

**Reference Number: 2025/1288**

9 September 2025



Tēnā Koe | Dear 

Thank you for your email dated 26 August 2025 requesting costs related to Maori Wards under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Specifically, you requested *'How much does it cost council to have the Maori wards on it in real dollars. Annually would be appreciated please.'*

A clarification was sought to confirm whether you were requesting information on annual wages or election costs. You confirmed that your request relates to annual wages.

Salaries are set independently by the [Remuneration Authority](#), the statutory body responsible for establishing elected member pay across all councils in New Zealand. Elected member remuneration is not determined by Council.

All councillors receive the same base salary, whether they are elected through a Māori Ward or a General Ward. The only differences arise if a councillor is given additional responsibilities, such as serving as Deputy Mayor, Committee Chair, or holding other governance roles.

Remuneration levels are reviewed and adjusted each year by the Remuneration Authority, so the amounts may vary annually. The remuneration for the 2025/2026 financial year is as follows:

**Horowhenua District Council**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Annual remuneration (\$)</b>
Mayor	152,199
Deputy Mayor and Chair Hearings and Regulatory Committee	76,593
Chair—Risk and Assurance Committee, Chair—District Plan Steering Group	58,571
Chair—Community Funding and Recognition Committee	54,065
Chair—Capital Projects Delivery Steering Group	49,560
Councillor with no additional responsibilities	45,054
Councillor (minimum allowable remuneration)	36,022

**Guidance note**

The governance remuneration pool for the Horowhenua District Council is \$554,169. See the explanatory note to this determination for further information about the Remuneration Authority's methodology when fixing members' remuneration.

**Te Awahou Foxton Community Board**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Annual remuneration (\$)</b>
Chairperson	14,422
Member	7,211

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Jacinta Straker (Group Manager Organisation Performance) on [jacintas@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:jacintas@horowhenua.govt.nz), or [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Monique Davidson  
**Chief Executive**