

Rates explained

Cromwell

As an Otago Regional Council ratepayer, your contribution plays a vital role in making this region a great place to live, work and visit.

ORC is responsible for promoting the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the region. Our focus is on the environment and Otago's natural resources.

The rates you pay directly help ORC's work to protect Otago's natural resources — water, land and air on behalf of the community. Our work includes flood protection, natural hazard adaptation, public bus services, a ferry service in Queenstown, compliance and a regional response to natural disasters when needed. All of this helps to address regional issues and keep people and properties safe.

Please read on for more details.

What you pay for

Environment

Includes monitoring and acting to protect freshwater, air quality, biodiversity, land and soil as well as biosecurity.

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
\$17M*	\$10.5M

Targeted rates for catchment management (new) and biosecurity

Transport

Includes Orbus public transport services in Dunedin and Queenstown, Total Mobility services and regional transport planning

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
\$3.81M*	\$13.32M

Targeted rates for public transport services

Safety and Resilience

Includes flood protection and drainage, natural hazards programmes, river management and maintenance, and emergency management.

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
\$4.42M*	\$10.98M

Targeted rates for flood protection and drainage schemes, river management and emergency management

Regional Leadership

Includes supporting elected councillors, customer service and communications, regional planning, resource consents and compliance, and 24/7 pollution response.

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
\$23.35M*	\$1.05M

Includes new targeted rates for navigational safety

*Includes Port Otago contribution (see other side for details)

Pay your rates by direct debit

Set up a direct debit so you don't forget to pay.

You can choose to pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually. Direct debits can be set up at any time; however, to avoid a 10% non-payment penalty on your outstanding balance, please apply by 14 October 2024.

Go to orc.govt.nz/directdebit to set this up.



Go paperless

Get your rates invoice by email.

Signing up is easy at orc.govt.nz/gopaperless

0800 474 082

How rates are set

Each year we develop a work plan based on projections in our Long-Term Plan, community requests and government requirements. The community is asked for feedback and ideas before councillors make decisions on what is proposed. Rates are then set using our rating and funding model.

Less than half of ORC's funding comes from rates — the rest comes from fees and charges, grants, reserves, dividends from Port Otago and investment income.

Types of rates

General rates

Every ratepayer pays these, as the activities benefit everyone. These are subsidised by Port Otago dividends — \$18 million this year (38% of general rates funding).

Targeted rates

Targeted rates can be a region-wide charge for certain activities or applied to specific properties based on the benefit received. An example of a region-wide targeted rate is Emergency Management. Public transport in Queenstown or Dunedin is an example of targeted rates applied to properties that benefit from the activity.

Changes to rate types

Some changes have been made to our rates system this year. This doesn't affect the level of services we provide — the changes are about how work is funded by rates and who pays. The changes also give ratepayers a better understanding of what their rates are funding.

What is different

Navigational safety

This rate helps to cover the cost of the harbourmaster service — navigation and safety in Otago's harbours and waterways. Ratepayers were already contributing to the cost of this work through general rates. The amount ratepayers pay for this service is unchanged, but a new rate type means people will see what the cost of this activity is. This rate applies to all ratepayers except the Queenstown Lakes District, where a harbourmaster service is provided by QLDC.

Catchment management

This rate helps to cover the cost of ORC's work to protect indigenous species, biodiversity and water quality. Ratepayers were already contributing to the cost of this work through general rates. The amount ratepayers pay for this service is unchanged, but a new rate type means people will see what their rates contribution to this work is.

Flood protection and drainage

These rates help to cover the cost of infrastructure such as floodbanks and pump stations. Overall, the amount collected in rates doesn't change, but there are some changes in the amounts different ratepayers contribute. Changes to 'benefit zones' mean properties of similar size and value that directly benefit from flood infrastructure will pay the same amount. The proportion paid from general rates increases to 20% for flood

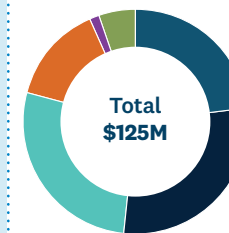
schemes and 10% for drainage, reflecting the wider benefit of these schemes.

Dunedin ratepayers will also notice a new rate, with all properties paying a contribution to the Leith flood scheme.

Public Transport

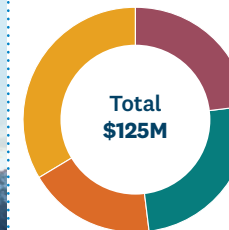
Queenstown and Dunedin will continue to pay targeted public transport rates. A new public transport rate will also be introduced for Waitaki ratepayers to assist with costs of an Ōamaru on-demand public transport service trial. A change will see 20% of the transport rate come from general rates, reflecting the wider benefits of public transport.

Where ORC funding comes from 24/25



General rates	\$29.05M
Targeted rates	\$35.85M
Fees, charges, grants & other	\$34.34M
Port Otago dividend	\$18M
Dividends, interest & investments	\$1.53M
Reserves	\$6.56M

Planned cost of work 24/25



Regional Leadership	\$29.05M
Environmental	\$31.25M
Safety & Resilience	\$23.07M
Transport	\$41.95M