

Auckland Council Emergency Budget information sheet

What are rates?

- People who own property (e.g. homeowners) pay property rates to council. These rates help Auckland Council to fund day-to-day operations and services which many of us use and enjoy, such as:
 - Collecting rubbish
 - Improving public transport
 - Organising and facilitating events
 - Maintaining parks
 - Running libraries and other community facilities.
- [Find out](#) what rates pay for in your local area.

What is the Auckland Council Emergency Budget all about?

- Auckland Council would like your feedback on whether council should keep the planned 3.5% rate rise, or reduce the rate rise to 2.5%.
- Rates normally make up about 40% of council revenue/income, but due to COVID-19, there has been a huge reduction in other sources of revenue/income for council. This means council will lose revenue/income of over half a billion dollars. So, in 2020/2021, council will rely even more on income from rates to fund essential services.
- Rates are currently planned to increase by 3.5%. However, due to COVID-19, even with this 3.5% increase, there will need to be less spending on some council services and many big construction projects will need to be delayed.
- With a lower rate increase of 2.5%, council says it will need to further reduce spending on council services and further delay investment in transport, parks and community and town centre projects.

Why does it matter to me?

- Due to COVID-19, a 3.5% rate rise means reduced support to vulnerable groups and communities already. If only a 2.5% rate rise comes into effect, it would mean, for example, permanent closure of some community facilities, possibly higher costs for public transport, further reductions in grants and local programmes which communities and community groups rely on, cuts to climate change initiatives and more jobs losses.
- Stuff's Todd Niall in his recent [opinion piece](#) pointed out that "the requirement to consult on the proposed council budget usually results in the views of older, whiter and wealthier Aucklanders having a disproportionate say".
- We want diverse voices and people most affected by the changes to have their say.

What about support for people and families who are struggling financially?

- Council has stated that a 3.5% rate rise is an increase of \$1.82 per week or \$94.85 per year on average, for ratepayers.

- Council is proposing to introduce a Rates Postponement Scheme for ratepayers, households and businesses that are most affected by COVID-19. This will allow ratepayers who are struggling financially as a result of COVID-19 to defer up to \$20,000 of their rates for the 2020/2021 year.
- Provide feedback on whether you support the Rates Postponement Scheme.

What are the key impacts, at a glance?

Impacts at 3.5% average rates rise	Further impacts at 2.5% average rates rise
Impacts on the most vulnerable ↓ Less support for vulnerable communities	Impacts on the most vulnerable ↓ Deeper cuts to community services, support and infrastructure at a time of great need ↓ Less support for the homeless ↓ Greater impacts on vulnerable communities
Impacts on community facilities ↓ Shorter opening hours ↓ Lower maintenance levels	Impacts on community facilities ↓ Shorter opening hours ↓ Lower maintenance levels ↓ Some facilities permanently closed ↓ Greater impacts on vulnerable communities
Impacts on community programmes & grants ↓ Less programmes delivered in facilities ↓ Reduction in community grants and events	Impacts on community programmes & grants ↓ Even less programmes delivered in facilities ↓ Further reductions in community grants and events ↓ Greater impacts on vulnerable communities
Impacts on transport network ↓ Reductions in public transport services ↓ Less investment in safety programmes, walking & cycling	Impacts on transport network ↓ Reductions in public transport services ↓ Less investment in safety programmes, walking & cycling ↓ Possibly higher fares for public transport ↓ Greater impacts on vulnerable communities
Impacts on jobs and employment ↓ Reduction in permanent council staff numbers (loss of jobs) ↓ Less jobs across wider Auckland economy	Impacts on jobs and employment ↓ More job losses and even less jobs and employment opportunities ↓ No introduction of a living wage for council cleaners ↓ Greater impacts on vulnerable communities
Impacts on climate change ↓ Reduced action on climate change & addressing Auckland's carbon emissions	Impacts on climate change ↓ Further delays on climate change action & addressing Auckland's carbon emissions ↓ Higher transport fares
Impacts on spending, debt & asset sales ↓ Council borrowing more money / Increased debt ↓ Selling off assets ↓ Reduced spending	Impacts on spending, debt & asset sales ↓ Borrowing even more money ↓ Selling off more assets ↓ Reducing spending even further

What are the questions council wants my feedback on?

- The questions are:
 1. General rates increase for 2020/2021 – which increase do you support, 3.5% or 2.5%?
 2. Rates postponement for ratepayers impacted by COVID-19 – do you support the proposal?
 3. Suspending the targeted rate paid by accommodation providers – do you support the proposal?
 4. Other feedback – what is important to you?

All questions are optional.

When will the decision on the budget be made?

- Following consultation, all feedback will be considered, and the 2019/2020 Annual Budget will be formally adopted on 30 July 2020. Council's decisions will be widely communicated, and a summary report will be available online.

How can I have my say?

- Feedback must be received by midnight Friday 19 June 2020.
- You can provide your feedback via:

[Online form](#)

[Email](#) (by filling out the [PDF of the online form](#) and sending your responses to akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

By post

Post your completed feedback form to:

Ak Have Your Say
Auckland Council
Freepost Authority 182382
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Via Social media

Facebook

Comments on 'Emergency Annual Budget' Facebook posts on Auckland Council and Local Board Pages AND/OR using #AKHaveYourSay

Instagram

Comments on 'Emergency Annual Budget' Instagram posts on the Auckland Council Page AND/OR using #AKHaveYourSay

Twitter

Comments on 'Emergency Annual Budget' Twitter posts on the Auckland Council Page AND/OR comments using #AKHaveYourSay across other Twitter pages

By phone

If you would prefer to give your feedback over the phone you can register for this by phoning us on: 09 301 0101

Where can I find out more?

- [Emergency Budget Consultation Document](#)
- [Impacts of rates increases on Emergency Budget](#)
- [Message from the Mayor](#)
- [Attend or watch a video from the Emergency Budget webinars](#)