



Changes to our Water Rates

If you're connected to Council's water supply system, your most recent water invoice may have shown an increase in the cost for your first cubic meter of water.

As part of our Long Term Plan 2021-2031, and following public consultation, Council decided to equalise the costs of supplying water across its five networks. This was to allow for a more equitable share of the costs and benefits for all those connected around the District by removing the variation in first cubic meters, and per meter rates. As an example, a ratepayer connected to the water supply in Dargaville now pays the same supply cost as a ratepayer connected to the water supply in Maungatūroto.

Your first invoice

The first invoice you receive contains the cost for your first cubic metre of water. This cost is higher than any subsequent water supply charge, as it covers much of the significant infrastructure works associated with transporting the water from its source to your home.



Your first invoice (continued)

This includes water treatment, in line with the Government's Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand.

Everyone paying the same first cubic meter (which covers the treatment plants and overhead costs) and paying a uniform supply amount evens out the cost of maintaining the service for all those connected to the network. It means the cost of increasing the capacity or reliability of the schemes is shared by everyone on a Council water scheme and reduces the significant burden of maintenance to those on smaller schemes.

How much do we spend on the water supply network?

In the 2020/2021 year Council spent approximately \$4.6 million on the water supply networks across Kaipara. Part of that was \$1.02m of funding from the Government to spend on capital upgrades to the water supply.

In our plan for 2021/2022 we're looking to spend approximately \$5.7 million on the water networks, with about \$900k coming from government funding.



Having trouble making payments?

If you're having difficulty meeting the cost of your water rates, talk to our friendly revenue team about developing a payment plan.