

Bruce Clarkson

Rates

We acknowledge that Regional Council rate increases have been amongst the lowest in our region, however, local government rates are increasing in excess of CPI. Ratepayers are in a cost-of-living crisis. Growth cannot be an excuse as it is simply a factor you will have to deal with.

How will you manage Rates increases?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Comments (200 words max):

I can't speak for local government rates as a whole only in relation to WRC. I consider we took a balanced approach in the LTP and annual plan and landed on a modest increase. We were 3rd lowest increase in country for regional councils.

By seeking greater use of shared services.

By seeking greater use of other funding sources

By lobbying central government to increase their cofunding of some areas and to decrease their unfunded mandate requirements

Bruce Clarkson- my policies can be seen on policy.nz

(<https://policy.nz/2025/waikato-regional-council-hamilton-general-constituency/candidates/bruce-clarkson>)

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Debt

Debt has been the easy option for local government entities to resort to in order to hold rates down in the face of inflation, growth, and a need to be re-elected. Councils such as Hamilton and others have had rating downgrades pointing to a failure by Councils to prudently manage their finances.

How will you deal with debt?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Comments (200 words max):

We don't have a significant debt problem at WRC but I will be focused on prudent financial management.

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Amalgamation

The amalgamation of some or all of Waikato Councils has been an issue the Chamber has been canvassing for some years. Auckland has been amalgamated, and the net result is seen as positive for their community with little diminution of democracy.

"For the 2025/2026 rating year, Auckland Council has announced a total rates increase of 5.8%, equating to approximately \$223 per year for the average residential property."

What is your considered position on Amalgamation?



For amalgamation



Against amalgamation

If in favour of change, how would you implement it?

1.

2.

3.

Comments (200 words max):

It will progressively occur as shared services expand and development and upgrades of water infrastructure occurs leading to partnering of councils at subregional levels at first. It can't be top down enforced and it must retain elements of localism to bring people along with the changes needed.

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