



Your rates explained

Our city's budget for 2025/26

wellington.govt.nz

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

What are rates for?

Each year, Wellington City Council sets its overall budget as part of the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan process.

Council rates keep our city functioning. The money collected is used to deliver hundreds of day-to-day services and pay for what has been borrowed to fund infrastructure projects.



827km
stormwater pipes



1,085km
wastewater pipes



416 litres
of drinkable water
supplied per
resident per day



995km
of footpaths



110,105
native plants
planted with
the community



2million
physical items
borrowed from
our libraries



391km
walking and
biking tracks



803,971
resources in
City Archives



169,628
calls answered
by our Contact
Centre staff



2014sqm
open space per
Wellingtonian



107
play areas



277
community
facilities

This year's budget

This year rates are **increasing by an average of 12 percent** (including the **1.4 percent sludge levy**). This increase covers investment in the city's infrastructure and services, inflation, borrowing costs, and depreciation.

Your rates increase may differ from the average. The share you pay depends on your property's capital value, land use, and whether it receives targeted rates, a rates remission, or is non-rateable.

We also collect rates on behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council.

See wellington.govt.nz/rates-explained

In total, the Council will collect

\$628 million

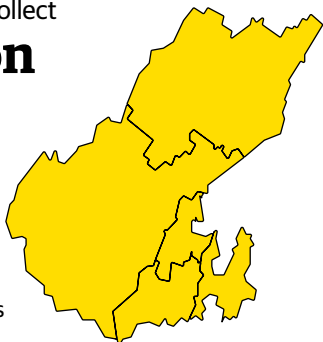
in rates during 2025/26

209,900

Wellington city residents

83,238

Total properties that pay rates



Some fees and charges for Council services have also increased from **1 July 2025**. This is to account for inflation, align with market values, and reflect the rising costs of specific services.



You can view our full 2025/26 Annual Plan and budget, including updated fees and charges, on our website: wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan

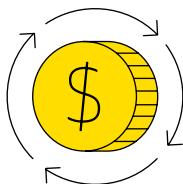
Changes to our 2024-34 Long-term Plan

Our Long-term Plan sets the direction for the next 10 years. It outlines what we will be investing in, how much it may cost, and how this will be funded. A large portion of our Long-term Plan operational budget is funded through rates.

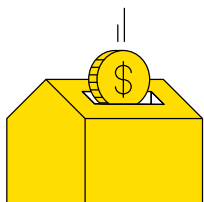


We've amended our 2024-34 Long-term Plan following a decision to retain our minority shareholding in Wellington International Airport Ltd.

To manage the city's insurance and investment risks and help ensure we're prepared in the event of a disaster, following public consultation the Council decided to:



Increase its borrowing capacity by reducing capital spending by **\$385 million** over the next 10 years



Create a small **investment fund** using proceeds from the sale of some ground leases.



More information is available on our website: **wellington.govt.nz/ltp**

How does my property valuation impact my rates?

We use property values to divide rates.

A rating valuation estimates the value of your property in relation to current market values. These are reassessed every three years to keep the system fair and up to date.

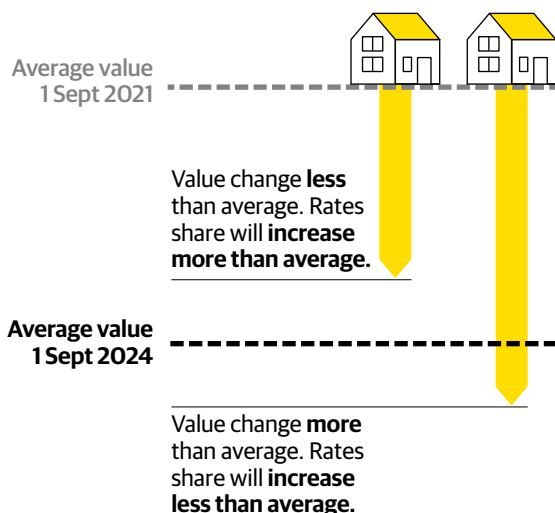
On 1 September 2024, it's likely your property's capital value changed since the previous revaluation in 2021.

Revaluations help us work out everyone's share of rates, but it doesn't affect the total amount of rates that the Council collects.

We don't collect more rates if your capital value goes up, and we don't collect less rates if your capital value goes down.

Your rates increase will differ from the average only if your property value has increased or decreased by more than the average.

Average house value comparison



Paying your Wellington City Council rates

There are several ways you can manage your rates payments:

- spread your payments into weekly, fortnightly, or monthly amounts by setting up a direct debit: **wellington.govt.nz/ratesdd**
- pay your rates online, by direct debit, internet/telephone banking, or in person at a NZ Post Shop, Te Awe Library, or Johnsonville Library.

You can view your rates invoices online using our portal: **wellington.govt.nz/rates-pin**

Rates rebates

If you were on a low income between 1 April 2024–31 March 2025, you may be eligible for up to \$1,605 off your rates – a Government rates rebate of up to \$805 and a further Council rates remission of up to \$800.

If you're a SuperGold Cardholder, the income threshold to be eligible for the maximum Government rebate increased on 1 July from \$31,510 to \$45,000.

You can apply for a Government rates rebate at **govt.nz/rates-rebate**

You will receive the Council rates remission if you receive the Government rebate, unless your property is owned by a company or trust.

If you are concerned about being able to pay your rates invoice, please contact us as soon as possible at **rates@wcc.govt.nz** or call **04 499 4444**.

