



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031



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Summary of information

The major matters contained within the Long Term Plan are:

- The significant policies and objectives of the Stratford District Council;
- The community priorities of the Stratford District;
- The nature and scope of the significant activities to be undertaken;
- The performance targets and other measures by which performance may be judged;
- An outline of the indicative costs and sources of funds in total, and for each significant activity in particular terms for the financial years 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and in general terms for the following seven financial years;
- Revenue and Financing Policy;
- Development and Financial Contributions Policy;
- Significance and Engagement Policy;
- Funding Impact Statement;
- Summaries of assessments of water and sanitary services and solid waste plans;
- Details on Council Controlled Organisations;
- Steps to foster the development of Māori capacity to the decision making processes;
- Significant forecasting assumptions used in the preparation of the Long Term Plan;
- An Audit opinion;
- Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 Disclosure Statement;
- Infrastructure Strategy.



Public consultation

Below is a list of dates and venues of public meetings that were held to consult the community on the Consultation Document.



What were the key dates?

23 March	Consultation Document adopted by Council
24 March	Consultation period begins and submissions open
1 April to 30 April	Public and community stakeholder meetings available
2 May	Consultation period ends and submissions close
18 May	Hear and consider submissions
By 30 June	Council adopts Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031

Results of the submission process

Council received 114 submissions and a hearing was held on Tuesday 18 May with deliberations being undertaken on the same day.

As a result of the submission process, elected members decided to:

- Proceed with the implementation of universal water metering, unless superseded by the pending outcomes of the three waters reforms.
- Allocate funding for a residential subdivision.
- Not go ahead with the proposed Food and Green Waste Collection.
- Not introduce an Economic Development Targeted Rate at this time.

**STRATFORD
HAVE
YOUR
SAY**

From our Mayor and Chief Executive

In front of you lies Stratford District Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031. This will guide council's operations and capital projects for the next three years, until it comes up for review in 2024, while providing general direction for the next decade.

Elected members and staff have put in long hours to balance needs, wants and opportunities for the district and had positive response and input from the community. We have also worked hard to maximise investment from external sources to minimise the cost of providing services and amenities for ratepayers.

The four key issues that we sought feedback on were water conservation, waste minimisation; the introduction of an Economic Development targeted rate for commercial properties; and Council undertaking another Residential Subdivision.

This was put to the test via public consultation with 114 submissions received on a wide range of topics. As a result of this feedback Council decided to proceed with the installation of water meters to achieve its water conservation goals and the strong support for another subdivision meant that this is also included in the final plan. Elected members however decided not to proceed with the proposed additional service for food and green waste as well as the Economic Development targeted rate at this point.

With regards to water meters, elected members asked staff to however hold off on any installations until the outcomes of the Government's 3 Water reforms are better understood. This is expected in the latter part of 2021.

We think Stratford has a good vibe at the moment, with significant amounts of new work under way, creating employment opportunities and improving our town and district. We want to keep this momentum going, but are also well aware of the need to not over-burden our ratepayers.



Neil Volzke
District Mayor



Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

The overall rates increase is 4.63% for the 2021/22 financial year with an average rates increase of 4.60% for the 10 years covered by the Long Term Plan. These percentages are the change in council's overall budget, rather than the change that will apply to each or every individual property.

The change that applies to properties is affected by their type, value and shift in value during the recent revaluation and whether it receives council services such as water supply, wastewater or solid waste collection.

The recent strong increase of residential property values has led to an overall shift of the rates burden towards residential and away from rural properties. It is important to note that the same has occurred in reverse as a result of previous revaluation cycles with rural properties picking up a larger share of the overall rates during those cycles. A range of sample rates are provided at the back of this plan.



District Profile

Stratford is located at the junction of State Highway 3 and State Highway 43, in the heart of Central Taranaki, in the North Island of New Zealand.

Stratford is the closest main centre to Egmont National Park, and the gateway to Mt Taranaki, the Manganui Ski Field, Dawson Falls, and the Forgotten World Highway (SH43) which winds its way through east Taranaki to Taumarunui.

Covering approximately 2,170 square kilometres, it has four distinct regions:

- The alpine and bush environment of the Egmont National Park.
- The dairy farming country of the Egmont ring-plain.
- The frontal hill country. This land lies between the ring plain and the eastern hill country. It is mostly utilised for sheep and beef farming.
- The relatively steep hill-country of eastern Taranaki, some areas of which are farmed mostly for sheep and beef farming. Some areas are abandoned farmland reverting to bush while some land remains in original bush.

Stratford District is one of New Zealand's smallest local authority areas, being the 58th largest district in New Zealand, of 67, based on population estimates.

Stratford District is part of the Taranaki Region. Taranaki has four Councils, made up of three territorial authorities and one regional council:

- Taranaki Regional Council
- New Plymouth District Council
- South Taranaki District Council



The most recent population estimate for the district of 9,880 people is based on Statistics NZ population estimates as at 30 June 2020.

The average age of Stratford District residents is expected to increase from 40 to 42 over the next 30 years.

GDP growth has generally been static to low, and generally under the national average – except for 2009 and 2012 where there were spikes in the district's GDP compared to the rest of the country.

The two biggest contributing industries in Stratford are the Agriculture and Forestry sector contributing 27% (Dairy Farming making up 16% of this) of district GDP, and the Electricity and Gas Supply contributing 16%. Stratford has the region's largest electricity generation site at Contact's 575MW gas powered plant – it is considered a nationally significant generation site.

In 2019, there were 3,462 filled jobs in the Stratford District. The district unemployment rate was 4.4%, compared to the regional unemployment rate of 5.0%

and national unemployment rate of 4.3%. Employment growth lags behind the rest of the country (2018 Stratford: 1.5%, National:

3.0%), although it did spike above the national average in 2009. The biggest increase in jobs in Stratford since 2017 has been in the house construction (building) sector, and in primary education.

The home ownership rate in Stratford is 68% (compared to the national average of 65%). Stratford has good housing affordability compared to the national average: the mortgage as a proportion of income in Stratford is 0.21, compared to 0.34 the national average. The average household size in Stratford is expected to remain at 2.5 individuals over the next 30 years, unlike other districts where it is expected to decline.



The Stratford District Council is represented by 10 Councillors and the Mayor. Stratford district is divided into two wards – an urban ward (6 Councillors) and a rural ward (4 Councillors). The Council currently has no Community Boards. A Māori ward will be established for the 2022 local body election.

The Council has one Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), the Percy Thomson Trust, with control through the ability to appoint more than half of the trustees. The Trust is registered as a charitable trust, and therefore exempt from income tax.

District Mayor

Neil Volzke

M. 027 6317 418

E. nvolzke@stratford.govt.nz



Rural Ward Councillors

Grant Boyde

P. 027 603 2842

E. grant.boyde@stratford.govt.nz

Rick Coplestone

P. (06) 762 2627

E. rick.coplestone@stratford.govt.nz

Amanda Harris

P. (06) 762 3520

E. amanda.harris@stratford.govt.nz

Vaughan Jones

P. 027 620 2106

E. vaughan.jones@stratford.govt.nz

Urban Ward Councillors

Peter Dalziel

P. (06) 928 4560

E. peter.dalziel@stratford.govt.nz

Jono Erwood

P. 027 640 4008

E. jono.erwood@stratford.govt.nz

Alan Jamieson

P. 027 533 1167

E. alan.jamieson@stratford.govt.nz

Min McKay

P. 027 357 6060

E. min.mckay@stratford.govt.nz

John Sandford

P. 027 496 2278

E. john.sandford@stratford.govt.nz

Gloria Webby

P. 021 022 62258

E. gloria.webby@stratford.govt.nz



District Mayor and Councillors

Policy & Services Committee
Chair - Deputy Mayor

Audit & Risk Committee
Independent Chair

Farm & Aerodrome Committee
Chair – Elected Member

Executive Committee
Chair – District Mayor

Chief Executive
Administration and Management
Human Resources
Governance
Long Term Planning
Health and Safety
Civil Defence Emergency Management

Assets

Roading
Stormwater
Water Supply
Solid Waste
Trade Waste
Wastewater
Parks and Reserves
Sports Fields
Council Properties
Cemeteries
Bylaws

Environmental Services

Planning & Regulatory
Resource Consents
Monitoring
Building Control
Environmental Health
Hazardous Substances
Liquor Licensing
Dog Control
General Inspections
Parking Control

Community Services

Community Development
Community Funding
Information Centre
Library
Communications
Economic Development
Customer Service
Swimming Pool

Corporate Services

Rates
Accounting
Financial Reporting
Treasury
Debt Collection
Administration
Information Technology
Record Management