

Public money committed to Ruataniwha dam (at April 2026)

Date	Amount	Source	Comment
c.2012-2017	\$7,000,000.00	Crown	Gift from the Crown Irrigation Acceleration Fund to HBRC to advance the Ruataniwha Dam Source: Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Review 2017 (ref. p. 15)
c.2012-2017	\$19,500,000.00	HBRC	The cost to the Regional Council in developing the Ruataniwha dam consents and IP, which was written down with the demise of the dam in 2018. Source: As above
2019	\$250,000.00	CHBDC	Council in their draft Annual Plan 2019/20 proposed providing the Ruataniwha dam promoters \$250K as a 'suspensory loan', taken from the rural wards fund. However, in the face of overwhelming f ratepayer opposition Council resolved to instead place this amount into a fund for 'water resilience'. Information obtained under LGOIMA shows this money is being incrementally used to advance the Ruataniwha dam. The amount actually spent will be updated upon receipt of response to a LGOIMA request lodged in March 2026.
2020	\$58,375.35	CHBDC	The Council generously paid the Ruataniahwa dam promoters' science charges in 2020, amidst fierce ratepayer opposition; however, resolved to make this a one-off payment.
2022	\$300,000.00	Centralines	This money, belonging to CHB power consumers, was gifted by the Centralines Board to WHHB/TWSL without any public announcement in two tranches (\$200K in 2021, \$100K in 2026-27)
2023	\$296,666.82	HBRC	Dr Nic Peet (CEO) was delegated the authority by Council to consider a submission from the Ruataniwha dam promoters for full remission of their outstanding science charges on grounds they couldn't exercise their water consents (which they knew when they purchased them in 2018). This amount (incl. GST) was remitted and represents a loss to ratepayers as it had to be made up by budget cuts. The balance of \$146,833.42 (incl. GST) was levied and paid in full.
2024	\$3,000,000.00	Crown	Shane Jones announces at Regional Growth Summit in Hastings a grant from the Regional Infrastructure Fund to develop the business case for the Ruataniwha dam.
2024	\$28,008.00	CHBDC	Council paid their lawyers \$28K to draft a deed for the so-called 'Hawkes Bay Community Water Trust' (which the HB community was never consulted about). While the trust's purpose is ostensibly to investigate water security initiatives, the Trust Deed is almost exclusively dedicated to the Ruataniwha dam.
2026	\$18,000,000.00	Crown	Mark Patterson (NZ First, Assoc. Agriculture), announced a \$18 million 'loan' from the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Terms of the loan or who would be liable for repayment were the dam not to proceed have not been announced
Total:	\$48,433,050.00		