



## Should some of the funds from the Waitoa community hall be used to support a water supply for Waitoa village?

Council is seeking feedback on the use of the former Waitoa community hall proceeds as part of its consultation on the proposal to connect Waitoa village to a town water supply. This is based on the recommendation of the Waitoa Water Community Panel - a panel made up of local residents - who spent several weeks reviewing options, hearing from experts, and weighing up costs, risks and impacts before making recommendations to Council.

The Panel ultimately recommended connecting Waitoa to Council's water supply, with a strong focus on keeping costs as fair and manageable as possible for local households. One of the ways the panel identified that would support this was using a portion of the funds from the hall sale to help homeowners offset the cost of connecting to the water supply.

We want to know how the ratepayers of Waitoa feel about allocating some or all of the hall funds towards connecting the settlement to the water supply (**if this proceeds**).

### **Where the community hall comes into this**

Waitoa historically had a community hall, which was funded by local residents through their rates.

The hall was ageing and under-utilised, so based on feedback from the hall committee (made up of locals) Council opted to sell the hall in 2019. There's now approximately \$386,000 generated from the sale and interest over the years.



The Community Panel considered this money to be from a Waitoa community asset and discussed how it could be used in a way that continued to benefit the settlement.

Their recommendation was:

- That the proceeds from the sale of the Waitoa community hall be used to help reduce the cost of the new water supply, and
- That those funds be applied only to households directly affected by the water supply change, rather than across the wider district.

In other words, the Panel's view was that the funds should stay with Waitoa and be used to help solve one of the community's longest-running challenges.

### **What is being proposed**

The panel acknowledged that a wider pool of ratepayers contributed to the hall (i.e. there are Waitoa ratepayers who are not affected by the changes to water). So their suggestion was to pro-rata the funds – this would mean that the households connecting to water supply would get a 'fair share' of the hall funds, based on what they had contributed over the years. The balance - for Waitoa ratepayers not impacted by changes to water services - would remain in Council's reserve funds, and may be used to advance other projects/initiatives across the district.

### **Rough costs**

In giving feedback on this, it's helpful to know the rough costs Waitoa households may face to connect to the water supply. Costs are currently estimated to be around \$10,000 per property (based on high-level estimates, and including connection to the property boundary – work within private property would be at the owner's cost).

If we pro-rata the hall costs, each of these households would get a contribution of about \$1,840, to help offset these costs.



## Options

	<b>Option 1:</b> Panel's preferred option – Pro-rata the hall proceeds to support those connecting to the water supply	<b>Option 2:</b> Contribute the entire hall proceeds towards the settlement's water supply	<b>Option 3:</b> Do not spend the hall proceeds on the water supply
How much would this reduce the costs for Waitoa residents connecting to town supply?	Approximately \$1,840	Approximately \$2,960	\$0
Who would benefit?	Significant benefit to residents connecting to the water supply. Minor benefit to all ratepayers from the balance of funds being held in Council's reserve and being available for other projects.	Most benefit for residents connecting to the water supply	Benefit to all ratepayers from the hall funds being held in Council's reserve (i.e. these help offset rates or fund projects).

This is part of Council's consultation on the proposal to connect Waitoa to a town water supply. Because the Community Panel made the recommendation about the hall proceeds alongside the recommendation to connect to water supply – we'd like to consider, and make final decisions on both matters at the same time.

Because this money came from a community asset, we believe it is important to check whether Waitoa ratepayers support the Panel's recommendation on use of the hall funds before moving any further.

## What happens next

Please complete the survey by 21 June 2026 to tell us your thoughts. Your feedback will help inform Council's decision-making and will be reported alongside other information relating to the Waitoa water proposal.

We are seeking one response from each property that paid the Waitoa hall targeted rate. If there are multiple people associated with a property (for example, joint owners or occupants), please work together to provide a single response that best reflects the property's view.

You can complete the survey:

- online at [mpdc.nz/waitoahall](https://mpdc.nz/waitoahall) or
- use the form that's attached and either return it to one of our Council offices or post it to: Matamata-Piako District Council, PO Box 266, Te Aroha.

