

## Have your say

The Draft Annual Plan is Council's way of telling us how they propose to spend the money they collect through rates. It is also an invitation to us to say what we think about those plans.

The effectiveness of any local authority depends on how well its elected members are informed of the communities preferences. In other words; if we want good decisions to be made we better make sure we tell our council what we think! What's more, it is better to speak up before work is underway than to wait until a decision is too hard to change or it's all over and done with and everyone has moved on.

Council undertakes a multitude of activities, from the very big projects like setting out to build a harbour or a road to the very small things like picking up a piece of litter or an abandoned puppy. So how do you know what you need to say to council?

In the Draft Annual Plan council activities are sorted under 18 headings. They are parks and recreation, library, property, solid waste, water, sanitary services, stormwater, transport, emergency management, animal control, regulatory, environment and development, tourism and promotions, harbour development, representation, tangata whenua and community sponsorship. The details and cost of what Council proposes to do in these areas are all explained.

It is not necessary to be an expert or to know every detail. But, it will help if you already know what is being proposed what impact it might have on the rates and on other people and projects.

As a general guideline a \$50,000 project would mean an increase of 1% on the general rate. So be careful what you ask for but make sure you do(ask), and remember that showing your support for what is in the Annual Plan is just as important.

## What is planned for 2010 to 2011

**This year there will be an average increase of 4.5% on our rates. The main drivers for that increase include:**

### Roading:

There has been an increase of 11.7% for roading this year to cover increased contract prices.

### Seal Extension:

The sealing of rural roads will continue with a further 2.4 Km of Gabriels Gully Road being sealed at a cost of around \$260,000.

### Urban Street upgrade:

\$140,000 will go towards upgrading the pavement kerb and channels and foot paths of selected urban streets.

### The Library:

Following a review of Opotiki library services council set aside \$400,000 in the long term plan for the development and extension of the existing library building.



*Meeting new water standards will be a significant cost in the next financial year.*

To further increase the options for development council also took the opportunity to purchase the former Awhi Credit Union Building behind the existing library. This will allow for expansion without addition of a second story.

Current standards for public buildings are required to meet earthquake standards and provide disability access,. Council is also required to meet legal archival requirements and modern library building standards and \$650,000 has been set aside for these purposes bringing the total cost for the library to \$1 million. This amount will be funded by way of loan and will realise an impact of \$23,000 in this financial year and \$113,000 on the following 20 years. This equates to an estimated impact of 2% on rates.

### Upgrade of the DoC Building

Having made a decision to maintain a presence in the district the Department of Conservation has requested that there be improvements made to the offices they lease from the council. A loan of \$660,000 will fund this work and rental will be adjusted to reflect the increased costs.

*Continued overleaf...*



**Speak up!**

*The Draft Annual Plan is our chance to have have a say on how the rates dollars are spent in the coming year.*

# Statement from the Mayor and Chief Executive

Opotiki District Council is looking forward to a year of change. We have elections in October and this period always raises new ideas and issues for consideration, and possibly new faces around the council table. We also have a new Chief Executive coming on board in June.

On a more operational level the Annual Plan 2010 - 2011 highlights the changes or variances made to the long term plan which was reviewed last year. It also provides details of the budget for the financial year.

In light of the economic climate Opotiki District Council has taken a steady-as-she-goes approach over the past twelve months. There is a delicate balance between undertaking too much and pulling back on projects and risking increased costs the following year or seeing progress stall altogether.

Other factors influence the way our rates are set as well as projects and levels of service. This year inflation accounts for around 2% of our rate increase and changes to the government standards for water supply have required unscheduled and significant changes to how we source our water for the town supply.

Another activity that was not foreseen in the long term plan was the purchase of the building next door to the library and the need for considerable structural work to the existing building to ensure it meets the regulations for a public building. However, the opportunity

to purchase the building has provided more options for the planned development of the library and in the coming year investigations into how to make the best use of this new public space will be undertaken.

To achieve these activities within an acceptable increase we have had to cut back on some activities. The provision of support to community events will not proceed unless external funding can be found, investigations into finding a suitable site for the Waihau Bay playground are still underway but the facility will not be included in this financial years' budget. Council has also resisted pressure to move the construction of the Memorial Park netball pavilion forward. It remains scheduled for development in the 2011 - 2012 year.

This year, Opotiki District Council seeks to increase its total rate revenue by 5.76%, from \$7.2 to \$7.6 million. Growth will account for approximately 1.7% of this increase meaning the impact on ratepayers will be in the vicinity of 4% and while some activities may not be undertaken council will still be able to carry out some significant work within this budget.

Though Council has adopted the Annual Plan for consultation there are some reservations about the impact that capital works projects will have on future funding requirements. Council wants your feedback on these items and other issues you may wish to raise.

## What is planned for 2010 to 2011

### Harbour Development:

The cost of progressing the development of the Opotiki Harbour will amount to \$198,000 this financial year with \$75,000 to be received in grants for the project.

### Water Supply:

New regulations have been introduced requiring Council to seek alternative supply options. Council is preparing to source its water from two new bores and has set aside \$200,000 for pipe work to link the main supply.

### Stormwater:

Underground stormwater pipes will be installed to replace the open drain in Bridge Street. This work will cost around \$80,000.

### Te Kaha Toilets:

The old toilet at Maretai Bay will be demolished and replaced in the coming financial year.

### Water playground:

Council has allocated \$20,000 towards further equipment at the existing site by the wharf.

### Sewerage:

Work will continue on replacing a section of aged sewer in Opotiki Township. \$130,000 has been set aside for this work.

These projects will be carried out over and above the provision of the normal services that are provided to the community. Councils total operating budget for the 2010 to 2011 financial year is \$10.7 million dollars. You can see how that money is obtained and where it is spent in the graphs on the opposite page.

**Don't forget to have your say  
from April 15 to May 18**



*John Forbes*

**John Forbes**  
Mayor of Opotiki

*Miles McConway*

**Miles McConway**  
Acting Chief  
Executive Officer



## What are rates likely to be?

The following is an estimate of the rates in various areas. These are estimates only. They exclude GST and charges from Environment BOP.

Variations or changes made to budgets as a result of consultation on the Draft Annual Plan will change these indicative rates.

Property description	Valued at \$100,000	Valued at \$200,000	Valued at \$300,000	Valued at \$500,000	Valued at \$1,000,000	Valued at \$2,000,000
Opotiki Township (includes water, sewerage & rubbish collection)	1290	1508	1726	2163	3253	5435
Woodlands (includes water and rubbish collection)	1033	1251	1469	1906	2996	5178
Te Kaha (includes water)	967	1186	1404	1840	2931	5112
Waihau Bay (includes sewerage)	1003	1221	1439	1876	2966	5147
Rural and urban areas where there are no service charges	652	870	1088	1524	2615	4796
Opotiki Commercial and Industrial properties	1635	1899	2165	2695	4020	6671

## If you care about your community be ready to do your bit over the the next seven months.

The three primary ways to influence how your community operates. They are in order of effort; stand for election, make a submission to the draft annual plan or get out there and vote for the person who will do the best job.

In the 2007 local government elections Opotiki and Wanganui were the only two North Island district councils to have a high voter turnout at 62%. That's pretty good but it still means that while 3,404 of our ratepayers got themselves to the polling booth or cast a special vote, 2,087 Opotiki people did not have a say in who or how the district would be run for the next three years.

To stand for election you must be a New Zealand citizen and on the electoral roll. You will need to be nominated and seconded by electors from the district or region in which you are standing.

If elected you will be representing the whole community not just those with whom you identify. Your job will involve setting policy and direction of the council, making regulatory decisions and while you will not be expected to run the day to day operations of the council you will review the overall performance of the organisation.

Being a councillor or community board member will require you to spend considerable time reading a variety of reports and attending meetings as well as communicating council activities to the community and the community's views back to council. So you will have to be prepared to learn about a variety of subjects, to listen a lot and to express a variety of view points on any given subject. You will also have to have an appreciation of democracy and be willing to work as a part of a team, but don't worry; there is always plenty of help available and asking questions is part of the job.

Being a submitter also requires a level of research and an ability to take other view points on board.

Being a voter means you have to weigh up the ability of the candidates to represent you and the wider community well, keep you informed of council activities and to work well with other members of the council its staff and with other organisations.

So, if you care about your community be ready to do your bit from now until the elections in October.



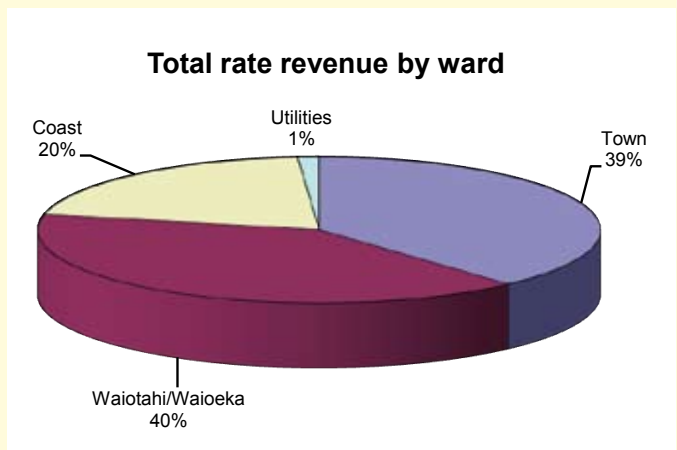
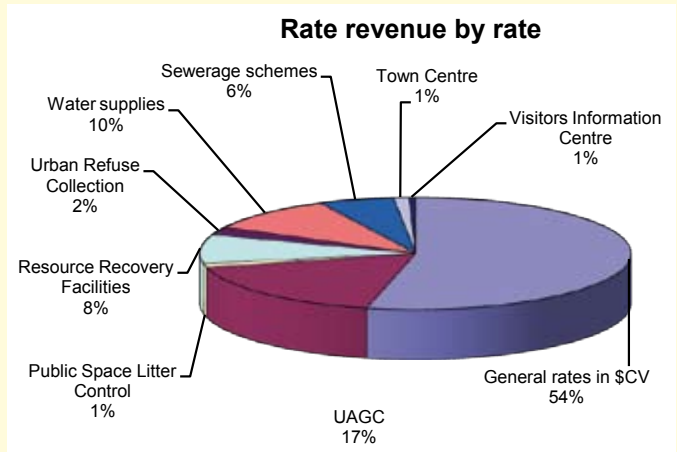
## Need to know more or need help with having your say?

Public sessions will be held to discuss the Draft Annual Plan. Staff will be available to answer your questions and help you make your submissions. To view the Draft Annual Plan visit the Council website [www.odc.govt.nz](http://www.odc.govt.nz) or call into the District Library, Te Rununga o Te Whanau Office or Opotiki District Council.

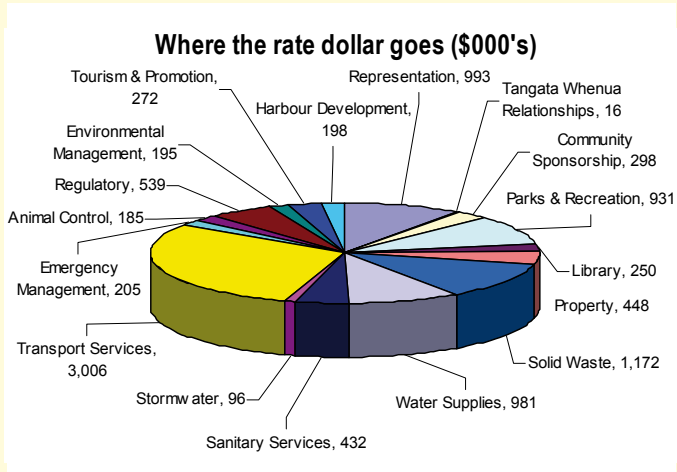
**Te Kaha Resort**  
2.00 to 3.00 pm  
**Tuesday 27 April**

**Council Offices**  
5.30 to 6.00pm  
**Thursday 29 April**

## Where do our rates dollars come from?



## Where do our rates dollars go?



## Major capital expenditure

Te Kaha toilet including soakage fields	102,160
Library extension and redevelopment	1,050,000
Office building improvements	105,880
DoC Office building redevelopment	660,000
Opotiki water source renewal	200,000
Opotiki sewerage reticulation renewal	130,000
Pipe open stormwater drain	80,000
Roading capital programme	1,144,320
Vehicle/plant replacements	127,360



# Opotiki District Council Draft Annual Plan 2010 to 2011

## Have your say – submission form

**CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENT: 5.00PM TUESDAY MAY 18, 2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Privacy Act

**Note:** Please be aware that submissions form part of the public consultation process for the Community Plan and as such will be reproduced as an attachment to a publicly available Council agenda and remain on Council minute records.

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ (day)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Send your submission form to

The Chief Executive  
Opotiki District Council  
PO Box 44  
Opotiki 3162

**Or** drop into the Council office at  
108 St John Street  
Opotiki  
**Or** email to [tracyd@odc.govt.nz](mailto:tracyd@odc.govt.nz)  
**Or** fax to 07 315 7050

**I/ We wish to be heard in support of my / our submission**

You will be contacted to arrange a time for your hearing on Wednesday 9 June, 2010.

### I / we wish to submit on the following proposals in the Draft Annual Plan

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

### I / we support / oppose (delete one) these proposals for the following reasons

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

### I / we request that Council make the following decisions to address my / our concerns

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

