

# REMISSION OF RATES ON MĀORI LAND

Councillor briefing  
Wednesday 6 April 2022

# Changes to the rating of Māori land

- The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 was passed in to law in April 2021.
- This Act is part of the Government's wider commitment to supporting whānau and regional development through whenua (land).
- The major changes that have an impact on land in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai:

# Major changes to the rating of Māori land

## 1. Wholly unused land to be non-rateable

Before	Owners of wholly unused Māori land blocks are legally obliged to pay rates.
After	Historic rate arrears on unused Māori land will be automatically removed and no further rates will be charged on wholly unused land blocks.
Benefits	This clears the way for Māori landowners to develop unused Māori land and pay rates once this land comes into productive use. It also ensures unused Māori land does not accumulate rates arrears in the future.
Comes into effect	1 July 2021
Impact in Lower Hutt	25 parcels of Māori Freehold Land. The majority is already non-rateable and an additional three have changed to non-rateable as a result of this legislation change.



# Properties changed to non-rateable

1500 Coast Road



1162, 1164 Coast Road



# Major changes to the rating of Māori land

## 2. Policy on remission and postponement of rates on Māori Freehold land

Before	Local authorities across the country take different approaches to the remission of rates on whenua Māori. While some local authorities remit or postpone rates payments on unused land, others do not.
After	Policy must support the principles set out in the Preamble of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
Benefits	All rates remission policies will support the principles of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 which aims to balance the protection of Māori land for future generations with the ability to use and develop land to meet the aspirations of whānau.
Comes into effect	1 July 2022
Impact in Lower Hutt	Full review of our policy on remission and postponement of rates on Māori Freehold land.

# Key aspects of proposed policy

- We propose to align our policy with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to support consistency across the region.
- This includes broadening the scope of the policy to include general land collectively owned by Māori.
- This policy will to support the strengthening of Council's partnership with Mana Whenua.
- Engagement to date

# Next steps

- Once the draft policy is approved at the committee meeting 28 April 2022, public consultation under the Special Consultative Procedure will start for one month.
- Following this, the final policy will be presented to Council for adoption at the meeting on 7 June 2022.

# Thanks

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