

Why has Waikato District Council decided not to renew this agreement with Hamilton City Council?

Waikato District Council has decided to put the money it was spending with Hamilton City Council (\$300,000 every year) towards new and enhanced library services in our district. This is an exciting opportunity for the future of our libraries. One of the reasons for this decision is that the previous agreement only benefited a small percentage of our residents.

What does that mean for Waikato District Council libraries?

There will be no immediate change to the Waikato District Libraries. However, over the next 12 months we will be working closely with our communities to get a better understanding of their specific needs so that we can make sure they are all receiving the right services in the right ways, into the future.

We'll also be working with other councils, including Hamilton City Council, to create a shared service across the region.

Why are some people receiving a membership to Hamilton City Libraries for another year?

Some of our residents don't live near our libraries and we know that they are more likely to use libraries run by other councils. For this reason, we have identified people living in areas near to Hamilton as the most affected by this decision and those that are current active* users of Hamilton City Libraries will receive one free 12-month library membership per household. Those people have been contacted by letter.

You'll find a map of the area [here](#).

(*An active user is someone that has borrowed a physical item, such as a book, in the past 12 months.)

Why have I not received a free 12-month membership?

You have not received a free 12-month membership because you are either a) not in the zone we have identified or b) in the zone but not a current active* user of Hamilton City Libraries.

(*An active user is someone that has borrowed a physical item, such as a book, in the past 12 months.)

In order to enhance library services in our district and not have to increase rates by more, we need to 'cap' the amount that is spent. It has been identified that the fairest way to do this is to provide one membership per household in the areas that don't have easy access to one of our libraries.

Can I still join Hamilton City Libraries if I haven't received a membership?

Yes, of course! You are more than welcome to join Hamilton City Libraries. The cost is \$80 for a one-year membership and you can either apply online or by visiting a HCC Library. You can find more information here: www.hamiltonlibraries.co.nz/

Can we still access Hamilton's e-collection?

To access Hamilton City Libraries e-collection you need to be a member. However, Waikato District Libraries have an extensive online collection (including e-magazines), which you can access. We are also part of the Infoshare/Bay of Plenty consortium (a shared e-book collection between many councils) which will give you access to more than 14000 books and approximately 300 audio books. To register, visit <http://waikato.kotui.org.nz> .

Can I still access Waipa, Matamata-Piako and Hauraki District Libraries?

Yes, access to libraries in Waipa, Matamata-Piako and Hauraki district will remain free for Waikato District Council residents and ratepayers.

Where are the libraries in the Waikato district and what services do they offer?

We have libraries in Ngaruawahia, Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Tuakau and Meremere. Our libraries offer a range of programmes and services. We also have an extensive online collection, as mentioned above. You'll find more information on our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/libraries .