✓ Clarifies our procedure for rates remission due to water leakage



Development and Financial Contributions Policy

Enables Council to recover a fair and proportionate share of the cost of providing capacity to cater for growth from people undertaking development.

Key changes proposed

- ✓ Updates the dollar value of development contributions to reflect changes to the historic and future cost of growth assets
- ✓ Introduces a new development contribution charge for the Mount Somers area
- ✓ Introduces a more flexible approach to development contributions for multi-unit residential development



Revenue and Financing Policy

Sets out how the community pays for Council activities and services.

Key changes proposed

- ✓ Stockwater - changes approach to funding stockwater management with a proposal to increase the minimum charge for stockwater from \$260 to \$700 to share costs more fairly
- ✓ Ashburton Airport – now treated as a separate activity to transparently reflect how it is funded
- ✓ Reserves and Campgrounds – now treated as a separate activity to transparently reflect how it is funded
- ✓ Cemeteries – changes funding split from 20-40% General Rate/60-80% Fees and charges, to 40-50% General Rate/50-60% Fees and charges to more accurately reflect how the activity is currently funded



Rates Postponement Policy (including postponement on Māori freehold land)

Enables residential ratepayers to seek postponement of rates for reasons of financial hardship.

Key changes proposed

- ✓ Requires applicants to apply for Government rates rebate where eligible
- ✓ Includes a section relating to Māori freehold land as required by law
- ✓ Requires applicants to pay the legal costs of registering, amending, or removing the statutory land charge which gives effect to the postponement



Community Engagement Policy

Policy aims to help us have the right conversations with the right people, at the right time. The policy sets out a framework for us to identify the level of significance attached to an issue, proposal or decision, and how we should be consulting with our community.

Key changes proposed

- ✓ Adds a new significance criteria to consider – called environmental/climate change impact – focused on whether the decision is environmentally sustainable, impacts climate change and is consistent with our Climate policy and plans
- ✓ Adds the following assets to our Strategic Assets schedule – EA Networks Centre, Te Whare Whakare and Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum
- ✓ Adds a new implementation section

Hearings and Deliberations

Following the consultation period there's an opportunity to talk about your submission to Council during the public hearings.

An interpreter for NZ Sign Language or Te Reo Māori can be provided on request, please contact submissions@adc.govt.nz

The public hearings are scheduled for 13-16 May.

The hearings are followed by Council deliberations when councillors will discuss all feedback provided by the community.

These are public events that you are welcome to join.

The Long Term Plan deliberations are scheduled in the week starting 20 May.

“

This is a chance to help shape the priorities for our district and we really want to hear from everyone.

Carolyn Cameron
Councillor - Ashburton Ward



Have your
Say!



Photo - Naylor Love / Johannes van Kan

Auditor's Report

Due to the recent change in government and repealed water reform legislation, Council has chosen not to have this consultation document fully reviewed by Audit New Zealand (*this has been approved by the Minister of Local Government*). The final Long Term Plan will be fully reviewed by Audit New Zealand.



*The easiest way
to provide your
feedback is online.*

*For more background information on
the topics in the Long Term Plan visit*

ItsOurPlace.nz

*Prefer paper? Call us on (03) 307 7700 to request a paper
feedback form and return it by:*



FREEPOST

Ashburton District Council
Freepost 230444
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740



ONLINE

[ItsOurPlace.nz](https://itsourplace.nz)



IN PERSON

Dropping it off at:
Ashburton District Council
2 Baring Square East



EMAIL

submissions@adc.govt.nz



ItsOurPlace.nz

DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

