

**SPECIAL ISSUE**  
 Summary of the Draft  
 Hurunui Long Term  
 Community Plan 2009-2019

# Hurunui News

Delivered Free in the Hurunui District and Rural North Canterbury Each Fortnight



## A Message From the Mayor

**Hello everyone, welcome to this special edition of the Hurunui News which is a dedicated summary of the Hurunui Long Term Community Plan.**

This summary outlines some important themes and points that will assist you gain an overall understanding of the key issues contained in the full plan and what they may mean to you, and to our district. If you would like a copy of the full plan, these are available on our website [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz) and at all of our libraries and service centres.

We have been continuously guided by the same overriding fundamental principles that we have emphasised since 2004:

- Focus on core services and infrastructure such as roading, water supplies, solid waste, and waste water and stormwater
- Financial prudence and affordability in all areas
- Continuous improvement in customer service delivery

The 2009 – 2019 plan goes further, to include a fourth strategic element, namely the pursuit of maximum leverage and integration of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa to off set the general rates bill and to continuously enhance our network of reserves.

All of this work has come to a proposed rating result as follows:

- A general rate increase for

2009/2010 of 0.15 percent (well below the previously signalled increase of 3.26%)

- An average total rate increase for 2009/2010 of 3.5 percent (the previously signalled increase of 4.25%)
- The ten year cumulative increase is 18.5 percent for the district wide general rate (1.8 percent per year on average), and 32.4 percent for total rates including all amenity and targeted rates (3.2 percent per year)

All these projections include inflation.

The full long term plan also includes an appendix which outlines the proposed 2009/10 rates across a range of sample properties throughout the district, so that you can easily see the impact of the budgets and plans.

We have found the development of the draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan challenging and rewarding, and we look forward to discussing it further with you at the various public opportunities in the weeks ahead, and to your submissions and feedback.

**Sincerely, Garry**



## Draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan 2009-2019

This Special Edition of the Hurunui News is a summary of the Draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan.

Copies of the full document are available for viewing at all staffed libraries and council service centres, as well as on the council's website [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz)

## Audit Opinion

The Draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan has been scrutinised by Audit New Zealand to ensure the information complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

The plan received an "unqualified opinion" which, as strange as it sounds, is actually big tick and means that the auditors have signed it off, and that it is ready for public consultation.

A copy of the full Auditor's assessment (three pages!) is included in the full plan.

## Index

Mayoral Message	1
Audit Opinion	1
Introduction - It's Your Future	2
"Hurunui Wellness" Theme	2
Community Outcomes	3
Key Issues	3
- Queen Mary Hospital Site	4
- Flooding, Drainage & Stormwater	4
- Hurunui District Reserves	4
- Biodiversity Strategy	4
- Water Management Strategy	5
- Amberley Swimming Pool	5
- Sustainability	6
- Regional Coastal Park	6
- Broadband	6
- Hanmer Springs Regional Forest Park	6
- Primary School Sport Coaching	6
- Road Seal Extensions	6
- Medical Services	7
- District Plan Review and Council Advocacy	7
- Kaikoura District Council (Abolishment Proposal)	7
- Canterbury Museum Development Fund	8
- Development Contributions	8
- Tourism Strategy	8
- Hanmer Springs Township Development	9
- Solid Waste and Recycling	9
- Amberley Township development	9
- Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa	10
Other Consultation Matters	10
Financial Planning	11
Have Your Say - Getting Involved	12

## Help Shape the Future of the Hurunui!

Everybody plans for the future. Be it for their career, their family, a holiday, or a home. A vision of what we want to achieve and where we want to be somewhere down the track is an important part for actually getting to where we want to be!

The Hurunui Long Term Community Plan covers the next ten years, and captures the long-term visions that the community has for the district. It also outlines what the Hurunui District Council, other organisations and government departments will do to contribute towards achieving these.

The Plan is currently in a draft form, and it is important that you have your say to help shape the development of the final plan. The Council strongly values the input of the community, and is really keen to receive your feedback to make the final plan a document we can all be proud of!



## Acknowledgement

As you read through the draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan one of the things you will notice is the wonderful photography of people and places throughout the district. These images were received as part of a competition calling for photographs "that capture the essence of the district". The winning photo was this one, taken by Joy Van Lier, of grandson Luke being distracted from the Farmers' market and his trusty tricycle by the awe-inspiring statue of Captain Charles Upham. The photo is featured on the cover of the plan - but it was a very hard decision for the judges with some stunning entries being received!

A sincere thanks to all the contributors - the judges decision was a difficult one!

# It's Your Future What Are You Waiting For?

The draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan is the combined effort of council and the district's community. It takes into consideration the views of the many individuals who told the council what they consider to be important for the future of our district. Various organisations have also been helping to ensure that the combined efforts are contributing toward the visions and aspirations of Hurunui's people.

This has been no small feat! Many people have put considerable numbers of hours into the development of this plan.

The draft plan covers a 10 year period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2019. It is a way to ensure that the 'big picture' is considered when dealing with so many issues.

One of the aspects of the plan that we really like is the "ward" sections where information about your local area is contained, including the key projects proposed for the next three years - and how they will be paid for. If you would like more details about what is proposed for your area then make sure you have a look at the full plan.

The plan covers all of the council's

activities, such as community services and facilities, activities relating to our economy, our environment, safety, utility services, infrastructure, governance, and the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa.

Proposed new projects and policies are also outlined in the plan - a brief summary of some of these are detailed in the next few pages of this newspaper.

The full plan also outlines how the council intends to fund the proposed projects and activities.

## Assumptions

A number of assumptions have been made as part of the planning process in putting together the Hurunui Long Term Plan. These include population growth/decline, legislative requirements (current and proposed), inflation, the need for sustainability, asset life, expected interest rates, economic factors etc.

Where such assumptions have been made they are explained in the relative activity or financial section in the full plan.

## Get Involved!

The best results will only happen when the council and the community work together. Any feedback that you can give us will help to shape the final plan.

### It's your plan. It's your Hurunui!

It's easy to get involved:

- ★ Get a full copy of the plan from the website [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz) or from all council libraries and services centres
- ★ Pop along to a public meeting or open day near your area. Local councillors and key staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. A full list of days and times is on the back page of this paper.
- ★ Write in - you don't need a special form. Just say what you like or what changes you suggest. The council would love to hear from you!

## What Is Important to You in the Next 10 Years?



Kevin & Tommy Fitzpatrick  
*Leamington*

We are very well looked after for a small country. It is important we look after our local services and volunteers - having the new St John rooms is a real breakthrough it took a lot of community fundraising. A new medical centre is a good idea.

Reticulated water is the best thing that ever happened here, but the government needs to get real with water standards.



Brenda Chiverton & Shirley Wheeler  
*Leithfield & Amberley*

It would be lovely to see a new shopping centre go into Amberley; the area is just waiting for something like that to happen. The number of restaurants and cafés is great, however it does provide a challenge for parking. The Amberley swimming pool needs updating - a year round pool would be ideal.

A gym that provided more sporting activities for the young ones all year round would be good - they need somewhere to go; kids on the streets get into mischief.

Public transport to Rangiora would be good.



Claire Bell & Dylan Kett  
*Cheviot*

We need a youth hang-out centre - somewhere we can go at night time. And more stuff to do especially more sport options. Cheviot is just little, we don't want the place to be too "towny" but activities like mini golf would fit really well.

There aren't a lot of career options after school or university - it would be good if there were more opportunities.

## "Hurunui Wellness" Theme

"Wellness" is a well established holistic concept of integrated and balanced human existence comprising several core dimensions and values. It is not a commonly used term, nor is it just a medical or directly a simple health concept. It is wider than that, and draws in our lifestyle, our relationships with each other and the environment, and our total sense of community.

There is a sense in which the Hurunui already embodies the ideal of wellness - as one Hurunui local put it: "We live the lives the rest of the world would love to live".

In order to build upon strengths that we already possess to form an integrated foundation for sustainable development, community spirit, and tourism, the council has developed a vision of "Hurunui wellness" and incorporated this into many aspects of this plan.



## What do you think?

The council is keen to hear your thoughts on the "Hurunui wellness" concept. Do you agree with what it means? Do you believe it captures the values and spirit of Hurunui? Do you have an alternative theme that you feel better reflects Hurunui? Any other comments?

# Community Outcomes

These are the Community Outcomes that in 2006 you told the council were important to you

## What are Community Outcomes?

The term 'community outcomes' is used to describe what people in our community want to happen now and in the future for the benefit of not only today's people, but future generations.

Community outcomes are about improving the well-being of our communities over time in a sustainable manner. The term 'community well-being' is used to cover the areas of economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being.

## Who is Responsible for Achieving Community Outcomes?

As providers of services and amenities, the council has a key role to play; however it is important to understand that councils are not solely responsible for achieving the community outcomes. Everyone in the community has a part to play and a responsibility towards the well-being of our district. It is up to these individuals and communities to guide their council towards the activities that matter most.

Other organisations and groups also have a part to play towards achieving the community outcomes. Since all other councils are required to go through the same process, the Hurunui District Council collaborates and coordinates efforts with neighbouring councils.

### Essential infrastructure

To enhance our essential infrastructure, the Hurunui needs to have:

- water quality and quantity management systems that provide good, clean household drinking water and continuity of supply for agriculture, horticulture and in the event of an emergency
- a safe, quality roading network that is well maintained
- sewerage systems that support the development of the district and protects the physical environment and health of the community
- public toilets that meet the expectations of visitors and residents, and also provide an environmental and public health service

### Environmental responsibility

To enhance our environmental responsibility, the Hurunui needs to have:

- clean and plentiful water in our rivers, lakes and streams
- beaches/ocean in a healthy condition
- an effective recycling service and to be actively working towards the target of zero waste
- environmental safeguards and protection for natural assets balanced with property owner's rights
- clean, healthy air quality

### Skills and education for work and life

To enhance our skills and education for work and life, the Hurunui needs to have:

- quality education available at local schools and preschools
- practical skills and work/trade-based training opportunities available
- a variety of options for learning to be available to all

### A desirable place to live, work and play

To enhance our desirable place to live, work and play, the Hurunui needs to have:

- strong sense of community that gives people a sense of belonging and encourages them to take part in local activities, to support essential volunteer services, and to be involved in local consultation and decision making
- attractive, well designed villages that present a positive image encouraging people to live in and visit the area
- opportunities in leisure, art and cultural activities
- effective planning for future development but ensuring the preservation of local heritage and rural uniqueness

### A healthy, safe place to live

To enhance our healthy, safe place to live, the Hurunui needs to have:

- good, affordable health care services available for all
- adequate emergency services including fire, police and ambulance
- good quality, affordable accommodation available to meet the community's needs
- affordable and accessible community and social services particularly for the elderly and young families
- management systems and resources to deal with civil defence emergency situations

### A thriving local economy

To enhance our thriving local economy, the Hurunui needs to:

- be a place where business development is encouraged but in a way that preserves the community and the environment
- have new and diverse businesses which will provide local services and employment opportunities for attracting and retaining residents

## How Will We Know There is Progress Towards Achieving the Community Outcomes?

The Council is responsible for monitoring the achievement of the community outcomes and reporting the findings in the Hurunui Long Term Community Plan as well as in Annual Reports.

Each of the community outcomes have performance measures so that over time, the Council can see where more effort is needed.

## How do Community Outcomes Link to Council Activities?

One of council's Community Outcomes is "a desirable place to live, work and play". This means many things to different people, but has an overarching interpretation of being a place where people choose to live - and continue to want to live here in the future. A place where there are 'things to do', and where there are opportunities for employment.

When the council thought about the role it had to play in achiev-

ing this, one of the groups it thought about was the young people of the district and how they have often said that this is not the case for them.

The council asked these young people what would 'a desirable place' look like to them and found out they wanted more organised activities and recreational opportunities arranged throughout the district.

In 2008 the council put in a successful application in to the Ministry of

Youth Development (MYD) to fund a Youth Coordinator for 12 months and purchase resources for activities.

A local business agreed to sponsor the use of a vehicle for the first year of the Hurunui Youth Programme, and many other local businesses have also provided support and sponsorship.

The programme has been very successful to date and the council will be applying for further funding this year.



# Key Issues for the Hurunui District



## Queen Mary Hospital Site

The Crown have agreed to vest 5.5 hectares of the former Queen Mary Hospital site with the council as a historic reserve. In addition, .45 hectares will be vested as a recreation reserve for use with the Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve. The council will bring up the standard of the buildings and undertake the necessary planning for them to be developed and made available for appropriate commercial and community use.

The council proposes to complete some essential maintenance works to the buildings on the site over the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years.

As part of the vesting proposal, the Government has provided \$1.5 million to fund the essential maintenance and earthquake strengthening of the former nurses block on the site. This earthquake strengthening is programmed for 2015/16.



## Flooding, drainage & stormwater issues

In 2008 the district was hit by two severe floods within three weeks of each other. These events highlighted deficiencies in drainage and stormwater management systems in the Amberley area. An independent report on the flooding events was commissioned, and concluded that the flooding in the Amberley area was due to too much runoff from upstream and insufficient outfall to safely dispose of it. Impeded waterways and lagoons closed to the sea by sand bar formation at the river mouths were major factors in this. The report recommended that upstream diversions be undertaken to protect the Amberley township, and, that outfall capacity for Amberley Beach be increased by cleaning, widening and regrading the waterways.

The council will be taking steps to address these issues and potentially similar issues in other areas of the district. Upgrades of Amberley's stormwater systems have been planned at a cost of \$670,000 in the year 2009/10, and it is proposed that these costs be covered by a uniform rating charge of \$41.85 for all ratepayers in the Amberley Ward. (see the draft long term plan for details for both Amberley and Hanmer Springs stormwater plans).

### What do you think?

The council are keen to hear your views about the uniform rate approach across the Amberley Ward. Have they done the right thing by bringing all the various small stormwater schemes into one ward project and funding model? Do you think the rate should be a uniform charge per ratepayer as proposed, or should it be something else such as capital value?

## Hurunui District Reserves

### District Reserves Management Plan

In December 2008 the council adopted a District Reserves Management Plan (available on the council's website [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz)), which brought together the individual policies for the reserves in the district. This combined document has reduced duplication and provides a consistent approach to the management of reserves across the district.

A total of \$1.5m is proposed in the long term plan for potential future development projects for various reserves. This comprises \$475,000 for projects on "district" reserves (funded from Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa surpluses at a budgeted \$50,000 per year 2009 -2019) and a further \$1 million for "amenity" reserves (traditionally funded by amenity rates in line with council's present policy).

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that revenue from reserves only be spent for "purchasing, taking on lease, managing, administering, maintaining, protecting, improving, and developing" reserves. The Hurunui District Council is fortunate to achieve annual surpluses from the Hanmer Springs Thermal Reserve (HSTR), however these can only be spent in the manner described above.

The surplus from the HSTR accounts is forecast to increase from \$1.5m per annum in 2008 to plateau at about \$3m per annum in 2013. Significant proportions of these surpluses will be reinvested

in the HSTR, and some will be used for development of the site of the old Queen Mary Hospital, but ongoing amounts in excess of the annual \$50,000 currently budgeted for spending on other reserves are likely to be available.

Accordingly, a change is proposed to the Reserves Funding Policy that would allow the Council discretion to fund (at least in part) capital projects on such amenity reserves from the surpluses received from the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa, possibly in the form of contestable grants from time to time (as was done in 2006).

This strategy aims to encourage the development of reserves in the district, in line with the ideal of "Hurunui wellness" that is promoted throughout the draft long term plan.

### What do you think?

Feedback is sought from the community as to the nature and level of reserves spending in relation to all of the details given above. In addition to this, it has been suggested that sports clubs in the district might be able to access some of the funds for development of their facilities on reserve land, and that some of the local halls are in need of funding. Another option would be for council to pursue the possibility of an amendment to the Reserves Act in order to allow expenditure of the surpluses in other areas (e.g. education, social, economic development).

## Biodiversity Strategy



A Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by the council in 2008, and will be supported by the employment of a part-time Biodiversity Officer funded by a grant received from the Government. The vision statement set out in the strategy is:

"The unique natural values of the Hurunui district are maintained and enhanced by the council, landowners and other parties working together in partnership, voluntarily and cooperatively, in a non-regulatory framework".

A copy of the full strategy is available on the Council's website: [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz)

## Comprehensive Water Management Strategy



The council's biggest issue for long-term planning concerns water, and they are working to develop a comprehensive water management strategy for the district. This strategy will address issues surrounding storage, distribution, quality, and conservation of water, and will draw in a number of other projects and parties such as the Hurunui Water Project, the Canterbury Strategic Water Study, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, and Environment Canterbury.

The initial draft overview of the Hurunui Water Management Strategy includes six key areas:

- Water storage and distribution for productive and community development.
- Drinking water quality.
- Water conservation and efficiency initiatives.
- Water use research.
- Environmental, social and recreational interests.
- Advocacy.

The strategy emphasises the need for all of us to strive to seek solutions that are based on a balance between various views and interest, so that all sectors "win".

At this stage, the strategy is deliberately brief and high level and further development will be developed after feedback from the draft long term plan, and subsequent working parties and

other consultative processes over the coming months.

However there are plans to upgrade the Cheviot water supply to meet the NZ drinking water standards (\$579,000 has been factored into the budget for 2010/11 year).

### What do you think?

The council believes there is a linkage between water and prosperity for the district and are keen to know if you agree with this. They would like to receive submissions and feedback on the subject of water from all sectors, and in particular they are looking for direction on matters such as:

- agreement with the need to strive for balance between all stakeholders.
- The importance for water storage to offset increasing risk of drought.
- The tradeoffs, if there are any, between drinking water quality and rural stock water scheme economics.
- Are they right to pursue leading edge conservation and efficiency measures in our local planning and building codes?

So what are your thoughts?

## Amberley Swimming Pool

A major upgrade to the Amberley swimming pool, or alternatively, an all new pool, has been consistently identified as a strong "want" in previous consultation exercises.

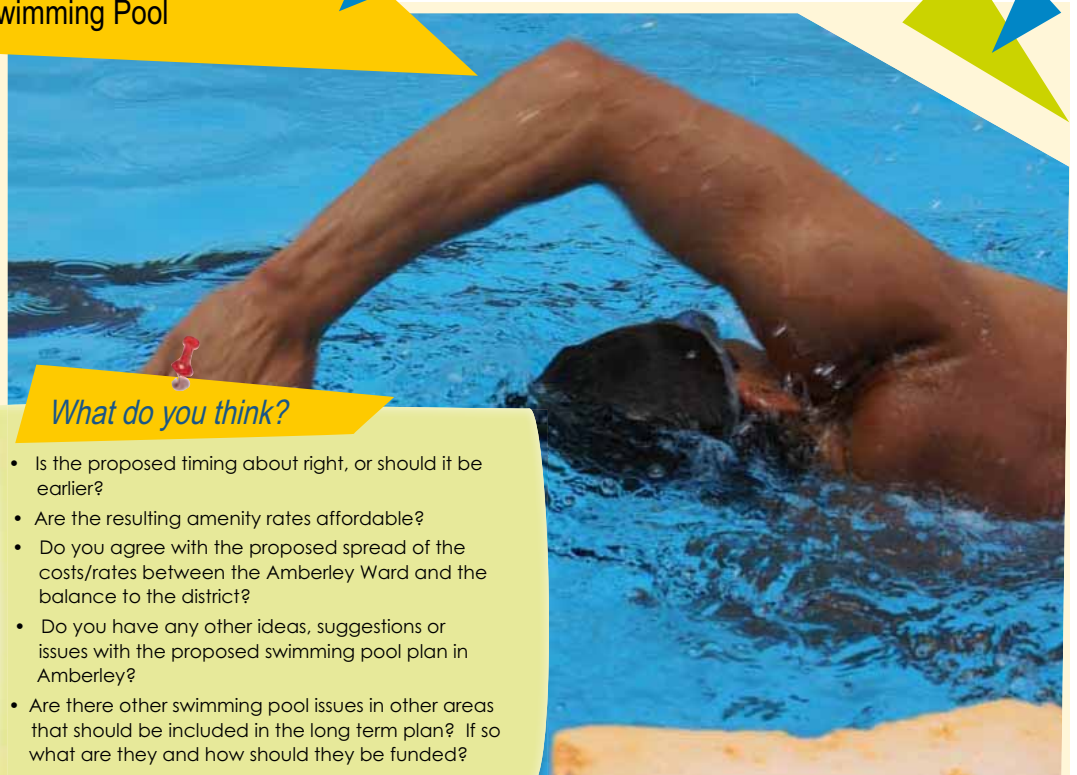
In September 2008 the council completed an in depth review of the life-expectancy and replacement costs of the Amberley swimming pool, and concluded that the present pool has a life-expectancy of approximately 10 more years.

A covered and heated pool, which would be open most months of the year, has been tagged as a replacement for the 2018/19 financial year at a cost estimate of \$3 million.

Although the project is budgeted for the later years of the long term plan, the council need your feedback now to guide their planning.

### What do you think?

- Is the proposed timing about right, or should it be earlier?
- Are the resulting amenity rates affordable?
- Do you agree with the proposed spread of the costs/rates between the Amberley Ward and the balance to the district?
- Do you have any other ideas, suggestions or issues with the proposed swimming pool plan in Amberley?
- Are there other swimming pool issues in other areas that should be included in the long term plan? If so what are they and how should they be funded?



# Key Issues Continued

## Regional Coastal Park

The possibility has been raised of developing a Regional Coastal Park incorporating surplus land from the Kate Valley Landfill along the Mount Cass ridge with Tiromoana Reserve and Covenant areas (see map and details in the full long term community plan).

### What do you think?

The council is keen to receive feedback to help them decide what their position will be on this proposal.



## Hanmer Springs Regional Forest Park

A concept has been proposed to establish a Regional Forest Park in Hanmer Springs centered around an existing forest track network which is extensively used by the public for walking, running and mountain biking. The land areas affected by the proposal are the Dog Stream Reserve, Conical Hill Reserve, Larch Reserve, various DOC Estates, Ngai Tahu / Matariki Forestry, former Hanmer Recreation Reserve, and other areas.

### What do you think?

The council is keen to receive feedback to help them determine the extent and direction of advocacy to undertake in regard to this concept.

## Sustainability

Recent local, and global trends and events have highlighted the need for us to work towards more sustainable means of economic, environmental, social and cultural development. The need for sustainability affects many council policies and activities and is a key assumption of the present plan.

## Broadband

The council sees itself as a facilitator, but not as a funder of broadband infrastructure. It is committed to facilitating "last mile" connections – between any fibre backbone that may be laid in the district and potential broadband users in the district. Developers of major subdivisions are advised by the council to make provisions for "fibre to the home", and the council seeks cooperation with providers of broadband infrastructure when installing underground services. Council engineers are available for advice about dedicated corridors for broadband infrastructure within road reserves. The council also looks to facilitate the provision of wireless broadband infrastructure, e.g. in allowing the situation of wireless masts on council reserve land (to the extent that these structures do not significantly conflict with environmental values).

Enterprise North Canterbury, an economic development agency receiving community funding, submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) in 2008, in making a full application to the government's Broadband Investment Fund for a high-capacity fibre backbone to be laid to connect schools in the Hurunui and Waimakariri Districts. The EOI has been accepted, but progress has been frozen with the change of government. If an opportunity reopens for a subsidy that will not require any substantial funding from ratepayers, the council will follow up this EOI. The council has not set aside any budget provision for the development of broadband in its long term plan.

## Primary School Sport Coaching

The council has received a proposal from the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust to help fund a primary school sport coaching programme for the 28 schools in the North Canterbury area. This initiative is to commence in 2009 and will be backed by SPARC for the first 3 years to get it up and running. Both the Hurunui and Waimakariri District Councils have been asked to contribute from year one to enable the programme (and the expected long term benefits) to continue. Hurunui has been asked to contribute approximately \$14,000 from 2012 onwards.



### What do you think?

While council is sympathetic to the programme, it is very keen to receive feedback from the community before making a decision regarding the provision of ongoing financial support.

Any endorsement would also be subject to how the Waimakariri District Council treats the matter.

## Road Seal Extensions Policy

This policy affirms the council's desire to promote the Community Outcome / dimension of wellness of "essential Infrastructure" by increasing the length of sealed roads in the district while concurrently balancing affordability, funding, and best value for money.

The policy as proposed provides guidelines for prioritising and funding sections of road for sealing, taking into account engineering considerations and applications by residents). \$339,000 has been set aside for this purpose within the scope of the current plan, and additional funds will be made available at the council's discretion within the scope of future plans.



### What do you think?

Does the proposed policy go far enough? Should funding levels for seal extensions be increased? If so, who should pay (just existing residents, or should future residents be incorporated in some way)?

## Medical Services

Providing health services that are of a good quality, affordable and meet the needs of our rural communities in the district presents ongoing challenges. Times have changed and finding qualified medical staff who are prepared to work and live in rural areas has become a major problem faced by many communities throughout New Zealand - and the world.

To attract and retain medical staff important considerations for future planning include having good medical facilities and a strong network of medical practitioners and providers to support each other.

Whereas the council is not in the business of finding medical staff for the district, it contributes by providing medical facilities and facilitating good outcomes. The council meets with key providers of medical services for the district, including the Hurunui Kaikoura Primary Health Organisations (HKPHO), Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB), local practitioners, etc., and through these discussions, have identified that a number of medical services in the district are vulnerable:

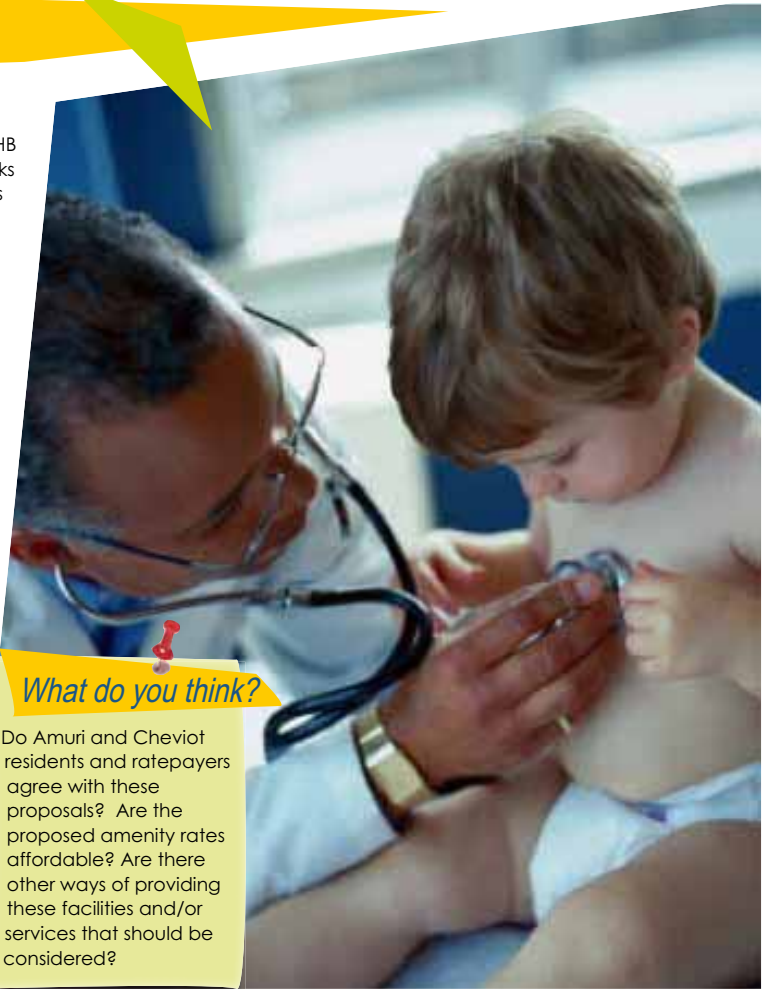
★ The Waikari Hospital is likely to come under review by the CDHB at some time in the future, as it looks for efficiencies and improved ways of providing its services.

★ Both the Rotherham and the Cheviot Medical Centres have identified that their current buildings are inadequate to cater for current and future demand. New medical centres for both towns have been identified in the draft long term plan to gauge the level of public support and feedback. The proposal to build new medical centres in Rotherham and Cheviot will require funding through local amenity rates. Provision of \$1 million has been allowed in 2009/10 to build a new medical centre in Rotherham, and a further \$1 million is factored into the 2016/17 year to do the same in Cheviot.

The Amberley Medical Centre is also planning on building new facilities, but whereas the council owns both the Rotherham and Cheviot Medical Centres, the Amberley Medical Centre is privately owned.

### What do you think?

Do Amuri and Cheviot residents and ratepayers agree with these proposals? Are the proposed amenity rates affordable? Are there other ways of providing these facilities and/or services that should be considered?



## District Plan Review and Council Advocacy

The Hurunui District Plan is due for a full review by 2014, and the council has set aside \$50,000 (2009/10), \$67,000 (2010/11) and \$74,000 (2011/12) to undertake the extensive work required. The council will review all sections of the plan with a focus on subdivision and settlement patterns in the district. The council will also be considering what impact climate change and sea level rise may have on current planning policies. Additional resourcing is also required to respond to outcomes associated with decisions / appeals on

the Natural Resources Regional Plan and, the notification of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement. The council also will be responding to issues associated with the Hurunui River Water Conservation Order and developing a management strategy for the Waipara River to protect the values people place on this resource. Whilst budgeted, no actual expenditure on the District Plan reviews are likely to take place until revisions to the RMA are finalised and legislated.

## Proposal to Abolish the Kaikoura District Council



A proposal to abolish the Kaikoura District Council and to include it in the Hurunui District Council was initiated by a petition of Kaikoura district electors in January 2008. The Hurunui District Council decided not to support the proposal mainly because of the small Kaikoura district population and the large area it covers. The council could not find tangible evidence to suggest that the proposal would result in better local government for either district. Since then, submissions have been called for by the Local Government Commission (LGC) who must consider the proposal against certain criteria and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. The LGC has heard the first round of public submissions. Their decision is not yet known, but if they decide to proceed to the next stage of the process, there will be a further round of public consultation. The draft Hurunui Long Term Community Plan has been prepared on the basis that the proposal will not take effect.

# Key Issues Continued



## Canterbury Museum Development Fund

The council is required to pay an annual levy to the Canterbury Museum to contribute to its running costs. This is currently \$48,198 per annum and increases at a rate of 5% per annum. Canterbury Museum intends to proceed with a redevelopment project which has been signalled in their previous annual plans. The redevelopment is costed at \$63.7M and is shown as occurring between 2011/12 and 2013/14. The levy imposed on Hurunui District Council for the proposed capital development is currently shown as:

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
\$44,523	\$89,045	\$44,523

The council has budgeted for these amounts but has informed the Museum's Trust Board that it is not willing to agree to the proposed capital contribution without more information about the project and without first consulting with its community.

Firm details about the project have yet to be provided.

## Development Contributions

### Proposed Policy Changes

The council has reviewed its Development Contributions Policy, and a number of changes have been made.

Contributions collected for the purchase of the Queen Mary Hospital site will be refunded, but an equivalent amount will need to be collected for the upgrade of the site, so there is a proposed increase in the development contribution payable for this purpose.

Generally speaking, growth in the district has been lower than that predicted by the previous policy, and, accordingly, an increase in several of the other development contributions that will be collected is proposed.

Changes are proposed to the way that inflation is applied to the capital costs of development projects, resulting in development contributions that will progressively increase over the coming years.

Offsetting this, it is proposed that financing costs no longer be added to the face value of contributions, but be accounted for, if

necessary, through collecting a greater number of contributions (if the inflation adjustments underestimate costs in this regard).

A significant proposed alteration is the provision of a two year "grace period" and waiving of new contributions in fairness to developers who may have planned for a certain level of contributions which might otherwise have been subject to change at short notice.

### Anti Piggy-Backing Policy



There has been some concern expressed that developers are "piggy-backing" on earlier

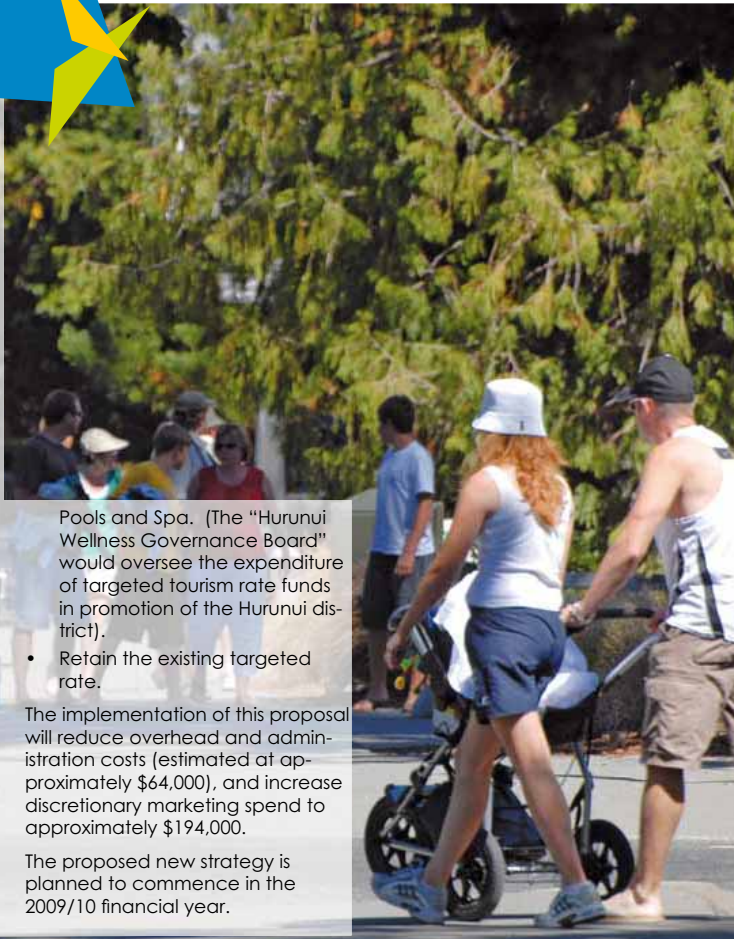
developments by extending infrastructure (water and roading) installed by those developments without having to pay any proportion of the initial cost of infrastructure installation.

A new policy has been written to address this issue, and is included in the full plan.

## Tourism Strategy

A new draft 'Hurunui Wellness Tourism Strategy' has been developed and is proposed in the draft long term plan. The strategy proposed using the "Hurunui wellness" vision as a new core brand and central marketing and development strategy to position Hurunui as a district of difference. The key points are summarised below:

- Retain a council committee / board structure ("Hurunui Wellness Governance Board").
- The General Manager, Alpine Pacific Tourism, becomes "General Manager, Hurunui Wellness", with a dedicated focus on product development and support.
- Formalise the roles, responsibilities and resources of Enterprise North Canterbury with regard to product development and support.
- Create a dedicated destination marketing and promotional unit by restructuring / realigning resources and capabilities already in place in the form of the Marketing Manager, Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa, the Hurunui i-Site, and the existing advertising agency arrangements servicing the Hanmer Springs Thermal



Pools and Spa. (The "Hurunui Wellness Governance Board" would oversee the expenditure of targeted tourism rate funds in promotion of the Hurunui district).

- Retain the existing targeted rate.

The implementation of this proposal will reduce overhead and administration costs (estimated at approximately \$64,000), and increase discretionary marketing spend to approximately \$194,000.

The proposed new strategy is planned to commence in the 2009/10 financial year.

### What do you think?

Before making a final decision, the council is keen to hear your feedback on the proposed changes to the development contribution policy and the new reapportionment of developer outlays policies.





## Hanmer Springs Township Development

The council will be working with the Hanmer Springs Community Board to progress the outcomes of the work of the Hanmer Strategy Group. This will include undertaking a series of investigations relating to subdivision on Woodbank Road and SH7A, reviewing car parking in Hanmer Springs and considering options for integrated development of the former Queen Mary Hospital site. The council will also be considering where and how development in Hanmer Springs Township should be managed to retain the alpine feel and character of the town.

The Hurunui District Plan sets out the standards and conditions which apply to buildings in Hanmer Springs. The Hurunui District Plan is due to be reviewed and separate public consultation will take place during the review process.

## Solid Waste and Recycling

After much debate and extensive consultation the council has voted to continue using Hurunui Recycling's services in combination with services provided by Becon Canterbury. The extra cost of this model is \$166,000 over that of using Becon alone, and is a premium that the public has indicated that it is willing to pay for the social/community benefits of retaining the local provider. This premium takes the total cost to \$1.7 million per annum for council to provide its waste and recycling services. The council commenced a five year agreement with Becon Canterbury on 1 February this year, to enable an estimated minimum of 60% of all dry waste from the district's transfer stations to be diverted from landfill via a back-loading and processing model using Becon's new Canterbury plant.

Glass recycling also resumes this year via drop off points at the district's transfer stations. A dual refuse and recycling collection undertaken by Hanmer Refuse Services has been introduced in Hanmer Springs. The long term benefit of the new model for the district will come as volumes to landfill decline sharply (as Becon's 60 plus percent diversion), combined with increasing landfill charges. These charges are expected to increase in coming years at a greater rate due to increasing fuel prices, government waste levies, and other commercial factors.

From 2009/10, the council is proposing a commercial recycling collection for businesses located in townships. The proposal is for each business to have up to three bags of recycling (or one-two bags plus some flattened cardboard) collected each week. The proposed rate for this will

be \$215 per annum for businesses located in townships. Those businesses not requiring a council collection can opt out through an annual declaration process, or can negotiate with council for an increased special rate to cater for additional volumes. The approach proposed by council is consistent with the domestic collection rate, and eliminates the present inequities whereby some businesses have no collection at all, whilst others are receiving a collection service at no cost (ie subsidised by the domestic ratepayer).

Another key matter is that the resource consent for operating the Amberley transfer station at its present location expires in October 2009. Options are being considered (taking into account present economic conditions) to either relocate the transfer station or to retain it on the existing site if work can be done to meet all of the consent conditions. A summary of the council's Solid Waste Management Plan is attached as an appendix to the long term plan, however in light of the developments described above, it is now out of date. A new Solid Waste Management Plan is being developed and will be consulted on when finished.



### What do you think?

Is the Amberley transfer station in the right location? Are you happy to pay the additional amount to retain a local provider? If you are a business affected by the proposed business rate and collection what are your thoughts about this?

## Amberley Township Development

The Amberley Town Plan Change has been initiated by council to provide for the future growth and development of Amberley Township. Consultation began in March 2008 and concluded in August 2008. Hearings were held in October 2008 and the findings of the hearings panel tasked with deliberating on the proposed plan changes to the Amberley Township were publicly released on 10 February 2009.

One of the panel's key recommendations is supporting significant future expansion of Amberley to the east of SH1 - and have not provided for any additional residential zoned land outside the current urban boundary at this time, concluding that the costs to the community associated with inefficient use of infrastructure were unjustifiable and that there is already land available for development. General support was given for the proposed enlargement of the business area, providing ample space for a new supermarket and other retail facilities. The full report of the panel's findings is available on the council's website [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz).

The council adopted the recommended actions on 17 February 2009, and also reaffirmed its commitment to a growth and development strategy for Amberley. A work plan to support the strategy will be presented at the March 2009 council meeting, with progress on the achievement of these outcomes expected to be evident by 30 June 2009.



## Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa Development

The Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa complex has undergone vast changes during the past four years to modernise the facilities, to cater to increased visitor demand, and to create the new Spa facility. These upgrades and renovations went only as far as the current thermal pools' site would allow. Following the Government's decision to vest a substantial area of the Queen Mary site in council, and consistent with council's intention to use such opportunity to expand the thermal pools and spa to include the adjoining area of approx 4,600 square metres, the council is now proposing a major expansion project for the complex.

The main objectives of this proposed project are:

- To address present concerns of capacity limitations.
- To offset the increasing competition from other water entertainment facilities.
- To continue the thermal pool's award winning reputation as New Zealand's leader in water sensations and recreation.

This \$7.5 million proposal has been incorporated into the budgets for the next three years utilising a new business model that maximises returns to the district at large.

The projects would be funded through the thermal pools and spa borrowing directly from council, with the interest rate set at the greater of: 2.5% above the official cash rate; 2.5% above the council's external borrowing rate; or 2.5% above the floating business rate as supplied by the council's banking providers. The additional interest derived from the internal financing to the thermal pools and spa (\$25,000 per \$1 million of borrowings) provides a good return for the council and contributes toward lower rates.

The risk to the council and ratepayers of borrowing money to fund capital works for the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa is that, should it not be able to achieve the anticipated profits, the council's "dividends" from the pools (used to fund reserves, toilets, cemeteries and district library operations) would be less than required (ie a negative impact on the general rate) as the pools prioritised debt repayment ahead of surpluses to council.

Such risk is considered low as the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa has performed consistently at budgeted levels, previous assumptions of revenue growth arising from capital improvements have been met, and the growth and revenue projections backing up this proposed 2010-2012 extension project are very conservative. The council has also commissioned a professional peer review of the proposed project, its assumptions and returns.

Full details of the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa operation, this planned expansion project, growth and revenue assumptions, and the financing and debt management model are all included in the full plan. The council anticipate that these plans, and their benefit to the district at large, will be an item of particular interest and feedback.

### What do you think?

Do you agree with the direction and proposals that council is considering? Is the advantage of lower rates arising from the business model appealing and sufficient to offset any associated risks? Is council doing the right thing to better integrate and leverage the pools and spa to the benefit of the district?



## Other Matters For Your Comment

In addition to the previous items, the council would like to draw your attention to the following for you to consider and provide feedback on.

Council Activity	Page	Item/s	Cost	Year
Library		Hanmer Springs Library/Service Centre to open 6 days per week	To be funded within existing resources	2009/10
Township Facilities		Amberley Pavillion – continuation of upgrade	\$70,000	2009/10
Property		Pensioner units heating and insulation upgrade	\$40,000 \$51,000	2009/10 2010/11
Public Toilets		Amberley Beach – new toilets to be built	\$50,000	2009/10
Cemeteries		New berms in cemeteries	\$5,000 per year	2009-2012
Reserves		New footbridge to be built at Brooke Dawson Reserve, Hanmer Springs	\$20,000	2009/10
Economic Development		New "Welcome to the Hurnui District" signage	\$15,000 per year	2009-2012
Civil Defence		Sector posts to be wired to receive generators Emergency sewer for the Emergency Operation Centre (Amberley)	\$12,000 per year \$5,000 per year	2009-2013 2009-2012
Rural Fire		Renovate Motunau Fire Depot Replacement fire vehicles	\$22,500 \$36,000 \$63,000	2009/10 2009/10 2011/12
Roading		Seal Woodbank Road, Hanmer Springs Seal Amberley Beach Road Bridge maintenance & upgrades	\$85,000 \$1.2m \$340,000 \$349,000 \$361,00 \$82,500	2011/12 2009/10 2009/10 2010/11 2012/13 2009-15
Sewerage		Warning lights/signs for outside schools Greta Valley treatment renewals	\$24,000	2009/10

# Financial Overview

## Key Financial Issues Included in the LTCCP

### External Debt:

The capital expenditure programme is set at \$13.8 million in 2009/10 and a further \$12.5 million in 2010/11, requiring the council to access external debt for the first time. The prospective statement of financial position shows that the level of external debt is set to peak at \$9.5 million at the end of the 2010/11 year and gradually be repaid over a period of six years.

### Inflation:

The council adopted rates of inflation levels for each year of the long term plan and adjusted budget information accordingly.

### Internal Financing:

The council has adopted a formal policy for internal financing. If a specific community is required to carry out capital expenditure, it can borrow internally from the council, repaying the loan over a period of up to 20 years. Interest costs are set at 1% above the council's external borrowing rate. Additional interest derived is used to offset the general rates.

### Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa:

The council is proposing to expand the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa operation at a cost of \$7.5 million spread over the next three years. To finance this, the pools & spa operation will internally borrow the funds from council and repay a higher amount of interest due to the heightened risks associated with a commercial activity. The additional interest derived will be used to offset the general rates. The pools & spa operation anticipates increased surpluses, which will be used to fund various reserve costs throughout the district.

### Decision not to fully fund depreciation:

As a result of previous consultation, council does not cash fund depreciation on water, sewer, roading or ward amenity assets. The implication of this is that no depreciation reserves are held for the replacement of the asset, so any future capital expenditure will need to be funded through internal loans. The interest costs and principal repayments of loans will need to be funded from rates, and increases may result as a consequence.

## Sample Rates

Property	Capital Value	Actual Rates 2008/2009	Proposed Rates 2009/2010
<b>Amberley Ward</b>			
Amberley Township	270,000	\$1,256.09	\$1,285.33
Amberley Township	550,000	\$1,583.44	\$1,597.94
Amberley Beach Township	195,000	\$1,328.85	\$1,394.42
Amberley Rural	2,800,000	\$3,129.76	\$3,142.27
Leithfield Township	220,000	\$1,262.41	\$1,257.69
Leithfield Beach Township	205,000	\$1,189.10	\$1,175.06
<b>Amuri - Hurunui Ward</b>			
Waiau Township	210,000	\$1,075.24	\$1,155.78
Rotherham Township	305,000	\$966.98	\$1,053.21
Culverden Township	225,000	\$1,197.71	\$1,283.09
Amuri Rural	2,600,000	\$7,054.66	\$7,655.76
Amuri Rural	6,218,000	\$8,460.73	\$8,787.83
Hawarden Township	145,000	\$1,199.44	\$1,209.30
Waikari Township	190,000	\$1,565.57	\$1,567.26
Hurunui Rural	3,500,000	\$4,592.84	\$4,574.96
<b>Cheviot Ward</b>			
Cheviot Township	165,000	\$1,286.13	\$1,303.26
Cheviot Rural	2,500,000	\$4,162.83	\$4,238.89

## Financial Statements

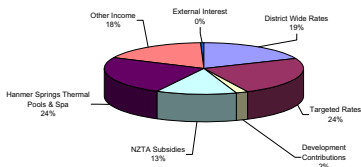
	Annual Plan 2008/09 \$000's	Year 1 2009/10 \$000's	Year 2 2010/11 \$000's	Year 3 2011/12 \$000's
<b>PROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2019</b>				
<b>Revenue</b>				
District Wide Rates	5,044	5,102	5,416	5,598
Targeted Rates	6,253	6,641	6,959	7,195
Development Contributions	648	507	908	823
External Interest Received	475	116	108	115
NZTA Subsidies	3,362	3,564	4,258	3,737
Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa	5,425	6,887	7,549	8,308
Other Income	3,613	4,900	3,850	3,387
	<b>24,820</b>	<b>27,417</b>	<b>29,047</b>	<b>29,163</b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>				
Employee Benefits	4,306	4,306	4,422	4,534
Direct Expenditure	13,468	15,308	15,868	16,578
External Interest Paid	443	286	577	592
Depreciation	5,431	5,655	5,801	6,497
	<b>23,648</b>	<b>25,555</b>	<b>26,669</b>	<b>28,202</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) before tax</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>961</b>
Tax expense	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) after tax</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>Add Other Comprehensive Income</b>				
Vested Asset Income	763	410	708	625
Gains/(Losses) on Asset Revaluation	5,488	0	21,716	0
Gains/(Losses) on Forestry Revaluation	0	326	325	325
	<b>6,251</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>22,749</b>	<b>950</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>7,423</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>25,128</b>	<b>1,911</b>
<b>Summary of Capital Expenditure</b>				
Community Services and Facilities	5,261	2,344	851	414
Growth & Development	0	15	15	0
Environment & Safety	62	67	79	141
Utility Services & Infrastructure	10,008	6,656	7,695	5,709
Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa	250	4,347	3,658	635
Governance & Corporate Services	209	366	276	337
	<b>15,790</b>	<b>13,794</b>	<b>12,577</b>	<b>7,236</b>

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>PROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2019</b>				
<b>Public Equity</b>				
Accumulated General Reserves	152,195	145,470	148,882	150,793
Other Reserves	4,435	5,227	5,227	5,227
Asset Revaluation Reserves	119,504	123,330	145,046	145,046
<b>Total Public Equity</b>	<b>276,134</b>	<b>274,027</b>	<b>299,155</b>	<b>301,066</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6,786	2,779	3,090	3,437
Accounts Receivable	1,579	2,445	2,445	2,445
Inventories	108	146	146	146
Other current assets	0	167	167	167
	<b>8,473</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>6,195</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Operational Assets	25,297	31,432	31,456	31,444
Restricted Assets	25,806	32,515	35,914	35,841
Infrastructural Assets	224,245	212,130	237,217	238,053
Intangible Assets	0	56	37	25
Forestry Assets	1,500	2,040	2,366	2,691
Other Financial Assets	675	604	604	604
Investments	0	0	0	0
	<b>277,523</b>	<b>278,778</b>	<b>307,594</b>	<b>308,659</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>285,996</b>	<b>284,315</b>	<b>313,443</b>	<b>314,854</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	3,943	3,655	3,655	3,655
Other Current Liabilities	0	1,056	1,056	1,056
	<b>3,943</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>4,711</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>				
Term Debt	0	5,500	9,500	9,000
Other Non Current Liabilities	5,919	77	77	77
	<b>5,919</b>	<b>5,577</b>	<b>9,577</b>	<b>9,077</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,862</b>	<b>10,288</b>	<b>14,288</b>	<b>13,788</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>276,134</b>	<b>274,027</b>	<b>299,155</b>	<b>301,066</b>

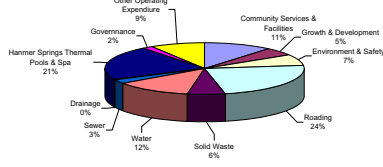
Property	Capital Value	Actual Rates 2008/2009	Proposed Rates 2009/2010
<b>Glenmark Ward</b>			
Motunau Beach Township	410,000	\$1,401.28	\$1,399.57
Waipara Township	225,000	\$870.20	\$842.46
Glenmark Rural	2,200,000	\$6,772.24	\$6,772.56
<b>Hanmer Springs Ward</b>			
Hanmer Springs Township (Tourism)	440,000	\$1,929.79	\$1,906.73
Hanmer Springs Township	510,000	\$1,587.19	\$1,579.00
Hanmer Springs Rural	3,900,000	\$4,391.67	\$4,377.10

## How Your Rates are Spent

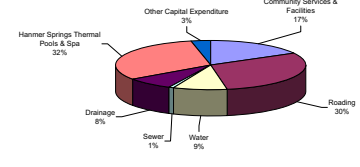
Operating Income for 2009/2010 year  
\$27,393,000



Operating Expenditure for 2009/2010 year  
\$25,555,000



Capital Expenditure for the 2009/2010 year  
\$13,794,000



# Getting Involved Having Your Say!

The Hurunui Long Term Community Plan process is the best opportunity for residents and ratepayers to influence the activities carried out on your behalf by the Hurunui District Council.

This plan is only a draft at this stage, it is a working document and you have the chance now to shape it into its final format. The council needs to get your feedback before it can finalise the plan.

## How do I have my say?

Making a submission is easy, you don't need a formal submission form (although these are still available for those who want one):

**Write a letter to the council** at PO Box 13 Amberley. Simply include a subject line at the start of your letter which says "Submission to the Hurunui Long Term Plan" and then just write about any or all of the issues in the plan that you would like to comment on. Be sure to include your name, address and a daytime phone number and also indicate whether you would like to come and speak to the council about your submission. You do not have to come and speak to the council, but if you would like the opportunity then a council representative will phone you to make a time.

**Public Meetings and Open days** are sessions at service centres or libraries where you can talk to local ward councillors and council staff and the Mayor about what concerns you. Times and dates are detailed below.

**hurunui.govt.nz**  
The council's website has an 'online submission' area for you to send in your feedback - or you can send an email to [submission@hurunui.govt.nz](mailto:submission@hurunui.govt.nz)

**Submission forms** are available at all council service centres and libraries, and also on their website.

## Where do I get more information about something I read in this summary?

Copies of the full draft plan are available at all council service centres and libraries, and also on the council website: [hurunui.govt.nz](http://hurunui.govt.nz)

Your local councillor/s, the Mayor and key council staff are also available to attend your club, organisation or community meeting, please contact Amelia Dalley on 03 314-8816 to arrange.

## When do I need to have my feedback in by?

The consultation period is from 6 March to 24 April, 2009. You can submit your feedback any time between these dates.

The council will hold special hearings for those who would like to speak to their submissions from 11 to 15 May, 2009.

## Public Meetings and Open Days

### Amberley and Glenmark Wards

Monday 16 March	Youth Forum	Hurunui Memorial Library, Amberley	4:00 pm
Tuesday 24 March	Open Day	Hurunui Memorial Library, Amberley	4:00-6:00 pm
Tuesday 24 March	Public Meeting	St John Hall, Amberley	7:45 pm
Monday 30 March	Tourism Public Meeting	Council Chambers, Amberley	7:00 pm

### Amuri-Hurunui Ward

Tuesday 17 March	Open Day	Hurunui College, Hawarden	4:00-6:00 pm
Wednesday 18 March	Open Day	Rotherham Community Hall	6:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday 18 March	Public Meeting	Rotherham Community Hall	7:30 pm

### Cheviot Ward

Tuesday 31 March	Public Meeting	Cheviot Community Hall	7:00 pm
------------------	----------------	------------------------	---------

### Hanmer Springs Ward

Saturday 21 March	Open Day	Hanmer Springs Library	11:00-12 noon
Friday 27 March	Public Meeting	Hanmer Springs Community Hall	7:30 pm
Saturday 28 March	Open Day	Hanmer Springs Library	11:00-12 noon
Wednesday 1 April	Tourism Public Meeting	Hanmer Springs Community Hall	3:00 pm
Saturday 4 April	Open Day	Hanmer Springs Library	11:00-12 noon

## What is Important to You in the Next 10 Years?



Rick, Tess & Zeta van der Wel  
Cheviot

Diversity will be important in the next 10 years; a balance of tourism and farming. Water is really crucial - it is all about balance. We need farming, farming needs water. But it is not an endless resource. Storage is the key within the environmental sensibilities.



Jo Watere  
Amberley

The current economic climate is of concern to me. I would like to see Amberley really thrive as it has a lot to offer. The state highway provides great opportunities for tourism. Updating the shopping facilities and encouraging a variety of different shops to open would be great.



Aileen Watson  
Hanmer Springs

I would like to see structured growth with more thought put into development projects to keep the friendly, warm spirit and heart of the village. It is a safe place and it is important to keep this.

I would love to see more eco-tourism awareness.



Danielle & Matthew Cooper  
Hawarden

I like living in a rural area because we have lots of pets. We know most of the people around us so it is very safe. I enjoy going to the swimming pool, it is nice and close to our house and it is not too expensive. The swimming lessons are great.



Jesse Turner  
Waipara

I really like having access to fast and free internet at the library. Other than going to the library it can get boring with not much else to do. I think an activity group, where we go to town and do things like tenpin bowling, skating or going to movies would be fun.

Swimming at the water hole is cool - I like to swim outside in natural water.



Tim McCracken  
Arthur Burkes - Amberley

Amberley needs a bigger supermarket to bring down the cost of buying food here. I think that there needs to be more activities for young people living in the town. A support group for young parents would be good too as it would give stay-at-home-parents a chance to get out of the house and catch up with other people.



Carmen Cater  
Culverden

Culverden is a great little town to live in. In the future I would like to see road safety improved - especially on the main street, more walkways for locals and more community events. The main street could do with a tidy up and it would be good to see new ventures set up in the empty buildings there.



Frances Robinson  
Gore Bay

I think we should be looking at ways to keep the kids in the area, and there needs to be more for all aged kids to do after school and at weekends - things like safe bike trails.

If the Cheviot swimming pool could be covered it would be usable all year round which would be great for the whole community.