



Greater Wellington Regional Council

RATES NEWS 2011/12

KAPITI

Where do my rates go?

Transport

- Fund Metlink bus and train services
- Continue bringing the new Matangi passenger trains into service
- Review the public transport fare structure
- Promote road safety and sustainable transport choices
- Prepare the Regional Land Transport Programme

Safety and flood protection

- Maintain the Civil Defence emergency operations centre to be responsive to emergencies
- Inform residents about how to prepare for emergencies
- Begin flood protection works on the lower Waitohu Stream
- Finish edge-protection works on the Otaki River
- Manage navigation and safety in Wellington Harbour and clean-up oil spills

Resource management

- Process resource consents, conduct monitoring and enforcement, and respond to pollution incidents
- Monitor beaches and rivers over summer and report on suitability for swimming
- Consult with the community on developing our Regional Plan

Land management

- Work with the Kapiti Coast District Council to control pest plants, possums, rodents and other predators
- Advise landowners on soil erosion, biodiversity protection and riparian (stream-side) management
- Work with landowners in the Otaki and Waitohu catchments through the Streams Alive programme
- Control possums to manage bovine Tb (with the Animal Health Board) and improve biodiversity

Regional sustainable development

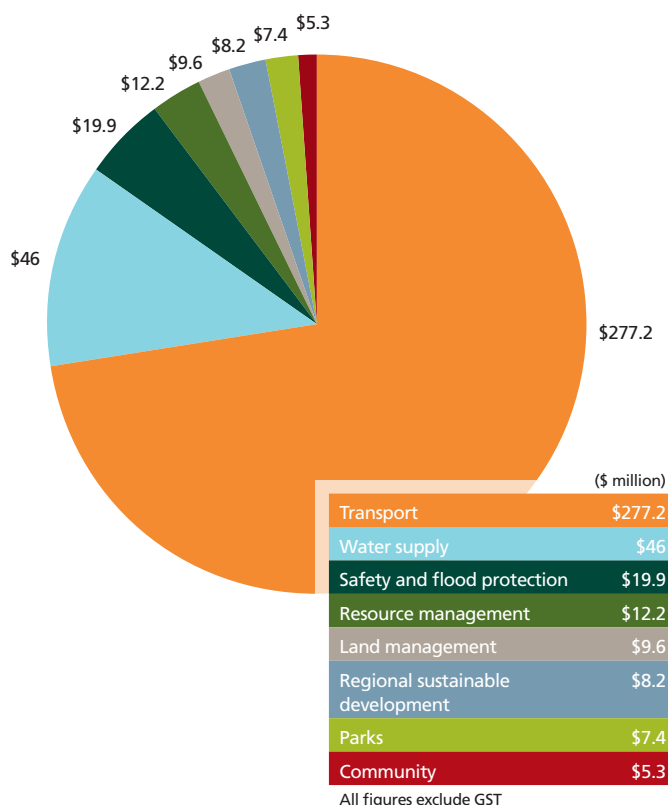
- Work with city and district councils to update the Wellington Regional Strategy
- Run the Warm Greater Wellington programme for home insulation and clean heating in association with EECA

Parks and forests

- Continue to manage our regional parks and forests, including Queen Elizabeth Park

Community

- Continue working with the mana whenua iwi (Greater Wellington's iwi partners) of the region
- Review the electoral system for Council elections
- Prepare Greater Wellington's 10-Year Plan 2012-22





Message from the Chair

With the continuing global recession we were very conscious this year of the need for prudence in our spending. However, we also have an imperative to invest in ailing infrastructure, with the top priority being upgrading the regional rail system.

With careful budgeting we tracked inflation to end up with an increase of 2.34% in rates income for everything except the rail package. However, the rail package is critical for the region and, after detailed negotiations with the Government, we agreed that both taxpayers and Wellington regional ratepayers would contribute to the next step of the rail upgrade. This package added a further 2.6% to this year's overall rates income. The payback for the Wellington region is the Government's undertaking to refurbish the 86 old Ganz Mavag cars (to supplement the 96 new Matangi trains) and fund long-delayed network renewals. This new package sits alongside previous Government funding for 90% of the new Matangi trains, together with a contribution to the track and station work to enable the new trains to run on the lines.

Other initiatives this year that are relevant to Kapiti include finishing edge-protection work on the Otaki River and beginning flood protection work on the lower Waitohu Stream, as well as working with landowners in those catchments through our Streams Alive programme.

"Business as usual" includes many other activities, such as managing our regional parks and forests (including Queen Elizabeth Park), continuing pest control in collaboration with the Kapiti Coast District Council and monitoring rivers and beaches over summer to report on suitability for swimming.

This year we will also continue to work with the other councils in the region to explore ways in which we can be smarter and more effective in our regional governance. We look forward to more conversations with you on this issue in the next year.

Fran Wilde
Chair, Greater Wellington

What does Greater Wellington do with my rates?

Your rates help Greater Wellington look after our region's environmental sustainability, regional parks and forests, Metlink buses and trains, overall transport strategy and planning, flood protection, pest management, harbour safety, emergency management and sustainable economic growth.

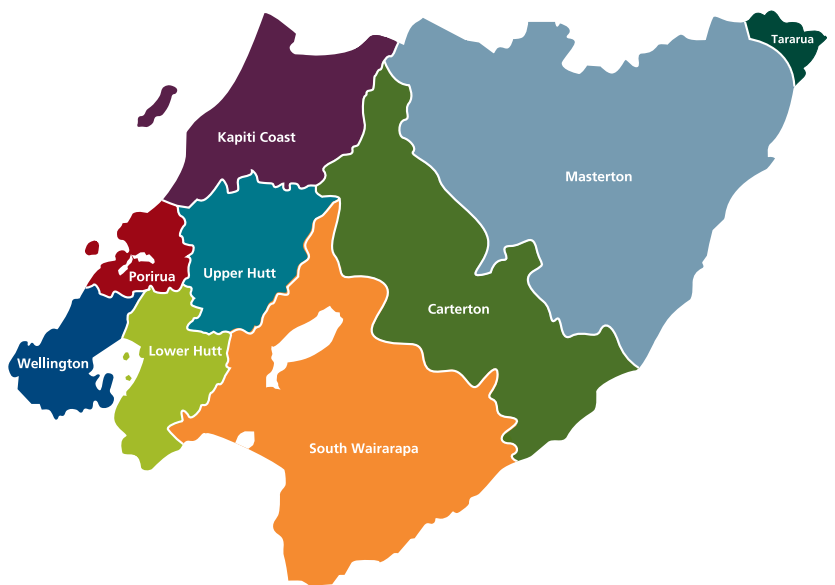
How much will I pay in regional rates?

- The rate increase for 2011/12 across the region is 4.50%
- Changes in rates vary between the cities and districts because of changes in capital values. Rates are also affected by the specific work that Greater Wellington is doing in your area
- In Kapiti the increase is 5.51%
- The 2011/12 total regional rates per average residential property in Kapiti are \$285

Do I qualify for a rates rebate?

Residential ratepayers earning less than \$23,240 a year can apply for a rebate of up to \$580. Those earning more than \$23,240 may also be eligible. The Rates Rebate Scheme is administered by local councils on behalf of central government. For more information and application forms, please contact your city or district council, or see www.ratesrebates.govt.nz.

Wellington region



Your local Kapiti Regional Councillor

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This information is summarised from our Annual Plan 2011/12 – www.gw.govt.nz/annual-plan