

GOVERNANCE

Role of the Council

The publicly elected Councillors have overall responsibility and accountability for the direction and control of the Council's functions.

Structure of the Council

The Council is made up of ten Councillors, elected as follows:

- New Plymouth constituency Four members
- North Taranaki constituency Two members
- Stratford constituency One member
- South Taranaki constituency Three members

Council committees

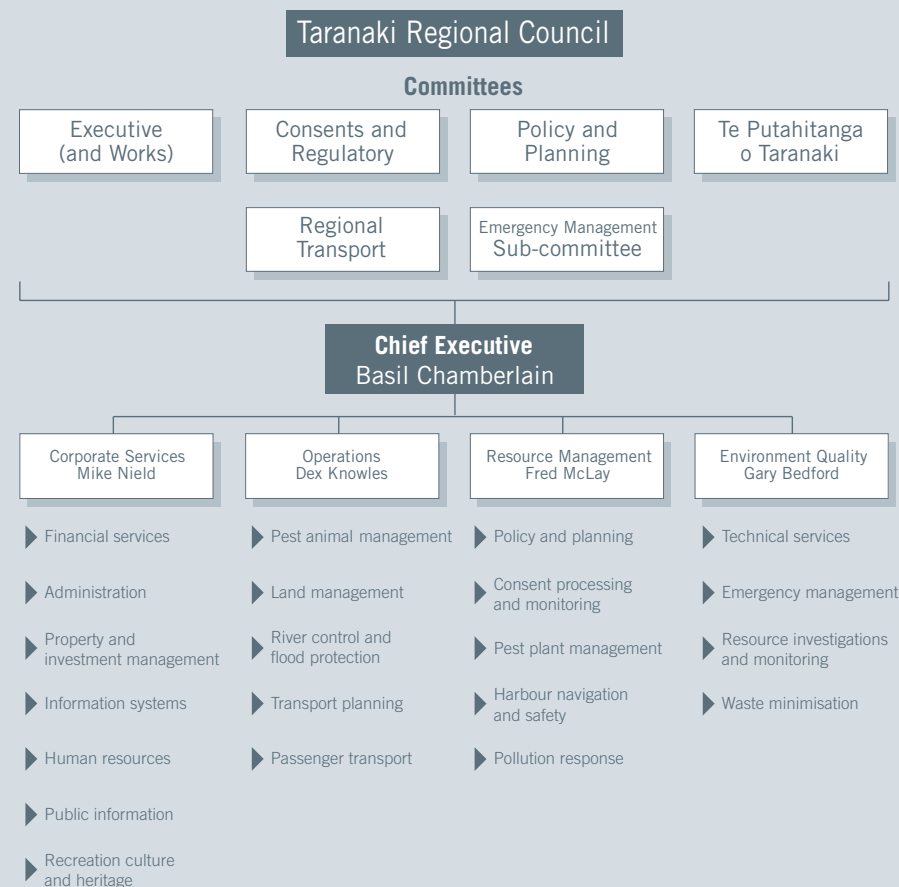
In formulating its committees, the Taranaki Regional Council is required to take into account the dictates of the Local Government Act 2002.

With the exception of the Executive and the Consents and Regulatory Committees, the Council has decided to appoint non-Council representatives to its various committees as a means to increase the breadth of input to the decisions made by the Council.

Council operations

To undertake its activities, the Council employs a permanent staff with wide-ranging professional, technical and administrative skills. In addition, the Council owns the necessary property, equipment and facilities.

Most Council activities are primarily the output of one section or department. However, a number of tasks, particularly those associated with the development of policy, require resources to be applied from throughout the organisation. The departmental structure has been designed in accordance with the Council's fields of activities. It is a flat, compact structure, which results in a high level of delegated authority, productivity and commitment.



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Governance systems

The full Council and main Council committees meet on a six-weekly cycle, with other meetings convened as necessary. Agendas and minutes from all meetings are publicly available for scrutiny. The Council is confident that its adopted structure and approach provides an efficient basis for the sound consideration of issues and the making of good decisions, and that the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 are being met.

Division of responsibility

The Council operates a clear division of responsibilities between the role of the Council and that of management. The Council's focus is on setting strategy and policy together with monitoring its implementation. Management is responsible for the implementation of the Council's policy and strategy decisions.

While many of the Council's functions have been delegated, the overall responsibility for maintaining effective systems of internal control rests with the Council. Internal control includes the policies, systems and procedures established to provide measurable assurance that the specific objectives of the Council are achieved.

Legislative compliance

As a regulatory body, the Council administers various regulations and laws. As such, the Council considers it vital that it also complies with relevant legislation. Members and management of the Council are cognisant of the Council's legislative requirements. Where necessary, legal advice is obtained to ensure legislative compliance.

Environmental compliance

Many of the Council's activities are focused on promoting the sustainable use, development and protection of the environment. Both regulatory and non-regulatory methods are employed, and a range of different types of monitoring is undertaken, to test the effectiveness of these methods.

However, in addition to its overall environmental management role in the region, which is substantially focused on the activities of external parties who use environmental resources, the Council itself occasionally engages in resource use activities in undertaking its functions. Where that occurs, the Council has systems and procedures in place to ensure that its own actions comply with at least the standards expected of all other resource users. These include requirements to apply for and obtain necessary consents, the use of independent persons to make decisions on consent applications, and the implementation and public reporting of effective compliance monitoring.

APPENDICES

The following appendices supply additional information in relation to:

- how the Council complies with equal employment opportunities legislation (Appendix 1)
- how the Council charges for resource consent services in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (Appendix 2)
- how the Council intends to allow for rates remissions and postponements (Appendix 3).

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Policy statement

The Taranaki Regional Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in the recruitment, employment, training and promotion of its employees.

The organisation will provide a welcoming, positive environment.

The organisation will implement a purposeful programme of action to ensure its activities and services are carried out with an awareness of, and an intent to eliminate discrimination in the areas of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, gender, religious beliefs, marital status, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, special needs, or age.

Programme

To ensure that recruitment policies and procedures are developed which select from the widest possible cross-section of potential staff in a non-discriminatory way.

To maintain information sources necessary to provide appropriate detail and information for input into EEO policy development, implementation and evaluation, whilst ensuring confidentiality.

To ensure all staff have the opportunity to participate in training and educational opportunities, including occupational safety and health issues, both inside and outside the organisation.=

To raise awareness of EEO issues throughout the organisation.

APPENDIX 2 - SCHEDULE OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO SECTION 36 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

Schedule 1 – Scale of fixed charges for staff time

The fixed charges are as follows:

Level 1	Management	\$137.00 per hour
Level 2	Job Manager	\$87.00 per hour
Level 3	Scientific Officer	\$66.00 per hour
Level 4	Technical Officer	\$51.00 per hour
Level 5	Technical Assistant	\$38.00 per hour

Explanation

Staff time is recovered at the fixed charge appropriate to the task which they are undertaking. The fixed charges are calculated as per the IPENZ method with a multiplier of 2.1. All charges exclude GST. Effective from 1 July 2003.

Schedule 2 – Fixed charges for the preparation or change of policy statement or plans and the processing of resource consents

Request for preparation or change to a plan/policy statement	\$350.00
For non-notified consents	\$350.00
For notified consents	\$500.00
Renewal, change or review of consent:	
Non-notified	\$350.00
Notified	\$500.00
Extension of a consent lapsed due to non-exercise	\$250.00
Certificate of compliance	\$250.00
Transfer of consent to another party	\$40.00

Explanation

Applicants, in accordance with Council policy, are required, where necessary, to pay all actual and reasonable charges for staff time, consultants, hearing costs, plant and laboratory analyses over and above the fixed application charge. All charges exclude GST. Effective from 1 July 2003.

Schedule 3 – Fixed charges for the use of plant

Tandem trailer	\$25.00 per day
Single axle trailer	\$20.00 per day
Mac boat and motor	\$200.00 per day
Aluminium boat (with motor)	\$50.00 per day
Motorbike	\$20.00 per day
Quad bike	\$40.00 per day
Timms kill traps	\$20.00 refundable bond
Airchek air sampling pump	\$10.00 per day
Automatic water quality samplers	\$50.00 per day
Suspended particulate sampler	\$30.00 per hour
Deposition gauge	\$30.00 per month
Drager air sampler	\$30.00 per sample
Electric fishing equipment	\$100.00 per day
Electrical submersible pump	\$50.00 per day
Gastec air sampler	\$30.00 per sample
Hydrological gauging equipment	\$20.00 gauging
Groundwater probe	\$100.00 per day
In stream temperature monitor	\$150.00 per year
Stack air sampling kits	\$160.00 per day
Time lapse video	\$350.00 per month
Portable wind logger	\$350.00 per month
Global positioning system	\$20.00 per day
Vandorn sampler	\$20.00 per day
Survey equipment	\$50 per day
Sound system	\$120 per day
Pneumatic groundwater pump	\$120 per day
Multigas monitor	\$60 per deployment
Passive absorption disks	\$170 per sample
Materials supplied where applicable, e.g., chemicals	Cost + 20%

Explanation

All charges exclude GST. Effective from 1 July 2003.

APPENDIX 2 - SCHEDULE OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO SECTION 36 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

Schedule 4 – Fixed charges for laboratory analyses

Test			
pH	\$11	Phenol (total)	\$61
Alkalinity	\$15	Methanol	\$37
Acidity	\$15	Biochemical oxygen demand—clean water	\$37
Conductivity	\$11	Biochemical oxygen demand—clean wastewater	\$73
Salinity	\$11	Biochemical oxygen demand—filtered BOD—cleanwater	\$48
Turbidity	\$11	Biochemical oxygen demand—filtered BOD—wastewater	\$84
Absorbance – filtered	\$11	Chemical oxygen demand—filtered	\$48
Hardness	\$15	Chemical oxygen demand	\$37
Boron	\$25	Dissolved oxygen—Winkler	\$17
Chloride	\$19	Metals—direct soluble/acid soluble (includes cations)	\$15
Sulphate	\$25	Metals—total	\$37
Sulphide	\$19	Mercury—total	\$61
Fluoride	\$19	Arsenic—total	\$61
Silica	\$19	Silver (total recoverable)	\$37
Chlorine (colorimetry)	\$25	Vanadium (gallic acid)	\$37
Chlorine (kit)	\$15		
Formaldehyde (colorimetry)	\$25	Bacteriological Analysis	
Formaldehyde (kit)	\$15	Water/Wastewater (Membrane filtration)	
Total solids	\$30	Faecal coliforms or E.coli	\$25
Nitrogen—Ammonia	\$19	Faecal coliforms and E.coli	\$31
Nitrogen—Nitrite	\$19	Enterococci	\$31
Nitrogen—Nitrate	\$25	Water/Wastewater/sediment (Most probable number)	
Nitrogen—Urea	\$25	Faecal coliforms	\$73
Nitrogen—total	\$35	Enterococci	\$73
Phosphorus—total	\$25	Shellfish (Most probable number)	\$86
Phosphorus—reactive dissolved	\$19		
Settleable solids	\$11	Soil Analyses	
Suspended solids	\$25	Sample preparation	\$5
Total grease	\$67		
Floatable grease	\$73	Explanation	
Oil and grease, or hydrocarbons	\$67	Method references available on request. Charges exclude GST.	
Hydrocarbons and oil and grease	\$73	Effective from 1 July 2003.	
Chlorophyll	\$37		
Cyanide (total)	\$61		

APPENDIX 2 - SCHEDULE OF CHARGES PURSUANT TO SECTION 36 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

Schedule 5 – Tailored compliance monitoring programmes 2002/03

Sewerage discharges

Stratford Mountain House Ltd	Mt Taranaki	\$600
Dawson Falls Ltd	Mt Taranaki	\$600
Department of Conservation	Mt Taranaki	\$1,200
New Plymouth District Council	Inglewood	\$6,078
Stratford District Council	Ponds/Landfill	\$6,722
South Taranaki District Council	Hawera	\$15,786
	Kaponga	\$3,365
	Manaia	\$2,645
	Patea	\$2,590
	Waverley	\$2,078
	Eltham ponds/landfill	\$9,774
	Opunake	\$6,619

Marine discharges

Methanex (NZ) Ltd	Waitara	\$30,114
New Plymouth District Council	Carrousel Plant	\$18,850
Waitara Outfall Management Board	Waitara Outfall	\$13,698
New Plymouth District Council	Waitara Treatment Plant	\$6,140
	Urenui/Onaero Beach camps	\$1,323
Wai-iti Beach Partnership	Wai-iti Beach Camp	\$627
South Taranaki District Council	Wai-inu Township	\$955
	Opunake Township	\$13,769#

Landfills

New Plymouth District Council	Colson Road	\$25,268
	Waitara	\$765
	Inglewood	\$6,297
	Okoki/Tongaporutu	\$549
	Okato	\$1,783
	Marfell/Oakura	\$1,114
Stratford District Council	Pukengahu/Huiroa	\$358
South Taranaki District Council	Central landfill, Eltham	\$17,490#
	Opunake	\$1,688
	Patea/Waverley	\$1,473
	Hawera	\$4,714
	Manaia	\$3,066
	Kaponga	\$387

Cleanfills

Bishop BJ and LB	Oakura	\$777
Riddick EE	New Plymouth	\$815
Bailey J & C	New Plymouth	\$818
Harris G	New Plymouth	\$899
Inframax Construction	New Plymouth	\$734
AA Contracting	New Plymouth	\$857
Carrington F & J	New Plymouth	\$815
Cudby	Hawera	\$2,838

Dairy processing

NZMP (Whareroa)	Whareroa	\$55,787
NZMP (Kapuni)	Kapuni	\$23,431

Municipal abstraction/water treatment plants

New Plymouth District Council	Various	\$6,345
Stratford District Council	Various	\$1,681
South Taranaki District Council	Various	\$7,666
Oaonui Water Supply Ltd	Various	\$560

Joint monitoring programmes

Hongihongi and Herekawe catchments (New Plymouth)		
Bulk Storage Terminals Ltd		\$1,022
Caltex Oil New Zealand Ltd		\$2,682
Methanex Motunui Ltd		\$916
Methanex Waitara Valley Ltd		\$2,071
Mobil Oil NZ Ltd		\$1,010
New Zealand Oil Services		\$1,010
Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd		\$2,252
Liquigas		\$1,010
Taranaki Cool Store Ltd		\$888

Piggeries

DH Lepper		\$2,036
Meadowdale		\$4,204#

Kahouri catchment (Stratford)

Contact Energy		\$562
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Egmont Tanneries Ltd	\$960
Firth Industries Ltd	\$530
Stratford Power Ltd	\$590
Taranaki Abattoirs Company Ltd	\$3,818
Taranaki Galvanizers Ltd	\$827
Transpower NZ Ltd	\$904

Lower Waiwhakaiho catchment (New Plymouth)

Allied Concrete Ltd	\$1,149
Firth Industries Ltd	\$1,036
Hooker Brothers Ltd	\$1,122
New Plymouth District Council	\$5,643
Tranz Rail Ltd	\$1,578
PCL Industries Ltd	\$1,278
Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd	\$5,605
Taranaki Sawmills Ltd	\$1,464
Technix Group	\$1,515
Works Infrastructure Ltd	\$1,555

Lower Waiwhakaiho airshed (New Plymouth)

Clelands Timber	\$161
Fitzroy Engineering	\$1,682
PCL Industries Ltd	\$919
Ravensdown	\$1,194
Katere Surface Coatings	\$648
Works Infrastructure	\$1,742
Taranaki Drum and Pallet Recycling	\$236

Mangati catchment (Bell Block)

ABB Transformers Ltd	\$2,578
Clark & Rogers Ltd	\$3,472
Corrocoat	\$162
Greymouth Petroleum Ltd	\$2,703
Mainland Products	\$1,429
MCK Metals Pacific Ltd	\$5,918
New Plymouth District Council	\$2,567
Olex Cables Ltd	\$2,274
Paraite Partnership Ltd	\$1,546
Schlumberger	\$2,307
Tasman Oil Tools Ltd	\$1,972
Tegel Foods Ltd	\$8,330

Waitaha catchment (Bell Block)

Austoil Engineering Services Pty Ltd	\$776
Onyx Group Ltd	\$776
C & O Concrete Products Ltd	\$444
Dynea Ltd	\$5,512
New Plymouth District Council	\$1,587
Parker Drilling International of NZ Ltd	\$444
Taranaki Sawmills Ltd	\$1,775
Taranaki Nuchem	\$111
TBS	\$1,109
Hi-tech Kleenit	\$1,700

Petrochemical

Shell Todd Oil Services	McKee/Mangahewa	\$7,337
Greymouth Petroleum	Kaimiro	\$5,666
Methanex Waitara Valley Ltd	Waitara Valley	\$3,033#
Natural Gas Corporation of NZ Ltd	Kapuni	\$7,942
New Zealand Oil and Gas Ltd	Ngatoro	\$4,860
Ballance Agri-Nutrients Ltd	Kapuni	\$16,476
Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd	Oaonui/Kapuni	\$10,956
Solexin Industries Ltd	Waitara	\$759#
Shell Todd Oil Services	Various land sites	\$1,426 (\$3,565#)
Swift Energy NZ Ltd	Various land sites	\$7,665
Geary R & S	Manutahi	\$629
Symons G	Opunake	\$1,463#
Swift Energy NZ Ltd	Rimu, TAWN	\$9,705
New Zealand Oil and Gas Services Ltd	Reinjection	\$1,346
Indo Pacific Energy (NZ) Ltd	Reinjection	\$1,346
Santos Petroleum (NZ) Ltd	Reinjection	\$1,543
Marabella Enterprises Ltd	Reinjection	\$1,543
Discovery Geo (Australia) Corporation	Reinjection	\$1,543
Shell Todd Oil Services	Reinjection	\$13,462
Swift Energy NZ Ltd	Reinjection	\$17,280
Greymouth Petroleum	Reinjection	\$2,314

Industry

DowAgro Sciences (NZ) Ltd	New Plymouth	\$8,427
Kibby's Metals Ltd	New Plymouth	\$545

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MCK Metals Pacific Ltd	Bell Block	\$9,648	• Onaero	\$1,206	
Pacific Natural Gut Ltd	Manaia	\$507	South Taranaki District Council (Coastal Works)		
Paradise Abalone Ltd	Okato	\$653	• Bailey Road	\$1,206	
Rainbow Abalone Ltd	Port Taranaki	\$653	• Middleton Bay	\$1,206	
Taranaki Aquaculture	Oakura	\$653#	• Opunake	\$1,206	
Westgate Transport Ltd	Port Taranaki	\$56,402	• Patea	\$1,272	
Bitumen Supplies Ltd	Port Taranaki	\$655	Quarries		
Meat processing			AA Contracting Ltd	Egmont Village	\$439
Graeme Lowe Protein	Hawera	\$3,219	AA Contracting Ltd	Lepperton	\$474
Richmond Ltd	Hawera	\$10,288	Bell R C	Stratford	\$222
Riverlands Eltham Ltd	Eltham	\$23,008	Bourke D M	Normanby	\$316
Taranaki By-Products Ltd	Okaiawa	\$63,653 (\$100,098#)	Burgess & Crowley Ltd	Toko	\$384
Richmond Ltd	Waitotara	\$5,165	Egmont Stone Ltd	Urenui	\$120
Energy			Freight & Bulk Transport Holdings Ltd	Okato	\$393
Contact Energy Ltd	New Plymouth	\$6,302	Hurlstone Earthmoving Ltd	Egmont Road	\$842
NZ Energy	Waiaua	\$4,976	Hurlstone Earthmoving Ltd	Kaipu Road	\$1,812
Trustpower-Taranaki Generation	Mangamahoe	\$9,900	Inglewood Metal Ltd	Everett Park	\$2,596
Trustpower-Taranaki Generation	Motukawa	\$12,832	Murray Brothers Ltd	Manaia	\$273
Trustpower-Taranaki Generation	Rotorangi	\$21,793	New Plymouth Quarries Ltd	Waiwhakaiho	\$1,376
Stratford Power Ltd	Stratford	\$20,508	Pennington A	Uruti	\$291#
Air consents			Purvis M	Stratford	\$316
Blasting			River Island Shingle Co Ltd	Waitara	\$589
Inglewood Blasting and Painting Ltd	Inglewood	\$499	Sandford Quarries Ltd	Auroa	\$436#
Animal related			South Rd Quarries	Cardiff	\$5,149#
Perry Environmental Ltd (3 sites)	Brixton, Uruti	\$5,754	South Rd Quarries	Tokaora	\$581
Osflo Spreading Industries Ltd	Bell Block	\$636	Taranaki Trucking Co Ltd	Wiremu Road	\$350
Other			Taunt L	Bird Road	\$316
New Plymouth Crematorium	Mangamahoe	\$1,053	Vickers Quarries Ltd	Midhurst (2 sites)	\$798 (\$2,612#)
New Plymouth District Council (Coastal Works)			Vickers Quarries Ltd	Toko	\$504
• Waitara		\$1,206	Wallis R A Ltd	Kaponga	\$316
• Urenui		\$1,206	Wallis R A Ltd	Matapu	\$488
• New Plymouth		\$1,206	Wallis R A Ltd	Okaiawa	\$316
• East End		\$1,272	Winstone Aggregates Ltd	Opunake	\$839
• Bell Block		\$1,206	Winstone Aggregates Ltd	Waitara	\$572#
			Winstone Aggregates Ltd	Mangaoraka	\$1,080
			Bell Block Land Holdings/ A J Cowley		\$930

APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

The rates postponement and remission policy of the Taranaki Regional Council is that of the region's three district councils who collect the rates on the Council's behalf. Whilst these policies differ from council to council, it would be administratively inefficient to adopt uniform policies across the region, and then to require each district council to apply two sets of policies. Accordingly, the rates postponement and remission policies that will be applied are as follows for each of the Taranaki Regional Council's constituencies. Specific details in relation to each remission and postponement policy can be obtained by reference to the respective district council. That is, in the New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies by reference to the New Plymouth District Council, in the Stratford constituency by reference to the Stratford District Council and in the South Taranaki constituency by reference to the South Taranaki District Council.

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Rate remission policy	The Taranaki Regional Council has decided to remit all or part of the rates owed by the ratepayer in respect of rating units covered by this Rates Remission Policy provided that the conditions within this policy have been met. Rates remissions will be provided for the following categories of rating units and under the following circumstances:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remissions for community and sporting clubs and organisations • remissions for land voluntarily/mandatorily protected for natural, historic or cultural conservation purposes • remissions for rates relief on the grounds of financial hardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remissions for community, sporting and other organisations. • remissions on land subject to an open space covenant. • remissions on penalties. • remissions on Stratford District Council owned and occupied properties. <p>Where a rating unit for which the Stratford District Council has granted rates remission is sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of, the rates remission shall be terminated at the time of disposal. If the new ratepayer qualifies for a rate remission under this policy, it should be up to that ratepayer to apply for a rate remission.</p> <p>The application for rate remission must be made to the Stratford District Council prior to the commencement of the rating year. Applications received during a rating year will be applicable from the commencement of the following rating year. Applications will not be backdated.</p> <p>No remission will be granted on targeted rates for water supply, sewage disposal or refuse collection.</p> <p>Where a rate remission percentage applies, it is calculated on the rates that would be assessed before any application of non-rateable adjustments. (For example, if a property is 50% non-rateable, and receives a 50% remission, then no rates are due).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remission of rates for community halls. • remission of rates for sporting, games, branches of the arts, community care and volunteer organisations. • remission of rates on land protected for natural, historical or cultural conservation purposes. • remission of penalties. • remission of uniform annual general charges on non-contiguous units owned by the same owner. <p>The following percentages will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the total rates levied in respect of public halls. • 50% of targeted rates only, levied in respect of properties used for games or sports except galloping races, harness races, or greyhound races and who do not hold club licenses under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989. • 50% of total rates levied in respect of properties used for games or sports except galloping races, harness races, or greyhound races and who hold club licenses under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989. • 50% of targeted rates only, levied in respect of properties used by any branch of the arts. • 50% of total rates levied in respect of properties qualifying under the categories of community care type or volunteer organisations. • 100% of general rates and Uniform Annual General Charges levied in respect of properties qualifying under the category of natural, historical or cultural conservation properties.

APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Remission of rates for community, sporting and other organisations	<p>The Council has a policy in place to remit the general rates and uniform annual general charge applicable to rating units which are owned or occupied by a club or organisation and which are used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation or community purposes.</p> <p>The objective of this policy is to facilitate and assist such clubs and organisations to contribute to the “public good”, character and well being of the district.</p> <p>This policy does not apply to organisations operated for private pecuniary profit or separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit so operated.</p> <p>This policy does not apply to any targeted rates applicable such rating units.</p>	<p>The Council will provide rates remission of 100% to all ratepayers who meet the objectives, conditions and criteria of this policy, excluding land in respect of which a club licence under the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 is for the time being in force, which shall receive a 50% remission if the objectives, conditions and criteria are met.</p> <p>Objective. To facilitate the ongoing provision of non-commercial community services and non-commercial recreational opportunities for the residents of Stratford District Council.</p> <p>The purpose of granting rates remission to an organisation is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise the public good contribution made by such an organisation; and • assist the organisation’s survival; and • make membership of the organisation more accessible to the general public, particularly disadvantaged groups. These include children, youth, young families, aged people, and economically disadvantaged people. <p>Conditions and Criteria. This part of the policy will apply to land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • owned by the Stratford District Council; or • owned and occupied by a registered charitable organisation; or • owned and occupied by a registered non-profit organisation; and • which is used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation, or community purposes by that organisation; and • the land is not used for galloping races, harness races or greyhound races. 	<p>The remission of rates for community, sporting and other organisations is to facilitate the ongoing provision of non-commercial community services and non-commercial recreational opportunities for the residents of South Taranaki.</p> <p>The purpose of granting rates remission to an organisation is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise the public good contribution made by such organisations. • assist the organisation’s survival. • make membership of the organisation more accessible to the general public, particularly disadvantaged groups. These include children, youth, young families, aged people, and economically disadvantaged people. <p>Conditions and Criteria. The remission of rates will apply to land that is used exclusively or principally for sporting, recreation, or community purposes. The policy does not apply to organisations operated for pecuniary profit.</p> <p>The policy does not apply to groups or organisations whose primary purpose is to address the needs of adult members (over 18 years) for entertainment or social interaction, or who engage in recreational, sporting, or community services as a secondary purpose only.</p>

APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Remission of rates on land protected for conservation purposes	<p>The council has a policy in place to remit the general rates and uniform annual general charge applicable to rating units or parts thereof, which are voluntarily or mandatorily protected for natural, historic, or cultural conservation purposes, subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>The objective of this policy is to preserve and promote natural resources and heritage by encouraging the protection of land for natural, historic or cultural conservation.</p> <p>This policy does not apply to any targeted rates applicable such rating units.</p>	<p>Objective. To preserve and promote natural resources and to encourage the protection of land for natural purposes. This policy will support the provisions of the Stratford District Council District Plan 1997.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. This part of the policy will apply to ratepayers who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • own rating units subject to an open space registered on the land title; or • own rating units subject to Clause B2.9 Esplanade Strips, Covenanted Wetlands and Access Strips of the Stratford District Plan 1997. <p>The remission will apply to the area of land included in the protected conservation area.</p> <p>Applications should be supported by documentary evidence of the protected status of the rating unit, for example, a copy of the covenant or other legal mechanism.</p> <p>In granting remissions under this policy, the Council may specify certain conditions before remission will be granted. Applicants will be required to agree in writing to these conditions and pay any remitted rates if the conditions are violated.</p>	<p>Objective. Rate remission is provided to preserve and promote natural resources and heritage by encouraging the protection of land for natural, historic or cultural purposes.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. Ratepayers who own rating units which have some feature of cultural, natural or historic heritage which is voluntarily protected may qualify for remission of rates under this policy.</p> <p>Land that is non-rateable under section 8 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and is liable only for rates for water supply, sewerage disposal and waste collection will not qualify for remission under this part of the policy.</p> <p>Applications should be supported by documented evidence of the protected status of the rating unit, for example, a copy of the covenant or other legal mechanism.</p> <p>In considering any application for remission of rates under this part of the policy, the Council will consider the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent to which the preservation of natural, cultural or historic heritage will be promoted by granting remission of rates on the rating unit. • the degree to which feature of natural, cultural and historic heritage is present on the land. • the degree to which features of natural, cultural and historic heritage inhibit the economic utilisation of the land. • the extent to which the preservation of natural, cultural and historic heritage will be promoted by granting remission of rates on the rating unit. • the degree to which features of natural, cultural and historic heritage will be promoted by granting remission of rates on the rating unit. • the degree to which feature of natural, cultural and historic heritage is present on the land. • the degree to which features of natural, cultural and historic heritage inhibits the economic utilisation of the land.

APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Remission of rates or postponement of rates for financial hardship	<p>The council has a policy in place to assist individual ratepayers experiencing financial hardship caused by the payment of its rates.</p> <p>The policy is subject to certain conditions and applies only to rating units used exclusively or principally as a residential property. It may result in the postponement of all or part of the rates assessed for the rating unit in the case of financial hardship or the remission of all or part of the rates assessed for the rating unit in the case of extreme financial hardship.</p> <p>The policy does not apply to non-residential properties. In such cases, requests for rate relief on the grounds of financial hardship may be considered directly by the council, or one of its appropriate committees.</p>	<p>No provision for the remission of rates.</p>	<p>Objective. The objective of this part of the policy is to assist ratepayers experiencing extreme financial circumstances, which affect their ability to pay rates.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. Only rating units used solely for residential purposes will be eligible for consideration for rate postponement for extreme financial circumstances.</p> <p>Only the person entered as the ratepayer, or their authorised agent, may make an application for rate postponement for extreme financial circumstances. The ratepayer must be the current owner of, and have owned for not less than 5 years, the rating unit, which is the subject of the application. The person entered on the Council's rating information database as the "ratepayer" must not own any other rating units or investment properties (whether in the district or in another district).</p> <p>The ratepayer (or authorised agent) must make an application to council on the prescribed form (copies can be obtained from the Council Offices). The Council will consider, on a case by case basis, all applications received that meet the criteria described in the first two paragraphs under this section.</p>



APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Remissions of penalties	No provision for the remission of penalties.	<p>Objective. The objective of this part of the remission policy is to enable the Council to act fairly and reasonably in its consideration of rates, which the Council has not received by the penalty date due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. On application by the ratepayer, a remission of an instalment penalty imposed under Section 58(1)(a) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 shall be granted if this is the first instance of late payment by the ratepayer within the previous six rating years.</p> <p>Where a ratepayer enters into a payment arrangement for the payment of the current year rates and any rate arrears, further penalties will be granted a remission. However, any default in the arrangement will cause the remission to be cancelled. It should be noted that any penalties applied up to the date of commencement of the arrangement will remain.</p>	<p>Objective. The remission of penalties is to allow the Council to act fairly and reasonably in its consideration of rates, which the Council has not received by the penalty date due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. Remission of the penalty will be granted if the ratepayer by written explanation satisfies the Council that the late payment was due to circumstances outside the ratepayer's control.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its merit and will be granted where it is considered fair and equitable to do so.</p> <p>In cases where ratepayers are in arrears with their rates, but have made acceptable arrangements for the payment of the current year's rates together with reduction in the level of arrears, further penalties being incurred will be remitted under this policy.</p>
Remission of rates on Council owned and occupied properties	No provision for the remission of rates.	<p>The Council will provide rates remission of 100% on rating units owned and occupied by the Stratford District Council which meet the objectives, conditions and criteria of this policy.</p> <p>Objective. The objective of this part of the remission policy is to enable the Council to be cost-neutral in regard to other ratepayers whilst being administratively efficient.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. This part of the policy applies to rating units owned and occupied by the Stratford District Council. This part of the policy does not apply to rating units that are owned by the Stratford District Council but are leased to a third party and the terms of the lease provide for rates to be paid by the lessor.</p>	No provision for the remission of rates.

APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Remission of rates on sewerage disposal rates for educational establishments	No provision for the remission of rates.	<p>The Council will provide rates remission to educational establishments so that they pay the lesser of the standard sewerage disposal rate or an amount calculated as if the Rating Powers (Special Provision for Certain Rates on Educational Establishments) Amendment Act 2001 was still current.</p> <p>Objective. The objective of this part of the remission policy is to enable the continuation of the special provisions that were enacted in 2001 for calculating sewerage disposal rates for educational establishments pending the Ministerial Review provided for in sections 25 and 26 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. On application from an Educational Establishment that qualified within the Rating Powers (Special Provision for Certain Rates on Educational Establishments) Amendment Act 2001, and the provision of the required figures as at 1 March of same year as the beginning of the financial year to which the remission applies, a remission will be granted so that the lesser of the calculated amounts shall be charged.</p>	No provision for the remission of rates.

APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

	New Plymouth and North Taranaki constituencies	Stratford constituency	South Taranaki constituency
Remission of uniform annual charges on non-contiguous rating units owned by the same ratepayer	No provision for the remission of uniform annual charges on non-contiguous rating units owned by the same ratepayer.	No provision for remission of uniform annual charges on non-contiguous rating units owned by the same ratepayer.	<p>Objective. The remission of uniform annual general charges is to provide relief for rural land, which is non-contiguous but farmed as a single entity and owned by the same ratepayer.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. Ratepayers who occupy two or more separate rating units (and who do not qualify to be treated as one rating unit pursuant to Section 20 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002) are entitled to have uniform annual general charges reduced for qualifying properties. All ratepayers will pay at least one full uniform annual general charge and then half charges for additional qualifying properties.</p> <p>Any applicant must be paying at least one full uniform annual general charge on one of the rating units involved in the farming operation. Additional rating units involved in the farming operation will be charged half of the uniform annual general charges in respect of each additional rating unit.</p>

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<p>Remission of rates on Maori freehold land</p>	<p>The council has a policy in place to remit the rates assessed on rating units, which are Maori freehold land in multiple ownership, subject to certain conditions. This policy aims to ensure the fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community recognising that certain Maori owned lands have particular conditions, features, ownership structures, or other circumstances which make it appropriate to provide relief from rates.</p> <p>Maori freehold land is defined in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 as land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by a freehold order issued by the Maori Land Court. Only land that is subject of such an order may qualify for remission under this policy.</p> <p>Objectives. The objectives of this policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to recognise situations where there is no owner, occupier or person gaining an economic or financial benefit from the land. • to set aside land that is better set aside for non-use because of its natural features (whenua rahui). • to recognise matters related to the physical accessibility of the land. • to recognise and take account of the presence of waahi tapu that may affect the use of the land for other purposes. • where part only of a block is occupied, to grant remission for the portion of land not occupied. • to facilitate development or use of the land where the Stratford District Council considers rates based on actual rateable value makes the actual use of the land uneconomic. • to recognise and take account of the importance of land in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated papakainga housing. • to recognise use of the land by the owners for traditional purposes. • to recognise occasions where granting remission will avoid further alienation of Maori freehold land. • to recognise occasions where the Taranaki Regional Council and the community benefit through the efficient collection of rates that are properly payable and the removal of rating debt that is considered non collectible. <p>Conditions and Criteria. The Council will maintain a register titled the Maori Land Rates Relief Register (the register) for the purpose of recording properties on which it has agreed to remit rates pursuant to this policy. The register will comprise two category lists, these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Maori Land General Remissions List. • the Maori Land Economic Adjustment Remissions List. <p>Owners or trustees making application should include the following information in their applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details of the property. • the objectives that will be achieved by providing a remission. • documentation that proves the land, which is the subject of the application, is Maori freehold land <p>The Council may, at its own discretion, add properties to the lists.</p> <p>Relief, and the extent thereof, is at the sole discretion of the Council and may be cancelled and reduced at any time.</p> <p>The Council will review the register annually and may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add properties that comply. • remove properties where the circumstances have changed and they no longer comply. <p>No remission will be granted on targeted rates for water supply, sewage disposal or refuse collection.</p>
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APPENDIX 3 - RATES POSTPONEMENT AND REMISSION POLICY

<p>Postponement of rates on Maori freehold land</p>	<p>The council has a policy in place to remit the rates assessed on rating units, which are Maori freehold land in multiple ownership, subject to certain conditions. The objective of this policy is to recognise situations where there is no occupier or person gaining an economic or financial benefit from the land and no practical means of enforcing the rates assessed.</p> <p>Maori freehold land is defined in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 as land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by a freehold order issued by the Maori Land Court. Only land that is subject of such an order may qualify for remission under this policy.</p> <p>Objective. The postponement on rates on Maori freehold land is to facilitate the development and use of the land for economic use where the Council considers utilisation would be uneconomic if full rates were required during the years of development and establishment.</p> <p>Conditions and Criteria. The Council will consider postponement of rates where previously unoccupied land is subject to clearing, development and commercial use where the Council considers utilisation would be uneconomic if full rates were required during the years of development and establishment.</p> <p>Application should be made prior to commencement of the development. Applications made after the commencement of the development may be accepted at the discretion of the Council.</p> <p>Owners or trustees making application should include the following information in their applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details of the property. • the objectives that will be achieved by providing postponement. • details of the proposed development. <p>The Council may also, at its discretion, partially remit rates that are otherwise subject to postponement.</p> <p>No postponement will be granted on targeted rates for water supply, sewage disposal or refuse collection.</p>
<p>Payment due dates and penalties</p>	<p>All rates will be payable in four instalments due on:</p> <p>Instalment 1: 27 August 2003 Instalment 2: 26 November 2003 Instalment 3: 25 February 2004 Instalment 4: 26 May 2004.</p> <p>Pursuant to Section 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 the following penalties on unpaid rates will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a charge of 10 percent on so much of any instalment that has been assessed after 1 July 2003 and which remains unpaid after the due date for that instalment. • a charge of 10 percent on so much of any rates levied before 1 July 2003 which remain unpaid on 1 July 2003 or such later date as required under section 58(1)(b)(ii) (New Plymouth, North Taranaki and Stratford constituencies only). • a continuing additional penalty of 10 percent on so much of any rates levied before 1 July 2003 that remain unpaid six months after the previous penalty was added (New Plymouth, North Taranaki and Stratford constituencies only).
<p>Discount for early payment</p>	<p>The Council will allow a discount of 3% where a ratepayer pays the year's rates in full on or before the due date of the first instalment for the year. This will be 27 August 2003 (South Taranaki constituency only).</p>
<p>Payment locations</p>	<p>The Council's rates and charges will become due and payable at the principal offices and service centres of the region's district councils. The rates and charges can also be paid at the principal office of the Taranaki Regional Council.</p>