

What matters here for our marae?

What matters here is what you tell us. Have your say.

Toituu hui • at Council

Monday 28 September 2026 • 6.00pm

Council chambers

With Councillors Tilly Turner and Endine Dixon-Harris

What is the Long Term Plan?

And where the Government's Head Start Pathway sits alongside it.

● It's a 10-year plan

Every three years we set out what council will do for the next decade — the services, the major projects, the budgets, and the rates that pay for them.

● It looks further than that

It carries a 30-year Infrastructure Strategy, because roads, bridges and pipes outlast any one plan.

● It isn't really a council document

It is the community's contract with council. Once it's adopted it drives what we do, and what we spend, for ten years.

● Which is why we're here tonight

This is the main chance you get to shape it. Once it's set, changing direction is much harder.

Head Start Pathway

What it is

The Government wants fewer, larger councils that do both the district and the regional council jobs. Head Start is the voluntary pathway that lets councils propose their own shape rather than have one handed to them.

It is the start of a conversation about amalgamation, not the end of one. If a new council does form, it would be from the 2028 local elections. If it doesn't, change still comes through the Government's backstop process after that. Either way, this plays out over the next two to five years.

Where we're at

- Community feedback closed on 14 July.
- In August, Council put forward a Western Waikato Unitary Authority proposal with Waipaa and South Waikato District Councils.
- It is with central government now. A decision is expected in 2027.

Nothing changes today. We still need a 10-year plan.

Proposed community outcomes

Together, these four outcomes describe the Waikato district we are working towards over the next 10 years.

01

Reliable essential services

We prioritise reliable, resilient, and high-quality core services that communities depend on every day, while enabling well-planned growth for current and future communities.

02

Affordable for our communities

We manage costs responsibly and ensure rates and funding approaches are fair, transparent, and sustainable.

03

A responsive and accountable council

We are transparent, easy to deal with, and accountable for how we deliver services and use public resources.

04

Strong partnerships and local identity

We honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi with mana whenua and work alongside our communities, agencies, and neighbours so that local identity, place-based values, and maatauranga Maaori shape our decisions and services.

Proposed, not settled — and much easier to change now than later. Please share your thoughts.

Where we're up to

The Long Term Plan takes about eighteen months to build. This is where tonight sits in that.

WE ARE HERE

1

Early 2026

Head Start Pathway

We asked for your feedback on the Government's Head Start Pathway for simplifying local government.

2

September – October 2026

What matters here?

Tonight. We come to you to hear what matters most for our marae communities.

3

October – December 2026

Building the options

We work through the budget and the trade-offs your feedback points to.

4

March 2027

Formal consultation

We come back with the real choices, what each one costs and ask you to decide with us.

5

July 2027

The plan is adopted

The 10-year plan is set, and we report back on what changed because of you.

Formal consultation is in March 2027. Tonight is not that — tonight is what shapes it.

What's changed for our marae communities since the last plan

Four things worth knowing before we ask you what matters.

● Water services have moved

Drinking water and wastewater are now with IAWAI – Flowing Waters, a company jointly owned by us and Hamilton City Council. You will be billed separately, like a power bill. Stormwater stays with council, and stays in your rates.

● Costs have risen faster than rates

Inflation hits what we buy the same way it hits your household — bitumen, pipes, insurance, wages. The same money does less than it used to.

● The road subsidy has been cut

Central government has reduced the subsidy it pays councils to maintain local roads. That is a national change, not a local one, and it means more of the cost falls to ratepayers.

● Rate capping is in play

There is a limit on how far rates can rise. That means real choices about what this plan can cover — which is exactly why we need to hear what matters most, not everything.

What we're hearing from our marae

These have already come up. What other priorities aren't on this list?

■ **Marae infrastructure**

Car park upgrades, entranceways and papakaainga.

■ **Road safety**

Speed limits around marae and koohanga reo.

■ **Water and flooding**

Stronger water infrastructure and better flood management.

■ **Civil defence**

Marae are often first to open in an emergency. Being ready for that matters.

■ **The working relationship**

Council and marae planning together for the long term, not one hui at a time.

And across the whole district

Roads

Central government has reduced the subsidy it pays councils to maintain local roads. More of that cost now sits with ratepayers.

Community facilities

Halls, playgrounds and reserves — what we can sustain, and how they are funded.

Growth and affordability

More people and more assets to look after, inside a tighter rates envelope.

So, what matters here?

What is the one thing you want Waikato District Council to get right for our marae communities over the next 10 years?

Questions to consider tonight:

Do the Toituu Marae priorities reflect the outcomes and initiatives we most want to see prioritised in the Long-Term Plan (LTP)

If not, what's missing?

Three ways to have your say

- **Talk to us tonight** At the tables, before, during or after the meeting.
- **Fill in a form** Paper forms are here tonight or fill one in online.
- **Email us** myvoice@waidc.govt.nz — [closing date to be confirmed]

What you say tonight is recorded by theme, not by name. We will report back to the Marae Forum with what we heard and what we're doing about it.

Ngaa mihi

Thank you for your time tonight, and for telling us what matters to our marae communities.

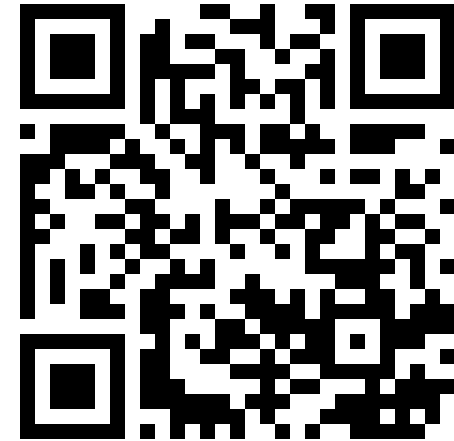
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Have your say

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