



Otago
Regional
Council



Clutha River/
Mata-Au, Balclutha

Rates explained

Otago Regional Council protects the environmental foundations of healthy Otago communities.

Our work supports clean air and water, resilient rivers and catchments, protection from floods and responsible management of the region's natural resources. ORC also provides public transport, harbourmaster services, emergency management response and monitors natural hazards.

Rates fund the share of this work that cannot be met through fees, grants, investment income, reserves and Port Otago dividend. We are responsible for showing ratepayers what this work costs, why it is needed and what it will deliver.

Read on to find out more about what your ORC rates pay for and other ways our work for Otago is funded.

What you pay for

The figures below show the amount funded through rates. They are not the total cost of each activity.

Environment

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

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
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17.48M*	11.03M
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Targeted rates for catchment management and biosecurity

Transport

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

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
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4.53M*	14.64M
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Targeted rates for public transport services

Climate Change and Resilience

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

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
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4.54M*	11.76M
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Targeted rates for flood protection and drainage schemes, river management and emergency management

Regional Leadership

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

GENERAL RATE	TARGETED RATE
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26.48M*	0.94M
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Includes targeted rates for navigational safety

*Port Otago's \$20M contribution to general rates is not shown above. This reduces general rates for ratepayers.

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 **Monday, 12 October 2026**.

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

Need help?

0800 474 082

customerservices@orc.govt.nz



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About your rates and how Otago Regional Council pays for its work

How rates are set

Rates help pay for the work Otago Regional Council does for our communities. This includes things like flood protection, bus services and environmental monitoring.

ORC's work is detailed in the plans we make with the community each year: either a Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan. This includes the cost of work and how it will be paid for.

Rates cover the cost of about half of ORC's work, while the rest comes from other sources, including Port Otago dividend, fees and charges, grants, and reserves.

Why are there different types of rates?

The rates for each property are different depending on things like location and the services provided to that property or area.

General rates

- Every ratepayer pays these, as the activities benefit everyone.
- General rates are subsidised by Port Otago dividend. In 2026/27, this reduces the general rate cost for property owners by 39%.

Targeted rates

- Targeted rates can be a region-wide charge for certain activities or they might be specific to some areas or properties based on the benefit received.

What's been done to reduce rates costs?

Council has set an overall rates revenue increase of 0% for 2026/27. This does not mean every property's rates are unchanged. Your rates may change depending on things like location, property value and the services provided.

Measures to achieve an overall zero rates increase include cost savings and efficiencies in work programmes, changes to timeframes for some work and alternative income sources. The government directive to pause planning work also meant a surplus, which will be used to deliver work in the year ahead.

In Queenstown, properties that pay a public transport rate will see an increase due to the cost of extra services.

Read our Annual Plan: orc.govt.nz/AP2026

Planning responsibly through local government reform

Central government is proposing significant changes to simplify local government.

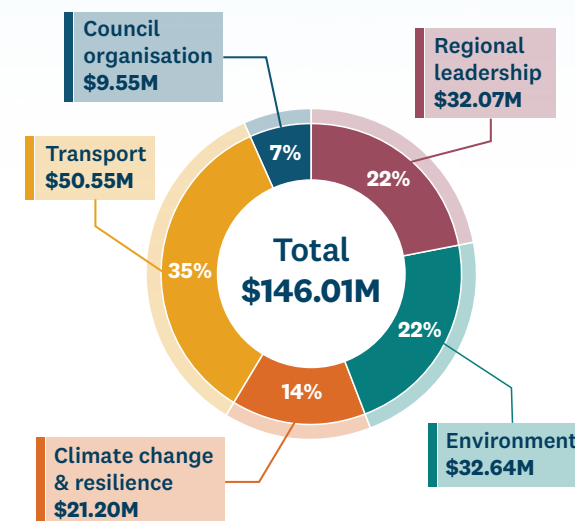
The final form and timing of these changes are not yet settled, but the focus so far is on council structure and responsibilities.

In the meantime, ORC will continue to deliver its current responsibilities, also considering any commitments that could limit future options.

We will focus ORC's resources on work that protects the environment and community health and safety, meets our statutory responsibilities and delivers clear regional value.

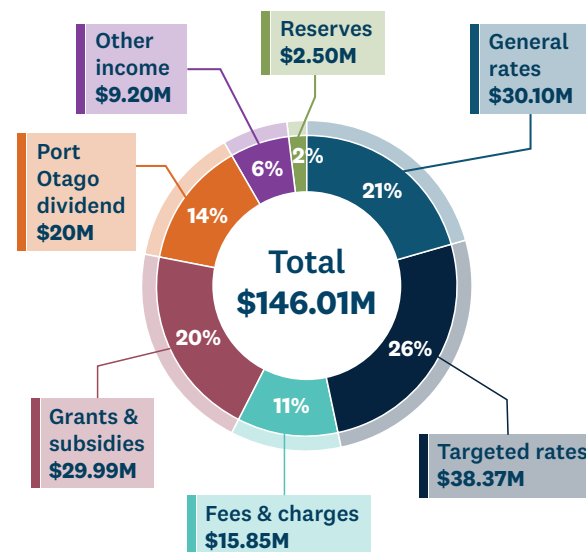
Find out more: orc.govt.nz/lgreform

How much does the work cost?



See over page for more detail about these areas.

How does ORC pay for its work?



Dart River near Glenorchy

For more information, go to orc.govt.nz/rates