

Mai i tō Koutou Koromatua

From your Mayor



First of all, I'd like to say thank you to our community for taking the time to kōrero with us about the future of our city. This is my first Long-term Plan as Mayor of Porirua City and I thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to be out and about talking to people about the things that matter most to them.

This year we received 388 formal submissions and 78 people presented to us in person. As Mayor, it was fantastic to hear from so many people who were as passionate about Porirua as I am. This year, we wanted more of our people, especially those who don't usually give us feedback, to have more of a voice in the decision making process.

With all your feedback in mind, we had to make some difficult decisions. This plan was always going to be a balancing act of trying to keep rates as low as possible but also making our city an even better place to live, work and raise a family, in line with what our residents have been telling us.

We decided to bring forward a few important projects – the Titahi Bay Shared Pathway and the various intersection upgrades to support growth and the expected increase of traffic flows once Transmission Gully Motorway opens. We did this because you told us that it was important that we got these projects underway as soon as possible.

As a Council we want to make sure our city is an affordable place to live and took into account the impacts of any rate increases on people living in Porirua. This is why we decided to push out balancing our budget for another year – lowering the average rate increase to 4.98%, rather than the 5.25% proposed.

So what's behind this increase? This amount is driven by a number of factors. The rates increase for our general operations sits at about 0.67 per cent, which is lower than inflation. However, the drive to balance the books by 2022/23 adds about 1.60 per cent and the cost of our continued investment in the city's core infrastructure adds a further 2.27 per cent. While these two latter costs push the rate increase up, they will ensure our city is well placed in the future.

We want to make sure our city is liveable for all families and also deliver some important projects that meet our diverse community's needs. When I look at our plans for the next 20 years, I am confident that we are growing Porirua into a city that we can be even prouder of.

Mike Tana
Mayor of Porirua City

Te Kaiwhakahaere Matua

From the Chief Executive



This Long-term Plan spans 20 years and is the Council's investment path to the future. Porirua is faced with many opportunities – we're enjoying residential growth, have a game-changing tourism product in the Porirua Adventure Park proposed for Rangituhi/Colonial Knob, and we're seeing some early benefits from the Government's investment in Transmission Gully Motorway, with businesses making the move to Porirua.

Alongside these opportunities we're facing challenges. We have a small ratepayer base and some infrastructure challenges including transport network issues, water issues as the Government moves to respond to the Havelock North contamination issues and wastewater and stormwater issues. We are also restructuring our finances to ensure we can operate our business as usual without borrowing money.

Our aspirations have been the same for a while now:

Growth – we want our city to grow, our people and businesses to prosper and to connect to the wider region.

Children and young people – our children and young people are at the heart of our city, we measure our success by theirs.

A great village and city experience – we value our villages and our city centre for their liveability and unique character.

A healthy and protected harbour – at the centre of our city are our two harbours, where we can gauge our environmental success and enjoy the benefits.

Balancing these aspirations against our limited purse has been a challenge. We need to embrace the future but be careful to invest wisely as our rates come from our hard working community.

So over the next 20 years we are planning to invest \$773 million to improve core infrastructure. This includes bringing forward \$18 million over the next

10 years to upgrade our stormwater, wastewater and water supply services and in later years our wastewater treatment plant. We also plan to invest \$4.5 million for some much needed intersection upgrades.

And of course we need to maintain the many other services that keep the city running – our regulatory services, maintaining our roading network, our sportsfields and recreation facilities, parks and gardens, our libraries and, of course Pātaka. They all contribute to making our city a great place to live.

As a result of our financial challenges we are deferring by a year the balancing of the budget – now timed for 2022/23.

We want to create the right environment for the future – and after many hours of careful deliberation, we think we've achieved that. Over the next 12 months we will be working to implement a programme of work to deliver to our Porirua community.

Wendy Walker
Chief Executive