

Let's koorero: what matters for our whaanau, whenua and whai rawa

Waikato District Council is starting work on its next 10-year plan, the Long Term Plan 2027–37. Before any decisions are made, we want to hear from our whaanau about what matters most.

The plan sets out what council will look after, build or fix over the next decade, and how rates will pay for it. It works a lot like a **whaanau budget**. Prices go up, costs change and needs shift, so every three years we sit down and look at it again.

This time the budget is tighter. Everything costs more, government funding for local roads hasn't kept up, and there's a limit on how much rates can rise. We can't do everything, so we need to know what matters most to you.

Marae have already shared some priorities with us, and they sit across three pou:

Whaanau

Keeping our people safe and connected

Safer roads near marae and koohanga reo; halls, playgrounds and reserves; being ready for emergencies, because marae are often first to open their doors.

Whenua

Caring for our land and water

Better flood protection; papakaainga so whaanau can live on their whenua; car parks and entranceways that make marae easier to reach.

Whai rawa

Building wellbeing for the long term

Keeping costs fair for whaanau; council and marae planning together for the long term, not one hui at a time.

What's missing?

This isn't only about the marae. It's about **your street, your neighbourhood and your whole community**, whether you rent or own. Renters pay rates through their rent, so we want to hear from everyone. That includes our rangatahi, who will live with these decisions the longest.

We're also proposing four goals for the district: services you can rely on; keeping things affordable; a council that's easy to deal with; and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, working with mana whenua so maatauranga Maaori and local identity shape our decisions. Have we got them right?

There's no draft plan yet. Right now we're listening. In March 2027 we'll come back with real options and costs for you to help decide on, and the final plan will be set in July 2027.

Come along and koorero with us

Toituu Marae Forum · Monday 28 September 2026, 6.00p

Council Chambers, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaaruawaahia

With Councillors Tilly Turner and Endine Dixon-Harris



SCAN TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Can't make it? Fill in the feedback form online at waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp, or email myvoice@waikatodc.govt.nz. Paper forms will also be available at the forum. There are no wrong answers, and one sentence is plenty.

Feedback closes at **5pm, Friday 9 October 2026**. Please share this with your whaanau. What you tell us is grouped by theme, not by name.

Ngaa mihi — we look forward to hearing from you.