

## Response to LGOIMA request from Labour Research

9 May 2024

Dear Meg,

Thanks for your email dated 13 March in which you requested the following:

1. What is your Council's proposed rates increase this year?
  - a) What proportion of that is for water services and water infrastructure?
  - b) What proportion of any proposed rates increase is to service the debt for water infrastructure?
2. What proportion of any proposed rates is to service debt for water infrastructure?
3. How much debt is your Council currently servicing for water infrastructure?
  - a) What is your Council's current projected costs of servicing this debt over the next 10 years?

The Council has yet to adopt the 2024/25 Annual Plan, which is scheduled for mid-June. The Council has adopted a Draft Annual Plan summary on which it is currently seeking community feedback. This can be found on the Council's website [here](#).

We are able to provide responses to your questions above:

1. Council's proposed rates increase for the 2024/25 financial year is 21.4%
  - a. 57.02% of the increase relates to 3 Waters.
  - b. Due to the delayed start, a number of 3 Waters related projects the overall debt servicing costs are not projected to have an impact on the increase in rates. Note – Council is projecting to increase the net debt relating to 3 Waters in the next financial year, therefore figures have been based in interest payments only.
2. 3.93% of the total rates proposed to be collected, relate to debt servicing (interest payments). Note – the Council is projecting to increase the net debt relating to 3 Waters in the financial year, therefore figures have been based in interest payments only.
3. At June 2023, the Council's debt relating to 3 Waters was \$21.9 million.
  - a. The Council resolved to take up the option of a deferred Annual Plan – therefore updated projections over the next 10 years are not available to be released at this time.

If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can find more information on its website <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. A. Straith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lornae Straith  
GM Corporate Support