

Long Term Plan *and* Economic Wellbeing Strategy



Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel will be held in the Council Chambers, Ōtorohanga District Council, 17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 commencing at 10.30am.

Tanya Winter, Chief Executive

22 May 2024

Membership

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Ōtorohanga District Councillor

Kāwhia Community Board

Kāwhia Community Board

Kāwhia Community Board

Kāwhia Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

Ōtorohanga Community Board

His Worship the Mayor, Max Baxter

Deputy Mayor, Annette Williams

Kit Jeffries

Rodney Dow

Katrina Christison

Steve Hughes

Jaimee Tamaki

Roy Willison

Roy Johnson

Cathy Prendergast

Geoff Good

Hinga Whiu

Dave Walsh

Richard Harpur

Peter Coventry

Kat Brown-Merrin

Jo Butcher

Tori Muller

All attendees at this meeting are advised that the meeting will be electronically recorded (audio and video) for the purpose of webcasting to the Council's YouTube channel. Every care will be taken to maintain individuals' privacy; however, attendees are advised they may be recorded as part of the general meeting proceedings.

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PLEASE NOTE

The reports attached to this Open Agenda set out recommendations and suggested resolutions only. Those recommendations and suggested resolutions DO NOT represent Ōtorohanga District Council policy until such time as they might be adopted by Council resolution. This Open Agenda may be subject to amendment either by the addition or withdrawal of items contained therein.

OPENING FORMALITIES

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING | TE TĪMATANGA O TE HUI

The Chairperson will confirm the livestream to YouTube is active then declare the meeting open.

OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION/WORDS OF WISDOM | KARAKIA/HURITAO/WHAKATAUKĪ

APOLOGIES | NGĀ HŌNEA

A member who does not have leave of absence may tender an apology should they be absent from all or part of a meeting. The meeting may accept or decline any apologies. For clarification, the acceptance of a member's apology constitutes a grant of 'leave of absence' for that specific meeting(s).

That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel receive and accept the apology from Councillor Steve Hughes for non-attendance.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST | TE WHAKAPUAKANGA PĀNGA TAHARUA

Members are reminded to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or external interest they may have.

Should any conflicts be declared the following recommendation is made: *That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel receive the declaration of a conflict of interest from ... for item ... and direct the conflict to be recorded in Council's Conflicts of Interest Register.*

HEARINGS REPORTS

DISCLAIMER: The reports attached to this Open Agenda set out recommendations and suggested resolutions only. Those recommendations and suggested resolutions DO NOT represent Ōtorohanga District Council policy until such time as they might be adopted by formal resolution. This Open Agenda may be subject to amendment either by the addition or withdrawal of items contained therein.

Item 3: Hearing and consideration of submissions on the draft Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel

From: Nardia Gower, Group Manager Strategy and Community

Date: 28 May 2024

Relevant community outcomes: Engaged Thriving Welcoming



1 Purpose | Te Kaupapa

- 1.1 To hear, consider and provide direction on the submissions to the draft Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy (EWS) attached as **Appendix 1**.

2 Executive Summary | Whakarāpopoto Matua

- 2.1 Ōtorohanga District Council (the Council) adopted the draft EWS for public consultation at their 23 April 2024 meeting. The consultation period ran from 6 May to 20 May 2024.
- 2.2 The 23 April 2024 report recommending Council adopt the draft EWS for consultation stated that the EWS submission hearings would be held in early June, however staff subsequently signalled the opportunity to coordinate the EWS hearings with the proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) submission hearings.
- 2.3 A total of 7 EWS submissions were received, with 5 submitters requesting to speak to elected members.
- 2.4 Hearings are an opportunity for submitters to present the key points of their submission, ensuring elected members clearly understand what the submitter is requesting, and provide elected members an opportunity to ask questions for clarification.
- 2.5 At the 21 March 2024 meeting Council resolved to include the Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga Community Boards' involvement in the EWS Hearing Deliberation and Adoption process as outlined in **Appendix 2**.

3 Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā Kaimahi

That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearing Panel receive the report 'Item 2: Hearing and consideration of submissions on the draft Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy' (document number 756865) from Nardia Gower, Group Manager Strategy and Community.

4 Context | Horopaki

- 4.1 When Council adopted the current 2021-2031 Long Term Plan it confirmed the development of an Economic Development Strategy. Through conversations with communities in the development of other plans, such as the concept plans, the need to broaden the scope from economic development to economic wellbeing became apparent.
- 4.2 Economic wellbeing considers the wellbeing of people, culture, environment, and ecology as key parts of a thriving economy. It's a shift in thinking from traditional approaches to economic development, which is primarily focused on growth.
- 4.3 Work began on the EWS in September 2023 with the appointment of Veros to assist in its development, and involved a co-design process with community, iwi, and businesses across the district.
- 4.4 The result has culminated in the development of a Strategic Vision, Mātāpono/Principles, and Four Pou/Pillars under which sit the key challenges and strategic actions.
- 4.5 Council adopted the draft EWS for public consultation at the 23 April Council meeting, following the LTP consultation period closure.
- 4.6 Public consultation for the draft EWS did not require Council to follow a special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), meaning that a consultation period of 2 weeks, rather than 4, was applied because of the extensive engagement/consultation undertaken in developing the draft. It also meant that conducting oral hearing for EWS submissions was optional. However, given the significant interest from external agencies funded by Council to deliver economic wellbeing, the opportunity to speak was offered to submitters.
- 4.7 The EWS consultation was advertised in the King Country News, was notified on the Council's website, engagement platform Connecting Ōtorohanga, and Facebook and Instagram pages, shared to Community Facebook Noticeboards, pushed out on the communication app Antenno, and sent via direct emails to previous workshop invitees and participants.

5 Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 5.1 The hearing and consideration of submissions on the draft EWS and draft Concept Plans are subject to separate processes and covering reports, noting that some submitters to the LTP have also taken the opportunity to submit on these other proposals.
- 5.2 All submissions received (including written and via email) were entered into Council's online submission platform and are attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.3 Council received 7 EWS submissions, with 5 requesting to speak in support of their submission, with that list being attached as **Appendix 4**.
- 5.4 Submitter number 4 was contacted by staff for further information to his submission. This correspondence has been included in Appendix 2.

5.5 The four submitters listed below are speaking to both the LTP and EWS, and as such are using the one hearing opportunity to speak to both:

- Hamilton Waikato Tourism
- Waikato Screen NZ
- Ōtorohanga District Development Board
- Creative Waikato

Hearing procedure and protocol

5.6 Hearings are an opportunity for submitters to present the key points of their submission, ensuring elected members clearly understand what the submitter is requesting, and provide elected members an opportunity to ask questions for clarification. It is outside of the scope of hearings for the submitter to introduce new submission items.

5.7 Individual submission speakers, or organisations which Council do not fund, have been allocated 10 minutes, including questions from elected members. Organisations which Council currently fund have been offered 15 minutes. Submitters who are speaking to both the LTP and EWS were offered an additional 5 minutes. While it is at the discretion of the Chairperson to offer longer speaking times doing so will affect other speakers.

5.8 Rules against predetermination require decision makers to remain open to persuasion and to not commit themselves to a decision until after having heard and considered all the information presented. Predetermination on the part of one elected member alone may be enough to invalidate a decision.

Deliberations

5.9 Deliberations on both the LTP and EWS are scheduled for 30 May 2024, and form part of this meeting. Meaning that following the hearings on 28 May the meeting will be adjourned until deliberations when the meeting will reconvene.

5.10 Separate hearing summary reports for the LTP and EWS, including staff recommendations/comments, will be circulated on Wednesday 29 May following the hearings and prior to deliberations. These summary reports will be formally tabled on 30 May 2024.

6 Appendices | Ngā Āpitihanga

Appendix #	Name
1	Draft Ōtorohanga Economic Wellbeing Strategy
2	Elected member role during the Hearings, Deliberations and Adoption process
3	Draft Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy - Submissions Received
4	List of Submitters and Speakers



WEAVING THE
FUTURE, TOGETHER
KOTAHITANGA
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

DRAFT

Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy

APRIL 2024



This document was prepared by:



"It's important to see where we can work together better – where we can meet up and where we align, let's do that. "

"Really going to focus on using whenua to grow food – it will help with the cost of living crisis and help to make our communities more self-sufficient and resilient – we think that horticulture is a huge opportunity."

"Sometimes it is hard for people who are new to the district and new to New Zealand to settle here, especially as it is so different – I moved from Bombay to Ōtorohanga and found it hard."

"So important for council to work with its partners – there is lots of good work happening but its not always well co-ordinated."

"How do we put a seed in the ground and help it to grow – how we teach our communities to be more resilient."

"If it benefits iwi it will benefit the whole community, so how can we work together better and smarter to make sure that this happens?"

"We need to 'lift everyone up' in the community."

The speech bubbles throughout this strategy are direct quotes from contributors.



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SETTING THE SCENE

Change, uncertainty and innovation have dominated the past few years, and we predict change to continue in the world and across Aotearoa New Zealand. We have created the Ōtorohanga District – Economic Wellbeing Strategy to understand what we need to do as a Council, and with partners, to face the numerous economic, social, and environmental changes together, building on the many opportunities that exist. Doing so will help to create a more prosperous future for Ōtorohanga district, where our environment is valued and collective wellbeing is enhanced.

We are committed to weaving the future, together with our communities, and as such have spent time talking with and listening to our communities in the development of this strategy. Our people, our places, and our partnerships are central to our focus, as we weave the threads of resilience, sustainability, and transformation together. Ōtorohanga District's community outcomes are:

VISION:

The people and the environments across Ōtorohanga District thrive, with opportunities for everyone to live their best lives.



SETTING THE SCENE

Council is already committed to the improvement of Ōtorohanga Districts economic wellbeing. A lot of what we do every day supports our communities and contributes to economic wellbeing, like:



This Ōtorohanga District – Economic Wellbeing Strategy first provides an overview of the impact of economic wellbeing supported by a shared vision and shared community aspirations. The Strategy then outlines a pathway towards our vision, through partnerships and collaboration, and further defining the role we play in economic wellbeing.

During the development of the strategy, community members who joined us in Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga clearly told us that this work needed to ‘lift everybody up’. This philosophy informed our shared vision for economic wellbeing across Ōtorohanga district.

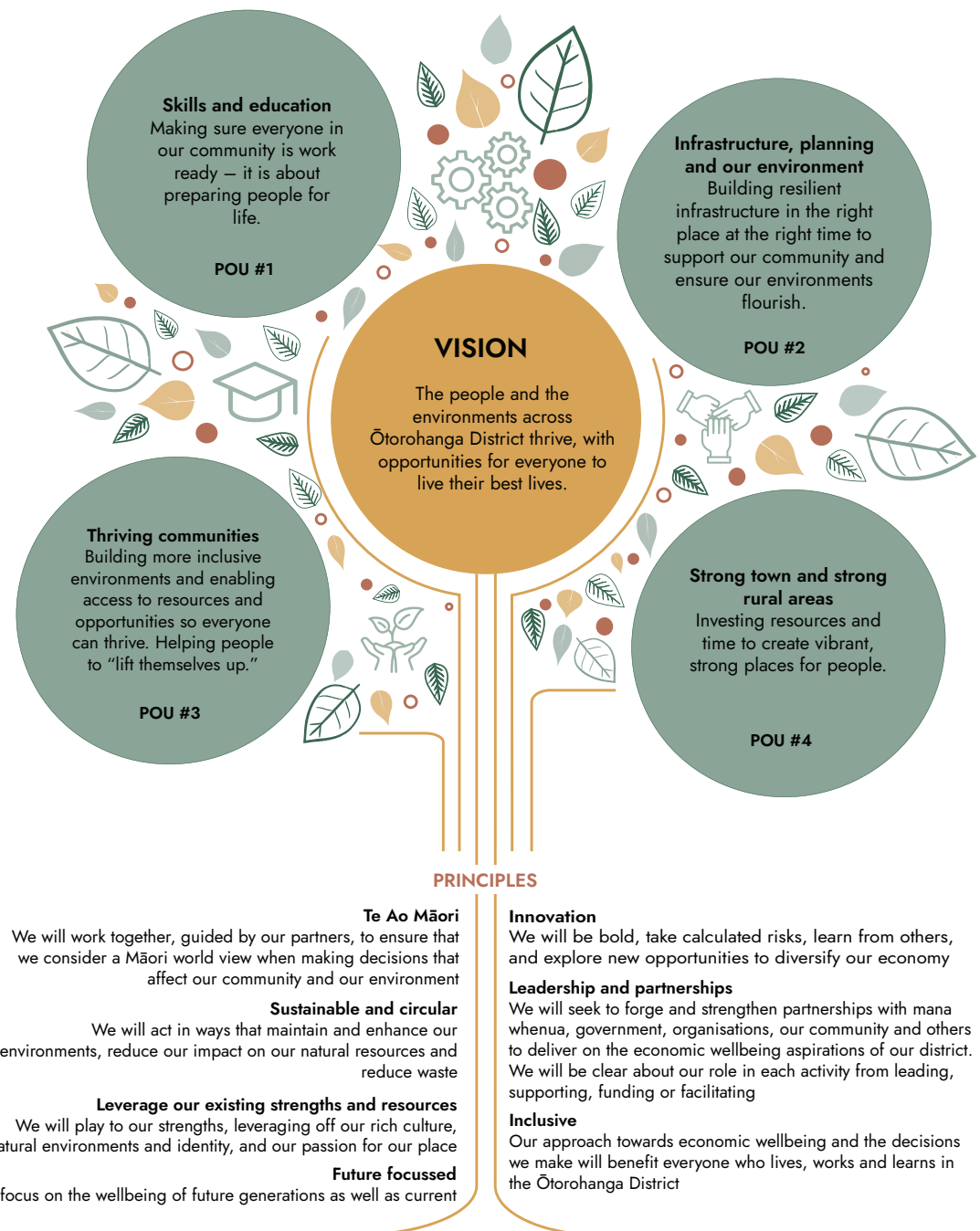
Through workshops and conversations held to support the development of this strategy the community identified more than 50 organisations and agencies that have a potential role in the delivery of this vision. We will continue to collaborate and forge stronger relationships with these organisations as a critical part of the delivery this strategy and ultimately better economic wellbeing across the Ōtorohanga District.

OUR WAY FORWARD

ESTABLISHING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

The strategy sets out seven mātāpono/principles and four pou/pillars created with our communities to support the delivery of our vision. From the workshops and conversations, consistent themes emerged identifying the way we need to work and actions we need to take to respond to the challenges and opportunities before us now and in the future.

The strategy allows us to start down a pathway towards better economic wellbeing outcomes for everyone. We know that things change, and we will need to remain agile to ensure that we can maximise new opportunities and respond to new challenges along the way.



WHAT IS ECONOMIC WELLBEING

SETTING THE SCENE

Economic wellbeing considers the wellbeing of our people, culture, environment and ecology as key parts of a thriving economy. It's a shift in thinking from economic development, which is primarily focused on growth.

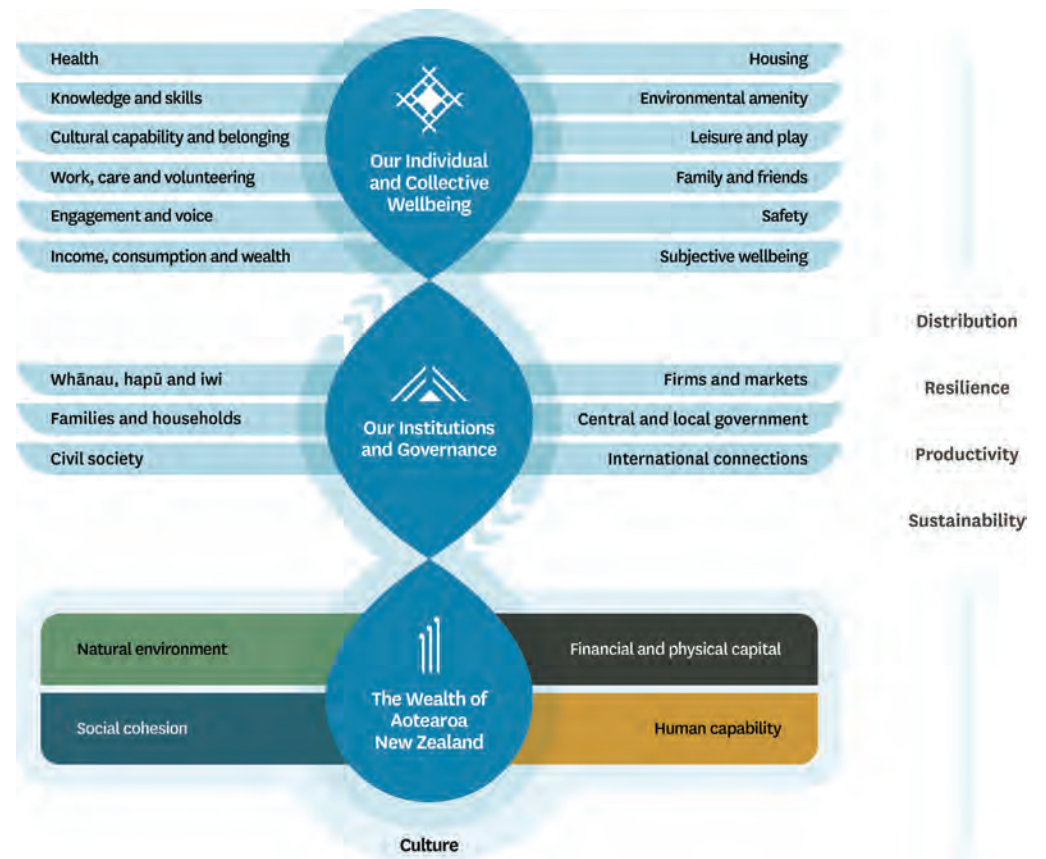
Economic wellbeing relates to everything and everyone, and includes income, education, employment, housing, medical care, community safety, access, equity, voluntarism, and social support as key components. It also means ensuring our economic activities improve our individual and collective quality of life, that we don't leave any one behind, and do not detract from our environment.

Economic wellbeing means being economically well at a district, town, rural, iwi, hapū, family and individual level. Our focus is on how we grow a more sustainable, balanced, and inclusive economy. A strong and sustainable economy also provides better work opportunities, higher wages, and a higher living standard across the community. It also builds business confidence, provides business opportunities and attracts more investment into the district.

The government uses the Treasury Living Standards Framework to help it take a holistic approach to decision making. This framework considers health, housing, safety and the environment alongside work, income and knowledge.

The Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy takes the same holistic approach, this is much better aligned to the Māori world view and what our communities have told us is important.

Taking this approach means aspects such as time with family and friends, volunteering and health are equal to more traditional areas like income, work and wealth at individual, social and national levels when considering standards of living.



Treasury Living Standards Framework. Source: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/higher-living-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

WHY DO WE NEED AN ECONOMIC WELLBEING STRATEGY FOR ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT?

There are several key challenges the Ōtorohanga District economy currently faces that have effects at a global, national, regional and community level.

- **Technology** – technology is radically changing the ways in which we work and live. The introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) and its exponential growth will disrupt how we work and live and will alter the composition of the workforce. The correct infrastructure is needed to make the most of technology, both from an economic and community perspective.
- **The global Covid-19 pandemic** – the pandemic taught us that our world is truly interconnected. Our primary industry sector protected large parts of our economy from the impact of Covid-19. We must prepare for future disruptions that may take a different form.
- **Climate change** – climate change is already having an impact on our communities, our infrastructure and the cost of services. We need to consider how to build resilience into how we live, how we move around and how we deliver infrastructure and services.
- **Access to skills** – the Ōtorohanga District has a high number of people with no qualifications, and the number of people with higher qualifications is low when compared with the rest of New Zealand. We need to improve our educational outcomes to be able to improve economic wellbeing in our district. We have skill shortages in key industries like the agricultural sector. We need to continue to work with education institutions and our sectors to ensure we are addressing these issues.
- **Access to capital** – capital for starting or expanding businesses or projects is difficult to access. Lending institutions are becoming more cautious and high interest rates are a disincentive.

Our statistics show that while people across Ōtorohanga district are doing well, there are some that need more help to succeed. And we know that the starting line is not the same for everyone. A Berl report on inequality in New Zealand states

“THE ARGUMENT PUT FORWARD BY SOME IS THAT IF EVERYONE IS GIVEN THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKS HARD, THEN EVERYONE HAS THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE FOR THOSE WHOSE FINANCIAL SITUATION DOES NOT ALLOW THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION AND INVEST IN THEMSELVES”.

<https://berl.co.nz/our-pro-bono/inequality-and-new-zealand>

WHY DO WE NEED AN ECONOMIC WELLBEING STRATEGY FOR ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT?

Improving economic wellbeing is a big and complex task. This strategy will help us focus on our agreed priorities, further define the role that Council could play, and ensure any investment improves economic wellbeing outcomes for all to achieve our shared vision.

This strategy and its actions:

1. Identifies economic wellbeing priorities, ways to leverage our existing strengths and resources, opportunities for innovation and diversifying our local economy.
2. Explores ways to nurture and support a more resilient inclusive and more circular local economy.
3. Helps to clarify Council's role in economic wellbeing, where and how we can invest to make a difference across all pou/pillars.
4. Highlights Council's direct role as an anchor organisation for change.
5. Identifies ways for us to come together through events and spaces to continue to build our community, making sure that those who are new, feel welcome and involved.
6. Explore opportunities to harness better wellbeing for te tangata me te taiao (for people and environment).
7. Identifies ways to invest, retain and attract people, increase opportunities to work together, partner, collaborate and seek opportunities for attracting external investment.
8. Explore synergies and shared goals we might have with iwi/Māori, rūnanga, businesses, other agencies/organisations, and communities of interest, and what opportunities a collaborative approach might offer.



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

ABOUT US

Ōtorohanga is a proud King Country district big on heart and space. A small population of 10,900 people call Ōtorohanga District home. The Ōtorohanga District covers 1,976km², from the Kāwhia and Aotea Harbours on the west coast, to the mighty Waikato River in the east.

Our district includes the communities of Ōtorohanga township and Kāwhia and Aotea villages. One third of employment is delivered through the primary industries of agriculture, forestry and fishing.

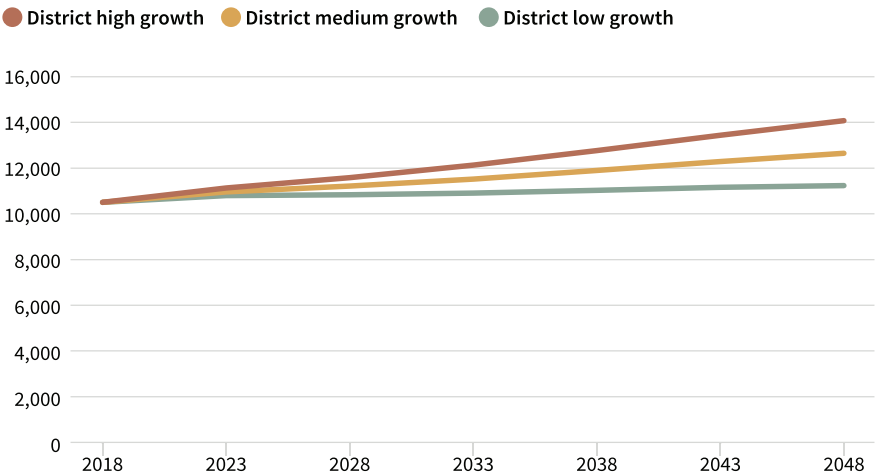
Ōtorohanga District falls within the rohe of a number of iwi and hapū including – Maniapoto, Raukawa, Ngāti Hikairo, Ngāti Apakura, Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Te Wehi, Ngāti

Uakau and Te Patupō, with at least 17 marae located in different parts of the district.

Most people (70%) live in the rural areas outside Ōtorohanga township and the Kāwhia and Aotea villages. There are 10,900 residents across the district with possibly 1000 to 1500 more people living here in the next 20 years.

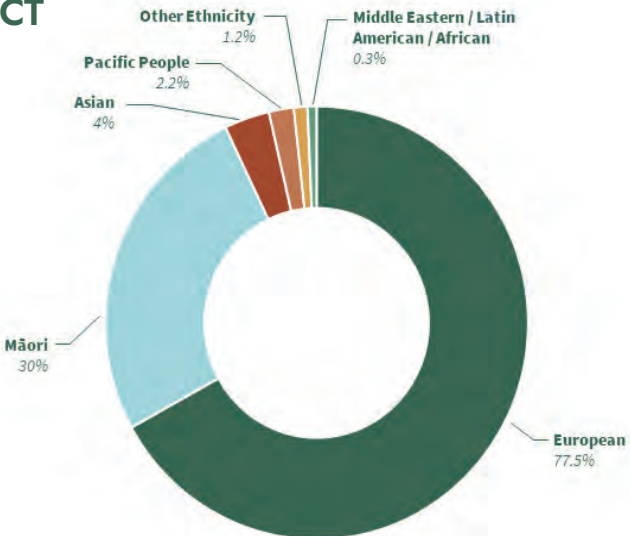
The ethnicity of Ōtorohanga district is also changing.

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT POPULATION



Source: Waikato Regional Council Technical Report 2021/22, 2018-base Population, Family and Household, and Labour Force Projections for the Waikato Region, 2018-2068

ETHNIC GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT



Source: Census 2018. Note that people can identify as more than one ethnic group, meaning that this graph will equal more than 100%.

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

MĀORI ECONOMY

The Māori economy is a crucial contributor to Waikato region's economy (there is no Māori Economy information available at a district level so this data is provided at a regional level) and is expected to play a major role in New Zealand's financial future. While local data is limited, anecdotally it is thought Māori businesses have an important contribution to make to district growth and economic wellbeing.

25% OF THE WAIKATO REGION POPULATION AND JUST UNDER A THIRD OF THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION ARE MADE UP BY MĀORI.

8% OF THE REGION'S TOTAL GDP IS CONTRIBUTED BY MĀORI (ESTIMATED).

THE ESTIMATED VALUE OF MĀORI ASSETS AT 2022 WAS

\$14.7
BILLION

HALF OF THE DISTRICTS MĀORI POPULATION ARE UNDER

25
YEARS + YOUNGER

(A MUCH YOUNGER AGE PROFILE TO THE REST OF THE REGION)

Statistically, Māori are significantly impacted in terms of higher unemployment rates and lower incomes which can lead to poor housing and health outcomes. Māori school leavers in the region with NCEA level 2 or higher sit at 67%, which is below those of other secondary school leavers at 79%.

Data source: Infometrics 2023

"THE MĀORI ECONOMY IS A SOURCE OF A LARGE AND GROWING PART OF THE REGION'S CAPITAL AND LABOUR. THE POOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR MANY MĀORI ARE THEREFORE A HANDBRAKE ON THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE REGION (AND THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE), AND ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES COULD YIELD SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS."



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

The top five employment sectors for Ōtorohanga district in 2023

31.9%	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	11.4%	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY
7.9%	MANUFACTURING	7.8%	CONSTRUCTION
		6.1%	RETAIL TRADE

Mean Annual Earnings

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT **\$64,186** (COMPARED TO \$61,417 IN 2022)

NEW ZEALAND **\$74,754** (COMPARED TO \$69,585 IN 2022)

Mean earnings in the Ōtorohanga District increased by 4.5% to March 2023 compared to an increase of 7.4% in New Zealand. Our mean annual earnings 2023, were \$64,186 compared with \$74,754.

Unemployment in Ōtorohanga District was lower than the New Zealand average of 3.3% at 2.9% in 2023 although the number of 15–24-year-olds not in employment, education or training was 15.8%, which is higher than the New Zealand average of 11.2%.

Data source: Infometrics 2023



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

HOUSING



AVERAGE HOUSE PRICES IN FEBRUARY 2024 (QV.CO.NZ)

\$509,863	\$760,839	\$925,812
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT	WAIKATO REGION	NEW ZEALAND

MEDIAN RENT (FEBRUARY 2024 TENANCY SERVICES)

\$495	\$600
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT (COMPARED TO \$422 IN 2023)	NEW ZEALAND

RENT AFFORDABILITY IN 2023 (INFOMETRICS)

21.7%	21.4%
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT	NEW ZEALAND

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN 2023 - HOUSE VALUE TO INCOME (INFOMETRICS)

5.5	7.2
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT	NEW ZEALAND



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

TOURISM

\$11.9 MILLION	FROM THE TOURISM SECTOR TOWARDS GDP (Ōtorohanga District 2023)	1.7%	OF ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT'S ECONOMIC OUTPUT COMPARED TO 1.2% IN 2022, PRIOR TO COVID-19 TOURISM CONTRIBUTED 1.3% IN 2018 AND 2019.
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IN 2023, ECONOMIC OUTPUT IN ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT'S TOURISM SECTOR INCREASED BY

	WAIKATO REGION	NEW ZEALAND
	50.6%	35%
COMPARED TO	20.8%	

In the 12 months to October 2023 visitors spent \$40million across the district. Domestic visitors contributed \$30million of this whilst international visitors contributed \$10 million. This was up 23% on the previous year and was also 10% more than 2019 pre-Covid.

Visitors to the Waitomo Caves are still 14% down compared to 2019 pre-Covid levels, however, 2023 saw a 28% increase from the previous year.

Data source: Infometrics 2023



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

CREATIVE SECTOR

Ōtorohanga town, Kāwhia and Aotea have a quietly busy artistic sector. Ōtorohanga, Kāwhia and Aotea have small art galleries/stores/spaces that showcase local artists. Māori artists across the district continue to nurture and grow and excel.

The Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan identified the development of a Multi-Purpose Community Hub with a focus on enabling and platforming our arts and culture as a priority. Further work has defined this space as a hub to facilitate creative learning, host civic functions, showcase performing arts, support regular markets and future proof the delivery of a dedicated destination creative space.

The Creative Communities grant scheme is often oversubscribed, indicating an active creative sector. Over the last year we have been developing a stronger working relationship with Creative Waikato to improve the services to our local creatives.

By celebrating local creatives, we demonstrate Ōtorohanga District as a place where 'things happen', and where creatives can meet, share and thrive, further encouraging other creative people to move to the district.

Increasing the visibility of Ngā Toi Māori and art of other locals will alter and shift the main street's 'energy' as well as positively effecting the ways people can interact in the town centre.



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

RANGATAHI (YOUTH)

Ōtorohanga has one of the most youthful populations in the Waikato.

9 PRIMARY SCHOOLS	1 SECONDARY SCHOOL
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ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE IS THE ONLY SECONDARY SCHOOL IN OUR DISTRICT

300 STUDENTS	9-13 YEARS	56% IDENTIFY AS MĀORI
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There are a number of very active local organisations who support youth, one of the things we heard is that there would be benefit in better networking between these agencies.

Data source: Infometrics 2023



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

EDUCATION

While we perform well against the rest of New Zealand across Level 1 – Level 5 certificate levels, our higher education levels are significantly lower than New Zealand levels.

Over time this is improving across most education qualification levels.

Te Pūkenga / Wintec offer a regional campus for tertiary studies in Ōtorohanga town. At present this campus is not busy.



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING AND MINING) CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TO THE ECONOMY

36.1%
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT

12.3%
WAIKATO REGION

5.7%
NEW ZEALAND

Although an industry may be growing rapidly, if it is small relative to a region's total economy its contribution to overall GDP growth may also be small. This section therefore investigates which broad industries made the largest contribution to the overall growth of Ōtorohanga District's economy taking into account their relative sizes.

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing made the largest contribution to overall growth in Ōtorohanga District between 2022 and 2023. The industry grew by 4.8% over the year and contributed 1.70 percentage points to the district's total growth of 4.2%.
- The next largest contributor was health care and social assistance (0.46 percentage points) followed by rental, hiring and real estate services (0.44 percentage points).
- The largest detractor from growth over the year was Education and Training which declined by 10.1% and contributed -0.24 percentage points to the total growth of 4.2%. Manufacturing (-0.15 percentage points) was the next largest detractor.

Data source: Infometrics 2023



HOW THIS STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

WORKING TOGETHER

Aligned with the way we work together with our communities to weave the future, we held a series of community workshops in Ōtorohanga and Kāwhia including a workshop with students at Ōtorohanga College, as well as having kanoihī ki te kanoihī/face to face conversations with key partners and stakeholders to discuss the issue of economic wellbeing.

We heard from

Ōtorohanga District Development Board (ŌDDDB)

Te Waka

Waikato-Tainui

Creative Waikato

Fijian community

Te Pūkenga

Ōtorohanga Community including mental health advocates, retailers, hospitality, creatives and artists

Ōtorohanga College

Hamilton Waikato Tourism

Ngāti Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust

Te Nehenehenui

Mana Whenua representatives

Ōtorohanga Support House Whare Āwhina

Ōtorohanga Māori Wardens

Various retailers from the Ōtorohanga Township

Kāwhia Community including creatives, business owners, local iwi, creatives and artists

Ōtorohanga Timber Company

We asked:

- What does economic wellbeing mean to you?
- What are our challenges?
- What are our opportunities?
- Where do you think Council can add the most value?
- Who else needs to be part of improving economic wellbeing across the community?

Conversations with Te Nehenehenui Trust, Ngāti Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust, and Waikato Tainui helped inform the development of this strategy. It is the aspiration of Council and these entities to continue to strengthen our respective relationships and to seek ways to work together to achieve common goals.

Additionally, the work we have completed on the Ōtorohanga Town Centre Concept Plan and through the development of the Kāwhia, Aotea, Ōpārau and Rural Concept Plans means that we are in a great position to understand the things that are important to our communities.

We used up to date statistics and information from various sources to make evidence-based decisions in relation to the direction of the strategy.

We have distilled all this down to the strategic direction outlined in this document to provide a pathway towards our vision.

THE ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COMMUNITY IS VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT WHERE THEY LIVE AND WE WANT THE BEST FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES THERE – HOW CAN WE HARNESS THIS PASSION AND DRIVE THE CHANGES WE NEED?

HOW THIS STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

WHAT OUR COMMUNITIES SAID WAS IMPORTANT

The voices of Ōtorohanga

Sports Park
Circular economy
Great public transport
Complete Kiwi House
Knowing our history/culture
Affordable lifestyles, housing, food
People of different cultures connecting
Strong retail presence on Main Street
People connection & wellbeing
Affordable & available housing for all
Employment opportunities
Growth
Education
Attractive place to be
Equitable & inclusive
Te Whare Tapa Whā
Mental health services

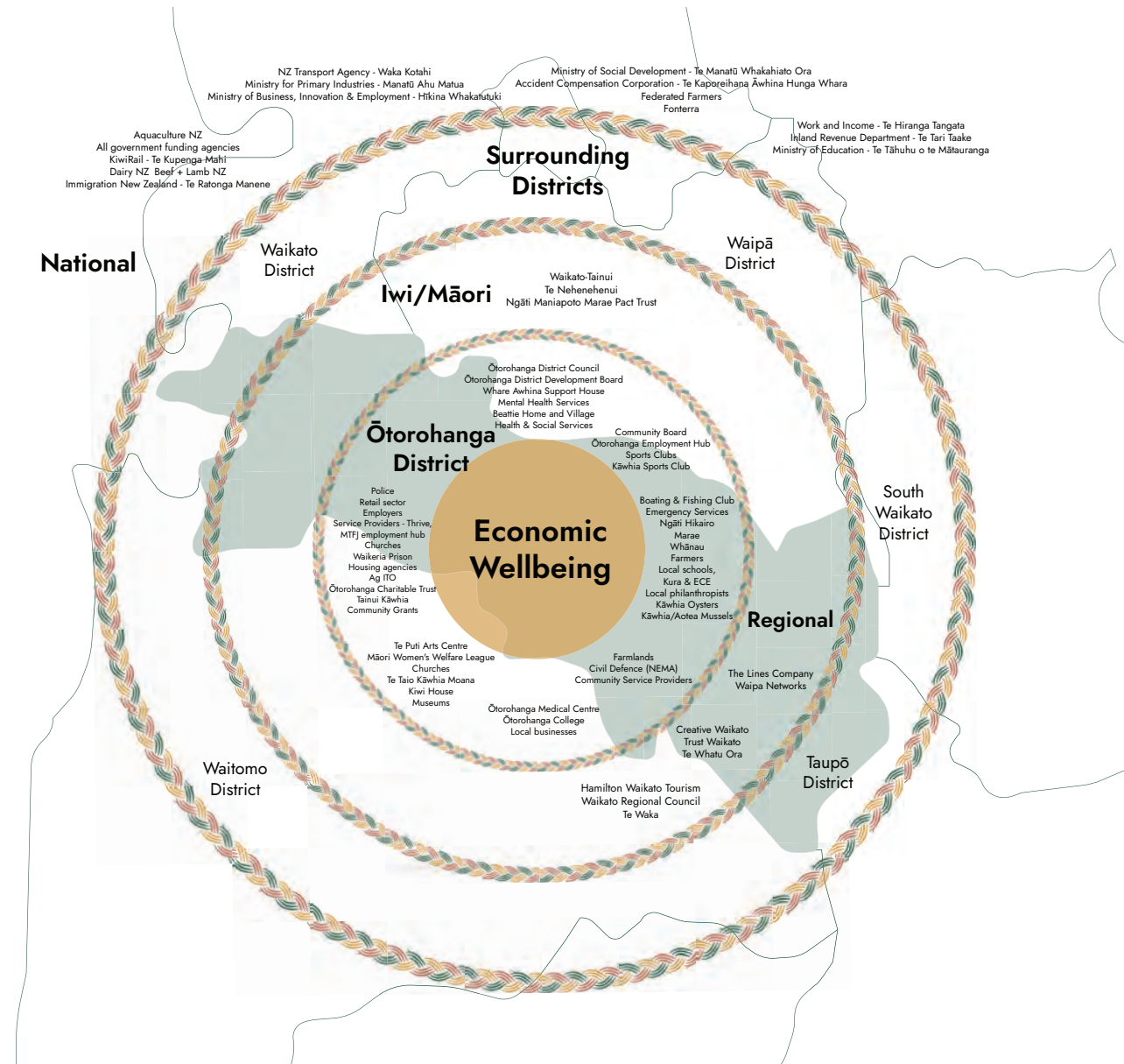
The voices of Kāwhia

Housing
Health
Grow & prosper
Employment
Hauora - healthy moana/environment
Build local capacity and talent
Community collaboration
Arts
Safety
Rangatahi
Resilience
Education

HOW THIS STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

OTHER PARTNERS

Here are the more than 50 organisations that our community identified as contributing to economic wellbeing. Ōtorohanga District Council will work with these and other partners to deliver the vision.



CHALLENGES

INFRASTRUCTURE

Climate Change

- Climate change and the impacts of extreme weather events, like cyclones and drought will detrimentally affect our communities, and the costs to mitigate and adapt to the challenges and to rebuild after these events will strain our resources.
- Climate change will continue to challenge our primary industries. It will affect our ability to provide resilient infrastructure networks and maintain accessibility. We have made a commitment in our Long Term Plan to progressively upgrade our infrastructure to address this – it will take time.

Connecting people by road

- As a rural district with a dispersed population, we are acutely aware of the importance of having a well maintained, resilient roading network. An effective roading network is a key component of connecting people and enabling economic activity in the district.
- Costs for land transport have increased significantly in the past three years (between 30 - 50%).

Enabling Public Transport

- The Ōtorohanga District is geographically large, and so heavily reliant on private motor vehicles to move around. Council helps to fund the regular connector bus service that travels from Te Kuiti through Ōtorohanga to Hamilton. However, the funding for this service is expected to cease from July 2024.
- There is no public transport service provided for the rural areas or for Kāwhia

Electricity

- There are two lines companies that service Ōtorohanga District - Waipā Networks and The Lines Company. This means that cross district organisations need to build two relationships to discuss any power issues with two companies, that may have two different approaches to the same or similar issues. This can be time consuming and lead to uncertainty.



CHALLENGES

INFRASTRUCTURE

“SOME RURAL AREAS ARE STILL STRUGGLING WITH DIAL-UP INTERNET CONNECTION WHICH IS HOPELESS IF YOU ARE TRYING TO RUN A BUSINESS FROM HOME.”

Digital Connectivity

- Our digital connectivity (internet/phone access) needs to improve. Some of our communities still only have dial-up internet access. This presents challenges for those who work, study or access online services and information from home.

Water Infrastructure

Getting our water infrastructure right and making sure that it is resilient and able to support future population growth is a priority. We still don't know what the future of water services looks like in detail, but access to water and the management of wastewater and stormwater are critical enablers of economic wellbeing.

- Across Aotearoa New Zealand the growing cost on councils and community to maintain and upgrade water infrastructure exceeds the only avenue to pay for it, which is through a rate funded mechanism. We expect that as the environmental and health standards for the delivery of quality water services continue to rise so too will the cost to customers.
- Finding efficient, affordable ways for delivery of water services is an issue we share with our neighbours and we will be encouraging ongoing regional conversations around making improvements. This may mean joining with others to get better economies of scale in the delivery of services. Until we have more detail about Local Water Done Well, it is difficult to determine Council's future role in water management.

Social Infrastructure

- Schools, parks, libraries, pools, places to gather and services are all parts of a thriving community. We enjoy a wide range of social infrastructure, but not all of it is fit for purpose. The recent investigation of a need for a community hub found that our current facilities had limitations, in size and equipment and weren't well networked. It found that there was a need to invest in:
 - » upgrading the Support House to improve safety and cater for the growing need for social services
 - » extending the library to provide a wider range of activities and services
 - » working with the Ōtorohanga Club to provide a civic gathering space.
- This will take time and money to deliver in an already tight fiscal environment.

CHALLENGES

ENVIRONMENT

The relationship between the environment and economic wellbeing is intricate and interconnected. A sustainable and healthy environment is fundamental to long-term economic wellbeing. Natural resources such as clean air, water, fertile soil, and biodiversity provide the foundation for primary industries like agriculture, as well as the long-term wellbeing of our communities

Climate change

- Climate change presents challenges with sea level rise and resulting impacts on the Kāwhia Harbour. The people of Kāwhia are very proud of the harbour and see it as a key part of who they are and their sense of place. The health of the harbour is a key concern to the local community.

Working with our environment

- In some areas we are not making the most of what our environment can enable. Waikato-Tainui are looking at how to work with local marae to unlock the economic potential of aquaculture and fisheries, and opportunities to build capability for green energy and incentivising youth to study in these areas through education grants focussed in the Kāwhia area.

Ngā Awa / The rivers

- The Waikato Regional Council's State of the Environment Report 2022 provides good insight into the challenges the rivers flowing into and out of our district face.
- We need to focus on increasing employment opportunities for the community without negatively impacting the environment, especially our waterways. It will be important to understand the impacts of any new business and employment opportunities and utilise innovative ways to minimise any impacts, for example, through renewable energy production.



CHALLENGES

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The government's Te Rautaki Para/ Waste Strategy, commits New Zealand to become a low emission, low waste economy by 2050, built upon a circular economy. Community workshops held at Ōtorohanga and Kāwhia identified the aspirations of the community to become more independent and resilient and to operate a circular economy.

A waste focused circular economy is based on three key principles.



Design out waste and pollution. Keep products and materials in use. Regenerate natural systems. Source: The Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Some of the benefits of taking a circular economy approach are

- long-term cost savings
- increased local job opportunities
- encouragement of technical innovation
- reducing the amount of harmful waste produced
- reversing our impacts on climate change.

Council and other large businesses in the community have a very real role to play in exploring ways to increase our social procurement. Social procurement is about creating more value and better outcomes through our purchasing of goods and services. This can look like buying local, opting for more environmentally sustainable methodologies, expecting there to be local learning and capability building opportunities built into our larger contracts. We challenge ourselves and others to do better in this space.

"REALLY GOING TO FOCUS ON USING WHENUA TO GROW FOOD – IT WILL HELP WITH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS AND HELP TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND RESILIENT – WE THINK THAT HORTICULTURE IS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY."

"RENEWABLE ENERGY IS REALLY IMPORTANT AND NEEDS TO BE BUILT INTO ANY STRATEGY ESPECIALLY FOR 'CLEAN, GREEN KĀWHIA.'"

CHALLENGES

YOUTH/RANGATAHI

Preparing youth for work

- Across the district, there are a high number of 15–24-year-olds that are not in education, employment or training compared to the region and nationally. In 2022, the figure for this was 16% compared to 11% for New Zealand. Some local employers have identified that employing people from out of the district and sometimes even from overseas to work in their businesses and take on apprenticeships is preferable to employing local young people because some of the local youth are not work ready.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO BRING RANGATAHI BACK TO THE AREA, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING FOR THEM TO COME BACK TO – JOBS, TRAINING, SOMEWHERE TO LIVE."

"THERE ARE LOTS OF GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS DELIVERING GREAT THINGS IN EMPLOYMENT, YOUTH AND SO ON, IN THE DISTRICT BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO WORK TOGETHER."



CHALLENGES

YOUTH/RANGATAHI

Secondary schooling

- Following a challenging ERO report for the Ōtorohanga College in 2018, the College has been working hard to improve education outcomes. The community acknowledge the great work underway and are keen to continue to support the school.
- Possibly as a result of past performance, our community have told us that many rangatahi leave the Ōtorohanga District schooling network at Year 8 and head to Te Awamutu or Hamilton to complete their secondary school education. Transport links from the district to Hamilton have made the journey easier, and many parents travel to and from Te Awamutu and Hamilton every day for work. In 2022, Te Awamutu college had 120 students that resided in the Ōtorohanga district area
- In 2023, secondary school zoning was reintroduced. While current students that are enrolled in out of district colleges will be allowed to remain, new enrolments will be restricted by zone boundaries. This is expected to slowly increase the number of students attending Ōtorohanga College giving the college greater access to Ministry of Education funding. This will support their continuing improvement of educational opportunities to the community.
- Due to the remoteness of some communities, access to the College for education is challenging. This was addressed partly through the provision of boarding facilities provided by the Ōtorohanga College Hostel, Kāinga Rua – Falloon House. In late 2023, the school announced that the hostel will not operate from 2024. Early in 2024, transport options are being investigated by the Ministry of Education. The closure of the hostel will be a real challenge for rangatahi living in the more remote communities including Kāwhia, who want to continue to attend Ōtorohanga College as well as an additional barrier for rangatahi who are struggling to stay at school.



CHALLENGES

HOUSING

Access to housing

A lack of suitable, affordable, healthy housing and rental insecurity can lead to social issues that undermine economic wellbeing and wider individual, whānau and community wellbeing.

- Good housing, including rentals around Ōtorohanga town are in short supply. This is particularly challenging for businesses that need to bring employees into the district from other areas and find that rental housing is only available in other towns such as Te Awamutu and Te Kūiti. There are vacant houses in Ōtorohanga town, these could become part of the solution if we can understand why these houses are vacant and work together with landlords/owners to identify what needs to be done to make them available to the market.

Supply of housing

- People told us they are keen for more sub-division to occur in Ōtorohanga and Kāwhia to support more housing development, along with improvements and upgrades to infrastructure to support those developments. Council partnered with the Ōtorohanga Timber Company to enable a 128-lot subdivision, by loaning \$4million to the developer, to improve housing options to help address housing shortages.
- A community-led housing plan is currently under development to focus this work. Our focus will be on delivering, advocating and supporting the actions identified through the district Housing Plan, together with our partners, key agencies and our community.
- The Community-led Ōtorohanga Housing Plan will sit alongside this strategy as a key component and contributor to economic wellbeing.

"IT'S A REAL STRUGGLE TO FIND HOUSING IN ŌTOROHANGA, ESPECIALLY RENTALS."



CHALLENGES

ECONOMY

Primary Industries

- The primary industries - agriculture, forestry and fishing, employ the largest number of the district's residents (32% in 2023) and contribute the most to the district's economy (35% in 2023). However, the lack of employment diversity is a risk to the community, because if anything impacts the agriculture/dairy industry, which is our biggest earner, the ripples will affect many families across the district. For example, a lower dairy payout would have an impact across the district. Over any 12-month period the dairy industry is adjusting its forecast earnings to reflect this volatility. In December 2023, Fonterra stated: "It's still early in the year, with potential for further volatility in commodity prices".

Tourism

- Tourism is not a huge contributor to the district's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at 1.7% of total compared to 3.5% for New Zealand and 4% for Waikato region. The attractiveness and location of Ōtorohanga township means that tourist buses and independent travellers stop on their way to key out of district destinations including the Waitomo Caves. This benefits local cafes and retailers with more visitors in town, which also supports more employment.
- The popularity of Waitomo caves also provides employment opportunities for people from Ōtorohanga District.



CHALLENGES

ECONOMY

A reason to visit

- Plans are underway for the development of the Ōtorohanga Kiwi House (supported by a \$2m loan from Council). A longer-term local idea is to develop a mountain biking venture and potentially harbour-based activities in Kāwhia, which will all help to increase visitor numbers. However, a recent study by Horwath HTL on behalf of Hamilton Waikato Tourism, identified that even with these additional tourist offerings the numbers of tourists to our district will not support investment in accommodation infrastructure.
- There is no doubt that tourism is important to the district, but it will not be at a level in the short to medium term, that the district can rely on as a major contributor to our local GDP. We expect to continue our focus on making our town attractive to stop and spend time in that our businesses can then benefit from. We will be reviewing our level of tourism specific investment to increase support in other areas that will make the biggest improvements to our community's economic wellbeing.

We are spending more and more in other districts

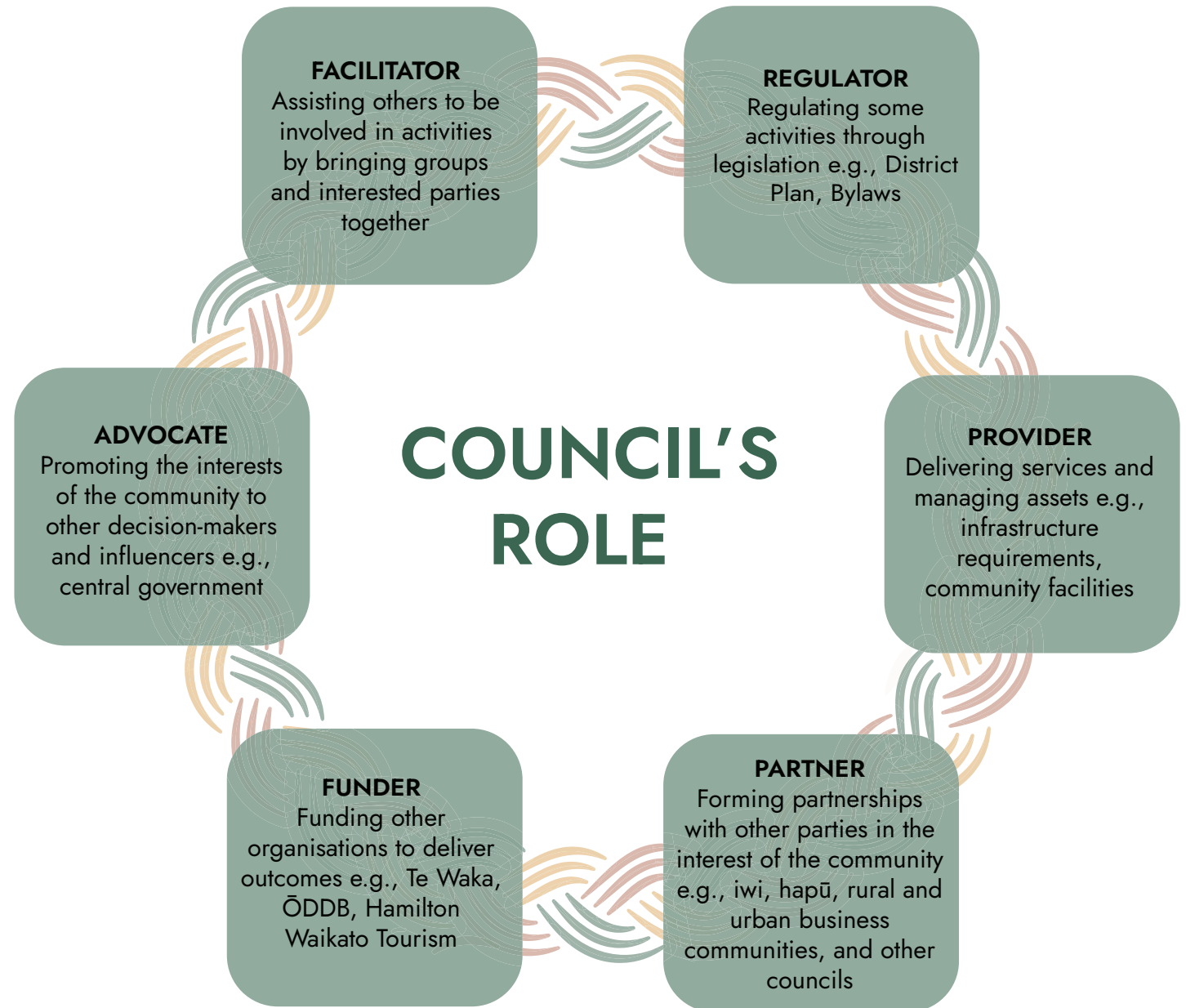
- People are shopping outside the district. Waipa and Waitomo are claiming an increasingly large portion of spend. This occurs for a number of reasons, one is that as a consequence of students attending out of district schools parents shop outside of Ōtorohanga while transporting their children. People working outside the district are spending outside the district – this is likely due to a combination of choice, price and convenience. We need to collectively address this challenge to make sure our businesses are sustainable and our mainstreet is strong.



WHAT WE ALREADY DO

OUR MAHI

We already do a lot of mahi/work to support economic wellbeing. What we do and how we do it both influence the outcomes. The many roles that we play are



WHAT WE ALREADY DO

HERE ARE SOME MORE DETAILED EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE DO

We fund the following agencies to deliver specific programmes of work for us.

Te Waka

Te Waka is a business-led and governed organisation established to drive economic growth in the Waikato. The work of Te Waka includes:

- Submitting on government policy
- Attracting investment to the Waikato region
- Conducting the Waikato Regional Business Sentiment Survey
- Providing access to business mentors, a business advisory service (specifically Soda Inc) and a digital boost programme as well as links to other services and tools that are available to businesses.

Hamilton Waikato Tourism

Hamilton Waikato Tourism attracts domestic and international visitors to the region to contribute to economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. Their work includes:

- Marketing to attract visitors to the region
- Encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore
- Capability building and working with operators – all operators across the region can attend, although attendance from Ōtorohanga is generally very low
- Responding after emergency events such as Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle – wherever tourists might be impacted.

The Ōtorohanga District Development Board (ŌDDDB)

The ŌDDDB promotes the Ōtorohanga District as a great place to live and work by:

- Sharing our district and community story and success
- Supporting business to make positive and meaningful connections
- Providing business development opportunity and promotion.
- Leveraging our natural advantages to champion sustainable growth throughout the district.
- Operating the Ōtorohanga i-SITE and supports the Kāwhia Information Centre.



WHAT WE ALREADY DO

AND MORE DETAILED EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE DO

We deliver

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Employment Programme

MTFJ is a national group of Mayors working towards the vision of all young people under 25 being engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other positive activity in their communities. MTFJ runs advocacy projects and partners with other organisations to promote the economic wellbeing of young people. Partners include Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Tuia, Outward Bound, and Te Pūkenga.

One of MTFJ's most successful programmes has been the Community Employment Programme. In Ōtorohanga, this programme is delivered through the Ōtorohanga Employment Hub. It focusses on empowering young people aged between 16 and 24, as well as anyone facing job market challenges in our community, by offering pre-employment skills development, job search support and postplacement care along with driver licencing programmes and life skill development.

This programme is funded by MSD, through MTFJ to participating councils.



WHAT WE ALREADY DO

WE ALSO

- Support Ōtorohanga College with a \$1.6 million investment from the Better Off Fund
- Support the Ōtorohanga Support House - Whare Awhina through an annual funding
- Support Thrive's youth service work through annual funding
- Partnered with Ōtorohanga Timber Company to enable a 128-lot subdivision by loaning \$4 million to the developer
- Supported the Kiwi House upgrade as one of our key tourist attractions with a \$2 million loan
- Administer the Creative Communities grant scheme
- Facilitate events which enable creatives and makers to mix, meet, unify, collaborate and take independent action towards their own public facing projects
- About to commence work on public art projects, like creating a linked collection of temporary gallery walls across the Ōtorohanga and Kāwhia townships by inviting retailers to 'donate' the use of a wall to showcase artwork and continue to improve connections between Council and our communities, by developing future plans together such as the Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan and the Kāwhia, Aotea, Ōpārau and Rural concept plans
- Strengthen our relationships with iwi/Māori, and rūnanga including shared leadership team hui with Te Nehenehenui
- Invest time in community partnerships
- Provide housing for older persons
- Completed the Te Ara a Waiwaiā Riparian Planting project on the Waipā River in partnership with representatives from Waikato Regional Council, Waikato River Authority, Te Keeti and Te Kotahitanga Marae, Puniu River Care, local schools and a wide range of volunteers from our community.
- Constructed a 500m³ water reservoir on Mountain View Road
- Provide an annual community grants fund of \$100,000
- Build and maintain infrastructure, over the last three years we have completed:
 - » 184km of resealing and 163km road metalling
 - » 2.2 km of footpath renewals
 - » 130 culvert replacements
 - » Laid 2.8km of new pipes for the Tihiroa Rural Water Scheme
- Invested in better information systems and processes to become much more customer focussed and enabling
- Provide a library service in Ōtorohanga and Kāwhia
- And much more....

POU / PILLARS

THE THINGS THAT WILL HELP IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC WELLBEING

The pou are the pillars that will respond to the challenges and make the most of our opportunities across the district and support and deliver on our vision. We have arranged actions under each. Most of our actions will be done in partnership with others and all our actions will apply our mātaḗpono / principles.



PRINCIPLES

Te Ao Māori

We will work together, guided by our partners, to ensure that we consider a Māori world view when making decisions that affect our community and our environment

Sustainable and circular

We will act in ways that maintain and enhance our environments, reduce our impact on our natural resources and reduce waste

Leverage our existing strengths and resources

We will play to our strengths, leveraging off our rich culture, natural environments and identity, and our passion for our place

Future focussed

We will focus on the wellbeing of future generations as well as current

Innovation

We will be bold, take calculated risks, learn from others, and explore new opportunities to diversify our economy

Leadership and partnerships

We will seek to forge and strengthen partnerships with mana whenua, government, organisations, our community and others to deliver on the economic wellbeing aspirations of our district. We will be clear about our role in each activity from leading, supporting, funding or facilitating

Inclusive

Our approach towards economic wellbeing and the decisions we make will benefit everyone who lives, works and learns in the Ōtorohanga District

POU / PILLARS

SKILLS + EDUCATION

Focusing on skills and education to make sure everyone in our community is prepared for life.

Challenges addressed

- Youth / Rangatahi
- Housing
- Sustainability and the Circular Economy
- Economy
- Environment

Together with others we will work to ensure that rangatahi and the wider community have access to lifelong education, learning, retraining and apprenticeship opportunities that build knowledge and skills to prepare them for future opportunities and to live their best life. To ensure that everyone can access the services they need to support and improve their economic wellbeing and their ability to be as self-sufficient as possible.

Diversifying our economy is critical, to help to protect our community from economic impacts that may affect the primary industries that provide the largest sector of employment (agriculture).

The agricultural sector is facing a number of challenges that we need to address locally:

- Higher consumer expectations
- A greater focus on sustainability
- New technologies
- An increasingly complex global supply chain

New skills and innovation are needed to address these challenges. We also have an ageing rural workforce so a focus will need to be on attracting young people into agricultural jobs to support the future viability of the sector.



POU / PILLARS

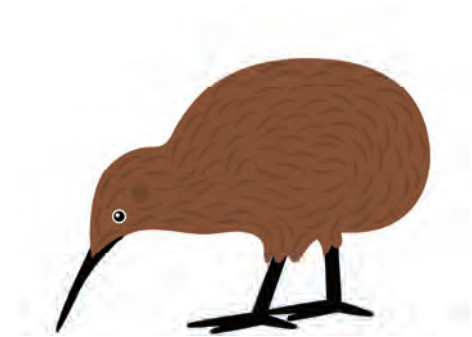
SKILLS + EDUCATION

ACTIONS

- Advocate for an audit of education and training opportunities already available to support our community in employment, how they can be accessed and ensure this information is well known.
- Advocate for a skills and education assessment and response plan to align to our needs and how they can be filled.
- Continue to work with and support Ōtorohanga College to prepare local school leavers for success, including linking with local career pathways, for example, the agricultural sector and the Ōtorohanga Timber Company.
- Encourage providers to make training opportunities accessible online.
- Make space available for training and study in more remote areas e.g., Kāwhia.
- Work with the primary sector to market the advantages of working in the agriculture industry and related sectors.
- Encourage different organisations and agencies to work more closely together to improve people's skills and knowledge to help prepare them for future opportunities.
- Work with Māori partners to understand where we can incorporate a Māori world view in our activities through the development of the Māori Engagement Framework.
- Identify opportunities and advocate for services that will support rangatahi and help to improve their future wellbeing including social services, mental health services, skills development and employment opportunities.

How will we know we are successful

- More young people are working or in training in local businesses, thereby reducing the number of people not in education or training (NEET decreasing).
- Improving education qualification outcomes (Statistic NZ)
- Improving mean annual earnings (Infometrics data)



POU / PILLARS

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING + OUR ENVIRONMENT

Building resilient infrastructure in the right place, at the right time to support our community and ensure our environments flourish.

Challenges addressed

- Infrastructure/ Rangatahi
- Sustainability and the circular economy
- Economy
- Environment

As a largely rural district we must have resilient and effective infrastructure, this includes roading, water, wastewater, telecommunications, internet and power networks. Resilient infrastructure built and available in the right place at the right time, is important to support our community's economic wellbeing, our ability to grow, and the health of the environment.

Working together with our partners, we will advocate on behalf of our community to improve infrastructure provision, to ensure that what is needed is what is delivered and to ensure that future infrastructure is planned for by those providers, to cater for future population growth and changing demands

All infrastructure delivery will consider and address any negative impacts on the environment and will be designed to ensure resilience against the future impacts of climate change.



POU / PILLARS

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING + OUR ENVIRONMENT

ACTIONS

- Identify other funding sources for infrastructure provision, especially any funding that may become available through central government and support others in applying for that funding.
- Identify the specific problems and aspirations for wastewater infrastructure across our district, especially where it impacts the health of our waterways and harbours (Kāwhia) and work with others to plan for and address the issues.
- Carry out systematic reviews of our processes, systems, planning rules and policies to become more enabling for business and more customer centric to line up our statutory and non-statutory tools to support economic wellbeing.
- Improve our direct relationships with businesses throughout the district and to understand how to work better for and with our business communities and where Council-owned infrastructure can further enable economic wellbeing.
- Investigate with and learn from others about new and innovative ways to provide infrastructure to support renewable energy.
- Identify areas where there are innovation-type projects underway, where Council can support and enable as well as learn and take those learnings to the rest of the community, and further afield.
- Work with other infrastructure providers and our partners to advocate on behalf of our community to deliver new infrastructure where it is needed and to encourage improvements to existing infrastructure, including
 - » to ensure that the district is well-connected through its roading network which is designed to be resilient to climate change.
 - » to advocate on behalf of our community with telecommunications and internet providers to ensure that everyone in our community has access to fast internet and a reliable cell phone service.
 - » Work together with the Waikato Regional Council to advocate for public transport options across the district Waikato Regional Public Transport Plan 2022-2032
 - » Explore with Waitomo District Council opportunities for joint tenders for roading, parks and reserves, IT/tourism
- Work with others who can influence and help with improving the health of our waterways and the harbour, including mana whenua, the community, regional council, business owners and government agencies.
- Work with our partners and prospective or expanding businesses to understand any impacts that there may be on the environment from the operation of their businesses, and how these can be minimised and managed, and encourage the use of renewable energy and other green initiatives, wherever possible.
- Connect with the Ministry for the Environment and other agencies to increase opportunities for introducing circular economy innovations into our rural and manufacturing industries.
- Work together and support other agencies who have sustainability aspirations and watch and learn how these projects could be applied more widely across the district e.g., renewable solar energy being used to help reduce energy poverty (Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust).
- Back our communities' ideas and innovations that support a low emission, low waste, circular economy and together with our partners provide and help them to access what they need to make this happen.
- Watch and learn from national and global leaders in this space for innovation that we can apply locally.
- Develop a Social Procurement Policy to increase our ability to create better outcomes through our purchasing of goods and services and advocate for other businesses to create their own.
- Work with our primary sector to understand and advocate for their changing business environment.
- Involve our communities in long term planning and preparation for climate impact as we create our first climate change response plan.

How will we know we are successful

- Our community is connected through appropriate and robust infrastructure with capacity to support future population growth (delivery of our annual infrastructure programme – percentage)
- The quality of our harbours and waterways are improving (Regional Council water monitoring)



POU / PILLARS

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Building more inclusive environments and enabling access to resources and opportunities so everyone can thrive. Helping people to “lift themselves up”.

Challenges addressed

- Youth / Rangatahi
- Housing
- Sustainability and the circular economy
- Economy

Helping our people to “lift themselves up” by enabling and supporting more diverse employment opportunities, promoting and supporting a circular economy, enabling the provision of affordable housing and providing easier and equitable access to the services that our community needs.

We will advocate on behalf of our community to other agencies for the services that they need, ensuring that the diverse requirements of the district are catered for, and that they are accessible to everyone. This includes the provision of health and mental health services, public transport, education and learning opportunities.

We will work with other agencies to identify what we can do to support and enable our community’s aspiration for a circular economy, ensuring that there is a just transition, so that no one is left behind.

Additionally, working more closely with our partners and other agencies to prepare for future civil emergencies with a focus on preparing and protecting all our community, wherever they live in the district

“TWO OF THE KAUMĀTUA AT OUR MARAE NEEDED TO GET THEIR CARS REGISTERED BUT DIDN’T KNOW HOW TO DO THIS ONLINE, SO WE ORGANISED TRANSPORT FOR THEM TO THE WINTEC BUILDING, WHERE THEY WERE TAUGHT HOW TO DO THIS.”



POU / PILLARS

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

ACTIONS

- Work with community representatives and partners, identify and implement the steps towards a low emission, low waste, circular economy.
- Work with other agencies to improve access to the services that they need including health, mental health, education, public transport options, wherever they live.
- Support the delivery of those actions identified through the district Housing Plan that Council can contribute to.
- Encourage organisations that are delivering to similar outcomes to work more closely together so that resources can be shared/aggregated to improve the outcomes for the whole community (including preparation for civil emergencies).
- Work with rural marae and communities to ensure our kaumātua/older people have access to services that support their economic wellbeing.
- Work together with the older generations in our communities and agencies to connect kaumātua/older people to local businesses and key industries to create more opportunities to continue to share their skills and experience.
- Work closely with Taharoa C Block Corporation to align, where possible, strategic direction and investment in our district.
- Explore ways to build resilience by working together with economic development agencies to identify ways to provide diverse employment opportunities across our community.

How will we know we are successful

- Our district operates a successful low emission, low waste, circular economy that benefits our community. (Volume of waste diverted from landfill – increasing / percentage of locals buying local – increasing / Council social procurement activity – increasing)
- Housing Plan outcomes are being achieved. (link to Housing Plan measures)



"WHEN THE BANKS CLOSED, MANY OF THE ELDERS DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE INTERNET BANKING AND ALSO THE INTERNET CONNECTION AT KĀWHIA IS NOT VERY GOOD. SO, WE ORGANISED A VAN TO TRANSPORT THE KĀWHIA RESIDENTS TO ŌTOROHANGA, TO THE WINTEC BUILDING, AND ARRANGED FOR A TUTOR TO COME AND TEACH THEM HOW TO USE INTERNET BANKING. THEN THEY WERE TRANSPORTED BACK HOME."

POU / PILLARS

STRONG TOWN + STRONG RURAL COMMUNITIES

Investing resources and time to facilitate vibrant, strong places and people.

Challenges addressed

- Youth / Rangatahi
- Sustainability and the circular economy
- Economy

While Ōtorohanga town is the economic hub of the district, most of our community (70%) lives rurally. We will ensure that those who live rurally are included in our journey to improving the economic wellbeing of our whole community. It will be important for us to work across boundaries with our neighbours so that we give our community a voice for those things that matter to them and acknowledge that people are moving in and out of our district for work, learning and to access services.

Our district is culturally diverse, and we are home to many other nationalities including Pacifica communities, Filipino, Indian and Asian people amongst many others. We are proud that we have a community that is welcoming but must ensure that what we offer to new migrants is equitable and inclusive, so they become a part of our community. Making space for people to come together through a community hub and other community spaces will be important alongside holding community events. This will provide a sense of place for our community and opportunities to connect.

Our district economy needs to be resilient to the future impacts of climate change. We must focus on building those key alliances with others and work together within the district, across our towns/villages and our boundaries, to help our communities to be resilient for whatever the future holds.

We also need to look for ways to diversify our economy and employment sectors to prepare for any future impacts to the economy, both locally and globally. We want Ōtorohanga District to be seen as a great place to do, and to have, a business.

& JOHN HADDAD
MEN'S & WOMENSWEAR
"us in Otorohanga"... Since 1965



Photo used with permission of John Haddad.

POU / PILLARS

STRONG TOWN + STRONG RURAL COMMUNITIES

ACTIONS

- Work with our economic development partners, agencies and community representatives to understand how we can diversify, and to identify other business opportunities that are available for our district (especially Kāwhia and surrounds), building resilience to economic impacts for everyone in our community for the future.
- Support Te Nehenehenui, Maniapoto Pact Trust, Raukawa, Ngāti Hikairo and Tainui Kāwhia and Waikato- Tainui, to achieve their aspirations when able and needed and also learn from their successes.
- Link with Waikato-Tainui to understand and support the delivery Whakatupuranga 2050 and the related five year plans as they relate to our district.
- Work with our partners, to support events and activations that connect our communities, to provide them with opportunities and places to come together, to celebrate our arts, events, and recreational activities.
- Investigate an event and activation contestable fund targeted at smaller events that increase the vibrancy of Ōtorohanga town and Kāwhia.
- Work with the Ministry for the Environment, local agencies and external providers to provide training to enable transitioning to a circular economy.
- Work with local marae, Waikato-Tainui and others to facilitate a Kāwhia Harbour Forum for locals to understand the economic opportunities presented by the Kāwhia Harbour.
- Increase our focus on intra-regional collaboration (with our neighbouring districts and Waikato Regional Council) to identify where we can collaborate more on programmes and advocacy.
- Continue to support the redevelopment of the Ōtorohanga Kiwi House.
- Continue to facilitate the development of a multi-purpose community hub in Ōtorohanga township that focuses on arts, connectivity, social services, and civic participation.

WOULD BE SO GOOD TO HAVE SOME MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE CENTRE OF TOWN, ESPECIALLY ON A SUNDAY, WHEN NO ONE IS WORKING SO THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN COME.

How will we know we are successful

- Our economy and employment are diversifying with new business opportunities coming to the district. (Herfindahl – Hirschman Index – New business start up numbers)
- Ōtorohanga District is seen as a great place to do business, to have a business and a great place to live. (Business Confidence Survey – increasing)
- Together with our neighbours our community is prepared for the future impacts of climate change and the impacts on our economy. (Community survey – feeling prepared)



MONITORING + REVIEW

This strategy is a living document. It provides a pathway to our shared vision. We will regularly monitor both the delivery of our actions and the outcomes we are achieving and be ready to flex to deliver better outcomes. We will report progress to our communities as part of our Environmental Scan every three years to support the delivery of our Long Term Plan.



Appendix 2: Elected member roles during the Hearing, Deliberation and Adoption process

	Hearings	Deliberations	Adoption
Mayor & Councillors	Hear verbal submissions. Consider all submissions made. Provide collective direction to staff on any additional information or changes needed to inform the Deliberations.	Consider the draft EWS. Formally resolve any amendments required prior to final adoption.	Consider the amended draft EWS. Adopt the final EWS (subject to any minor editorial amendment).
Community Board Members		Provide verbal input into the discussions. No role in resolving decisions i.e. move or second.	Welcome to attend meeting in public gallery.



WEAVING THE
FUTURE, TOGETHER
KOTAHITANGA
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

ECONOMIC WELLBEING STRATEGY: SUBMISSIONS

ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

MAY 2024



Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o
Ōtorohanga
District Council
Where kiwi can fly





Respondent No: 1

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 07, 2024 11:11:54 am

Last Seen: May 07, 2024 11:11:54 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District?

Please select all that apply

Other (please specify)

As a regional film office, we are focused on supporting and enriching the community through the creative sector, cultural storytelling and improving the economic sector for the Otorohanga community.

Q2. If you live in the Ōtorohanga District, please tell us where you live

I live outside the district (please specify)

Q3. Where outside of the district do you live?

Raglan is our base, but we service all of the Waikato region

Q4. What is your name

Tracy Hampton

Q5. What is the name of your organisation (if applicable)

Waikato Screen Ltd - not for profit organisation

Q6. Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details.

Yes

Q12. Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision?

Yes

Q13. Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts

- Creative Expression: Emphasising the importance of creative development and culture in fostering community wellbeing.
- Youth Empowerment: Providing opportunities for young individuals to explore their creativity and develop skills in creative ways.
- Cultural Celebration: Promoting diverse cultural expressions that enrich community identity and pride.
- Community Collaboration: Encouraging inclusive projects that harness creativity to address social challenges and promote positive mental health.

Q14. Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles?

Yes

Q15. Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q16. Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars?

Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

these are broad and positive - perhaps opportunities for businesses to provide scholarships and sponsorships.

Q18. Do you agree with the challenges?

Yes

Q19. Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts

These are accurate.

Q20. Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts

no.

Q21. Do you agree with the actions?

Yes

Q22. Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts

Our organisation has outlined samples of creative development initiatives to align with your strategies. So these can be samples to consider when formatting the guidelines, ensuring we can be included as a creative sector.

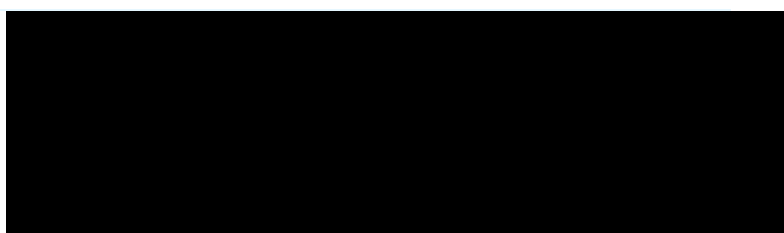
Q23. Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts

I will attach a sample of fantastic courses to align with your actions.

Q24. Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?

Consider these pathways and allocate funding portals to encompass these types of digital/upskilling and cultural storytelling courses.

Q25. Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission



7th May 2024

To the Ōtorohanga District Council,

I am writing on behalf of Waikato Screens to submit an outline of an Economic Wellbeing Strategy that will support your initiative. It is based on the creative sector, which aims to enhance community well-being through the screen sector.

Our creative outline aligns closely with the draft Ōtorohanga Economic Wellbeing Strategy, focusing on fostering creativity, skills development, and cultural and community connections.

Background: As our district moves into a period of growth and development, prioritising community well-being and relationships, we believe that investing in the screen sector can play a significant role in achieving these objectives. The screen sector contributes to economic prosperity, cultural enrichment, and personal empowerment, aligning well with the principles of resilience, sustainability, and transformation outlined in the draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy.

Initiative Overview: Our proposed initiatives, to ensure there is a portal of funding allowed for in your new strategic plan to encompass these initiatives. These are samples that could be applied over a potential two-year period.

Term one, titled "**Digital Storytelling for Community Wellbeing**," aims to empower participants with digital skills while promoting creativity and inclusivity through hands-on workshops in photography, videography, and storytelling. This would be a one-day course. The plan is to collaborate with the community to form a Creative group.

Other initiatives over the long term:

The Waikato Screen film office focused on community engagement could provide these courses, particularly targeting youth and other impactful programs:

- **Youth Filmmaking Workshops:**
 - Hands-on courses teaching filmmaking skills such as scriptwriting, directing, cinematography, and editing.
 - Opportunities for young participants to create their own short films or documentaries.
- **Film weekends or Intensive Programs:**
 - Summer or holiday sessions focused on various aspects of filmmaking, including acting, production design, and post-production.
 - Multi-day workshops offering immersive experiences in the film industry.
- **Digital Animation Class:**
 - Courses on digital animation and online safety.
 - Training sessions on using digital tools for creative expression beyond filmmaking, such as graphic design or animation.

- **Youth Film Festivals:**
 - Organising film festivals showcasing works created by young filmmakers in the community.
 - Providing platforms for youth to screen their films and receive feedback from peers and industry professionals.
- **Mentorship Programs:**
 - Pairing aspiring young filmmakers with industry professionals for personalised mentorship and guidance.
 - Creating opportunities for networking and career development within the film and media sector.
- **Community Film Projects:**
 - Collaborative initiatives where youth work together to produce films addressing local issues or capturing community stories.
 - Engaging youth in meaningful projects that contribute to community dialogue and understanding.
- **Film Production Internships:**
 - Offering internship programs for youth interested in gaining hands-on experience on film sets or in production offices.
 - Providing valuable insights into the workings of the film industry and career pathways.
- **Film Industry Panel Discussions:**
 - Hosting panel discussions or guest speaker events featuring professionals from different areas of the film industry.
 - Educating youth about diverse career opportunities and industry trends.
- **Film Screening Series:**
 - Organising regular film screenings of classic or contemporary films followed by discussions or workshops.
 - Promoting film appreciation and critical thinking among young audiences.
- **Partnerships with Schools and Youth Organisations:**
 - Collaborating with schools and youth organisations to integrate film education into curriculum or extracurricular activities.
 - Delivering tailored programs that complement educational objectives and promote creative expression.

These initiatives aim to empower people through creative exploration, skill development, and exposure to the film and media industry. They contribute to building a vibrant and inclusive community while nurturing the next generation of storytellers and filmmakers. Each program can be customised based on specific community needs and interests, fostering engagement and long-term impact.

We seek to:

- Create job opportunities and skills development in the local screen industry.
- Foster community engagement and connection through shared narratives.
- Celebrate local stories and perspectives, enriching community identity.



Alignment with Economic Wellbeing Strategy: Our initiative directly supports the vision of creating a more prosperous Ōtorohanga district where collective well-being is enhanced. By investing in the screen sector, we contribute to a balanced and inclusive economy, providing opportunities for personal and professional growth within our community.

Positive Impacts and Outcomes:

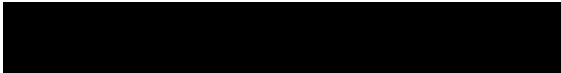
- Enhanced digital literacy and creative skills among participants.
- Increased community cohesion through collaborative storytelling.
- Promotion of Ōtorohanga's unique cultural identity through digital media.

Call to Action: We encourage the Council to allocate resources to support these screen sector initiatives, recognising their potential to strengthen community wellbeing and contribute to the goals outlined in the draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy. By investing in this initiative, we can collectively build a more vibrant Ōtorohanga district.

Conclusion: Thank you for considering our ideas. We are committed to working in partnership with the Council and local stakeholders to realise the vision of a prosperous Ōtorohanga where creativity and community well-being thrive. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and contribute to the positive development of our district.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Hampton
Waikato Screens Film Office Manager





Respondent No: 2

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 08, 2024 08:04:04 am

Last Seen: May 08, 2024 08:04:04 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District? I work in Ōtorohanga District

Please select all that apply

Q2. If you live in the Ōtorohanga District, please tell us where you live I live outside the district (please specify)

Q4. What is your name Michelle Hollands

Q5. What is the name of your organisation (if applicable) Otorohanga District Development Board

Q6. Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details. Yes

Q12. Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision? Yes

Q13. Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts

The people and the environments across Ōtorohanga District thrive, with opportunities for everyone - nice and simple and high level

Q14. Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles? Yes

Q15. Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q16. Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars? Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

Housing and Employment are not specifically called out and are important challenges it would be useful to see these highlighted in the wording

Q18. Do you agree with the challenges?

Yes

Q19. Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts

No, there are plenty on this list. Perhaps prioritisation of these is the next step?

Q20. Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts

No

Q21. Do you agree with the actions?

Yes

Q22. Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts

Just from here working through 'who' will be involved and how we will identify who leads and who partners in implementation

Q23. Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts

Just the important prioritisation and phasing of delivery

Q24. Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?

Well done to all involved this strategy is well written and provides good insights to the community and the community's voice.

Q25. Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission

not answered



Respondent No: 3

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 09, 2024 08:34:07 am

Last Seen: May 09, 2024 08:34:07 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District?

Please select all that apply

Other (please specify)

Regional Tourism Organisation

Q2. If you live in the Ōtorohanga District, please tell us where you live

I live outside the district (please specify)

Q3. Where outside of the district do you live?

NA - regional tourism organisation submission

Q4. What is your name

Nicola Greenwell

Q5. What is the name of your organisation (if applicable)

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Q6. Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details.

Yes

Q12. Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision?

Yes

Q13. Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts

please see attached submission as pdf document

Q14. Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles?

Yes

Q15. Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q16. Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars?

Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q18. **Do you agree with the challenges?**

No

Q19. **Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts**

please see attached submission as pdf document

Q20. **Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts**

please see attached submission as pdf document

Q21. **Do you agree with the actions?**

No

Q22. **Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts**

please see attached submission as pdf document

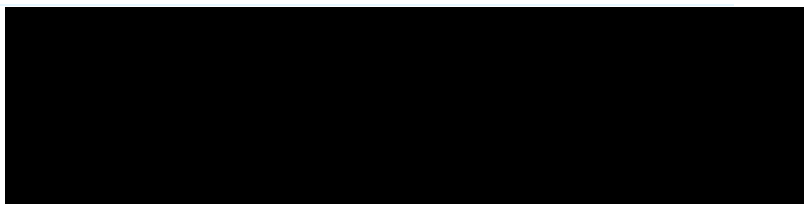
Q23. **Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts**

please see attached submission as pdf document

Q24. **Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?**

please see attached submission as pdf document

Q25. **Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission**



9 May 2024

Economic Wellbeing Strategy
Ōtorohanga District Council
Ōtorohanga

Tēnā koutou katoa

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) provides this submission to Ōtorohanga District Council regarding the draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy. This should be read in conjunction with our submission to your Long Term Plan – sent on 22 April 2024.

HWT is the Regional Tourism Organisation for Ōtorohanga along with neighboring districts of Hamilton city, Waikato, Waipā, Waitomo and Matamata-Piako. Visitors contributed \$40million to the Ōtorohanga district economy for the year to October 2023 – \$10million of this is from international visitors, and \$30million from domestic visitors. This equates to \$3,669 per resident.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism's role is to grow tourism revenue through attracting more visitors to Ōtorohanga and the mighty Waikato who stay longer and spend more. We do this by growing awareness, changing perceptions and building demand in target markets. We aim to attract domestic and international visitors and increase their length of stay and expenditure through effective destination marketing, development, and management activity.

Tourism has the ability to actively benefit the community across the four wellbeing pillars – social, environmental, cultural and economic. Visitors spend in your district – this is NEW money, not recirculated money. This money is received and spent at tourism, retail and hospitality businesses; who then utilize local suppliers and employ within the community. JOBS is what helps to lift prosperity.

Increasing the profile of Ōtorohanga through HWT's activities and channels is not only good for visitors – it is an important attractor for people who may want to invest, work and live in your community.

Supporting the sustainability of our visitor economy is not a luxury; it's a necessity. The region cannot afford to lose visitor spend. We know with the right messaging, marketing, and mahi, tourism is an industry that adds value to the city, region and communities. If we take our foot off the accelerator now, long term damage will be done, and it will take more money and a very long time to catch up lost ground.

On behalf of the board and management of HWT, we thank you for your consideration and urge reconsideration of the Long Term Plan budget for HWT.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leggat".

Richard Leggat
Chairman
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicola Greenwell".

Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Submission to Ōtorohanga District Council Economic Wellbeing Strategy

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) is the official tourism organisation for the Waikato region. Our role is to attract domestic and international visitors and increase length of stay and expenditure through effective destination marketing, development, and management activity. HWT promotes Hamilton and the Waikato as a preferred destination for domestic and international business, events and leisure travellers and provides leadership in regional product and event development, investment, and sector capability. As passionate ambassadors of the region, HWT aims to ensure visitors enjoy the wide variety of experiences and places throughout the mighty Waikato, in turn contributing to economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for the community.

HWT is funded through a public/private partnership with the region's tourism industry and six local authorities including Ōtorohanga, Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako, Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo. Funding is provided for services agreed to within a signed Service Level Agreement.

Introduction

1. Tourism Waikato was disestablished in 2006 when Hamilton City Council withdrew funding to secure the V8 Supercar event. This resulted in a significant decline in domestic and international visitor expenditure, a drop in overnight stays, lack of national and international tourism profile and destination marketing.
2. Hamilton & Waikato was re-established 1 July 2011. HWT is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the mighty Waikato region. The core purpose of HWT is to promote the region as an appealing destination to international and domestic visitors in order to generate economic benefits for the region and its communities.
3. We understand the economic climate is tough and councils need to make savings in operating expenses. We therefore avoided requesting additional or increased funding. If funding can be maintained at current levels we will need to reduce some activity, given the impact of inflation on costs over the last three years, but overall, we believe we can be an active and effective RTO.

Value of Tourism to Ōtorohanga

4. Visitors spent over \$40 million in Ōtorohanga district in the year ended October 2024 - \$10million from international manuhiri and \$30million from New Zealanders.
5. During 2023, 90,400 guest nights were enjoyed in commercial accommodation – occupancy rate of 42%.
6. The Ōtorohanga Kiwi House is undergoing significant redevelopment work. We look forward to the re-launch of the modernised Ōtorohanga Kiwi House as a visitor proposition for visitors to Ōtorohanga and the region. An ongoing viable and strong RTO will be important to ensure this investment is maximised and highlighted with manuhiri.
7. The team have provided guidance and assistance to the new hotel Sands of Kawhia Hotel, with particular emphasis on working with travel trade.



The Economic Wellbeing Strategy

8. The development of Ōtorohanga Kiwi House will ensure this toanga remains a key visitor attraction and an asset for the community of Ōtorohanga. Once developed, it will be important they engage with the RTO to maximise the investment.
9. As you rightly point out in the EWS, the Horwath HTL accommodation report conducted for Hamilton & Waikato Tourism did not support investment in accommodation infrastructure as visitors tend to be day visitors or visiting friends and relatives. The report also highlighted the benefit of the new Sands of Kawhia development, and 46 properties listed on AirBnB which average 53% annual occupancy.

A reason to visit

- Plans are underway for the development of the Ōtorohanga Kiwi House (supported by a \$2m loan from Council). A longer-term local idea is to develop a mountain biking venture and potentially harbour-based activities in Kāwhia, which will all help to increase visitor numbers. However, a recent study by Horwath HTL on behalf of Hamilton Waikato Tourism, identified that even with these additional tourist offerings the numbers of tourists to our district will not support investment in accommodation infrastructure.
- There is no doubt that tourism is important to the district, but it will not be at a level in the short to medium term, that the district can rely on as a major contributor to our local GDP. We expect to continue our focus on making our town attractive to stop and spend time in that our businesses can then benefit from. We will be reviewing our level of tourism specific investment to increase support in other areas that will make the biggest improvements to our community's economic wellbeing.

The report also highlights the need for additional commercial accommodation to service visitors to neighbouring Waitomo village; and that this could be located anywhere between Ōtorohanga and Waitomo. This could be explored further and be an opportunity for your district and community.

10. While the EWS states tourism is not likely to contribute to local GDP in a significant way, as mentioned above, data provides facts of \$40million of visitor spend in your district. This is NEW MONEY circulating through your district and creating jobs. Without visitor spend, are the businesses in town and Kawhia viable? Does Kawhia petrol stations or takeaway shops survive with resident expenditure only? Was your investment in the Ōtorohanga Kiwi House viable without visitors? These are the potential impacts if you were to consider reducing or removing your partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.
11. The statement in EWS outlining the role of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism is correct. However, we must point out the “capability building and working with operators” is available to all operators throughout the region. While we do not currently have industry partners based in Ōtorohanga (industry contribution), we have in the past had partners in your district (Kamahi Cottage). In saying this, we have provided services over the recent timeframe to Ōtorohanga Kiwi House, Sands of Kawhia Hotel and Origin Coffee, to name a few.
12. We embarked on the journey of developing the Kawhia Destination Action Plan late in 2017. However, the consultation meeting held December 2017 clearly indicated the community were unsure just how important visitors were at that time. Since then, the global pandemic has proven the value visitors contribute, in many cases, enabling businesses to survive when the resident population alone is not able to provide sufficient business/spend.
13. As highlighted in our LTP Submission, we have recently completed two new pieces of work that benefits Ōtorohanga:
 - a. Waikato to Taranaki Way – a curated map and itinerary for an easy, self-driving journey along the west coast of the North Island from Port Waikato to Paritutu in Taranaki. The itinerary recommends stopping to explore Kawhia and Ōtorohanga.
 - b. developed a digital experience from the Sir Edmund Hillary Walk. This can be viewed on our website [here](#).

Hamilton Waikato Tourism

Hamilton Waikato Tourism attracts domestic and international visitors to the region to contribute to economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. Their work includes:

- Marketing to attract visitors to the region
- Encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore
- Capability building and working with operators – all operators across the region can attend, although attendance from Ōtorohanga is generally very low
- Responding after emergency events such as Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle – wherever tourists might be impacted.



14. As the visitor sector continues to recover from the global pandemic and there is more emphasis on encouraging visitors to dwell longer and exploring 'off the beaten track', it is therefore expected visitor spend will grow, particularly in the districts. Its important you maximise the potential from this by continuing to partner with your Regional Tourism Organisation.

15. Tourism is an important contributor to Ōtorohanga, not only in terms of the direct expenditure and employment generated, but also in terms of the broader economic development platform it provides. For example, the experience someone has in your district will influence their perception as a place to live, work, or invest. Visitation is often the 'shop front' – if you wish to attract investors – you need to attract visitors.



Conclusion

16. HWT thanks Ōtorohanga District Council for its support over the past 12 years.

17. Looking forward, the region needs tourism growth to increase the prosperity and living standards of its people. We can only do this by continuing a collaborative and long-term strategic approach, led by an appropriately funded and resourced Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

18. Hamilton & Waikato Tourism and the visitor sector provide economic wellbeing for the Ōtorohanga district.

Our request and recommendation

19. Ōtorohanga District Council continues its partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism in collaboration with other Waikato based councils.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to Ōtorohanga District Council's draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy.

Richard Leggat
Chairman

Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive



Respondent No: 4

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 09, 2024 13:27:07 pm

Last Seen: May 09, 2024 13:27:07 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District? I live in Ōtorohanga District

Please select all that apply

Q3. Where outside of the district do you live? not answered

Q4. What is your name Michael Woodward

Q5. What is the name of your organisation (if applicable) not answered

Q6. Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details. No

Q12. Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision? Yes

Q13. Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q14. Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles? No

Q15. Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q16. Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars? Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q18. Do you agree with the challenges?

Yes

Q19. Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q20. Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q21. Do you agree with the actions?

Yes

Q22. Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q23. Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q24. Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?

Ensure all wellbeing principles have an even weighting when it comes time to make decisions . One of the principles being elevated above all others will ensure areas are missed and unrepresented

Q25. Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission

not answered

Hi Nardia, thanks for coming back to me on this.

While I agree the principles all have merit.

My questions are: How does the council propose to ensure all principles have an equal weighting when backing projects? Is there a decision tree to work through? Are projects considered on merit or the need to tick significant areas to be considered better for the community? I.e. slanted towards one of the following environmental /economic/ cultural. to me all three need to be equally considered and are more a tripod of success without one the other two won't succeed and the project will fall over.

While we have our Major towns like Otorohanga and Kawhia. A big part of Otorohanga's income currently comes from agricultural spending on support industries located in and around the town. More needs to be done to ensure the connection with rural communities remains strong. Too many local halls show the loss of leadership in these communities and before long that connection will be lost with the council and town leading to these people no longer "belonging" to the district which will only hurt more smaller community groups. By facilitating local area community groups and making people feel like they are apart of the community the town will continue to thrive through local investment.

Happy to talk to the above if required hopefully it makes sense.

Regards Michael

Subject: Follow up question to your submission on the Economic Wellbeing Strategy

Kia ora Michael,

Thank you for submission to the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy. Your submission highlighted that there was a question missing from the survey and I would like to offer you the opportunity to contribute your feedback. I noted that you didn't agree with the draft principles as proposed, but we didn't give space for you to elaborate on that. Would you like to share why you don't agree with them and what you would suggest we consider instead.

To help you remember these are the proposed seven principles:

Economic Wellbeing Mātāpono /Principles

- The seven mātāpono/principles are the foundations for the way we will act, they will guide all our decision making. They are based on what our communities said was important.
- Te Ao Māori – We will work together, guided by our partners, to ensure that we consider a Māori world view when making decisions that affect our community and our environment
- Innovation – We will be bold, take calculated risks, learn from others, and explore new opportunities to diversify our economy
- Sustainable and circular – We will act in ways that maintain and enhance our environments, reduce our impact on our natural resources and reduce waste
- Leadership and partnerships – We will seek to forge and strengthen partnerships with mana whenua, government, organisations, our community and others to deliver on the economic wellbeing aspirations of our district. We will be clear about our role in each activity from leading, supporting, funding or facilitating.
- Leverage our existing strengths and resources – We will play to our strengths, leveraging off our rich culture, natural environments and identity, and our passion for our place
- Future focussed – We will focus on the wellbeing of future generations as well as current
- Inclusive – Our approach towards economic wellbeing and the decisions we make will benefit everyone who lives, works and learns in the Ōtorohanga District.

Thank you again for your submission.

Ngā mihi
Nardia

Nardia Gower

Group Manager Strategy & Community

Ōtorohanga District Council

17 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga



Respondent No: 5

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2024 11:55:25 am

Last Seen: May 15, 2024 11:55:25 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District?

Please select all that apply

Other (please specify)

Te Waka, Waikato Regional Economic Development Agency

Q2. If you live in the Ōtorohanga District, please tell us where you live

I live outside the district (please specify)

Q3. Where outside of the district do you live?

Our office is located in Hamilton, however our organisation serves the wider Waikato region

Q4. What is your name

Rosie Spragg

Q5. What is the name of your organisation (if applicable)

Te Waka, Waikato Regional Economic Development Limited

Q6. Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details.

No

Q12. Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision?

Yes

Q13. Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts

Please refer to our attached submission document

Q14. Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles?

Yes

Q15. Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts

Please refer to our attached submission document

Q16. Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars?

Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

Please refer to our attached submission document

Q18. **Do you agree with the challenges?**

Yes

Q19. **Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts**

Please refer to our attached submission document

Q20. **Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts**

not answered

Q21. **Do you agree with the actions?**

Yes

Q22. **Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts**

Please refer to our attached submission document

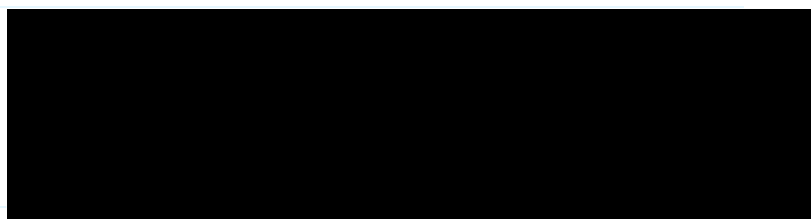
Q23. **Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts**

not answered

Q24. **Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?**

We have outlined our general and detailed feedback in our attached submission.

Q25. **Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission**



15 May 2024

Ōtorohanga District Council

Submitted online via: <https://engage.otodc.govt.nz/economic-wellbeing-strategy>

Tēnā koe,

Waikato Regional Economic Development Agency “Te Waka” Submission to the Ōtorohanga District Council’s Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy, April 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Ōtorohanga District Council's Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy. Please find attached the Te Waka submission regarding this consultation.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this document please contact Fiona Carrick, Chief Executive Officer.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Fiona Carrick
Chief Executive Officer, Te Waka



Rosie Spragg
GM Economic Development, Te Waka



About Te Waka

Te Waka is the Waikato region's economic development agency. Our Mission is lifting economic performance across the Waikato by attracting, retaining, and growing investment, talent, business and championing the region's collective voices for economic and business needs and opportunities. We want to propel the Waikato to reach its full potential.

Te Waka works in partnership with iwi, business, local and central government, and community to get things done and unearth opportunities that will lead to jobs, prosperity, and sustainable economic growth. Te Waka is a limited liability company and is owned by the Waikato Regional Economic Development Trust. This means we can be nimble, act independently and move with pace. We have a skills-based Board of Directors, none of whom are elected representatives.

General Te Waka Feedback on the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy

1. Te Waka supports the approach taken by the Ōtorohanga District Council (Council) to develop an Economic Wellbeing Strategy for the District.
2. Effective economic development leads to sustainable economic growth: this will improve conditions for businesses and communities, enhance social outcomes and support councils with their fiscal challenges. How we support economic development in the near term will impact our communities, people, land and water use and the health of these over the longer term.
3. We must keep investing in economic development to keep up the momentum we have to continue to strive for a productive and sustainable future. The value creation that economic development initiatives and teams are part of is setting up the areas that in five, ten, 15 years will provide the jobs for our children and grandchildren, and from that the fabric of thriving, connected communities, and modern public services and infrastructure, will be crafted.

Supporting Council's aims

4. When we look at Council's stated vision of "the people and the environments across the Ōtorohanga District thrive, with opportunities for everyone to live their best lives", we see clear alignment with Te Waka's own purpose and priorities.
5. We also see strong alignment with the Council's Economic Wellbeing Mātāpono/ Principles and the four Pou/Pillars, which reflect many of the 'Tumu' identified in the Waikato's Regional Economic Priorities 2022-25¹, including:
 - Affordable Housing
 - Education, Skills & Talent
 - Investment & Innovation
 - Enabling Infrastructure
 - Cross-regional Collaboration
 - Impact & Relevance
 - For the Broader Good

¹ Published online here: <https://tewakapublicwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity-storage-production/docs/default-source/resources/waikato-regional-economic-priorities-2022-2025.pdf>

- Embracing Our Identity
6. The Te Waka team is each district's eyes and ears, independent voice and economic development experts in the wider Golden Triangle. The team makes sure the region is represented, builds networks and IP, and strengthens the Waikato region to compete against the other regions of New Zealand who are investing much more in this space.
 7. In practice this has involved:
 - Sharing data and intelligence through our Business Sentiment Survey and attending events to share our insights with our wider network.
 - Sparking the conversation about the value a Waikato regional agreement with the Government could bring by ensuring long-term strategic infrastructure investment.
 - Welcoming the UK Trade Envoy to New Zealand to the Waikato, to raise awareness of the opportunities presented by the NZ-UK Free Trade Agreement.
 - Bringing experts and industry leaders together to put a region-specific lens over KPMG's Agribusiness Agenda at our annual Agribusiness Seminar.
 - Bringing together district and regional economic development representatives from our councils, local iwi, and key regional development organisations through our Waikato Economic Development Forum.
 - Leading and shaping the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Freight Action Plan: engaging with industry, local government and central government to address network capacity, resilience and identifying gaps in skills.
 - Facilitating tech sector connections through a range of events including delivering a sold-out Tech Student Speed Networking event during Techweek23.
 - Supporting the development of the Waikato's workforce, including our work with the Waikato Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) to develop a regional workforce plan, engaging with Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) on industry-specific workforce challenges, and supporting community organisations such as Smart Waikato that deliver education-to-employment programmes.
 - Lodging several detailed submissions on the Government's Energy sector reforms, advocating for policy change that will support the Waikato region to become to a clean energy based economy.
 - Hosting The Waikato Showcase alongside K'aute Pasifika, a celebration of both Pasifika culture, community, and commerce, and of the region's commercial and economic excellence.
 - Continuing to build our relationships with iwi stakeholders to support Māori economic development in the Waikato.
 - Collaborating with the education sector to support the growth of international education through our initiative Learn Waikato.
 8. Through the above work programme Te Waka supports, enables, and facilitates activities that have value in qualitative areas such as IP, networks and relationships, and information and data. By bringing together decision makers, funders, capital and value creators, Te Waka's success is their success, which in turn positively impacts the region's economic metrics.
 9. The Te Waka team is looking forward to a busy work programme and continuing to work closely with its key partners, Ōtorohanga District Council included, to build a thriving, connected and resilient regional economy for the benefit of our communities. The

Council's Economic Wellbeing Strategy will be a useful framework for collaboration between our two organisations.

Specific Te Waka Feedback on the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy

Economic Wellbeing Challenges

10. The latest Waikato Business Sentiment Survey² results, published in May 2024, provide useful insights on the priorities of local businesses, including insight into the perspectives of **businesses operating in the Ōtorohanga District** (31 of the 210 businesses surveyed). We have noted some key insights from the survey below in relation to the key economic wellbeing challenges identified in the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy (Draft Strategy).

Infrastructure

11. The infrastructure challenges listed in the Draft Strategy align closely with the infrastructure **priorities identified by businesses operating in the Ōtorohanga District in our latest survey**. Unless stated otherwise, all statistics below are for the 31 businesses surveyed that identified as operating in the Ōtorohanga District.
12. On transport, Road networks were prioritised by 42% of businesses, Rail networks by 23% (well above the regional average of 12%), and Public Transport by 19% (also above the regional average of 15%). This supports the focus within the Draft Strategy on connecting people by road and enabling public transport.
13. On electricity, Distribution networks were prioritised by 10% of businesses (in line with the regional average).
14. On digital connectivity, this was prioritised by 13% of businesses (above the regional average of 8%), reflecting the heightened challenges with accessing quality, affordable digital communication networks in the more rural parts of our region.
15. We are interested in the comments in the Draft Strategy relating to reliance on dial-up internet access. Given the relatively high geographic availability of fixed wireless and satellite internet access services in rural areas, we wondered if the reasoning for continued reliance on dial-up internet could reflect affordability challenges with these alternative higher speed internet access options (i.e. fixed wireless and satellite broadband plans are often more expensive and have lower data caps than standard copper and fibre broadband services available in urban areas), rather dial-up internet being the only available option?
16. It would be useful to understand the specific challenges and the degree to which affordability versus network availability is a barrier to internet access in the Ōtorohanga District. In any case, we acknowledge that mobile and fixed broadband services such as DSL and Fibre continue to have availability/coverage challenges for many in our rural communities.

² The latest Waikato Business Sentiment Survey results, including District and Sector reports, are published online here: <https://www.waikato.com/resources/documents/-in-category/categories/business-sentiment-survey>

17. On water infrastructure, Waste, Storm and Drinking water infrastructure was prioritised at higher levels by businesses operating in the Ōtorohanga District than regional averages:
- Waste water prioritised by 19% (regional average 13%)
 - Drinking water prioritised by 16% (regional average 12%)
 - Storm water prioritised by 13% (regional average 11%)
18. On social infrastructure, health infrastructure was rated as a priority by 42% of businesses.

Environment

19. Consistent with the regional survey results, 55% of businesses operating in the Ōtorohanga District indicated that they are not planning for the risks or impacts of climate change on their business. Of those that are taking action, most are still in the planning/drafting stages of a climate risk assessment.
20. This indicates a relatively low level of readiness of businesses in your District (and across the region) to prepare for and respond to climate change risks.

Housing

21. Affordable Housing was the most highly rated infrastructure priority for businesses operating in the Ōtorohanga District at 45% of businesses surveyed. Furthermore, 13% of businesses stated that housing is a barrier to their growth.

Economic Wellbeing Strategy Actions

22. Te Waka is broadly supportive of the proposed actions listed in the Draft Strategy. We have noted below some specific comments and recommendations for consideration.

Skills + Education

23. We applaud the Council's strong focus on Skills and Education as a key enabler of economic and social wellbeing.
24. For the first two actions listed on page 38, we recommend that the Council more clearly identifies who they intend to be advocating to for delivery of the audit of existing education and training opportunities (action 1) and the skills and education assessment and response plan (action 2). It will be important to identify which organisations are able to deliver on these aspirations, and who the decision-makers or funders are that may need to be advocated to for this work to be delivered.
25. For the third action listed on page 38, regarding supporting Ōtorohanga College to prepare school leavers for success, including linking with local career pathways, we recommend that the Council (if they have not already) engages with Smart Waikato to explore how Smart Waikato's proven programmes could be delivered for greater impact in the Ōtorohanga District to improve education to employment pathways. In particular, the Secondary School Employer Partnerships³ and Career Hauora⁴ programmes are

³ More information on the SSEP programme is available online here: <https://smartwaikato.co.nz/ssep/>

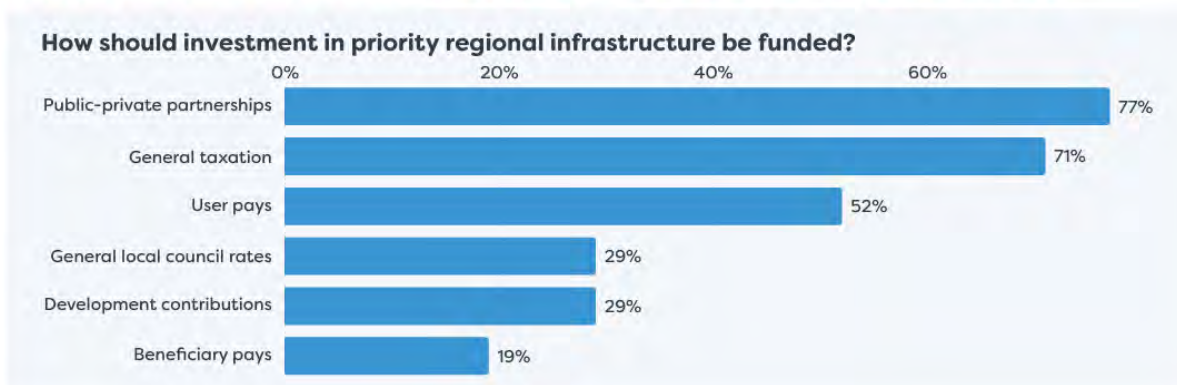
⁴ More information on the Career Hauora programme is available online here: <https://smartwaikato.co.nz/career-hauora/>

practical initiatives that improve connections between schools and local businesses, and support schools to integrate life skills and careers education into general learning.

Infrastructure, Planning + Our Environment

26. For the first action listed on page 40 regarding identifying other funding sources for infrastructure provision, we note that the Council has highlighted central government funding as a priority focus.
27. While Te Waka understands the attractiveness of central government funding relative to other funding sources, the current government has sent clear signals that they expect local government to explore and embrace a wider set of funding tools, including user pays, beneficiary pays, and public private partnership (PPP) models.
28. Given the central government messaging in this space, in our latest survey we asked the business community about what types of funding tools they support being used for investment in regional infrastructure. The chart below summarises the results for businesses operating in the **Ōtorohanga District**, with very high levels of support for PPPs (77%) and 52% of businesses supporting user pays models. While support for development contributions and beneficiary pays models were lower than other funding models, they still represented support from more than 1 in 5 local businesses.

Responses for Businesses Operating in Ōtorohanga District



29. Te Waka therefore encourages the Ōtorohanga District to broaden the scope/wording of the first action listed on page 40 to explicitly include a broader set of potential funding sources beyond direct central government funding.
30. For the fifth action listed on page 40 regarding renewable energy infrastructure, Te Waka is very supportive of the focus being placed by the Council in this area given our region's natural advantages in renewable energy generation, growing demand for clean energy here and abroad, and the need to support decarbonisation of our local economy. In our latest survey, 13% of businesses operating in the Ōtorohanga District said that renewable energy is a top priority for investment.
31. For the action on page 40 relating to advocacy with telecommunications and internet providers, we recommend that the wording is broadened to include 'affordability' as a key consideration alongside speed and reliability, e.g. the action could be worded: "...to ensure that everyone in our community has access to affordable fast internet and a reliable cell phone service."



Respondent No: 6

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2024 17:51:49 pm

Last Seen: May 19, 2024 17:51:49 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District?** I live in Ōtorohanga District

Please select all that apply

Q3. **Where outside of the district do you live?** not answered

Q4. **What is your name** Michelle Erikson

Q5. **What is the name of your organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q6. **Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details.** No

Q12. **Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision?** Yes

Q13. **Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts**

not answered

Q14. **Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles?** Yes

Q15. **Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts**

Te Ao Maori - When considering a Maori world view, I believe this should be a wider view and not just a Maori world view when making decisions that affect our community and environment. Yes, we have to abide by the treaty, however, there are also other things to be considered.

Q16. **Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars?** Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

No, however, Skills and Education are extremely important and currently we have a large gap where we are tracking higher than NZ where people aged between 15-24 are not employed or engaged in training or education. These people are our future and for any succession plans to succeed, we need to identify the gaps and rectify them quickly.

Q18. Do you agree with the challenges?

Yes

Q19. Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts

One of the main challenges we will see is the lack of funds to be able to do everything that we want or need to do. It is identifying the needs from the wants and ensuring that the implemented plans benefit the right needs and we stick to the plan to get it completed promptly and not bogged down in bureaucracy, where the bulk of funds are spent on consultation rather than implementation. We need to be more dynamic in getting things done. the longer time it takes to get things done the costlier it becomes.

Q20. Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts

There will always be challenges, how we deal with them is the challenge.

Q21. Do you agree with the actions?

Yes

Q22. Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts

What we can control and what we can't should be identified.

Q23. Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q24. Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?

I thought this document was well done, where we go from here is important. Is there a timeline for this project? The workshops were done in November, with the results not published until April. Is there a date for the publishing of the survey results and then a plan?

Q25. Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission

not answered



Respondent No: 7

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 20, 2024 06:58:23 am

Last Seen: May 20, 2024 06:58:23 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. What is your connection to Ōtorohanga District?

Please select all that apply

Other (please specify)

We are a regional organisation whose work includes the Ōtorohanga District.

Q3. Where outside of the district do you live?

Hamilton

Q4. What is your name

Jeremy Mayall

Q5. What is the name of your organisation (if applicable)

Creative Waikato

Q6. Do you want to speak to your submission? If yes, please make sure you fill in your contact details.

Yes

Q12. Do you agree with the Economic Wellbeing vision?

Yes

Q13. Are there other things we should consider in the vision? Please share your thoughts

Please see attached document.

Q14. Do you agree with the Mātāpono/Principles?

Yes

Q15. Are there other Principles we should consider? Please share your thoughts

These things are clear and we also support how arts, culture and creativity can be considered within these principles. See document attached.

Q16. Do you agree with the Pou/Pillars?

Yes

Q17. Are there other Pou/Pillars we should consider? Please share your thoughts

Please see attached document for further discussion.

Q18. Do you agree with the challenges?

Yes

Q19. Are there other challenges we should consider? Please share your thoughts

The changing nature of work and the online space is a consideration - but it is included in elements of your outlined challenges.

Q20. Are there things that you don't consider to be challenges? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q21. Do you agree with the actions?

Yes

Q22. Are there other actions we should consider? Please share your thoughts

We have outlined some areas where arts, culture and creativity can support the actions. More details in the document.

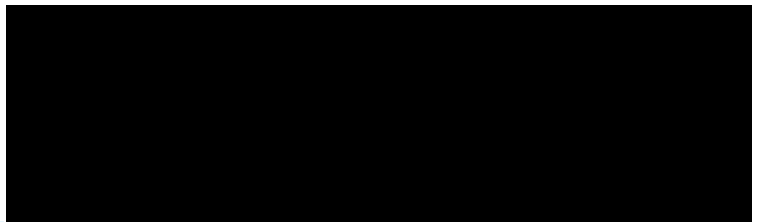
Q23. Are there actions that you don't think we should include? Please share your thoughts

not answered

Q24. Are there any general comments about the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy that you would like to share?

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to engage in this process.

Q25. Feel free to upload a file to provide us further information to support your submission



Submission by: Creative Waikato

This submission is made in response to Ōtorohanga District's Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy.

1. Council's activities

Creative Waikato:

- Acknowledges Ōtorohanga District Council's vision in developing this Economic Wellbeing Strategy and putting people, places and partnerships as its central focus.
- Supports Ōtorohanga District Council's Vision: **The people and the environments across Ōtorohanga District thrive, with opportunities for everyone to live their best lives.**
- Acknowledges that the focus on this strategy is on:
 - **People:** Connected, empowered, engaged communities, welcoming, proud, thriving district.
 - **Place:** Vibrant, diverse, liveable communities; sustainable, resilient district
 - **Partnerships:** Progressive, enduring, supportive part
- Supports the proposed pou/pillars of this strategy, and has aligned these with focus areas in the Waikato Arts Navigator - our regional arts strategy - see point 8.
- Acknowledges that the strategy needs to 'lift people up', which is informed by robust community engagement in Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga.
- Supports Council's holistic approach to economic wellbeing to include the wellbeing of its people, culture, environment and ecology as key components of a thriving economy.
- Creative Waikato looks forward to further partnering (ref: page 22) with Ōtorohanga District in realising the aspirations which will be delivered as part of this strategy.

2. Establishing strong foundations

Creative Waikato supports Council's seven mātāpono/principles.

- Te Ao Māori
- Sustainable and circular
- Leverage our existing strengths and resources
- Future focussed
- Innovation
- Leadership and partnerships
- Inclusive

3. District snapshot

- Creative Waikato acknowledges the potential of a growing **Māori economy** in the Ōtorohanga district, whilst recognising the wider issues that prevent this economy from reaching its potential (i.e., due to poor health and education outcomes).

- Creative Waikato was fortunate to be involved in the consultation regarding The Ōtorohanga Town Concept Plan. Ōtorohanga's **creative sector** is unique and has the potential to gain momentum with the development of a Multi-Purpose community hub, which will facilitate creative learning, events, creative spaces and Ngā Toi Māori initiatives.
- Creative Waikato looks forward to building on the relationship we have with Ōtorohanga District Council to ensure that Ōtorohanga is a place where 'things happen', and where creatives can meet, share and thrive, further encouraging other creatives to move to the district.

4. Four Pou/Pillars

POU 1 - Skills & Education

- Working with others to ensure that rangatahi and the wider community have access to lifelong education, learning, retraining and apprenticeship opportunities will be essential in preparing them for future opportunities and to live their 'best life'.
- Holistic wrap-around support will be important to ensure rangatahi receive the support they need to transition into pathways that are appropriate for them.
- Creativity, problem solving and curiosity are important skillsets for the future of work. Arts, culture and creativity provide solid foundations for developing these skills in ways that are transferable to other sectors - working with other providers to ensure that creative elements are woven through skills development and education will provide additional benefits.

Potential actions

- Creative Waikato's **Elevate** programme is a funded e-learning programme to provide creatives with resources and tools to build sustainable creative careers. This programme could be an offering which sits alongside other types of employment to enable young creatives to understand the potential to turn their creative ideas into a business. Creative Waikato is happy to provide further guidance in this area.
- Creative Waikato's **Creative Education** resource kit provides teachers with rich art experiences across existing curriculum to enhance learners and learning styles. Creative and practical, honouring the whole learner.
- Creative Waikato's **Creativity Every Day** is a workplace wellbeing and development programme designed to make creative activities part of daily habits in thriving workplaces, and provides an accessible foundation for developing useful creative skills.

POU 2 - Infrastructure, Planning + Our environment

- Creative Waikato acknowledges that roading, water, wastewater, telecommunications, internet and power networks are essential infrastructure.
- However, it is also important to recognise the role of soft infrastructure in Council planning.

- Soft infrastructure is associated with the development of human and social capital integral to community-building and the promotion of ‘high quality’ living¹. It is the mahi and expertise required to activate hard infrastructure. Forms of soft infrastructure include programmes and facilitators in libraries, museums and other community resources.

Potential action

- Work with Creative Waikato to understand how soft infrastructure support mechanisms can be planned for and implemented. An updated Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan was provided as part of Creative Waikato’s Long-Term Plan 2024-34 submission and can be used to help frame some of the potential areas for future development.
- Whilst hard infrastructure (facilities, venues etc) is important, it is the people (soft infrastructure) that are most important. Supporting those people and services which activate hard infrastructure contributes to thriving communities.
- Including provision for soft infrastructure support and interventions as part of this pou will ensure that people and services are also a consideration in future planning.

POU 3 - Thriving communities

- Creative Waikato supports building more inclusive environments and enabling access to resources and opportunities so everyone can thrive. Helping people to ‘lift themselves up’.
- Utilising arts, culture and creativity in council activity is a great way to support the development of community spaces and places, inspiring connection, and tell local stories.

Potential action

- Work with Creative Waikato to utilise programmes such as ‘ArtReach’ (a community-focused creative development tool and resource) and ‘Pakihi Toi’ (a free, online rauemi specifically for Waikato Māori creatives). As well as resources such as ‘Creativity Everyday’ (a programme designed to bring creativity into daily routines at home or work).

POU 4 - Strong Town + Strong Rural Communities

- Creative Waikato supports investing resources and time to facilitate vibrant, strong places and people. Making space for diverse communities to come together through a community hub and other

¹ Brail, S., Mizrokhi, E. and Ralston, S. (2017) ‘Examining the transformation of Regent Park, Toronto’, in: N. Wise and J. Clark (eds). *Urban Transformations: Geographies of Renewal and Creative Change* pp. 177-194; London: Routledge in Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research ‘Infrastructure, placemaking and sustainability’ A Report for Places for People (May 2020)
https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/files/documents/DownloadTemplate_49.pdf

community spaces will be important, alongside holding community events.

- Creative Waikato agrees that this will help provide a sense of place for Ōtorohanga communities and opportunities to connect.

Potential action

- Creative businesses and offerings have the potential to add uniqueness to the district. Providing opportunities for creatives either through the new community hub or connections with other local businesses could be beneficial for the district.

5. Challenges

Infrastructure

Social infrastructure

- Creative Waikato encourages council to consider the role of artists and community cultural and creative groups in growing public understanding of effects of future impacts on infrastructure.
- Artists and groups have the ability to bring people together to understand complex issues and can help to devise creative solutions.
- Often soft infrastructure is under supported and relies on the passion of individuals to sustain important activity. Work with those groups to support this development and encourage sustainability of practice.

Environment

Ngā Awa/The Rivers

- The partnering of Waikato-Tainui with local Marae has the potential to unlock the economic potential of aquaculture, green energy and incentivising youth to study in these areas.
- Artists and creatives can also provide a holistic view of potential opportunities, particularly in helping to tell and communicate stories of local Awa and waterways.

Sustainability and the circular economy

- Māori values are informed through an indivisible relationship alongside and within the natural world. There are patterns, stories and connections between all living things, and these elements serve to provide clarity and understanding. Concepts are inclusive and holistic.
- Environmentally sustainable methodologies are in alignment with these values.

Youth/Rangatahi

Secondary schooling

- There are opportunities for local schools to look at creative ways of harnessing the creative potential of rangatahi. Not only in the approach to core curriculum subjects (see point 5 regarding 'Creative Education'), but in how they can contribute to their wider community.

- Ensuring rangatahi have access to creative activities has the potential to support their learning development in other curriculum areas, as well as providing a sense of purpose and understanding of self. Rural communities often lack the support and resources to ensure these things remain accessible to all students.

Housing

Supply of housing

- Creative Waikato encourages a holistic approach in its partnership with the Ōtorohanga Timber Company to enable a 128-lot subdivision. This means looking at the development to see where there may be opportunities for local storytelling i.e., integrated as part of public art.

Economy

- Creative Waikato supports a focus on further development of the town centre to encourage visitors to stop and spend time in the town.
- Artists and creatives can bring the local community and businesses together to promote local storytelling and harness collective efforts.

6. Further comments

- Creative Waikato commends Council on its extensive community consultation in developing this strategy.
- Creative Waikato looks forward to working further with Council, namely in the potential actions identified above, to develop these pou further.
- Whilst Creative Waikato recognises that this is a draft high-level strategy, we recommend considering a timeframe for some actions so that the strategy remains relevant and current.
- Creative Waikato has offered to work with Council on the development of an Arts Action Plan (also mentioned in our Long-Term Plan submission). We acknowledge the decision to delay the completion of an 'Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy' and look forward to working with the council on this future development.

7. Embedding Arts, Culture and Creativity

Ōtorohanga District Council plays a pivotal role in the wider ecosystem² in supporting arts, culture and creativity to thrive. To achieve the broadest possible impact, it is essential to view the contribution of arts, culture and creativity as part of a system which affects all facets of society. This system-based approach acknowledges cross-sector opportunities to enable effective outcomes and deliver better public services. This ecosystem approach is fundamental to the Waikato Arts Navigator - our regional arts strategy.

² Details on the ecosystem and council's involvement can be found in the Waikato Arts Navigator Regional Arts Strategy, the Creative Waikato Briefing for Councillors, and the Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan, available on the Creative Waikato Website: <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/>

8. Ōtorohanga District Council's Pou/Pillars and alignment with the Waikato Arts Navigator

- The Waikato Arts Navigator is a shared framework that helps community enablers achieve broader impact and focus on community benefit, with a vision and strategy to support and strengthen arts, culture and creativity in the region.
- Alignment of Ōtorohanga District Council's pou areas and the Waikato Arts Navigator threads are outlined in pages 6-8 below.

Alignment of Ōtorohanga District Council's Pou/Pillars and the Waikato Arts Navigator threads

Priority Area	This means	Waikato Arts Navigator thread	
Skills + Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focusing on skills and education to make sure everyone in our community is prepared for life. 	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Tourism opportunities - Positive national perceptions - Increased investment from funders
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People experience local, national, international arts - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Upskilling creative professionals - Community art classes and projects - Youth development - Audience development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business partnerships

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression - Creative export opportunities
Infrastructure, Planning + Our Environment	- Focusing on skills and education to make sure everyone in our community is prepared for life.	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Positive national perceptions - Increased investment from funders
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Upskilling creative professionals - Community art classes and projects - Youth development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business partnerships - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression

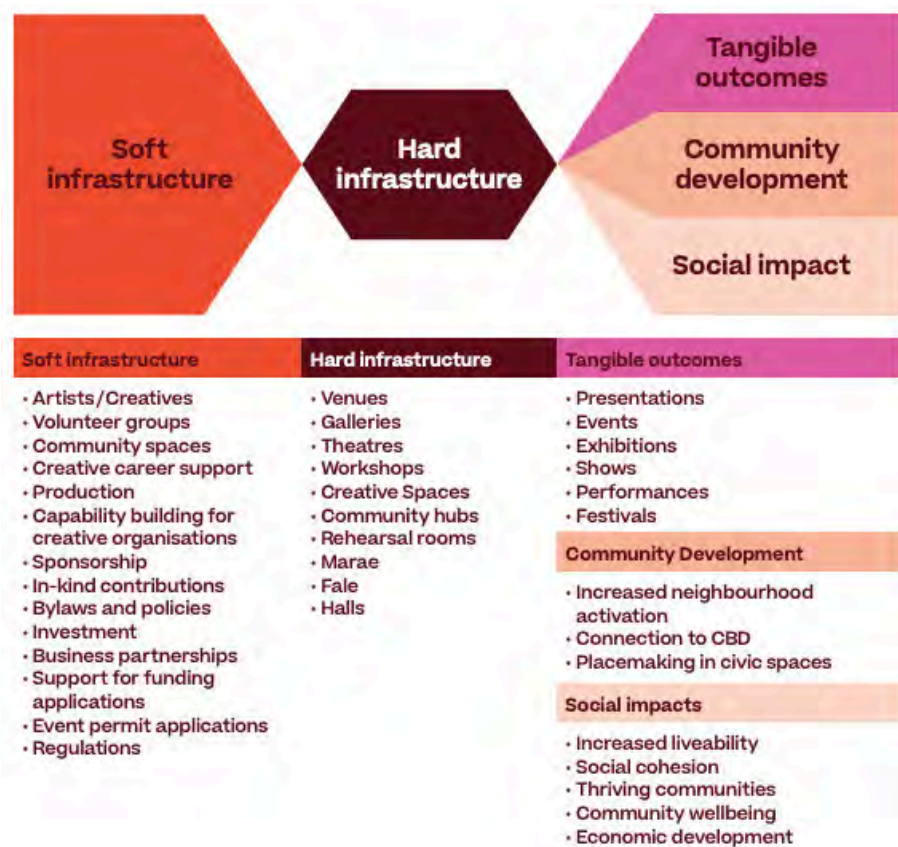
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative export opportunities
Thriving Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building more inclusive environments and enabling access to resources and opportunities so everyone can thrive. Helping people to 'lift themselves up' 	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Upskilling creative professionals - Youth development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression

9. Importance of soft infrastructure - people and services

Creative Waikato has also included an updated Infrastructure Plan which is an initial high-level scan of hard and soft infrastructure in the Waikato (we also provided this document as part of our Long-Term Plan submission). This plan builds on an initial report that was developed in 2014.

A previous lack of data, insight, and sustainable investment have shaped potential issues for the ongoing sustainability of our essential soft infrastructure.

- Soft infrastructure is associated with the development of human and social capital integral to community-building and the promotion of ‘high quality’ living³. It is the mahi and expertise required to activate hard infrastructure. Forms of soft infrastructure include programmes and facilitators in libraries, museums and other community resources.
- Whilst hard infrastructure (facilities, venues etc) is important, it is the people (soft infrastructure) that are most important. Supporting those people and services which activate hard infrastructure contributes to thriving communities.



³ Brail, S., Mizrokhi, E. and Ralston, S. (2017) ‘Examining the transformation of Regent Park, Toronto’, in: N. Wise and J. Clark (eds). *Urban Transformations: Geographies of Renewal and Creative Change* pp. 177-194; London: Routledge in Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research ‘Infrastructure, placemaking and sustainability’ A Report for Places for People (May 2020)
https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/files/documents/DownloadTemplate_49.pdf

10. Ongoing strategic partnership

- Creative Waikato appreciates being involved in the early development stages of this strategy and look forward to working with Council on further activation of the strategy and other key initiatives.
- As stated in our submission to the Ōtorohanga District Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34, Creative Waikato would like to develop a formal strategic relationship with Ōtorohanga District Council and look forward to further discussions around this through ongoing consultations. There is a range of information contained in our LTP submission and support documents that also appear relevant to this process. We look forward to future conversation regarding these processes and outcomes.

Creative Waikato formally thank Ōtorohanga District Council for the opportunity to make this submission.

Creative Waikato wish to be heard in support of this submission at a hearing.

Submitted by:

Sam Cunnane
Board Chair

Dr. Jeremy Mayall
CEO

On behalf of Creative Waikato



Additional attachments:

Creative Waikato Briefing to Councillors 2024
Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024

APPENDIX FOUR: LIST OF SUBMITTERS

SUBMISSION NO.	NAME/ORGANISATION	REQUESTED TO BE HEARD
1	Waikato Screen	Yes
2	Ōtorohanga District Development Board	Yes
3	Hamilton Waikato Tourism	Yes
4	Michael Woodward	Yes
5	Te Waka Regional Economic Development Agency	No
6	Michelle Erickson	No
7	Creative Waikato	Yes

Item 4: Hearing of Submissions on the proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearing Panel

From: Nardia Gower, Group Manager Strategy and Community

Date: 28 May 2024

Relevant community outcomes: Connected Empowered Engaged



1 Purpose | Te Kaupapa

- 1.1 To hear, consider and provide direction on the submissions to the proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP).

2 Executive Summary | Whakarāpopoto Matua

- 2.1 Ōtorohanga District Council (the Council) adopted the LTP Consultation Document (CD) and supporting documentation for public consultation at its 26 March 2024 meeting. The consultation period was open from 5 April to 6 May 2024, during which time three public open days presenting both the proposed LTP and the community relevant draft Concept Plans were supported by staff and elected members.
- 2.2 A total of 31 LTP submissions were received, with 13 submitters requesting to speak to elected members at the Hearing.
- 2.3 Hearings are an opportunity for submitters to present the key points of their submission, ensuring elected members clearly understand what the submitter is requesting, and provide elected members an opportunity to ask questions for clarification. At the 26 March 2024 meeting Council resolved to include the Kāwhia and Ōtorohanga Community Boards in the LTP Hearing, Deliberation and Adoption process as outlined in **Appendix 1**.

3 Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā Kaimahi

That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearing Panel receive the report 'Hearing of Submissions on the proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan' (document number 756905) from Nardia Gower, Group Manager Strategy and Community.

4 Context | Horopaki

- 4.1 Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), Council is required to prepare and adopt an LTP every three years. The LTP includes the proposed activities, programmes, budgets, financial strategy, key financial policies, and rating levels covering a ten-year period, and the Infrastructure Strategy covering a thirty-year period. The last LTP was adopted in June 2021.

4.2 The LTP:

- reflects what the communities' aspirations are for the district – through the community outcomes and priorities
- identifies the projects we intend to deliver over the next ten years to help achieve the communities' aspirations and priorities
- provides an overview of each activity we will carry out and the services we will provide for the next ten years
- indicates how much it will cost, and how it will be funded
- identifies how we will measure and report on our performance.

4.3 The LTP is a complex and comprehensive document covering all Council activities and budgets. The process of preparing the LTP involves bringing together staff from across the organisation, elected members, and the community (including key stakeholders). As such, there are significant auditing and community consultation components in preparing and finalising the LTP.

4.4 Prior to producing the final LTP Council is required to consult the community on any changes proposed to activities and services, key new projects and how they are funded. This involved the preparation of a CD to which the public were invited to share their views on key consultation items along with the LTP supporting documentation. Feedback was received through online, written and email submissions with the option of speaking to their submission in a formal hearing process.

4.5 Public consultation for Long Term Plans requires Council follow a special consultative procedure under the LGA, meaning a minimum consultation period of one month.

4.6 The LTP consultation was open from 5 April to 6 May 2024. Three public open days presenting both the LTP and the community relevant draft Concept Plans were supported by staff and elected members on the following dates and locations:

- **Ōtorohanga:** Ōtorohanga Library 13 April 2024 11am to 2 pm
- **Arohena:** Arohena Hall 18 April 2024 10.30am to 12.30pm
- **Kāwhia:** Kāwhia Hall 20 April 2024 11am to 2pm

4.7 Promotion of the LTP and Concept Plan consultations, including the public open days, was advertised through the following channels-

- Newspaper - King Country News and Te Awamutu Courier
- Digital platforms - Council's website, engagement platform Connecting Ōtorohanga, Facebook and Instagram pages, communication app Antenno, shared to Community Facebook noticeboards, included in all staff email banners
- Emailed to ratepayers
- Printed on table talkers for local businesses

- Business cards were provided to staff and elected members to hand out to residents.

5 Discussion | He Kōrerorero

- 5.1 On 23 April Council adopted the draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy (EWS) for consultation, with the consultation period running from 6-20 May. The hearing and consideration of submissions on the draft EWS and draft Concept Plans are subject to separate processes and covering reports, noting that some submitters to the LTP have also taken the opportunity to submit on these other proposals.
- 5.2 Council received 33 LTP submissions with two subsequently being withdrawn, leaving a total of 31 for consideration. All submissions received, including written and via email, were entered into Council's online submission platform and are attached as **Appendix 2**. Copies of the written submissions are presented for reference as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.3 There were no late submissions received.
- 5.4 Of the 31 submissions 13 confirmed to speak in support of their submission, with that list being attached as **Appendix 4**.
- 5.5 The four submitters listed below are speaking to both the LTP and EWS, and as such are using the one hearing opportunity to speak to both:
- Hamilton Waikato Tourism
 - Ōtorohanga District Development Board
 - Waikato Screen NZ
 - Creative Waikato

Hearing procedure and protocol

- 5.0 Hearings are an opportunity for submitters to present the key points of their submission, ensuring elected members clearly understand what the submitter is requesting, and provide elected members an opportunity to ask questions for clarification. It is outside of the scope of hearings for the submitter to introduce new submission items.
- 5.1 Individual submission speakers, or organisations which Council do not fund, have been allocated 10 minutes, including questions from elected members. Organisations which Council currently fund have been offered 15 minutes. Submitters who are speaking to both the LTP and EWS were offered an additional 5 minutes. While it is at the discretion of the Chairperson to offer longer speaking times, doing so will affect other speakers.
- 5.2 Rules against predetermination require decision makers to remain open to persuasion and to not commit themselves to a decision until after having heard and considered all the information presented. Predetermination on the part of one elected member alone may be enough to invalidate a decision.

Deliberations

- 5.3 Deliberations on both the LTP and EWS are scheduled for 30 May 2024, and form part of this meeting. Meaning that following the hearings on 28 May the meeting will be adjourned until reconvened for deliberations.
- 5.4 Separate hearing summary reports for the LTP and EWS, including staff recommendations/comments, will be circulated on Wednesday 29 May following the hearings and prior to deliberations. These summary reports will be formally tabled on 30 May 2024.

6 Appendices | Ngā Āpitihanga

Appendix #	Name
1	Elected member roles during the Hearings, Deliberations and Adoption process
2	Proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Consultation - Submissions Received
3	Copies of paper submissions to the proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Consultation
4	List of Submitters and Speakers

Appendix 1: Elected member roles during the Hearing, Deliberation and Adoption process

	Hearings	Deliberations	Adoption
Mayor & Councillors	Hear verbal submissions. Consider all submissions made. Provide collective direction to staff on any additional information or changes needed to inform the Deliberations.	Consider the draft EWS. Formally resolve any amendments required prior to final adoption.	Consider the amended draft EWS. Adopt the final EWS (subject to any minor editorial amendment).
Community Board Members		Provide verbal input into the discussions. No role in resolving decisions i.e. move or second.	Welcome to attend meeting in public gallery.



WEAVING THE
FUTURE, TOGETHER
KOTAHITANGA
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

2024/34 LONG TERM PLAN
SUBMISSIONS



Te Kauhāhara ō-Rohē a
Ōtorohanga
District Council
Where kiwi can fly



Respondent No: 1

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 07, 2024 17:54:21 pm

Last Seen: Apr 07, 2024 17:54:21 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Deborah pilkington

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 1 (our preferred option) - Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Need to keep all projects and activities to a minimum. Cut spending o ly do what is needed.

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

Rates need to be kept down Not sure how. But the community is ntong expenditure of the council...including new vehicles...new car sign writing and so on. Need to keep debt down too.... cut spending.

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 2

Responded At: Apr 09, 2024 13:45:34 pm

Last Seen: May 05, 2024 20:05:56 pm

IP Address: 103.21.174.42

Q1. **Full name** Sahndra Cave

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 1 (our preferred option) - Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Good

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

OK

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 3

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 12, 2024 11:13:46 am

Last Seen: Apr 12, 2024 11:13:46 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Alan Davey

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 2 - Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 4

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 13, 2024 13:36:58 pm

Last Seen: Apr 13, 2024 13:36:58 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Cadence Leigh Kaumoana

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Te Huia and Rangiwherowhero Whānau Trust

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 1 (our preferred option) - Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 2 - Buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 2 - Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

Remove rates for Māori free-hold land. Can you outline the process for how this can happen? We have Māori freehold land but we're still paying rates.

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 5

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 18, 2024 10:50:41 am

Last Seen: Apr 18, 2024 10:50:41 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Mark Morgan

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Waikato Regional Airport Ltd

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Refer to our attached submission

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**



Submission to Otorohanga District Council Long Term Plan 2025-2035

17 April 2024

Otorohanga District Council
17 Maniapoto St
Otorohanga

Waikato Regional Airport Ltd Submission to Otorohanga District Council – Long Term Plan

Tēnā koutou katoa

Executive Summary

Mark Morgan as CE of Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL), writes this submission on behalf of the WRAL Board of Directors. WRAL is the sole shareholder of Hamilton Waikato Tourism (HWT). As a fully owned subsidiary of WRAL, the WRAL Board have appointed an independent HWT Board of Directors to govern the organisation in accordance with the Group Statement of Intent having regard for the expectations of the funding councils and industry partners.

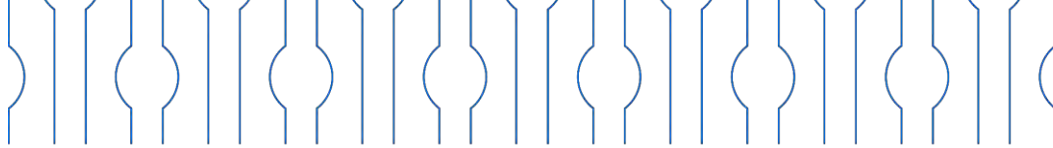
Our submission intends to reinforce the importance of the organisation to promote tourism to the region and to indicate the risks associated with a proposed reduction in funding and our strong belief that funding for the organisation should be retained as status quo.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) is the official tourism organisation for the Waikato region. The organisation's role is to attract domestic and international visitors and increase length of stay and expenditure through effective destination marketing, development, and management activity. HWT promotes Hamilton and the Waikato as a preferred destination for domestic and international business, events and leisure travelers and provides leadership in regional product and event development, investment, and sector capability. As passionate ambassadors of the region, HWT aims to ensure visitors enjoy a wide variety of experiences and places throughout the mighty Waikato, in turn contributing to economic, social, environmental, and cultural benefits for the community.

Otorohanga District Council LTP indicates a hold in funding to HWT. A hold in funding will allow current service delivery to continue and effective outcomes will be maintained. Any potential reduction in funding directly impacts on the services provided to the visitor sector. Less resources = less services. Less services will equal less visitors. Less visitors equals less visitors spend. This will impact communities and tourism operators across the mighty Waikato.

In the 12 months ended October 2023 visitors spent \$1.9 billion in our region; of this just **over \$40m is in Otorohanga District** alone. This equates to **\$109,589 of new money** being spent in the district each day. A portion of this revenue is directly attributable to the activities and co-ordination by HWT and this will now be at risk should the RTO be required to significantly restructure its resources and therefore dilute its service delivery model.

Our submission to Otorohanga District Council is that of support in holding the current funding allocation to Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. The Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL) Board considers the current proposed hold in funding to be beneficial to the regional economic development and growth aspirations of the district.



Background

1. WRAL supports the proposed hold in HWTs funding.
2. Tourism Waikato was disestablished in 2006. This resulted in a significant decline in domestic and international visitor expenditure, a drop in overnight stays, lack of national and international tourism profile and destination marketing. Appendix 1 outlines the impacts of the RTO being disbanded in 2006 and established in 2011 in relation to International Visitors. A hold in funding will assist in maintaining most of the current HWT outputs.
3. Waikato Regional Airport Limited funded and provided tourism services in 2009/2010 in order to secure Pacific Blue flights into Hamilton.
4. Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) was formally re-established July 2011 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL).
5. HWT is a Limited Liability company, with its own board of directors who are responsible to the WRAL Board.
6. We acknowledge the economic climate is tough and councils need to make savings in operating expenses. We have therefore avoided requesting additional or increased funding.
7. WRAL currently provides financial assistance for HWT by way of a reduction in the commercial rent for its offices and cost savings for shared services at an approximate value of \$90k, however that financial support has always been capped noting that WRAL is not a core funder of the organisation. Additionally, WRAL and its other subsidiary Jet Park Hamilton Airport Hotel are industry funding partners of HWT, procuring over \$20,000 of HWT services on full commercial rates.

Risk of reduced funding

8. If/when international flights return to Hamilton Airport, a well-resourced RTO is needed to support any business case to secure international flights. The current proposed collective funding means the RTO would not be sufficiently resourced to assist with the marketing and promotion of international flights during these times and will impact the credibility of the region's response to Airline enquiry and therefore put any business case at risk.
9. Although reluctant to take such drastic actions, as WRAL is HWTs shareholder, the WRAL board will make the ultimate decision on whether the organisations capability and expected work outputs is viable to continue or whether HWT will need to be disbanded entirely. The current collective proposed funding reductions across the six funding councils is -41%. Any reduction in base level funding will result in less services that can be reasonably provided, however, the core viability of the organisation is seriously at risk at this proposed level.
10. WRAL has future considerations for the expansion of the Airport Hotel, currently trading as JetPark Hotel. In order for the potential expansion to be viable, a functioning RTO is required to promote not only the property but the attractiveness of the region for leisure, conferencing and corporate travel. WRAL would be mindful of any significant investment in the hotel without a functioning RTO.



Conclusion

11. For every dollar invested into tourism in the region, there is a significant return, funding of the RTO should be considered as an investment by Otorohanga District Council.
12. Reduced funding will at best result in a reduced and restructured organisation which will flow onto the services provided, with the corresponding reduction in effective outcomes.
13. **WRAL would like to request to speak to this submission at the LTPs hearings.** All enquiries should be made to Mark Morgan, CE of Waikato Regional Airport Limited. mark@hamiltonairport.co.nz or phone 07 848 9027

Recommendation

14. That Otorohanga District Council continues its partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism in collaboration with other Waikato based councils;
15. We strongly urge Otorohanga District Council elected members to continue with their planned hold of funding of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.
16. That Otorohanga District Council commits investment to Hamilton & Waikato Tourism to the same level as currently invested (\$72,338) with annual CPI increases in the Long-Term Plan 2025-35.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to Otorohanga District Council's draft Long Term Plan 2025-35.

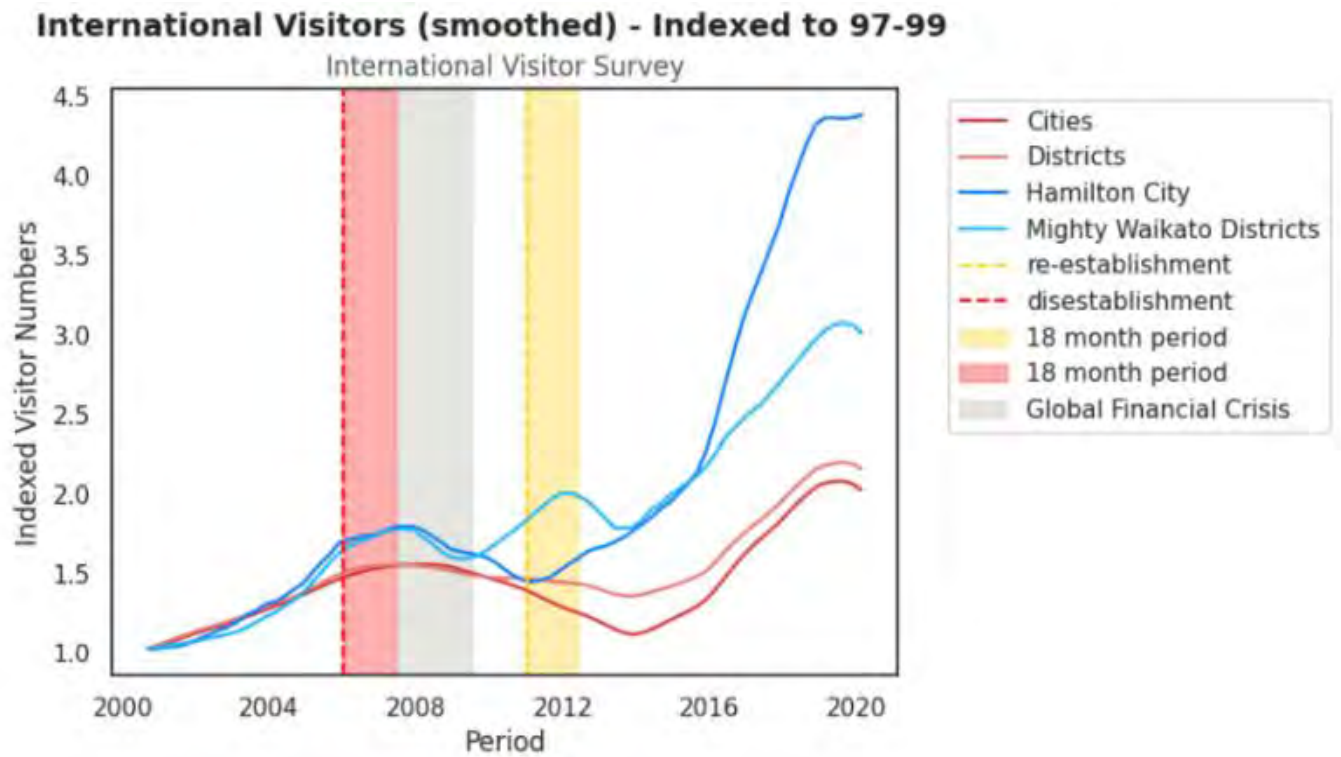


Barry Harris
Chairman



Mark Morgan
Chief Executive

Appendix 1





Respondent No: 6

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 20, 2024 10:15:40 am

Last Seen: Apr 20, 2024 10:15:40 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Jane Lowe

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 7

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 20, 2024 10:18:27 am

Last Seen: Apr 20, 2024 10:18:27 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** David Lowe

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered

**Respondent No:** 8**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Apr 20, 2024 10:37:59 am**Last Seen:** Apr 20, 2024 10:37:59 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Full name** Keith Robbins

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

I would like the footpath pavement to be extended on Tainui St from Fairfield Road to Cowell Road. Currently we have to walk on the road, and it is a narrow single road. The berms are full of water in wet weather as there is no stormwater drainage. There is a hill in the road so cars can appear from nowhere. I believe this is a safety issue. Kāwhia Sports Club rebuild is taking a lot of time, due to hold-ups with the building consenting process. This is affecting the residents as there is currently no facility for people to play croquet, bridge and other sports while the rebuild is happening.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 9

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 21, 2024 17:09:28 pm

Last Seen: Apr 21, 2024 17:09:28 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Lynda Keene

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Tourism Export Council NZ

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

The Tourism Export Council of New Zealand supports ongoing funding of Hamilton Waikato Tourism the regional tourism organisation for the critical work they do in promoting the Otorohanga District and region in international markets.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

21 April 2024



Mayor Baxter and Councillors

Ōtorohanga District Council

Dear Mayor Baxter and Councillors

Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034: Submission from Tourism Export Council of New Zealand

On behalf of the Tourism Export Council of New Zealand (TECNZ) we are writing in support of Hamilton Waikato Tourism (HWT) for ongoing funding in the event any proposed funding cuts in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 are being considered for Hamilton Waikato Tourism.

The Tourism Export Council of New Zealand is the private sector **national tourism organisation** that influences visitor flows in the **international tourism** sector. Our primary members, Inbound Tour Operators (ITOs) act as the commercial conduit with tourism businesses in your community with offshore markets (like Fonterra does). ITOs package up New Zealand tourism suppliers into an itinerary and sell offshore to tour wholesalers and travel agents to make it easier for prospective visitors to New Zealand to 'buy' a New Zealand holiday.

ITOs work very closely with regional tourism organisations like Hamilton Waikato Tourism. ITOs rely on RTOs to keep them updated with new visitor experiences, products and plans so when ITOs go to sell the region offshore they are fully up to date with what businesses can be included from the Ōtorohanga District as well as travel to outer areas like Kawhia.

Ōtorohanga's visitor products and experiences are promoted through the great work the RTO does and also by local visitor experiences. When you think of all the international visitors your district sees, every business (restaurant, eateries, motels, B&Bs, supermarkets, cafes, petrol stations) has to ask themselves, how does an international visitor know to come to our town/s or walk through my front door? Does a café or motel owner go offshore to market their business (café) to international visitors? In most cases, the answer is no.

Visitors find their way to the front door of accommodation providers, cafes, and retail outlets because of the following parties promoting and marketing your district.

- Hamilton Waikato Tourism (RTO) has been investing and promoting the district offshore
- ITOs have been investing, promoting and packaging up your visitor products and experiences
- Some Ōtorohanga businesses may invest in international marketing to promote the district

The collective investment by these parties has resulted in the Ōtorohanga district having a positive profile in many countries resulting in travel agents putting Ōtorohanga on their New Zealand itineraries.

Without having a fully resourced RTO capability in the future who can objectively continue to promote all the **paid** and **free** experiences visitors can do (Kiwi House, Kawhia coastal area, walks, reserves, cycling, visiting heritage sites, gardens etc.), there is potential for less international visitors to put Ōtorohanga on their NZ itineraries.

Tourism operates 'in advance' of when visitors arrive and spend money in the district often marketing two-three years in advance.

HWT is a fully functioning RTO that undertakes marketing activity and destination management in the following areas:

- International marketing (holiday visitors)
- Domestic marketing (leisure)
- Event marketing (events that attract visitors from outside the region)
- Conference and incentive marketing
- The RTO works with airports, transport providers, Iwi and government agencies like Department of Conservation, NZ Transport Authority, NZ Cycle Trust that help influence improved services and infrastructure for ratepayers as well as for visitors.

If funding is reduced, some marketing activity and engagement with destination management planning will be affected.

- Reduced funding = reduced marketing activity
- Working with travel trade (offshore travel agents and tour wholesalers) takes years to establish reputation. Once the relationship the RTO has with offshore travel trade has been severed (if the RTO no longer is able to do in-market training with agents) it can take years to rebuild a new relationship.
- A dilution of the RTOs message could see less visitors in the future. The RTO is the primary voice in attracting visitors in a competitive market to your local area.
- If there are less visitors there is the potential for job losses within the community

Hamilton Waikato Tourism is highly valued within the New Zealand tourism industry and with offshore trade. Through its exceptional leadership by Nicola Greenwell and the great work that the team does offshore with training agents, and onshore with Inbound Tour Operators, they have built strong, credible, and valued relationships with industry. The HWT team are great ambassadors for your district and region, and they work with pride in representing and promoting Council's visitor services, products, and experiences.

We (TECNZ) are mindful that Councils have enormous pressure on budgets as you face many planned and unplanned expenses and costs in order to serve your community well. It is a challenging time economically and that affects some of the services you provide ratepayers.

We hope in the event with your budgeting you can retain the same level of funding for Hamilton Waikato Tourism. We know you will continue to be served well by the HWT team in the future.

We would be happy to speak to this submission in person. We wish Council all the best with its deliberations and future planning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi nui



Lynda Keene

Chief Executive Officer

TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND PO BOX 19258, WELLINGTON 6141, NEW ZEALAND

W: www.tourismexportcouncil.org.nz



Respondent No: 10

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 22, 2024 06:47:58 am

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2024 06:47:58 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** John Haddad

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Haddads

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 1 (our preferred option) - Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 2 - Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

The further backward you look - the further forward you can see!

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Use the existing ODC halls and facilities rather than getting a van

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 11

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 22, 2024 06:54:39 am

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2024 06:54:39 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Bill Millar

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Have more formal tours of our region

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Stop Cars parking. Bus Stop. If Tourist can shop

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 12

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 22, 2024 06:56:30 am

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2024 06:56:30 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Earnest Montgomery

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 2 - Continue to collect \$2.1 million in rates to fund depreciation of assets for the next three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 2 - Buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 13

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 22, 2024 08:33:34 am

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2024 08:33:34 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Kymba Montgomery

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 1 (our preferred option) - Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 2 - Buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 14

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 22, 2024 08:36:13 am

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2024 08:36:13 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Annelies Black

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** Option 2 - Buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Yes for Otewa Rd picnic sites!! Yes for riparian planting

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 15

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 22, 2024 12:29:12 pm

Last Seen: Apr 22, 2024 12:29:12 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Nicola Greenwell

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Our submission is in support of continued funding for the Regional Tourism Organisation - Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.
Please see submission and support letters attached. Regards

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

22 April 2024

Long Term Plan
Ōtorohanga District Council
Ōtorohanga

Tēnā koutou katoa

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) provides this submission to encourage Ōtorohanga District Council to consider funding levels for the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the 2025-35 Long Term Plan and retain at the current level.

HWT is the Regional Tourism Organisation for Ōtorohanga along with neighboring districts of Hamilton city, Waikato, Waipā, Waitomo and Matamata-Piako. Despite this size and growth, recent research confirmed total combined funding for Hamilton & Waikato Tourism from our six partnering councils is significantly lower when compared to the other 30 Regional Tourism Organisations throughout the country. Per capita, the funding we receive through Service Level Agreements places us 28th out of the 31 RTOs.

While there is strong case and evidence to support a request for additional funding, we are not seeking any funding increase in this LTP, despite the fact our buying power has been severely impacted by rising costs over the last three years.

Tourism is very important for Ōtorohanga and the region with visitors contributing \$40million to the Ōtorohanga district economy for the year to October 2023 – \$10million of this is from international visitors, and \$30million from domestic visitors. This is \$110,000 of new money injected into your community each day.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism's role is to grow tourism revenue through attracting more visitors to Ōtorohanga and the mighty Waikato who stay longer and spend more. We do this by growing awareness, changing perceptions and building demand in target markets. We aim to attract domestic and international visitors and increase their length of stay and expenditure through effective destination marketing, development, and management activity.

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism promotes Ōtorohanga and the mighty Waikato, and the tourism businesses within it, as a preferred destination for domestic and international business, events and leisure travellers and provides leadership in regional product and event development, investment, and sector capability.

As passionate ambassadors of Ōtorohanga and the region, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism aims to ensure visitors are aware of and enjoy the wide variety of experiences and places on offer, in turn contributing to economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for the community.

There is clear value and benefit from collaborating with neighbouring districts. Ōtorohanga and each district need each other to leverage the diverse visitor experiences and services to offer a compelling visitor experience. Partnering with HWT is proven to be a strong collaboration model ensuring the city and region are represented efficiently and effectively.

Working under a private-public partnership model, funding from partner councils enables HWT to undertake core activities including regional product development, sector capability building and the promotion of the region to leisure and Business Events visitors, media and the travel trade. When a project is appropriate, we work alongside and collaboratively with other regional entities: Te Waka, Creative Waikato, Waikato Screen, etc.

Tourism has the ability to actively benefit the community across the four wellbeing pillars – social, environmental, cultural and economic. Also increasing the profile of Ōtorohanga through HWT's activities and channels is not only good for visitors – it is an important attractor for people who may want to invest and live in our region.

Supporting the sustainability of our visitor economy is not a luxury; it's a necessity. The region cannot afford to lose visitor spend. We know with the right messaging, marketing, and mahi, tourism is an industry that adds value to the city, region and communities. If we take our foot off the accelerator now, long term damage will be done, and it will take more money and a very long time to catch up lost ground.

We need our regional and local leaders to understand and acknowledge the contribution of tourism to Ōtorohanga and the mighty Waikato, and to recognise attracting visitors is a sound investment of ratepayer dollars. If funding is reduced we will not be able to offer the level and breadth of current services. Cuts will be inevitable, which will result in less tourism revenue, less employment and a less prosperous Ōtorohanga. At the very least, we request our current funding to remain unchanged to be able to stay competitive with other regions in New Zealand.

Therefore, the recommendation in our submission is to maintain funding to the level of the last three years so Ōtorohanga's tourism offer is able to be maintained at a compelling and competitive level.

On behalf of the board and management of HWT, we thank you for your consideration and urge reconsideration of the Long Term Plan budget for HWT.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leggat".

Richard Leggat
Chairman
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicola Greenwell".

Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Attached

- Submission to Long Term Plan
- Letter of Support – Tourism Industry Aotearoa TIA
- Letter of Support – Tourism New Zealand
- Letter of Support – Australasian Society of Association Executives
- Letter of Support – Explore Central North Island
- Letter of Support – Tourism Media Group

Submission to Ōtorohanga District Council Long Term Plan 2025-2035

- ✓ **Regional Tourism Organisation – nice to have**
Regional Tourism Organisation – must have

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) is the official tourism organisation for the Waikato region. Our role is to attract domestic and international visitors and increase length of stay and expenditure through effective destination marketing, development, and management activity. HWT promotes Hamilton and the Waikato as a preferred destination for domestic and international business, events and leisure travellers and provides leadership in regional product and event development, investment, and sector capability. As passionate ambassadors of the region, HWT aims to ensure visitors enjoy the wide variety of experiences and places throughout the mighty Waikato, in turn contributing to economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for the community.

HWT is funded through a public/private partnership with the region's tourism industry and six local authorities including Ōtorohanga, Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako, Waikato, Waipā and Waitomo. Funding is provided for services agreed to within a signed Service Level Agreement. This submission is made to the Long Term Plan to continue current funding through to 2035.

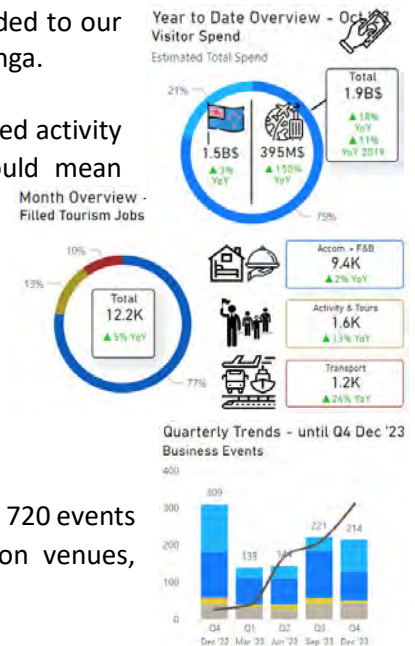


Introduction

1. Tourism Waikato was disestablished in 2006 when Hamilton City Council withdrew funding to secure the V8 Supercar event. This resulted in a significant decline in domestic and international visitor expenditure, a drop in overnight stays, lack of national and international tourism profile and destination marketing.
2. Hamilton & Waikato was re-established 1 July 2011. HWT is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the mighty Waikato region. The core purpose of HWT is to promote the region as an appealing destination to international and domestic visitors in order to generate economic benefits for the region and its communities.
3. We understand the economic climate is tough and councils need to make savings in operating expenses. We therefore avoided requesting additional or increased funding. If funding can be maintained at current levels we will need to reduce some activity, given the impact of inflation on costs over the last three years, but overall, we believe we can be an active and effective RTO.

Value of Tourism to our economy

4. Visitors spend \$1.9billion in our region; this means \$5.1million each day is added to our regional economy, and as stated earlier \$40million is going directly to Ōtorohanga.
5. We achieve 6.3% market share of visitor spend across the country. With reduced activity from HWT, if the market share should drop just half a percent, this would mean \$149million less spent in the region per annum; or \$400,000 dollars less per day.
6. Data tell us 12,200 people are employed directly within the visitor sector in our region. On average, for every \$151,254 visitors spend, this equates to one job. Therefore, if our visitor spend reduces by \$149million, this has potential to impact 985 jobs in our community!
7. Similarly, 10% of New Zealand's Business Events are hosted in our region. This is 720 events hosting 94,400 delegates. If our market share should drop, the impact on venues, accommodation, event services etc would be negative.
8. Tourism is an important contributor to the region, not only in terms of the direct expenditure and employment generated, but also in terms of the broader economic development platform it provides. For example, the experience someone has in a region strongly influences their perception of that region as a place to live, work, study or invest. This applies to both visitors and residents.



Value of Tourism to Ōtorohanga

9. Visitors spent over \$40 million in Ōtorohanga district in the year ended October 2024 - \$10million from international manuhiri and \$30million from New Zealanders.
10. During 2023, 90,400 guest nights were enjoyed in commercial accommodation – occupancy rate of 42%
11. Recent projects delivered by the RTO of benefit to Ōtorohanga district by utilising the central government Covid recovery funding to RTOs:
 - a. Waikato to Taranaki Way – a curated map and itinerary for an easy, self-driving journey along the west coast of the North Island from Port Waikato to Paritutu in Taranaki. The itinerary recommends stopping to explore Kawhia and Ōtorohanga.
 - b. HWT developed a digital experience from the Sir Edmund Hillary Walk. This can be viewed on our website [here](#).
12. The Ōtorohanga Kiwi House is undergoing significant redevelopment work. We look forward to the re-launch of the modernised Ōtorohanga Kiwi House as a visitor proposition for visitors to Ōtorohanga and the region. An ongoing viable and strong RTO will be important to ensure this investment is maximised and highlighted with manuhiri.
13. The team have provided guidance and assistance to the new hotel Sands of Kawhia Hotel, with particular emphasis on working with travel trade.



What our residents say

14. Research carried out surveyed what our residents consider to be the benefits of tourism, and the challenges tourism brings to their community. 85% of our residents acknowledge they experience benefits from tourism, including more businesses, more employment, inspiration to travel domestically, and a greater variety of goods/services available.
15. Ōtorohanga residents identified the key benefits of tourism of more local businesses opening or being able to stay open, greater opportunities for employment, and a variety of goods and services being available than otherwise would be.

Comparative funding for other RTOs

16. Research conducted comparing funding to each of New Zealand's RTOs by population indicate we are 28th out of the 31 RTOs, at our current funding levels. While we do all we can, it is a fact we compete with the other 30 RTOs for visitors, especially domestic visitors, and even on current funding we are pushing uphill.
17. Regional Tourism Organisations compete for visitors, events and conferences. If HWT is not funded appropriately, we will not be able to remain competitive in the NZ tourism sector.

Result of reduced funding

18. Payment towards HWT activity is by way of Service Level Agreement, ie: HWT provides a service for our six council. This is not a grant nor a handout. The RTO delivery these services on behalf of the partnering council. Without sufficient payment to conduct these services each council will need to have plans to deliver a number of these specialist tasks in-house or forgo them completely.
19. Hamilton City Council and Waikato District Council are proposing 50% reduction; Waipā is proposing 20% cut; Waitomo has also signalled significant reductions. The current proposals have the potential to result in an approximate 40% reduction of budget. This will massively weaken the competitiveness of the RTO and our effectiveness.
20. Reduced council contributions will result in areas of work being reduced and some areas being removed from our activities and deliverables. We have a team of eight FTE staff who are subject experts, with experience and expertise in the visitor sector. Current proposed reduced funding means we will be forced to reduce staff.
21. When changes affect the visitor market, the RTO is there to provide expertise, support and guidance. This could be with negative incidents, ie: global pandemic, cyclone damage; or with positive changes, ie: new hotel development, investment and if/when international flights return to Hamilton Airport; or assisting maximising the impact of significant events, ie: FIFA Women's World Cup. A well-resourced RTO is here to support the sector through these times. Current proposed funding means the RTO would not be resourced sufficiently to assist during these times.
22. As Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL) is HWTs shareholder, the WRAL board will make the ultimate decision on whether the organisation and work is viable to continue or disband the RTO function.

Conclusion

23. HWT thanks Ōtorohanga District Council for its support over the past 12 years.
24. Looking forward, the region needs tourism growth to increase the prosperity and living standards of its people. We can only do this by continuing a collaborative and long-term strategic approach, led by an appropriately funded and resourced Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.
25. Reduced funding will result in reduced services from HWT, with significant negative impacts on the sector and community.
26. **HWT would like to request to speak to this submission at the LTPs hearings.**
27. All enquiries should be made to Nicola Greenwell, CE of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. Email nicola@waikatoz.com or phone 07 843 0056.

Our request and recommendation

28. Ōtorohanga District Council continues its partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism in collaboration with other Waikato based councils;
29. Ōtorohanga elected members join HWT in encouraging other partnering councils to reconsider funding levels to ensure the ongoing viability of the RTO.
30. Ōtorohanga District Council commits investment to Hamilton & Waikato Tourism to the same level as currently invested (\$72,338) with annual CPI increases in the Long Term Plan 2025-35.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to Ōtorohanga District Council's draft Long Term Plan 2025-35.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leggat".

Richard Leggat
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicola Greenwell".

Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive

☒ **Regional Tourism Organisation – nice to have**
Regional Tourism Organisation – must have

Appendix – quick facts, data and insights

Visitors contribute \$40 MILLION to Ōtorohanga's economy – a return of \$555 for each dollar contributed by Ōtorohanga to HWT's work

While there is no concise measure to indicate how much of this is due to the RTO's work – if we assume as low as 3% - our activity directly contributes \$2million to the Ōtorohanga community

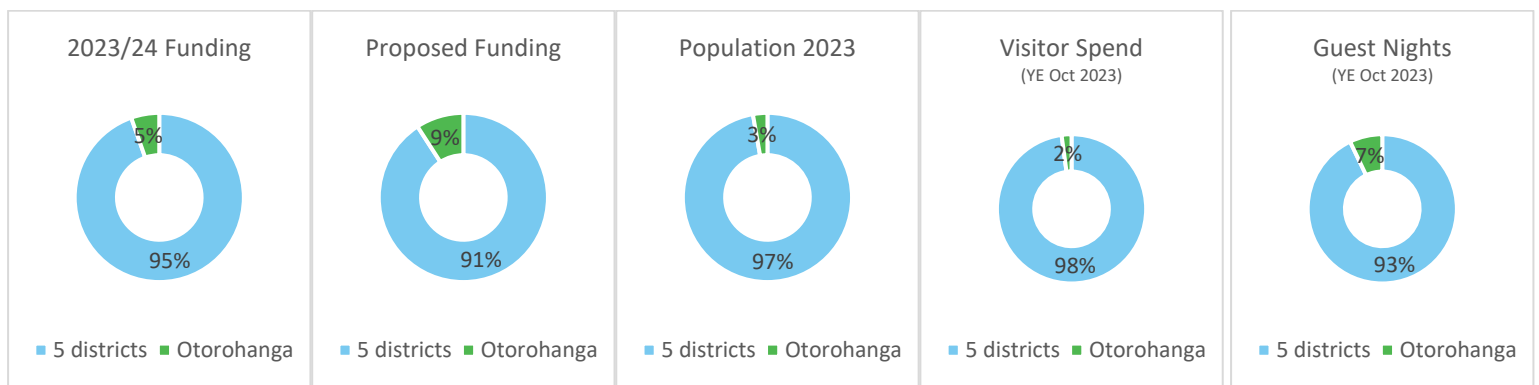
(Source: [MBIE Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates](#))

We are the only RTO with six contributing councils (every other RTO has less than this).

We have the 4th largest city in our region. We are a large region, and yet... our funding per person compared to other RTO's – we are 28th out of 31 RTOs. Overall, HWT receives \$3.44 per person across the region.

(Source: [RTNZ Project Tōnui](#))

Proposed funding across the six partnering councils results in a smaller budget than the initial budget when HWT was re-established in 2011

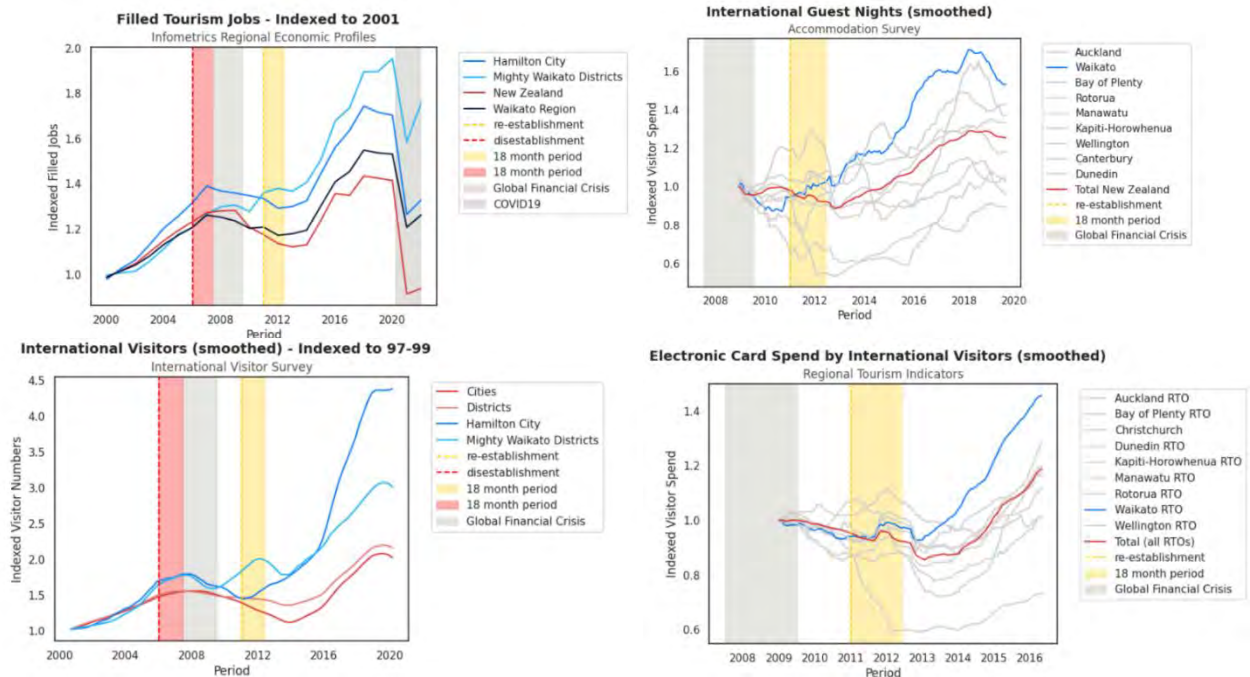


In 2019 tourism was number 1 export earner for NZ at \$41 billion. While the sector has suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2023 Tourism Satellite Account shows visitor sector contribution to NZ of \$38 billion. Recovery post-covid is very strong. Tourism is expected to once again claim the Number 1 export earner title very soon.

(Source: [Tourism Satellite Account 2023](https://rtnz.org.nz/project-tonui/)<https://rtnz.org.nz/project-tonui/>)

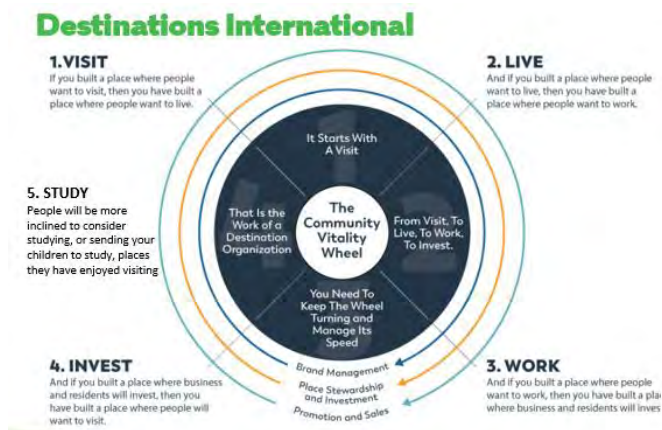
Quote from **Stephen England-Hall** during early part of Covid-19 global pandemic. At the time, Stephen was CE of New Zealand Tourism: *“Tourism New Zealand continued to keep the New Zealand brand alive in other international markets to keep New Zealand’s destination brand present in the minds of our audience and avoid ‘going dark’.... A year of not promoting a destination could mean up to three years of trying to recover that lost ground, amid intense competition from other countries for tourists.”*

Waikato Tourism disbanded in 2006. There was no RTO in our region for 5 years. Visitation, guest nights, visitor spend and jobs decreased during this period. We have seen increases in all since the re-establishment of HWT.



Case Study: a video that showcases the impact of reduced RTO activities: [What happens when you cut a destination's marketing budget? The story of Colorado Tourism – a cautionary tale](#). The report can be found [here](#).

Case Study: report from US Travel Association – [“What’s at Stake When Destinations Stop Marketing: The Power of Travel Promotion”](#)



Destination promotion is essential to the quality of place in our community

Tourism builds community

The abstract, often unseen, support provided by the HWT team:

- Cyclone Gabrielle – Government provided Cyclone Recovery fund which omitted Hamilton and Waikato. HWT successfully advocated on behalf of the operators who suffered damage and had to close for weeks in order to repair such damage.
- Covid-19 Global Pandemic – hours and hours of work supporting our sector navigate the new rules and government subsidies. Provided many webinars on cash flow management, business plans, resilience, digital activations and many more subjects. Instigated the “mighty Local” activations, providing information to our local community at the various ‘alert’ levels.

Digital Sir Ed Hillary Walkway Tour

Visitors | 12 mins to complete | 1 Get, connect | Digital Sir Ed Hillary Walkway Tour

Just about everything that is quintessentially Kiwi – from the All Blacks, and buzzy bee kids' toy to pavlova, school milk and the haka – can be seen in the Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway in Ōtorohanga.

Digital Sir Ed Hillary Walkway Tour



The interactive Kiwiana display is free and provides fascinating insights into New Zealand's popular culture in 26 exhibits that are a tribute to many of New Zealand's national icons, heroes, history and way of life.

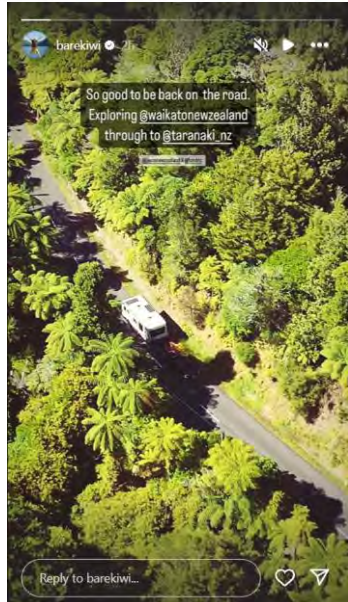
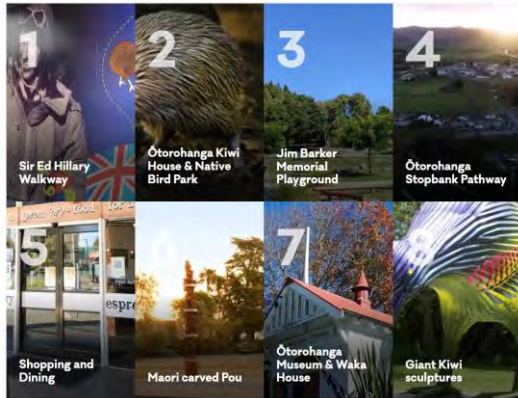
The walkway which is always open, is named in honour of Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer, explorer and philanthropist. Back in 1953 Sir Ed and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest, considered to be the highest peak in the world at 8,850 metres. Exhibitions within the gallery include a tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary, Weirix, Hamble, rural life, pavlova, No 9 Wire, the Buzzy Bee, All Blacks great Colin Meads and much more.

Sir Edmund Hillary Walkway, Ōtorohanga, NZ
Around town there are also many other Kiwiana displays, corrugated iron kiwi sculptures and Kiwiana-themed public toilets.

For anyone keen to take a piece of Kiwiana home with them, there are gift stores offering a range of souvenirs while the Ōtorohanga Visitor Information Centre sells colourful Kiwiana posters in a range of sizes.

Getting there: Bell Lane, Ōtorohanga
More information: www.otorohanga.co.nz

Top Things to do in Ōtorohanga



9 April 2024



Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Kia ora

Long-term Plans 2024-2034 for Waikato Councils: TIA Submission

Tourism industry Aotearoa welcomes the opportunity to set out the importance of continued Council investment into the tourism-related functions carried out by Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.

Key feedback

TIA views tourism as being an enormously beneficial contributor to people and place. The tourism and hospitality industry is integral to our national identity; when it thrives, so does New Zealand. It brings economic diversity, resilience, generates jobs and fosters regional prosperity while showcasing our cultural richness and timeless experiences, fostering pride and social connectivity both locally and globally.

Across New Zealand, local government is under immense pressure. TIA recognises this pressure, and the difficult decisions Councils are tasked with making. Notwithstanding this, we submit that funding for core tourism activities by Councils is an investment in the economic health and future prosperity of the towns, cities and region of the Waikato, an investment that will generate a healthy return on investment (ROI).

It is our understanding that tourism functions of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism are signalled as reducing in the long-term planning processes of the six Councils.

Given what the international evidence base tells us, we believe it is important to treat Council spend in these tourism functions as an investment, and not a cost. This spend will generate a dividend in the form of increased economic activity, increased Council revenues, more and better jobs, and increased vibrancy across the city. During this period of slowing economic growth and increasing headwinds, enabling buoyant tourism activity is a logical and prudent step for Councils to take.

TIA recommends that:

Each of the six Councils who collaborate and partner with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism ensure that funding provision for the Service Level Agreement is retained and maintained in their Long-term Plans so that the wider Waikato region can accrue its return on investment in these tourism functions.

Tourism Industry Aotearoa

TIA is the peak body for the tourism industry in Aotearoa New Zealand. With around 1,300 members, TIA represents a range of tourism-related activities including hospitality, accommodation, adventure activities, attractions, retail, airports and airlines, transport, as well as related-tourism services.

TIA is sharply focused on ensuring the sustainable future of the industry, and this is clearly articulated in our key guiding documents and programmes. These include the tourism industry's strategic framework, *Tourism 2050 – A Blueprint for Impact*, *He Pae Tukutuku*, and the industry's sustainability platform *New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment - He kupu taurangi kia toitū ai te tāpoianga*.

Tourism 2050 has ten Actions, one of which is 'Address Industry Funding' which includes local government funding for tourism. It is a priority for TIA that substantive progress is made in this area, and sustaining Council funding levels form part of this.

The tourism industry

Tourism is the movement of people to places where they don't normally live to 'do, see, visit or experience'.

In the year to March 2023 (the latest data point we have) tourism expenditure was \$37.7 billion, and with tourism making up 11.4% of exports and supporting 11.3% of New Zealand's employment.¹ Since then, further recovery has taken place as tourism works to restore its position alongside Dairy as New Zealand's largest export earning sectors.

The Waikato region received \$1.9b of international and domestic spending in the year to October 2023.² It hosted 1.3 million guest nights per year, or 3.3% of New Zealand's total guest nights.³ As such, tourism plays an important role within the region.

Nature of this submission

TIA recognises that the Regional Tourism Organisation of the Waikato region, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, is supported and funded by six City or District Councils – Hamilton, Waipa, Waikato, Waitomo, Otorohanga and Matamata Piako.

This makes it important that the contributions from each Council are in place to ensure that Hamilton & Waikato Tourism has the capacity and critical mass to drive the growth and development of tourism in your region.

As such, this submission is designed to inform each of the six Councils about the importance of sustaining tourism functions as a driver of economic and social well-being in each of the Council areas and across the region.

Tourism spend is an investment

Council spending on tourism activities such as destination marketing and events promotion is widely considered to be an investment, not a cost.

As an investment, resources spent in these areas generate a return over and above the direct cost, and that is why countries and cities around the world invest in these functions. Generally, for every \$1 invested in the local visitor economy there is a direct return for the funding party, such as the local government entity, and with a larger benefit for businesses and people working in the local economy. This is the globally accepted rationale for destination marketing and events attraction activities.⁴

¹ Tourism Satellite Account, YE March 2023, Stats NZ, February 2024.

² Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates, YE October 2023, MBIE, 2023.

³ Data Accommodation Data, YE February 2024, MBIE, 2024

⁴ There is extensive literature on the Return on Investment from destination marketing. However, there is a vast number of ways ROI can be calculated depending on the methods used. What is common is that the ROI is invariably positive, and usually strongly positive. In analysis by Oxford Economics for the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) the following ROIs were cited: Visit Denmark: ROI 16:1, Visit Scotland: ROI 20:1; Australia's 'A Different Light campaign': ROI 64:1; Canada Tourism Commission: ROI 38:1; Visit California: ROI of between 25:1 and 200:1 depending on target market.

In cases where such funding has been withdrawn, the consistent outcome is a discernible decline in tourism activity and, over time, reinstatement of the funding, followed by a gradual period of catch up. The case study evidence shows that when tourism related investment is cut, visitor spending starts reducing immediately and continues to decline. Fortunately, there are not too many of these case studies because funding reductions are quite rare which indicates that the boost generated from this type of investment is recognised and valued.

The Colorado example is widely held as the classic case study.⁵ When Colorado's \$12m tourism marketing budget was cut to zero in 1993, annual visitor spending reduced by \$1.4b initially and then to \$2b annually. State and local taxes fell by \$134m. With reinstatement of funding to \$17m in 2006, the advertising spending of \$10.7m generated an additional \$2.1b of visitor spend and additional tax revenue of \$139m. For the State funder, for every dollar it spent, it received an additional \$12.96 of tax revenue. A 13:1 return.

Similarly, in 2013 the San Diego Tourism Authority had its budget reduced by 83%, down from \$28m to \$4m.^{6 7} Over the following year, this rapidly impacted the performance of the San Diego hotel industry, with room demand, occupancy and price levels all trailing other regional and national destinations that had maintained funding. As funding was returned, the market position was restored reasonably quickly.

Events play a very important role in creating demand of high value visitors, and as a lever for tackling hard-to-address issues such as seasonality or time-of-week fluctuations. This elevates the benefits from investing in programmes that attract events and particularly those that can provide a boost to fill what would be an otherwise quiet period. Through having an ability to attract events, regions can create a more even and predictable demand pattern that can sustain businesses and the jobs that they create.

TIA submits that, in line with international evidence, the Councils that support and enable Hamilton & Waikato Tourism to ensure there is sufficient base funding for tourism functions in the interest of gaining both the return on investment and the intangible place-making and community benefits that will accrue from this expenditure.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views and we would be most happy to expand on any points raised in this submission.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries. Bruce Bassett can be contacted on [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi,



Rebecca Ingram
Chief Executive

⁵ <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aascds%3AUS%3A5f329423-2212-352a-91b4-718798f774c2#pageNum=1>

⁶ https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/tmd_tourismeconomics072916.pdf

⁷ https://www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/media_root/document/POTP_Negative_Case_Studies.pdf

18 March 2024

Kia Ora Nicola

Thank you for your request to Tourism New Zealand for a letter of support to assist in your discussions with your funders around securing ongoing funding to enable you to continue to work effectively with our organisation. As New Zealand's National Tourism Organisation we are responsible for promoting New Zealand as a visitor destination in key markets overseas and our relationship with all the 31 Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across Aotearoa including Hamilton & Waikato Tourism is critical.

To ensure tourism benefits New Zealand we target visitors from key international markets. Once here, it's important our visitors have a great experience, so we also guide them on travelling safely and caring for our home, people and culture.

To do these successfully we rely on having a close relationship with each RTO to ensure that we are closely aligned to their own specific regional identity and community desires, which are outlined in their current destination management plans. Without this close relationship our own marketing and operational plans cannot accurately reflect the diversity that exists across New Zealand, especially in local communities such as in Hamilton and Waikato.

Our role is to ensure that tourism contributes to a sustainable and productive future across:

- **Economy** The tourism economy thrives and grows adding incremental value to the New Zealand economy and its assets.
- **Nature** Tourism restores, maintains and nourishes the environment for the intergenerational benefit of New Zealand.
- **Culture** The tourism story and experience preserve and enhance our values, culture and heritage; the makeup of our identity.
- **Society** People in and part of tourism communities thrive through jobs, shared knowledge, and physical and mental well-being.

Our activity is carefully focused on several key markets around the world and a select group of consumers within those key markets. This is so we get the maximum yield for the tourism industry including operators across Hamilton and Waikato.

We work offshore to encourage our target market, those 'Actively Considering' New Zealand to book, visit more of our regions and do more during their time here. In a very competitive international market, our work with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism is critical to ensure that we can connect with local operators across the region.

As well as marketing to consumers, our trade training, marketing and media programme is designed to ensure that those who sell New Zealand have the knowledge and understanding to do so well. This includes our work in the business events area that provides business-specific funding and support for international conferences. Working in partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism gives us the ability to connect the region to these audiences.

Nga mihi



Rene de Monchy
Chief Executive

Support Paper: The Essential Role of Regional Tourism Bureaus in Supporting New Zealand's Association Conferences and Events

Introduction

The Australasian Society of Association Executives (AuSAE) New Zealand, representing a vibrant community of chief executives and senior leaders from professional associations and trade associations across Aotearoa New Zealand. Our members are at the forefront of professional development, economic growth, and community wellbeing and underscores the urgent need to maintain or increase core funding for regional tourism organisations, specifically focusing on Hamilton and Waikato Tourism (HWT). This advocacy is driven by the looming threat of significant funding cuts across several councils, jeopardising the foundational support for our regional tourism and event-hosting capabilities. . This paper champions the critical need to sustain, if not increase, core funding for regional tourism bureaus.

The Value of Associations to Regional Economies

Membership bodies significantly boost regional economies through conferences and events, far beyond mere financial injections. These gatherings serve as catalysts for economic, social, and educational development, leaving a lasting positive impact on host regions. Our partnership with Hamilton and Waikato Tourism has been pivotal in elevating the region's profile, leading to a succession of business opportunities and securing the association community's business in an unparalleled manner.

Strategic Partnership with Hamilton and Waikato Tourism

Our collaboration with HWT has proven instrumental in enhancing the visibility and attractiveness of the Hamilton and Waikato region to the association sector. Together, we've positioned the region as a top destination for conferences and events, generating direct economic benefits and solidifying industry relationships. This partnership has facilitated memorable experiences for attendees and created substantial business opportunities, contributing to the region's economic vitality and expansion.

Impact of Funding Cuts

The substantial funding cuts proposed from the six councils places this valuable partnership in jeopardy. Such cuts threaten to dilute HWT's efforts and could inadvertently shift the association community's focus to other regions for their events. The forthcoming decision by our shareholder on whether to continue or dissolve HWT, followed by the board's decisions on operational focuses, presents a concerning outlook for the future of regional tourism and our collective endeavours.

The Critical Nature of Continued Support

The potential downscaling or cessation of HWT's activities would not only be a loss for the Hamilton and Waikato region but also for the wider association community that AuSAE represents. The unique synergy between AuSAE and HWT has been a cornerstone of our mutual success, delivering enhanced professional development opportunities, economic benefits, and community engagement to the region.

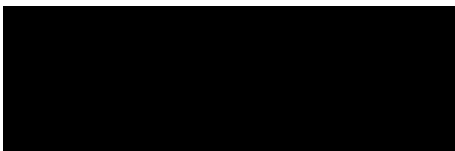
Conclusion

The partnership between professional and trade associations and regional tourism organisations, exemplified by AuSAE and Hamilton and Waikato Tourism, is vital for the prosperity of regional economies and the association sector. We advocate for sustaining or enhancing funding for these organisations to ensure the continued success of such partnerships. As AuSAE New Zealand, we urge councils, and stakeholders to recognise the extensive benefits of these collaborations and to act decisively in support of our communities' and regional economies' future.

Urgent Call to Action

In light of these challenges, our collective voice must be heard louder than ever. We must unite to support the sustainability of HWT and similar entities, ensuring their continued invaluable contributions. The potential disappearance of such organisations would not only impact current operations but also diminish the region's future potential for economic and professional development in hosting association events.

Brett Jeffery/CAE – General Manager New Zealand
Australasian Society of Association Executives





17 April 2024

Tēnā Koe

RE: Submission on 2024-34 Long Term Plan

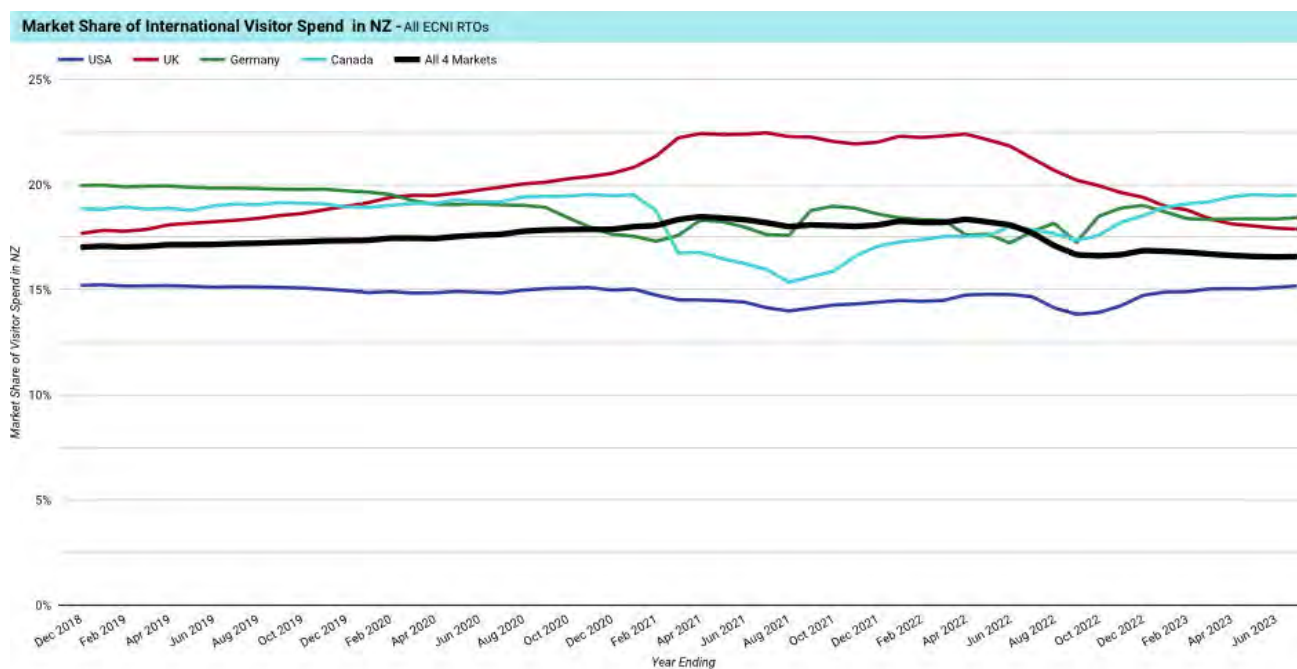
We are writing regarding the proposed changes in funding, contained in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP), for your Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO), Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. As a collective of eight RTOs who form the Explore Central North Island (ECNI) marketing alliance and make up a large portion of the North Island, we have significant concerns about the proposed changes.

ECNI is a central North Island collaboration between Destination Hauraki Coromandel, Tourism Bay of Plenty, Visit Ruapehu, Destination Great Lake Taupō, Rotorua NZ, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, Activate Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay Tourism who come together to market ourselves. We promote the three main touring routes through the central North Island; [Pacific Coast Highway](#), [Thermal Explorer Highway](#) and the [Volcanic Loop](#). In addition, we provide a number of specific itineraries through the eight regions of ECNI to assist both domestic and international travellers and industry members, to experience some of New Zealand's beautiful sights and activities. As a collective we host and attend trade training events in NZ and internationally, keeping Travel Buyers up to date with product offerings from central North Island tourism businesses for their clients traveling to NZ. Our collective voice is strong as we continue to drive and increase demand for North Island visitation.

The primary focus for ECNI is achieving growth in the key long haul western markets of North America and UK/Europe. For the year ending July 2023, international visitor expenditure for these key markets exceeded pre-Covid levels at \$209.49million across the ECNI regions. Following a summer season where we have experienced strong growth in the North American market, this figure will have increased significantly, underlining the value of tourism to your local communities and benefit of the ECNI partnership. The following table provides additional detail on the market growth for ECNI.

All ECNI RTOs - International Visitor Spend				Market Growth			Post-COVID Recovery		
Market	Year Ending July			% change 2022-23			Pre-COVID YE Jul-19	% recovered Jul 2023	
	2021	2022	2023	RTO		NZL		RTO	NZL
USA	\$20.56M	\$25.84M	\$102.94M	+298.4%		+284.9%	\$77.61M	133%	132%
UK	\$32.70M	\$31.78M	\$75.45M	+137.4%		+182.1%	\$77.00M	98%	100%
Germany	\$1.50M	\$1.02M	\$16.73M	+1543.9%		+1485.5%	\$32.77M	51%	55%
Canada	\$2.13M	\$2.29M	\$14.37M	+526.7%		+474.3%	\$15.03M	96%	94%
All 4 Markets	\$56.90M	\$60.93M	\$209.49M	+243.9%		+267.3%	\$202.40M	104%	107%
Other Intl	\$71.86M	\$74.43M	\$278.28M	+273.9%		+271.7%	\$287.00M	97%	97%
Total Intl	\$128.76M	\$135.36M	\$487.77M	+260.4%		+270.0%	\$489.40M	100%	101%

From both an international and domestic perspective, tourism is a highly competitive sector. At a national level New Zealand must compete strongly to secure a small share of the total international tourism market and once a visitor has decided on New Zealand as their next destination, regions compete fiercely for a visitor's time and money. In a New Zealand context, the larger metropolitan centres and those with an international airport are at a distinct advantage, with much larger marketing budgets and more opportunities to partner with airports and airlines. ECNI pools resource and has been very effective at maintaining market share across the target markets, as detailed in the following graph.



The proposed funding reduction in the draft LTP will jeopardise Hamilton & Waikato Tourism ongoing participation in ECNI. As discussed above, the ECNI partnership allows the 8 regions to compete successfully, as evidenced through market share and visitor expenditure, against the larger gateway regions that have significantly larger budgets. Put simply, each RTO's investment in ECNI delivers excellent value for money as funds and resource allocated is boosted 8 times through the partnership. Any RTO not contributing will cease to be part of the partnership, will no longer appear in itineraries and marketing activity, and understandably lose market share.

It is important to highlight that the proposed reduction in funding will result in a very significant economic contraction, that will require significantly greater investment to reverse once enacted. There are a range of international case studies that demonstrate how even well-known destinations can suffer when they fail to promote themselves. One of the most relevant examples is Colorado, which shut down its travel promotion program in 1993 by cutting the states promotion budget from US\$12 million to zero almost overnight. The consequences were immediately felt as follows:

- Within one year, Colorado slipped from first place to 17th place in the summer resort category.
- By 1997, Colorado's overall share of the U.S. leisure market plummeted by 30%.
- Visitor spending fell dramatically, creating an immediate loss in revenues of US\$1.4 billion, which increased to US\$2.4billion by the late 1990s.
- As a consequence, state and local tax receipts dropped by US\$134 million between 1993 and 1997.
- In 2000, the state opened the Colorado Tourism Office with a US\$5 million annual budget, which increase to US\$19million in 2006 following a demonstrated return on investment of more than 12:1.
- The head of the Colorado Tourism Office in 2011 was quoted "Our lesson to [the state of] Washington is that it's been 18 years since we went dark in 1993, and we still haven't gotten back it the national market share we had."

Any reduction in the modest funding provided to Hamilton & Waikato Tourism will result in a significant economic contraction as competing regions secure market share. Once lost, this is difficult to regain and will require substantial new investment beyond the amount saved in the proposed cuts.

Tourism plays a pivotal role in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of New Zealand. Beyond the iconic landscapes and attractions that draw international visitors, tourism offers an opportunity for local communities to showcase their unique heritage, traditions, and natural wonders. Tourism fosters a sense of pride and identity among locals, encouraging preservation and stewardship of natural and cultural assets. Overall, tourism not only drives economic growth through visitor expenditure and employment but also creates vibrancy and a destination that is a great place to live, work and do business.

On behalf of Explore Central North Island

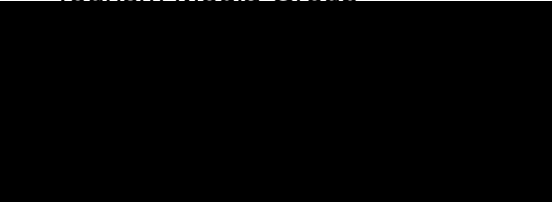


Andrew Wilson

Chief Executive RotoruaNZ and Chair Explore Central North Island

Destination Hauraki Coromandel, Tourism Bay of Plenty, Visit Ruapehu, Destination Great Lake Taupō, Rotorua NZ, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, Activate Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay Tourism.

Paul Hailes
Director
Tourism Media Group



19 April 2024

To whom it may concern

I do not support the proposed LTP reduction in Hamilton & Waikato Tourism's budget, and instead would support Council maintaining its current level of funding for the organisation.

I have worked in the business events industry for 25 years, most recently publishing the business events magazine Meeting Newz and organising the Business Events Expo. We work with all bureaus and tourism organisations across New Zealand and have had a fantastic working relationship with HWT over these years.

Our magazine and expo provide opportunities for regions across New Zealand to promote and tell their stories to key decision makers in our sector who bring big conferences and business events to the Waikato. Business events attract high value visitors who, on average, spend twice as much as leisure visitors and often return as holiday makers.

I have had the privilege on being familiarisation tours with HWT. This first-hand experience has allowed me to write about the region's excellent operators and deliver key messages to our qualified, high value readers across the corporate, association and professional conference organiser (PCO) sectors.

The progress that HWT has made in the last few years has been phenomenal. The organisation has positioned Hamilton and the Waikato as one of this country's premium regions to host business events. HWT has been the catalyst for local businesses to work together to deliver outstanding business events.

With the recent announcements of more accommodation rooms coming online and new developments along the river, the region has never been better placed to grow its business events revenue in highly competitive market. A reduction in funding would be disastrous and undo all the great work that has done.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Hailes
Director,
Tourism Media Group



Respondent No: 16

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 30, 2024 07:28:51 am

Last Seen: Apr 30, 2024 07:28:51 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Dr. Amy Marfell

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Sport Waikato

Q3. **Address** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**



**SPORT WAIKATO'S SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE
ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Long Term Plan 2024-34

06 May 2024

Contents

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1. ABOUT SPORT WAIKATO

Sport Waikato is one of 14 Regional Sports Trusts in Aotearoa/New Zealand, responsible for supporting Central Government and Sport New Zealand’s focus on getting more New Zealanders physically active. There is widespread and global evidence that physical activity enhances people’s physical, social, emotional, and mental health, educational outcomes and general wellbeing as well as making for a more cohesive society.

Founded in 1986, Sport Waikato’s vision is to have “**everyone out there and active**” so as to achieve a healthy, vibrant, physically active region through play, active recreation and sport.

OUR APPROACH

Sport Waikato is guided by Moving Waikato – the region’s unified strategy for physical activity through play, active recreation and sport. The strategy seeks to prioritise partnerships with other key agencies to influence key outcomes, including to increase the provision of opportunities for both participation and quality experiences for the people of the region. We believe that by working together we can achieve the ultimate goal of 75% of all Waikato adults and young people meeting the physical activity guidelines by 2030, and therefore, a more healthy, well and physically active region.

Moving Waikato is guided by a Strategic Advisory Group comprising representation from Health, Education (primary, secondary and tertiary), Local Government, Iwi, Sport NZ and Sport Waikato. The strategy has three key pillars each providing a lens that gives direction on how we work: **Our People**, **Building Communities**, and **Regional Leadership**



We are now into Horizon 2 of Moving Waikato, following its launch in 2016 and subsequent successes, including significant developments in the collection of key insights, sector capability work, the Waikato Regional Sports Facilities Plan (now the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan, which is in its 4th iteration), targeting participation among women and girls and the development of a regional cycle strategy. This next period (2024-2027) will see a focus on Rangatahi (12-17 years) and Tamariki (5-11 years) alongside specific commitment and attention to enabling participation among targeted populations, including: Maaori; deprived communities; women and girls; disabled people and those with low participation levels and/or those who tend to miss out.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNCILS TO OUR APPROACH

Councils play a key role in the work that Sport Waikato does and are an important partner and investor in enabling play, active recreation and sport to happen for people and communities. We wish to take a moment to thank Otorohanga District Council for their support of the work of Sport Waikato, whilst also acknowledging the immense fiscal pressure you are facing to both provide community infrastructure while keeping costs for communities affordable.

Sport Waikato is excited to work alongside you to continue to ensure a range of opportunities for people to engage in physical activity exists across Otorohanga. In particular, we look forward to providing support for the planning, investment, and operation of the facilities and open spaces which enable play, active recreation and sport, as well as increasing collaborative and cross-sectorial partnerships that open up opportunities for increased levels of movement.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Ōtorohanga district has a usual resident population of 10,104 people made up of over 3,519 households (Statistics New Zealand, 2018). This population figure is up 11% from the last census in 2013, which shows growth in the number of New Zealanders calling Ōtorohanga their home. There is a prediction to see a 7.4% growth in the 10-year average from 2020-2030 and we see a continued increase of another 5.1% into 2040. Ōtorohanga district is expecting to see an aging population increase from 2028 onwards with decreased numbers projected for other age structures. NIDEA echo's this prediction by showing the same growth of aged population with slow/static numbers from rangatahi and younger from 2030 onwards.

People identifying as Maaori in the Ōtorohanga district comprise 30% of the district population, which is significantly higher than the Waikato regional average of 24% and national average of 17%. Overall, Ōtorohanga has a median income of \$30,200 p/a with 30% of its population living in areas of high deprivation (Statistics New Zealand, 2018). Ōtorohanga district have 71% of the population living rurally.

A growing and aging population, with a vast number of residents living in deprivation and/or rurally presents challenges when thinking about providing for play, active recreation and sport, particularly when considering access and provision that meets the needs of a growing, changing and often rurally distanced community.

THE VALUE OF PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT

In a 2018 study by Sport NZ, it was revealed that 92% of people believe being active keeps them physically fit and healthy, and helps relieve stress. A further 88% of people believed that sport and other physical activities provided them with opportunities to achieve and help build confidence, and 84% felt that sport brings people together while creating a sense of belonging. The vast majority of people (74%) also believed that sport helps to build vibrant and stimulating communities.

Of course, the benefits of physical activity through play, active recreation and sport are well documented and wide-reaching from physical health, to social, emotional and mental wellbeing. Indeed, a report on the *Social Return on Investment (SROI) of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand* (Sport NZ, October 2022) showed that recreational physical activity generates significant value for society across multiple wellbeing domains and outcomes. For every \$1 spent, there was a social return of \$2.12

to New Zealand, meaning that the value of the wellbeing outcomes for New Zealand is greater than the costs of providing these opportunities. While health outcomes are the most significant wellbeing domain for measuring the impact of sport and physical activity benefits to society, broader benefits were also *clear across several domains of wellbeing, including subjective wellbeing; income consumption and wealth; work, care and volunteering; family and friends; and safety*¹.

CURRENT LANDSCAPE OF PARTICIPATION IN OTOROHANGA

Recent figures from Active NZ (2021) suggest that 46% of young people (5-17 years) and 53% of adults in the Ōtorohanga District do enough physical activity to positively impact their wellbeing, with 80% of young people and 73% of adults suggesting they would like to do more physical activity than they currently do (Active NZ 2021).

Active recreation and play are the preferred modes of physical activity for Ōtorohanga residents with activities such as running/jogging, games (e.g., four square, tag, bullrush, dodgeball), playing on playgrounds, cycling, and playing (e.g., running around, climbing trees, make-believe) among the preferences for young people, and walking, gardening, individual workouts with equipment, running/jogging and playing games (e.g., with kids) top the list of preferred physical activities for adults.

3. OUR SUBMISSION ON YOUR PROPOSED LONG-TERM PLAN 2024-34

In our submission, we wish to comment on the following:

- 1. **Thank you:** On behalf of the people of Ōtorohanga, Sport Waikato thank you for your investment contributions to play, active recreation and sport. Councils are key enablers of physical activity, and your effort and investment are noted and sincerely appreciated.
- 2. **Our Recommendations:**

Reserves Strategy and Reserves Management Plan

Sport Waikato supports funding towards the following outlined in the Draft Vibrant Places and Spaces Documentation - *Finalising the development and implementing actions from the Reserves Strategy and Reserve Management Plan*

We support this based on the following:

- Pressure is growing on field networks because of factors such as movement in winter and summer sports seasons (coming closer together and in some cases overlapping), the growth in informal social play (outside of structured code play).
- Waikato sport parks are susceptible to poor condition in several locations based on an underlying peat base, making it extremely difficult to establish and maintain good quality soil, sand dressed and sand carpeted surfaces without significant investment - *This is acknowledged in the Reserve Strategy*
- Waikato insights via the Future of Rugby Clubs survey found that 80% of clubs are experiencing some form of capacity issue, 70% use fields during the summer (with 43% indicating access was insufficient to meet needs) and there was strong desire for more floodlight coverage, surface upgrades and access to additional fields
- 26% of the community are physically active at sport fields as a family (8% as individual), while this is 51% and 26% respectively for parks and reserves.
- Outdoor Sport and Recreational facilities are important community assets with 42% of the community reported that spaces, inclusive of outdoor courts, are locations where they are active,

¹ There is more evidence required to better reflect the true value of the social cohesion dimension which is considered to be currently undervalued.

however 28% were either dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with outdoor sports/recreation facilities (versus 8% very or extremely satisfied).

There is a desire from the community to ensure that sport grounds have well-functioning amenities and supporting infrastructure that meet the needs of the community across our sport ground network.

Regionally, sport and recreational organisations have highlighted:

- 53% - facilities and spaces have quality issues
- 41% - facilities and spaces meet the needs of future communities
- Participants highlighted that improvement to clubrooms was the #1 priority for clubs, followed by amenities (toilets/changerooms) #2 and improved quality of provision (courts and fields) #3

Relevant recommendations from Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan - Sport Fields/Outdoor Courts

- *Complete needs analysis, concept, and master planning of Island Reserve (Otorohanga) with a focus on sub-regional provision and avoidance of duplication across the neighboring districts (Waitomo)*
- *Review and upgrade the provision, allocation, utilisation, quality and maintenance of sports fields based on current and future need*
- *Increase capacity of fields through provision of targeted flood lighting, improved turf management or multi-use artificial turf (cost benefit required for each). Council to consider working with partner funders to provide a comprehensive, maintained and accessible network of floodlit facilities*
- *Explore options to enhance existing infrastructure such as carparks, storage, toilets, shade/shelter, changing facilities and other activity spaces that encourage social connection, provide family friendly opportunities and assist with utilisation of existing sports fields/courts where need identified.*
- *Optimise facilities through co-location and promotion of spaces – community hub approach*
- *Courts - Invest in flexible configurations including moveable nets and goals, a variety of markings to maximise court utilisation*

Ōtorohanga Memorial Pool Complex

Sport Waikato acknowledges the following statements in the long-term plan regarding Ōtorohanga Memorial Pool Complex

- *25 years since the Ōtorohanga Memorial Pool Complex last had a makeover*
- *Plan to do a basic upgrade to the building, including the bathroom and changing rooms*
- *Address weather tightness issues*
- *Improve the seating areas and shade structures/landscaping to make the area more inviting*
- *Reline the outdoor pool*

We therefore support the investment outlined in the long-term plan for the Ōtorohanga Memorial Pool Complex. The Waikato is home to many natural waterways, including rivers, streams, beaches and lakes. This highlights the importance of water confidence and safety among people in the region, including, of course, sufficient spaces and places to build these capabilities. Equally, we know that:

- The demand for aquatic provision is changing as participation needs change, with a trend toward increased casual, informal and recreational participation. In addition, the Waikato Region has an increasingly aging population which requires flexible pool provision and access to warmer, covered, year-round water.
- Regionally there is an over-supply of cooler temperature and lane (rectangular) water space and an under-supply of leisure, play, relaxation, and hydrotherapy water space, with limited flexibility to meet changing demand and changing demographics (aging population and growth in young families).

Sport Waikato analysis highlights the following for Ōtorohanga residents:

- Ōtorohanga respondents of the Community Survey 29% indicated they were either dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with the current provision of aquatics facilities (versus 1% very or extremely satisfied)
- Swimming remains a popular activity across all age groups in the Ōtorohanga district – it is the 5th most popular activity across youth age groups (5-11years, 12-17 years) with a 33% participation rate, and the 8th most popular activity for adults (18+ years).

Recommendation from Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan

- *Plan for significant re-investment into existing indoor aquatic community facilities to ensure aquatic provision meets the needs of the wider sub-region community needs. Ensure indoor year-round provision is maintained. Consider need for flexible water space, learn to swim, hydrotherapy provision and district wide and sub-regional impact.*
- *Plan for significant re-investment into existing indoor aquatic community facilities to ensure aquatic provision meets the needs of the wider sub-region community needs. Ensure indoor year-round provision is maintained.*
- *Optimise and maintain existing assets - consider age and condition of pools prior to any upgrade/refurbishment*
- *Investigate sub regional supply and cross boundary partnerships to continue network approach*

Fees and Charges

We acknowledge the geopolitical environment and rising cost of living, so we support the pragmatic and fair approach to increase fees and charges at a rate that is hopefully manageable for user groups, while at the same time allowing for key community assets to be maintained and continue to service play, active recreation and sport outcomes. We also recognise the rising pressures for families where reduced disposable income could result in a widening activity gap, particularly among high-deprivation communities, resulting in fewer options and opportunities for them to engage in play, active recreation and sport.

Regional Connectivity Coordinator (West)

Sport Waikato’s Regional Connectivity Coordinator team partner with all 10 Territorial Local Authorities across the greater Waikato region and this team includes a Coordinator who works across the Ōtorohanga and Waitomo districts. The Coordinators serve as support for Council technical staff across play, active recreation and sport projects, as well as conduits between the local sector and local government providing, support, advocacy and strategic leadership around investment and decision-making as well as the delivery of quality play, active recreation and sport opportunities.

We know some of the biggest issues and opportunities we have to support community and individual wellbeing through physical activity can only be tackled effectively when we all work together. Many of the changes, challenges and opportunities relevant to our communities are beyond the ability of any one group or organisation to deal with. Therefore, **we request:** that Council continue to fund Sport Waikato at **\$35,000 plus GST per annum**, to provide this important service that includes working in partnership with Council to leverage quality play, active recreation and sport outcomes for the Ōtorohanga District.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to make a submission as part of Council’s LTP process.

1. Key Documents and Data Sets to refer to in Reference to this Submission

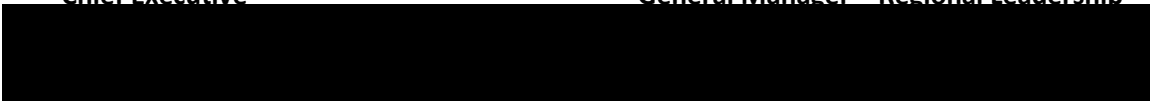
- Moving Waikato
- The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (WRASP)
- Otorohanga Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan (2024 – Draft)
- Regional Community Survey 2022
- Regional Club and Regional Sporting Organisation Survey 2022
- Active NZ 2021

4. SPORT WAIKATO CONTACTS

Should the Council wish to seek further information or clarification on this submission, please contact:

Matthew Cooper
Chief Executive

Dr. Amy Marfell
General Manager – Regional Leadership



**Respondent No:** 17**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Apr 30, 2024 14:58:56 pm**Last Seen:** Apr 30, 2024 14:58:56 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Full name** Michelle Erikson

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 1 (our preferred option) - Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Footpaths - I would like to see more of these turned into pathways, where they are wider and able to cope with mobility scooters for our aging population. Pool - the indoor pool certainly needs work. The roof needs attention - is that covered in the basic upgrade? Housing - infill housing requires additional infrastructure. Not doing this has resulted in problems in other towns and cities, where sewerage in particular becomes an issue. Roading - when is Huiputea Drive going to be repaired from the railway bridge, past Woolworths to SH3. That piece of road starting eroding immediately after it was resealed. is there no warranty period with suppliers where repairs need to be fixed if not done correctly?

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

In the current landscape of economic uncertainty I believe the approach being taken regarding depreciation is the right approach. The things considered which were taken out of the LTP are also the right approach as they are wants not needs! Digital boards and van purchases would be extremely frivolous and the perception would be that expenditure of rates were being wasted, and rightfully so. I would like to think that there is also a proposed limit on spending in other areas such as overheads including staff costs, training, travel, etc. Most businesses are now cutting back on staff, with no pay increases given or very minimal ones and no new hires. I would like to think that the council is listening to the community and recognise how much financial stress and insecurity there is out there at the moment by being prudent.

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Communication either by response to service requests, emails or phone is lacking. Often there is no reply to a request and no update on what is happening. Three months to get a water meter fixed is terrible. My water meters in Auckland and Napier were both replaced within a week of me contacting the respective councils. The only reason our water issue was queried was because we received no water charge. How many other residences/businesses are not being charged for water? It would be nice to see the paths in town cleaned especially all the covid labelling removed.

Q13. You can upload a supporting document here if
you wish

not answered



Respondent No: 18

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 01, 2024 12:38:14 pm

Last Seen: May 01, 2024 12:38:14 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Rosemary Davison (Waipā Rere Noa - Catchment Group Coordinator), and Matthew Holwill (Waipā Rere Noa - Secretary and Treasurer),

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Waipā Rere Noa Inc. - Catchment Group

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

We would like to present a proposal that we have for enabling the restoration of the Upper Waipa River by establishing a River Maintenance Work Crew which is managed and funded in partnership with the Council. We have the support of a large base of rate payers (50+ large land owners) who all want to see this restoration of the Waipa River become part of the District Plan. Please find attached an example letter of support. We will present the rest as part of our hearing. We look forward to meeting you all and discussion the Long Term Plan and how Waipa Rere Noa can contribute to a vibrant and thriving Otorohanga District. Kind Regards Matt Holwill

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**



Farmer Letter of Support

Waipā Rere Noa - Otorohanga District Council Partnership

12th April 2024

To whom this may concern,

This letter signifies our support for Waipā Rere Noa’s proposal for maintenance of the riparian plantings along the Upper Waipā River to be recognised, and funded as part of the Ōtorohanga District Councils Development Plan.

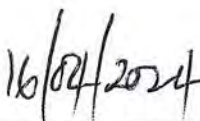
Waipā Rere Noa has the expertise and experience to be able to train and manage the establishment of a river maintenance crew. They have an impeccable track record of financial accountability, project management, delivery and reporting.

As a local landowner we have actively participated in the Waipā Rere Noa native planting program through in-kind and/or cash contributions. We plan to continue to invest in works that contribute to enhancing water quality in our river, for the good of the Ōtorohanga community.

As a rate payer, we agree that the Ōtorohanga District Council should be a strategic partner in the river restoration works, allocating funding and resources that enable the project to progress and develop, and recognising this work within the District Plan.

Business Name	WALLACE JOHNSTONE LTD
Primary Business Contact(s) - Name and Number	ALLEN JOHNSTONE [REDACTED]
Occupation	Farmer
Physical Address	[REDACTED]
Hectares owned in the Ōtorohanga District	450 ha.


(Signature).


(Date)





Respondent No: 19

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 01, 2024 13:18:31 pm

Last Seen: May 01, 2024 13:18:31 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Peter Sayers

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 2 - Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Please see attached document

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

Kawhia and Aotea Seawall Rates

In relation to changing the way the Aotea Seawall is funded, without further information I find the 2 options given, with Option 1 noted as "our preferred option" - quite arrogant.

- Why is it your preferred option?

I understood that the wall was to be built and maintained by Aotea Village residents. Why should this condition change part way through?

Those residents live there with all the benefits of a waterfront property so therefore they can also live with the consequences.

Don't expect me and others to pay for their consequences through our rates, taxes and insurances.

There is an "old" story about the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and the "other" man who built his house on the sand.

~~There~~ ^{This} is a "new" subdivision - When will people learn.

I'm ok with people living there but they need to "stand on their own feet."

More information on the "whys and wherefores" should be provided.

P.M. Sayers

Peter Sayers
27-4-24



Respondent No: 20

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 02, 2024 06:07:25 am

Last Seen: May 02, 2024 06:07:25 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** MARK JAMES DAVEY

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** OTOROHANAGA RETURNED & SERVICES ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Is the Otorohanga ANZAC Days fully budgeted for, including road closures etc? I have attached a submission request to have the ANZAC Day Costs fully budgeted for by the Otorohanaga District Council.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**



OTOROHANGA
RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
(Estd 1931)

To the Mayor and Councillors
Otorohanga District Council

3rd May 2024

PROPOSAL – OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL TO FULLY BUDGET FOR ANZAC DAY

On behalf of the Otorohanga RSA Inc, I propose that the Otorohanga District Council budgets all financial costs each year for our ANZAC Day Ceremonies within our community.

Background

Currently the yearly costs to stage ANZAC Day are continuing to grow and are starting to be unaffordable, if not fully budgeted. I am under the impression that there is no set budget for ANZAC Day. A cost that seems to blow out each year is for "Road Closures". I liaise each year with the awesome team at the Otorohanga District Council, and they appear to struggle to find the money each year to pay for the Road Closures for the Otorohanga Dawn Service (6am) and the Civic Service (10am). The cost is now getting out of hand.

Our RSA members, Current & Ex Service Personnel, Our Mayor, the Te Kuiti Band, our Community Responders, Members of the public, Children etc., have been marching down the Main Street of Otorohanga for generations. For all of us, the significance of marching down the main street on ANZAC Day is massive and means different thoughts, feelings etc., to every individual. It would be a travesty, if due to unbudgeted funds for ANZAC Day, that we could not march down the street of our town on ANZAC Day.

Do we, as a community, need to approach the Government of NZ so that they can investigate the ANZAC Day costs that the communities of NZ must pay, or is this our Councils responsibility?

On behalf of the Otorohanga RSA Inc, I request that the Otorohanga District Council budgets all financial costs yearly to conduct ANZAC Day.

For your consideration.

Mark
M.J. Davey
Secretary
Otorohanga Returned and Services Incorporated

Note: At a meeting of the Otorohanga RSA Inc on Wednesday 27th March 2024, it was approved that M.J. Davey would submit this proposal to the Otorohanga District Council.



OTOROHANGA
RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
(Estd 1931)

To the Mayor and Councillors
Otorohanga District Council

3rd May 2024

PROPOSAL – OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL TO ERECT STREET FLAGS

On behalf of the Otorohanga RSA Inc, I propose that the Otorohanga District Council erects a few “Lest We Forget” street flags down the Otorohanga Main Street in conjunction with the current Kiwiana flags that are being displayed. Another option is to erect the flags by key main areas coming into or around our town i.e. the intersection by McDonalds, Memorial Park, the North & South bridges etc.

The Flags would be a fitting addition to the current look of the Main Street and no doubt will have our locals and visitors, reflecting and remembering loved ones, friends etc.

The following is a link to an example of a NZ company that makes the flags.

Here is an example.

<https://shop.flagmakers.co.nz/products/anzac-we-will-remember-them-streetflag?variant=12228005560413>



We are very approachable to discuss further.

For your consideration.

Mark
M.J. Davey
Secretary
Otorohanga Returned and Services Incorporated

Note: At a meeting of the Otorohanga RSA Inc on Wednesday 27th March 2024, it was approved that M.J. Davey would submit this proposal to the Otorohanga District Council.



Respondent No: 21

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 03, 2024 06:33:46 am

Last Seen: May 03, 2024 06:33:46 am

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** John Sabini

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 2 - Continue to collect \$2.1 million in rates to fund depreciation of assets for the next three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

I agree with capping rates revenue.

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

I have some concerns over proposed rates increases. I recently read that there is a proposed rates increase for Kawhia of X%, and Y% for Aotea, whilst rural properties without council provided reticulated water/sewage will see a zero percent increase. Seeing as how Aotea does not have these council services, and the "Estate" pays \$500 per annum to Aotea Utilities Ltd to manage water treatment on top of council rates why is Aotea seeing this increase. Furthermore, the OTODC Website states: "Kawhia Aotea Rates - Why are the comparatively high ? Kawhia/Aotea's main targeted rate funded activities are Water and Community Rates which had deficits not surpluses. This means there were no savings to draw from to then lower the proposed rates for that area. Again, seeing as has how Aotea does not have council provided water/sewage services, this argument does not stack up.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered

**Respondent No:** 22**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 03, 2024 12:51:47 pm**Last Seen:** May 03, 2024 12:51:47 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Full name** Leo Hylton-Skelton

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q3. **Address** not answered

Q4. **Email** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

I would like to compliment staff about ODC work. I know about international changes in trade supplies and changes in labour supplies and I'm frustrated that many people in or district don't see the bigger picture. I want to congratulate you on doing good work under these challenging financial circumstances.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish** not answered



Respondent No: 23

Responded At: May 03, 2024 13:19:43 pm

Last Seen: May 03, 2024 03:01:38 am

IP Address: 103.21.174.42

Q1. **Full name** Sam Newton – Advocacy Manager

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** New Zealand Recreation Association t/a Recreation Aotearoa

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

Otorohanga District Council Long Term Plan submission April 2023

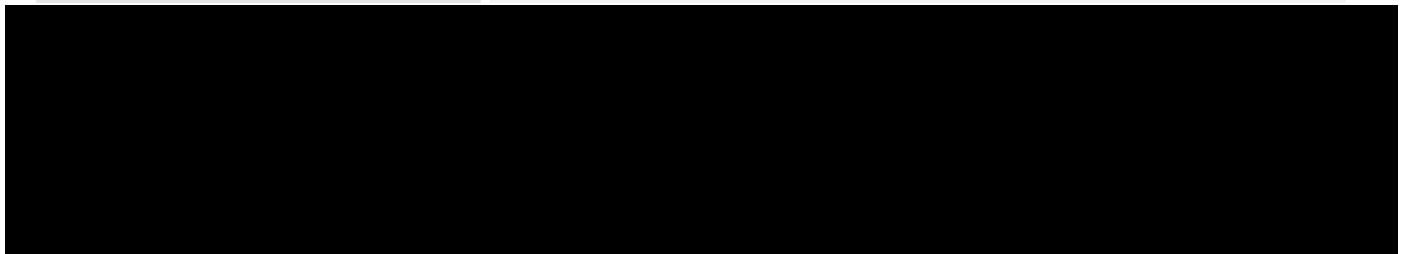
Submitter details:

Name of contact person:

Sam Newton – Advocacy Manager

Organisation name:

New Zealand Recreation Association t/a *Recreation
Aotearoa*



Submission:

Introduction

1. Recreation Aotearoa is a registered charity and the organisation responsible for providing leadership, advocacy, and professional development opportunities for those involved in the broader recreation sector. We work at an agency, industry and professional level to build capability, develop partnerships, and equip individuals and organisations with the skills they need to deliver high quality recreation experiences that engage participants.
2. Recreation Aotearoa's membership includes recreation policy makers, territorial local authorities, voluntary organisations, regional sports trusts, consultants, outdoor recreation organisations, and others involved in the delivery of recreation throughout New Zealand.
3. Our mission is enhancing wellbeing through recreation.
4. We welcome the opportunity to provide input into the Otorohanga District Council Long Term Plan.

The value proposition of investment in Active Recreation

5. Recreation Aotearoa believes recreation is vital to New Zealand society. Recreation is not just about enjoyment. It is about being healthy, engaged, stimulated, and interacting with others. This occurs via outdoor recreation, community recreation, and within parks, aquatics, and facility-based recreation centres.
6. Recreation generates significant value for society across several of the wellbeing domains and outcomes expressed within NZ Treasury's Living Standards Framework: Health; Subjective Wellbeing; Income Consumption and Wealth; Work, Care, and Volunteering; Family and Friends; Safety.
7. The most significant benefit of recreational physical activity, surpassing others by a significant margin, is derived from health benefits, even when factoring in the costs associated with related accident and injury claims. Overall health benefits to New Zealand amount to \$9.0 billion, or \$8.4 billion after deducting the injury claims. This constitutes nearly half of the net social value generated by physical recreational activities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

8. Our population instinctively understands this. In a large survey 90 per cent of New Zealanders agreed that “by being active they are in turn maintaining a good level of health and fitness, and this helps to relieve stress.”
9. Physical inactivity is associated with loss of productivity, health costs, as well as associated costs with pain and suffering. Healthier, happier individuals are more likely to do well in other areas of their lives, whether it is in social or professional situations. This has a positive flow-on effect for communities.
10. The availability of public green spaces, including those designated for recreation, has been linked to increased mental well-being.
11. In a study conducted in New Zealand; individuals who met the global physical activity recommendations were found to have a 51% higher likelihood of experiencing healthy mental well-being.
12. Engaging in active recreations is known to reduce the prevalence of mental health conditions like depression and anxiety, as well as non-communicable diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes, ultimately enhancing life expectancy.
13. Studies indicate that involving peers and parents in developmentally suitable play provides children with the chance to cultivate social-emotional skills. These skills encompass problem-solving, collaboration, negotiation, language acquisition, and self-regulation. This contributes to the development of executive functions and facilitating effective social interaction with others. Engaging in outdoor recreation during childhood has also shown a positive association with the development of pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours in adulthood.
14. Moreover, research has demonstrated that recreation enhances social cohesion, fosters community connectedness, and strengthens community identity. A recent literature review presented compelling evidence of positive outcomes for older adults, including increased social support, the formation of friendships, and a heightened sense of integration within the community. Similarly, for young people, participating in such activities contributes to the development of friendships, a clearer sense of self among peers, a feeling of belonging, and an enhanced sense of community. 74% of New Zealanders agree

that “sport and physical activity help build vibrant and stimulating communities.”

15. Research indicates that offering fair and secure opportunities for sport and active recreation, that are inclusive of the entire community, can create connections among individuals and groups, bridging societal divides based on factors like race, class, gender, ability, or religion. 84% of New Zealanders believe “sport and physical activity bring people together and create a sense of belonging.”
16. Play serves a therapeutic and rehabilitative function in aiding tamariki to recover in the aftermath of crises, such as the impact of Covid-19 or recent events like Cyclone Gabrielle. This involves assisting children in regulating the body's stress response, providing an avenue to comprehend the events affecting them and their community, and facilitating the development or reconstruction of social connections through shared experiences. In a time where Tamariki will be subject to the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events, play will be critical.
17. Research indicates that establishing connections with supportive individuals or groups within organised recreation settings fosters the development of various 'protective factors,' potentially mitigating antisocial behaviour. Enhancing community recreation facilities, such as local parks, has the potential to elevate participation rates and community mana, simultaneously diminishing perceived instances of antisocial behaviour within the community.
18. A thriving recreation industry can also help our nation prosper socially and economically. At last count, Play, Active Recreation and Sport contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, and the sector employs more than 53,000 New Zealanders.
19. Newly released findings from a Social Return on Investment study reveal that each dollar allocated to play, active recreation, and sport yields a social return of \$2.12 in New Zealand. In essence, every dollar invested in these activities results in more than a twofold social return. It's important to note that this is a conservative estimate, and the actual return, particularly for those currently excluded from opportunities for physical activity, is likely to be even higher. This submission will expand on this point with reference to the disability community and tangata whenua, separately.

20. The nation's recreation values and opportunities are fundamental to the tourism industry, and support regional development by encouraging skilled professionals and migrants to consider options in and beyond the main centres. Approximately 50% of international visitors to New Zealand participate in one form of outdoor recreation, or another.
21. Creating well-designed green spaces for physical activity in urban areas can enhance their resilience to severe weather events, such as Cyclone Gabrielle. Additionally, these green spaces contribute to cooling urban environments and promoting the health and well-being of residents. This submission will expand on this point, separately.
22. Greater understanding of these benefits and their downstream impacts, along with awareness of how Local Government can influence recreation delivery, are key to ensuring that New Zealand's recreation opportunities remain among the world's best.

Recreation through a Te Ao Māori lens – Te Whai Oranga

23. The English term "recreation" lacks a direct translation in te reo Māori. Te Kāhui Kura Māori, the Māori navigational group of Recreation Aotearoa, offered an insightful alternative, defining recreation in their strategy as "Te Whai Oranga" – the pursuit of wellbeing. Te Whai Oranga has subsequently been adopted as the title and fundamental underpinning of our organisational strategy.
24. This definition prompts a shift in approach, encouraging individuals to consider recreation not just as a pursuit of physical activity but as a holistic endeavour focused on providing wellbeing. This perspective diverges from the conventional approach of prioritising the physical aspects of recreation, emphasising that the tangible outcomes are byproducts of the overarching pursuit of Te Whai Oranga.
25. In a society struggling with disconnection and environmental challenges, the wisdom of Te Whai Oranga, a Māori approach to recreation, offers a powerful and much-needed antidote. It's not simply a collection of activities, but a holistic philosophy that weaves together well-being, environmental connection, and community spirit, creating a tapestry of resilience in the face of modern challenges.
26. Te Whai Oranga reconnects people to the Natural World. Māori recreation prioritises time spent outdoors, fostering a deep respect for

the environment. This is more than just enjoying nature; it's about understanding our place within it, becoming stewards rather than possessors. Māori knowledge systems and practices offer solutions to environmental challenges that are often missing in mainstream approaches.

27. Te Whai Oranga strengthens relationships and communities. Māori recreation is rarely a solitary endeavour. It's about shared experiences, storytelling, and strengthening bonds within whanaungatanga (extended family) and the wider community. This focus on collectivism and support networks can combat social isolation and build the resilience needed to tackle challenging issues like poverty and incarceration.
28. Te Whai Oranga promotes holistic well-being and recognises the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and spiritual health. Activities like dance, music, and storytelling are not just fun; they can be forms of emotional release, stress reduction, and spiritual connection. This aligns with the Māori Health Strategy's emphasis on "Te Oranga Whanui," the holistic well-being of the community.
29. Te Whai Oranga raises environmental awareness. Engaging with the environment through traditional practices like hunting, fishing, and gathering fosters a deep understanding of its resources and limitations. This awareness can translate into sustainable resource management and responsible environmental stewardship.
30. In our hyper-connected world, Te Whai Oranga offers a counterpoint to the constant noise and distractions. Activities like weaving or carving require focus and mindfulness, promoting inner calm and reducing stress. This resonates with the growing understanding of the detrimental effects of information-overload and the importance of mindful practices.
31. Ultimately, Te Whai Oranga is about recognising that our well-being is intrinsically linked to the well-being of our communities and the environment. It's about prioritising connection, respect, and holistic health. In a world struggling with disconnection and environmental neglect, Te Whai Oranga offers a powerful path towards healing ourselves and our planet.

32. Encompassing the kaupapa above, Recreation Aotearoa lays down a wero (challenge) to Council's to consider and invest in providing opportunities that reflect Te Ao Māori views of recreation and to encourage and support more Māori to recreate in culturally-centred ways.

Disability - Accessibility & Inclusion in Recreation

33. Recreation Aotearoa believes that the significance of enhanced access to active recreation for people with disabilities is currently underappreciated by local government. The Sport New Zealand Spotlight on Disability Report (2018) tells us that in any given week, people with disabilities participate less, and in fewer sports and recreation activities than people without disabilities across Aotearoa.
34. We also know that people with disabilities who participate in fewer sports and activities score less favourably on health and wellbeing indicators, and according to the NZ Wellbeing Statistics (2021), people with disabilities are currently faring worse (comparative to people without disabilities) across a range of wellbeing outcomes.
35. Recreation Aotearoa submits, however, that there is a strong appetite by people with disabilities to participate more, comparative to people without disability, particularly with disabled adults aged 25 and over.
36. Sport NZ's Active New Zealand data also demonstrates that the majority of the top 20 activities disabled adults want to try in the next 12 months are recreational in nature (rather than traditional sport), with a similar trend demonstrated for children and young people.
37. It's clear that individuals with disabilities often experiences even greater benefits from recreational activities than their non-disabled counterparts.
38. However, people with disabilities also have more barriers to increasing their participation than people without disability. For rangatahi for instance, a lack of nearby accessible facilities and spaces is a much stronger barrier than people without disabilities of the same age.

39. Recreation Aotearoa note that 52% of respondents with a disability/access need in the 2020 Access Survey reported there is a range of public activities and events that they would like to participate in but are currently unable to because of inaccessibility.
40. Recreation Aotearoa note that funding is a common barrier reported by Councils to enhancing the accessibility of recreation places, spaces, and opportunities. Strategically prioritising and allocating funds to enhance accessibility within existing budget investments for public recreation spaces is vital to ensure that the development and improvement of these areas actively and effectively addresses the diverse needs of people with disabilities.

The importance of Local Government to the Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Sector

41. Councils in New Zealand play a critical role in providing opportunities for New Zealanders to be physically active. Reciprocally, the realisation of various local government objectives and outcomes relies on investment in facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities that promote engagement in play and active recreation.
42. It has been recently established that total funding to the play, active recreation, and sport (PARS) sector was \$4.0b, in 2022. Over 25% of this total (\$1.06b) is from local government. Local government funding of the PARS sector far exceeds that of central government and class 4 gaming grants, combined.
43. Recreation Aotearoa recognises that local government is contending with a multitude of financial challenges, including those related to water infrastructure, climate change mitigation, inflation, and the imperative to restrict rates increases. Additionally, there has been a notable decrease in the Lotto Significant Projects Fund, which traditionally supports sport and recreation infrastructure. Currently, there is no specific central government funding allocated for community sport and recreation infrastructure, and the prevailing financial conditions indicate that this issue may not be addressed in the near future.
44. However, Recreation Aotearoa submits that central and local government are jointly responsible for the well-being of New Zealanders. The establishment of a national direction and a shared framework for wellbeing lies with central government. However,

developing local wellbeing plans and allocating resources, largely sits with local government, which can foster innovation, collaboration, and localisation.

45. We have observed that regional funding forums, currently in place in many areas, play a valuable role in ensuring alignment at a regional level. Additionally, partnerships between organisations can help reduce costs, achieve economies of scale, and explore innovative approaches to provide opportunities for physical activity.
46. Local government plays a crucial role in addressing the escalating challenges posed by climate change, urbanisation, economic uncertainty, and threats to social cohesion. Prioritising physical activity can serve as a means to tackle these overarching issues. For example, effective placemaking that promotes recreation can enhance the appeal of cycling or walking, creating more attractive, safer, and inclusive spaces for social interactions. This, in turn, encourages spending time in and around local businesses and retailers. Active local communities contribute to the overall health, of individuals and families, leading to reduced strain on the healthcare system and improved well-being outcomes.
47. Recreation Aotearoa submits that transforming local government into a champion of well-being, with backing from central government, has the potential to yield tangible and positive results for both local communities and the entire country. We propose placing a distinct emphasis on recreation as an integral component of this wellbeing focus. Furthermore, we believe that recreation could serve as a proving ground for a novel partnership approach involving central and local government, as well as Māori.
48. The above-mentioned challenges and opportunities demand the efficient utilisation of funding at national, regional, and local levels. Ensuring that the available funding is employed in ways that yield the best return on investment is of paramount importance. Improved understanding and collaboration among organisations, coupled with a heightened awareness of the priorities of each organisation, can facilitate alignment and mutual support across various funding sources. Ultimately, it is local government supported by Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) that will lead this Kaupapa.

The vital importance of urban green spaces - The PCE weighs in

49. As an independent Officer of Parliament, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) has broad powers to investigate environmental concerns and is independent of the government of the day. The Commissioner's work is directed towards the single output of independent reports and advice on environmental issues, and a mission to maintain or improve the quality of Aotearoa New Zealand's environment.
50. In March 2023, the PCE published a report titled *"Are we building harder, hotter cities? The vital importance of urban green spaces"*. It has been very favourably received by professionals in a variety of sectors including town-planning, ecology, Civil Defence Management, Infrastructure, and Recreation. It makes many salient points, that Recreation Aotearoa affirms and submits to TCC for consideration.
51. In recent decades, factors such as population growth, urban sprawl, traffic congestion and loss of productive land have brought about profound transformations in New Zealand cities. In response, various changes in the realm of infrastructure, densification, re-zoning, transportation, and water services have been carried out. However, amid these changes, the significance of green space is at risk of being overlooked, or even neglected.
52. Instead of the traditional model of stand-alone homes in new peri-urban suburbs, a significant portion of the current housing construction takes the form of attached or semi-attached dwellings, such as apartments townhouses or terraced houses, within city limits. 60-80% of new residential titles in New Zealand cities since 2016 are within the pre-existing urban footprint.
53. This urban intensification reduces both the quality and quantity of urban green space. Infill housing removes gardens, lawns, trees, and soil. Increased population density impacts on the usability of existing Parks and green Spaces. In some cases, parks and green spaces are repurposed for other uses, all together. Grass berms, shrubbery, and trees adjacent to streets are reduced or removed.
54. The report goes into some detail and proves abundant examples and evidence of the important role green spaces provide. Including, temperature regulation, stormwater management, air filtration, carbon sequestration and habitat provision.

55. The PCE outlines three risks associated with this loss of green space. The first concerns what the loss of green space might mean for the health and wellbeing of cities population and is largely covered previously in this submission. Similarly, the amenity or 'placemaking' benefits that urban green space provides is covered elsewhere in this submission and the risk of its loss is obvious.
56. Perhaps the most pertinent point the PCE made, in light of Cyclone Gabrielle and the likelihood of further severe weather events, relates to stormwater management.
57. Recent flooding events highlight the risks of creating large, hardened surfaces that cannot cope the increased precipitation resulting from climate change. While one response might be to further fortify infrastructure, climate change brings additional challenges like temperature stress. As New Zealand anticipates potential heat wave crises, an urban landscape dominated by concrete and asphalt could exacerbate discomfort and, in some cases, pose risks to lives.
58. For these reasons and many more, Recreation Aotearoa submits that the Long-Term Plan pay much more regard to the provision and expansion of green space within Otorohanga. We urge that a considered, regionally appropriate, and well-funded programme of tree planting be implemented in public spaces. This should specifically focus on areas adjacent to streets and footpaths, which are the most popular places in which physical activity takes place. We face a future in which, without adequate tree cover, it may simply be too hot to be physically active outdoors in summer.

Recreation in Otorohanga

59. We acknowledge and thank Otorohanga District Council as the major provider of the areas sport and recreation facilities. By investing in recreation, Otorohanga District Council is helping to instil a lasting culture where active living matters. The work of Otorohanga District Council makes a real difference.
60. The Otorohanga District Council has a critical part to play in ensuring people continue to enjoy quality recreation opportunities. These need to be available to everyone, regardless of age, fitness level, ability, or socio-economic background.

61. Council planning needs to adopt a long-term approach that considers factors such as urbanisation, population growth, and an ageing population, to ensure recreation can continue to thrive amid change.
62. Research has found that in areas of activity decline, government and community-led interventions helped reverse the trend. When the infrastructure is in place, such as parks, playgrounds or aquatic facilities, people are more likely to be active.
63. Population growth and increased demographic diversity has and will continue to place pressure on recreational infrastructure in Otorohanga.

Specific Comments:

64. Recreation Aotearoa supports the proposed investment in Active Recreation infrastructure and services, outlined in the Draft LTP.
65. Recreation Aotearoa supports the Councils commitment to investment in active transport infrastructure. Recreation Aotearoa has long supported Active Transport initiatives across the motu. Investment in Active Transport infrastructure achieves the dual symbiotic benefit of easing congestion and making it easier for residents to integrate healthy recreational activities into their day-to-day lives.
66. Recreation Aotearoa submits its support for the investment in Play by Otorohanga District Council. Recreation Aotearoa notes that co-design kaupapa for Play infrastructure often results in a desirable bias towards less structured and informal modes of play.
67. Recreation Aotearoa cautions against deferred maintenance and upgrades of playgrounds, specifically. It is essential that investments in public toilets, walkways and connecting green spaces are also implemented.
68. We further encourage Otorohanga District Council to increase investment in the accessibility of playgrounds and parks. Considering the wider whānau impact of disability and inactivity, and the increasing rate of impairment comparative to the aging population, statistically there is a significant proportion of the community currently missing out on the irrefutable benefits of being physically active.

69. Recreation Aotearoa submit on the importance of genuinely consulting and collaborating with people with disabilities and their whānau, and encourage Otorohanga District Council to undertake inclusive consultation processes within the design, development, and upgrades of the recreation and play spaces specified within the LTP.
70. We further submit our support for maintaining collaboration with people with disabilities throughout the duration of such projects and warn of the risk of only consulting with end-users at the beginning of a project, or after it is too late. Maintaining ongoing input from the disability community and advisory groups at regular intervals, is an essential principle to imbed within the project developments.
71. Alongside robust processes for maintaining collaboration with people with disabilities, Recreation Aotearoa also submits its support for ensuring there are processes stipulated in policy whereby people with disabilities can notify council of any barriers to accessing recreation places, spaces, and programmes. This includes aligned procedures of how such barrier will be addressed and remediated by council.
72. Recreation also submits its concern that cost escalation in undertaking these investments may be inadequately accounted for. Recent observations from around the motu, in both the PARS sector and others, have demonstrated that inflation in materials, labour and debt-servicing has placed considerable budgetary pressure on long term projects.
73. Recreation Aotearoa cautions Otorohanga District Council of a predictable lag-effect of participant uptake in the utilisation of new recreational facilities. Many forms of recreation have suffered a loss of participant numbers and organisational capability after recent challenges. Recreation Aotearoa urges Otorohanga District Council to be patient with regard to how quickly and fully new facilities are utilised by different recreational groups.
74. Additionally, we submit that rapid changes in demographics, participation trends and technology mean that a 'build it and they will come' approach doesn't always work. Simply building infrastructure is not enough. Recreational assets need to be activated and programmed to make them more appealing and to break down barriers for the hard-to-reach areas of the community.



Respondent No: 24



Responded At: May 03, 2024 13:49:51 pm

Last Seen: May 03, 2024 03:01:38 am

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Q1. **Full name** BRENT SHELDRAKE Regional Partnership Manager – Northern

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Sport NZ

Q3. **Address** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

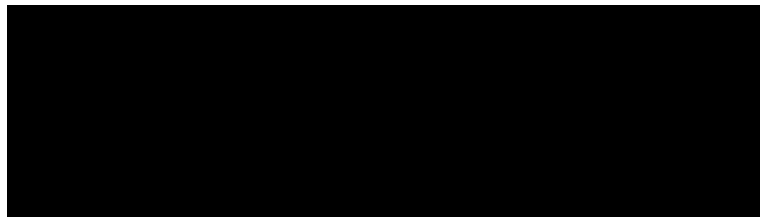
Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**





Otorohanga District Council Long Term Plan Submission

25 April, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Otorohanga District (ODC) Long Term Plan.

As the major provider of sport and recreation facilities and services in Otorohanga, we greatly appreciate the positive outcomes Council investment provides for a wide range of sports codes, demographics, cultures, ages and abilities. We also acknowledge the challenge Council faces with balancing the various competing demands such as growth, transport, climate change and water quality in the context of the current economic climate.

Council investment into the play, active recreation and sport sector makes an enormous contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of people in Otorohanga. Sport NZ and Sport Waikato have been working with the play, active recreation and sport sector to develop a co-ordinated and collaborative approach for future sport and recreation facility provision. This provides Council with a high-level strategic view of infrastructure needs for the region and the evaluation criteria to prioritise investment and ultimately make better decisions.

Otorohanga District Council has been a partner and important contributor in the development of the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan, a regional strategy for active recreation and sport facilities provision. The Strategy is an important reference point, it identifies priority needs and facility developments for Otorohanga

and the other districts in the region, providing a blueprint to meet future needs rather than wants.

Summary

- First, **Thank you:** Sport NZ acknowledges and thanks Council for its significant contribution to play, active recreation and sport. Thanks also for the part that it plays in the strong partnership that has long existed between Sport Waikato and Otorohanga District, as evidenced by the extensive list of projects, programmes and quality opportunities that have been developed over the years.

Sport NZ **supports** the following themes proposed in the plan/proposal:

- **Reserves Strategy and Reserves Management Plan:**
 - Sport NZ endorses funding for initiatives outlined in the Draft Vibrant Places and Spaces Documentation. This endorsement is rooted in several factors:
 - Increasing demand on field networks due to various factors such as the convergence of winter and summer sports seasons, growth in informal social play, and challenges with maintaining surfaces in certain locations.
 - Insights from the Future of Rugby Clubs survey, indicating capacity issues among clubs, insufficient field access during summer, and a desire for improved infrastructure.
 - Community engagement data revealing the importance of well-equipped sports grounds and recreational facilities.
 - Regional priorities identified by sport and recreational organizations, emphasizing the need for quality improvements, meeting future community needs, and addressing specific club priorities.
- Sport NZ supports recommendations from the **Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan** – Sports fields / outdoor courts:
 - Conduct thorough analysis, concept, and master planning for Island Reserve (Otorohanga) with a focus on sub-regional provision and avoiding duplication.
 - Review and upgrade sports field provision, allocation, utilization, quality, and maintenance based on present and future needs.
 - Increase field capacity through targeted flood lighting, improved turf management, or multi-use artificial turf, considering cost benefits.
 - Explore options to enhance existing infrastructure, encouraging social connection, family-friendly activities, and optimizing usage.
 - Optimize facilities through co-location and promotion of spaces, adopting a community hub approach.
 - Invest in flexible court configurations to maximize utilization, including moveable nets, goals, and various markings.
- **Otorohanga Memorial Pool Complex**

- Sport NZ acknowledges the long-standing need for enhancements to the Otorohanga Memorial Pool Complex, as outlined in the comprehensive long-term plan. With the facility having undergone no significant upgrades in the past 25 years, addressing issues such as weather tightness, outdated amenities, and overall facility improvements is paramount.
 - The proposed basic upgrade, including renovations to the building, bathrooms, and changing rooms, along with improvements to seating areas and landscaping, aligns with Sport NZ's commitment to providing safe, inviting, and modern aquatic facilities for the community.
 - The significance of water confidence and safety in a region abundant with natural waterways cannot be overstated. As aquatic provision needs evolve towards more casual, informal, and recreational participation, it's imperative to ensure access to flexible, year-round water facilities, particularly for an aging population.
 - Regionally, there's a noted surplus of cooler temperature and lane-based water spaces, highlighting the need for more diverse aquatic offerings such as leisure, play, and hydrotherapy spaces. By investing in the Otorohanga Memorial Pool Complex, it will help to address these gaps, providing accessible and inclusive aquatic amenities that cater to the changing demographics and needs of the community.
- Sport NZ supports recommendations from the **Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan**:
 - Plan for significant re-investment into existing indoor aquatic community facilities to ensure aquatic provision meets the needs of the wider sub-region community needs. Ensure indoor year-round provision is maintained. Consider need for flexible water space, learn to swim, hydrotherapy provision and district wide and sub-regional impact.
 - Plan for significant re-investment into existing indoor aquatic community facilities to ensure aquatic provision meets the needs of the wider sub-region community needs. Ensure indoor year-round provision is maintained.
 - Optimise and maintain existing assets - consider age and condition of pools prior to any upgrade/refurbishment
 - Investigate sub regional supply and cross boundary partnerships to continue network approach
 - Finally, Sport NZ acknowledges the necessity of **fee adjustments** to sustain community assets while doing so in a pragmatic way that considers the financial constraints faced by user groups, especially those in high-deprivation communities. Maintaining accessibility to play, recreation, and sport activities is vital amidst rising living costs.

About Sport New Zealand

Sport New Zealand (Sport NZ) is the crown agency responsible for contributing to the wellbeing of everybody in Aotearoa New Zealand by leading an enriching and inspiring play, active recreation and sport system.

Sport NZ's vision is simple - to get **Every Body Active** in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our role as a kaitiaki of the system focusses on lifting the physical activity levels of all those living within Aotearoa and having the greatest possible impact on wellbeing.

We achieve our outcomes by aligning our investment through partnerships, funds and programmes to our strategic priorities set out in four-year strategic plan.

Local government is uniquely placed to support play, active recreation, and sport

Local government has a unique and critical role in the play, active recreation, and sport ecosystem, providing vital community assets that are part of the fabric of our communities along with grants and opportunities that support local communities to participate in play, active recreation, and sport.

It is clear that prioritising investment in facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities to encourage participation in play, active recreation, and sport can support the wellbeing of communities and the achievement of a broad range of local government priorities and outcomes. There is clear evidence about the value of play, active recreation and sport in supporting the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our communities.

Provision of play, active recreation, and sport facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities is important to a large proportion of the population.

In 2022:

- 73% of the adult population and 92% of young people (aged 5-17yrs) participated each week in play, active recreation, and sport
- 79% of adults and 63% of young people would like to be doing more play, active recreation and sport
- High deprivation, Asian and Pasifika population groups are significantly less likely to participate.¹

Research into New Zealanders' beliefs around the value of sport and active recreation in 2017 found a broad base of support for sport and active recreation and a belief in its value to New Zealand and New Zealanders. The value of sport and active recreation is seen to lie in the contributions it makes to individuals, families, communities, and the country as a whole.²

The value of investment in play, active recreation, and sport is a cost-effective investment towards local government wellbeing outcomes

International and domestic evidence clearly demonstrates that play, sport, and active recreation generate significant value for society across multiple wellbeing domains and outcomes, many of which are specifically relevant to the outcomes sought by local government:

- Recently published research from a Social Return on Investment³ study found that for every \$1 spent on play, active recreation, and sport, there is a social return of \$2.12 to New Zealand. This means that for every dollar invested in play, active recreation, and sport, the social return is more than doubled. This is a conservative figure and the actual return, especially for those currently missing out on opportunities to be active, is likely to be higher.⁴
- In 2019 participation in play, active recreation, and sport generated \$3.32 billion return in subjective wellbeing (life satisfaction and happiness) within New Zealand.⁵

Play, active recreation and sport contribute to social, economic, environment and cultural wellbeing in the following ways:

- **Social wellbeing:**
 - Development of social skills
 - Strengthened social networks
 - Bringing communities together and increasing a sense of belonging
 - Improving pride and reducing antisocial behaviours in communities
- **Economic wellbeing:**
 - Economic value generated for local communities and businesses
 - Employment of New Zealanders in the play, active recreation, and sport sector
 - Productivity gains as a result of physical activity
 - Savings for communities as a result of the volunteer workforce
 - Economic impact of major events
- **Environmental wellbeing:**
 - Creation of pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours
 - Creation of more environmentally friendly urban environments
 - Reduced emissions from active transport
 - Improved mental wellbeing from being active in natural environments
- **Cultural wellbeing:**
 - Strengthened cultural ties from participation in play, active recreation, and sport
 - Increased wellbeing from participating in culturally relevant physical activity.

Sport New Zealand has developed a resource for local government that illustrates the significant value that local government investment in the local play, active recreation, and sport system delivers. The resource can be accessed here:

<https://sportnz.org.nz/media/u41hdovx/the-value-of-play-active-recreation-and-sport-for-local-government.pdf>.

This document summarises the evidence about how play, active recreation, and sport can support the four types of wellbeing that local government is expected to deliver (social, economic, environmental, and cultural), and includes some relevant case studies from around New Zealand.

Conclusion

Sport NZ looks forward to continuing to work with the Otorohanga District Council and we are happy to provide whatever support we can to ensure ODC provides for the current and future needs of Otorohanga to be active in the way that they choose.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and for your consideration.

Sport NZ Contacts

Should the Council seek information or clarification further to this submission, please contact:

BRENT SHELDRAKE
Regional Partnership Manager – Northern

JO WIGGINS
Spaces and Places Consultant



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Responded At: May 05, 2024 06:23:21 am

Last Seen: May 05, 2024 06:23:21 am

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Q1. **Full name** Arnja Dale

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** RNZSPCA

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Please see attached submission.

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

Please see attached submission.

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Please see attached submission.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**



Submission by the
Royal New Zealand Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.
on
Ōtorohanga District Council
Long-Term Plan 2024-2034

06 May 2024



Executive Summary

- SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of companion cats that are desexed, only half of companion cats are microchipped, and very few are kept at home and prevented from roaming.
- Desexing and microchipping companion cats helps protect cat and kitten welfare and are some of the few tools we have for addressing stray cat problems in our communities.
- The cost of the procedures is the most common barrier for companion cat owners to desex and microchip their cats.
- Our Snip 'n' Chip programme offers subsidised desexing and microchipping for people who need help with overcoming the cost of the procedures.
- We have included our Snip 'n' Chip Council Package with more detailed information about how we work with local councils to promote more responsible cat ownership.
- Through this submission, we invite the Ōtorohanga District Council to help us achieve more responsible cat ownership by supporting our Snip 'n' Chip programme.



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Introduction

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 150 years with a supporter base representing more than 100,000 New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 29 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Ōtorohanga District Council Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

Submission

SPCA thanks the Ōtorohanga District Council for the opportunity to contribute to the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 consultation. Through this submission, we invite the Ōtorohanga District Council to help us achieve more responsible cat ownership by supporting our subsidised desexing and microchipping programme, Snip 'n' Chip.

New Zealand needs more responsible cat owners

Cats are one of New Zealand's most popular companion animals. SPCA supports responsible ownership of companion cats to promote cat welfare and reduce problems with cat overpopulation. SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of companion cats that are desexed, only half of cats are microchipped, and very few are kept at home (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020).

Each year, on average 20,000 cats and kittens come into our Centres. Many of these animals are directly or indirectly (through stray cat populations) a result of an owner failing to desex their



companion cat. Our SPCA Centres regularly see the welfare problems related to irresponsible companion cat ownership, including:

- the predictable cycle of unplanned litters of kittens born each year because there are too many undesexed companion cats allowed to breed; and
- the number of cats and kittens who are lost or have strayed, and we cannot find their owner because they are not microchipped, or their microchip details are not registered on a national database.

We also know that irresponsible cat ownership can lead to nuisance in communities (e.g., spraying, toileting, fighting), predation on wildlife, and the spread of toxoplasmosis to people and animals including farmed animals and vulnerable native marine mammals (e.g., Hector's and Māui dolphins).

Desexing and microchipping companion cats are some of the few tools we have to address problems with stray cats in our communities. Desexing a companion cat helps prevent unplanned litters of kittens which can end up as stray cats. Having a microchip registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register can help us identify an owner to reunite with a lost companion cat that may be living as a stray.

The cost of the procedure is the most common barrier for companion cat owners to desex and microchip their cats (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020).

Support more responsible cat ownership

Our work in New Zealand communities to increase the number of cats and kittens that are desexed and microchipped is fundamental to our mandate to prevent cruelty and advance animal welfare. We provide more details on the welfare benefits of desexing and microchipping cats in the Background section of this submission.

Our Snip 'n' Chip programme offers subsidised desexing and microchipping for people who need help with overcoming the cost of the procedures. SPCA works closely with local veterinarians to



provide this service. The vouchers ‘sell out’ quickly once they are available, indicating this is a much sought-after service in communities.

SPCA has worked closely with Whangārei District Council, Auckland Council, Waitaki District Council, Dunedin City Council, and four Auckland Local Boards to address the barriers to desexing and microchipping cats.

We invite the Ōtorohanga District Council to join us in our efforts to prevent problems before people end up dealing with difficult decisions about unwanted cats and cat behaviour in their communities.

We have included our Snip ‘n’ Chip Council Package with more detailed information about how we work with local councils to promote more responsible cat ownership.

Background

SPCA advocates for more responsible ownership of companion cats to improve the welfare of cats and to help address the problems with community nuisance, predation, and the overpopulation of stray cats.

Welfare-related benefits of desexing cats

Desexing can reduce the risk of certain diseases, reduce the likelihood of roaming (which can increase risks of harm such as disease and infection, injury, and becoming lost), and increase lifespan. Desexing can also prevent the mortality of unplanned kittens which is often overlooked as a welfare problem.

Table 1: Welfare-related benefits of desexing cats

Decreased risk of reproductive disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mammary gland tumours are common in cats:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 16.3% of all tumours are in the mammary gland in an Italian registry, making this the second most common tumour site (Vascellari et al., 2009).



- 17% of all cancers reported were in the mammary gland in a California registry (1963-1966) making this the third most common cancer (Dorn et al., 1968).
- 8.2% of tumours in a Swiss feline cancer registry (1965-2008) were mammary gland tumours (Graf et al., 2016).
- Japanese and Siamese breeds are at increased risk of mammary tumours (Graf et al., 2016; Ito et al., 1996).

- Mammary tumours in cats have a high risk of being malignant:
 - >90% of mammary gland tumours in cats are malignant (Dorn et al., 1968; Hampe & Misdorp, 1974; Hayes et al., 1981).
 - A more recent study with a Swiss feline cancer registry found that 83% of mammary tumours were malignant (Graf et al., 2016).

- Desexing is protective against mammary tumours in cats:
 - Sexually intact cats have seven times the risk of developing mammary gland neoplasms when they get older compared to spayed female cats (Dorn et al., 1968).
 - Ovariectomy was found to protect against mammary carcinomas but not against benign mammary tumours. Intact cats are seven times overrepresented in the population of cats diagnosed with mammary tumours (Misdorp et al., 1991).
 - Desexed female cats had significantly lower odds than entire female cats of developing tumour/malignant tumour in the mammary gland (Graf et al., 2016).
 - Desexing before one year of age is protective against mammary carcinoma: 91% risk of reduction if desexed before 6 months, 86% reduction if before one year. Desexing after two years increased the risk (likely due to very few cats being desexed after this age) (Overley et al., 2005).

- Pyometra (uterine infection) risk increases significantly with age for female cats (Potter et al., 1991).

Increased lifespan and improved overall health

- Undesexed companion cats have significantly shorter lifespans than desexed companion cats (Hamilton et al., 1969; Kent et al., 2022; O'Neill et al., 2015).



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being undesexed is a risk factor for cats developing degenerative joint disease (Lascelles et al., 2010; Slingerland et al., 2011), which is considered a leading cause of pain in cats (Robertson et al., 2010).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health for both male and female cats in managed colonies may be related to reduced reproduction-related aggression in males (Cafazzo et al., 2019; Finkler et al., 2011).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desexed male cats live a mean of 62% longer than undesexed male cats, and desexed female cats live a mean of 39% longer than undesexed female cats (Banfield Pet Hospital, 2013).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For companion cats over five years of age in an English veterinary database, desexed female cats lived .6 months longer than undesexed female cats and desexed male cats lived 1.8 years longer than undesexed male cats (O'Neill et al., 2015).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For companion cats over 1 year of age in a California teaching hospital database (Kent et al., 2022): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ desexed females had a median lifespan of 10.48 years, compared to undesexed females that had a median lifespan of 4.68 years. ○ desexed males had a median lifespan of 9.84 years, compared to undesexed males who had a median lifespan of 3.67 years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For companion cats over the age of five years of age in a Pennsylvania database (Hamilton et al., 1969): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ desexed male cats lived a median of 10.8 years compared to undesexed males who lived a median of 8.6 years. Deaths from trauma and infections were less common in desexed males. ○ male cats desexed before the age of five months, had a median lifespan of thirteen years compared to male cats desexed at six to seven months who had a median lifespan of eleven years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats at least six years of age and not desexed in an English database were twice as likely to have signs related to degenerative joint disease (Maniaki et al., 2021).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desexed stray cats were in better welfare condition compared to intact cats likely due to reduced reproduction-related aggression in males (Gunther, et al., 2018).



- Desexed male and female cats in a TNR (Trap Neuter Return) managed colony were less likely to be injured or have impaired health which may be related to decreased risk of infectious disease, nutritional deficiencies, and stress associated with reproduction (Gilhofer et al., 2019).

Decreased roaming risks

- Intact male cats are at higher risk of traffic accidents, injuries, bite wounds, and disease transmission compared to desexed males (Finkler et al., 2011; Gunther et al., 2015; 2018).
- Roaming (and fighting and spraying) reduced or eliminated in 80-90% of cats (Hart & Cooper, 1984).
- Desexing reduces activity related to territorial behaviour. Authors note cats are less active, which they do not specify includes roaming (Cafazzo et al., 2019).

Improved kitten welfare

- Unplanned kittens contribute to high numbers of animals surrendered to shelters. Kittens under the age of six months made up the largest proportion of owner-surrender cats to an animal shelter in Australia; 34% of all owner-surrendered animals were emaciated (Marston & Bennett, 2009).
- Kittens that enter the shelter system because they are from unplanned breeding can often be in a poor state of welfare. This is before shelter entry and not related to shelter stay. An average of 30% of kittens that came into SPCA Centres are categorised as not healthy at intake. Not healthy categories include Dead on Arrival; Unhealthy not treatable; Unhealthy treatable (urgent); Unhealthy treatable (non-urgent) (SPCA Intake Health Data: Jan 2021-Jul 2023)
- Free-roaming kittens had the highest prevalence of emaciation and thinness, lowest BCS (Body Condition Score) scores, and higher prevalence of severe injury or disability than adults. (Gunther et al., 2018).



- There is high variability among kitten mortality in stray cats, however, at least one study showed 75% mortality before six months, with trauma being the most common cause of death (Nutter et al., 2004).

Welfare-related benefits of microchipping cats

SPCA prefers microchipping as the primary form of identification for a cat because the chip cannot be removed, dislodged, or lost without surgical intervention. Once a cat is microchipped, the 15-digit microchip number and the animal and owner's details can be registered with a microchip registration database, such as the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2018). Microchipping helps ensure a lost cat can be reunited with their owner, which can be especially true during emergencies.

Table 2: Welfare-related benefits of microchipping cats

Welfare-related benefits of microchipping
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, 85% of owners of microchipped animals were contacted within 3 hours by the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, compared to only 25% of non-microchipped animals reunited with their owners within seven days (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2018).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 39% of microchipped cats were returned to their owners, compared to 2% returned for un-microchipped cats (Lord et al., 2010).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 51% of microchipped cats were returned to their owners compared to only 5% of un-microchipped cats (Lancaster et al., 2015).

The addition of a collar and tag for companion or managed stray cats can provide a visual indication of a cat's ownership/management status and successfully help reunite lost cats with their owners/carers (Alberthsen et al., 2013; Lord et al., 2007, 2010).



Other benefits of responsible cat ownership

More responsible cat ownership can reduce the negative impacts cats can have including nuisance, predation on native wildlife, and spread of toxoplasmosis to both native animals and pastoral animals. Desexing and microchipping are longer-term strategies that will address problems with the overpopulation of cats and keeping cats at home can provide immediate local benefits for reducing nuisance such as spraying and toileting on neighbouring properties and reducing predation. Preventing cats from defecating away from home can also contribute to a reduction in the spread of toxoplasmosis to other animals and people.

Table 3: Other benefits of responsible cat ownership

Benefits of responsible cat ownership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to farmed animals (Aguirre et al., 2019; Stelzer et al., 2019).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decreased risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to native wildlife (Aguirre et al., 2019).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decreased predation on native wildlife (Bell & Bell, 2003; Bellingham et al., 2010; Dowding & Murphy, 2001; Imber et al., 2003; Veitch et al., 2011).

Conclusion

Supporting more responsible cat ownership by subsidising the cost of desexing and microchipping cats helps protect cat welfare, breaks the cycle of unplanned kittens born each year, and reduces the number of cats and kittens that either end up in our Centres or remain as stray cats in our communities.

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Ōtorohanga District Council's Long-Term Plan consultation. SPCA is happy to provide further information if needed.



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SPCA® *snip'n' chip*



PROMOTING DESEXING AND MICROCHIPPING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Snip n Chip is a desexing and microchipping service aimed at reducing the number of unwanted and unowned cats — a humane solution for the feline population and welfare management.

Launched nationally in 2022, SPCA's Snip n Chip offers low-cost, accessible desexing and microchipping for cat owners who need it most.

SPCA values working with local councils to increase the number of desexed and microchipped animals in their area and promote responsible pet ownership.

What is Snip n Chip?

- Available through an online system where owners can obtain a voucher to desex and microchip their cat at a heavily discounted rate.
- Designed to educate and promote responsible companion animal ownership by encouraging owners to desex and microchip their animals.
- Encourages owners to develop positive relationships with their local veterinary clinics.

What are the benefits for Councils?

- Promote compliance with Councils cat bylaws
- Reduction in abandonment and euthanasia of cats
- Reduction of feline behaviour issues in the community – noise, fighting, breeding
- Ability to target specific suburbs within the Councils region
- Reduced complaints from residents
- Positive community relations
- Demonstration of commitment to humane reduction of stray, unowned, or unwanted cats and kittens.
- Please see our desexing website for more benefits to both Councils and members of the public <https://desexing.sPCA.nz/councils>

What does the service cost for Councils?

- A set price for each surgery and microchip
- Run as many campaigns as your budget will allow
- Administration and marketing support included
- Regular reporting to allow for greater transparency and reporting back to constituents and councillors

What have been the results?

Since launching in February 2022

- We have desexed 18,947 cats across numerous campaigns
- We estimate this has prevented 75,788 unwanted offspring
- Campaigns selling out in as little as one day
- Positive feedback from local communities for Councils participation
- Four councils and five local board partners have supported Snip n Chip campaigns in their communities

What has been the feedback?

Dr Imogen Bassett, Principal Advisor Biosecurity, Auckland Council

Desexing and microchipping are an important part of our responsible cat ownership work in Tāmaki Makaurau. As the fence at the top of the cliff, snip and chip is good for cats, wildlife, and people. Working together with the SPCA, we can share responsible pet ownership messages with more Aucklanders. The SPCA's online system and helpful staff have made it really easy for us to prioritise our support towards areas with threatened species in need of protection from cats.

Waitaki District Council

Regulatory Manager Andrew Bardsley said “As well as the benefits for cat owners, Snip ‘n’ Chip will have an impact in the community in terms of a reduction in unwanted breeding and the number of orphaned or feral cats. Animal welfare is at the centre of this campaign, with the added benefits of a reduction in nuisance caused by cats and the ability for lost pets to be reunited with their owners through their microchips. The SPCA team’s work is extremely challenging and demanding, so it’s great that Waitaki District Council has been able to contribute towards this partnership and hopefully to reduce some of the cat welfare issues in Waitaki”

Communications Team member Sonia Martinez said “Our residents were really supportive of the campaign and we had lots of positive feedback saying it made a big impact on their ability to get their pet spayed and microchipped. Lots of sharing and engagement on social media not only resulted in the vouchers selling out super quickly but also helped spread the message of responsible cat ownership throughout the district”.

Cat owner feedback:

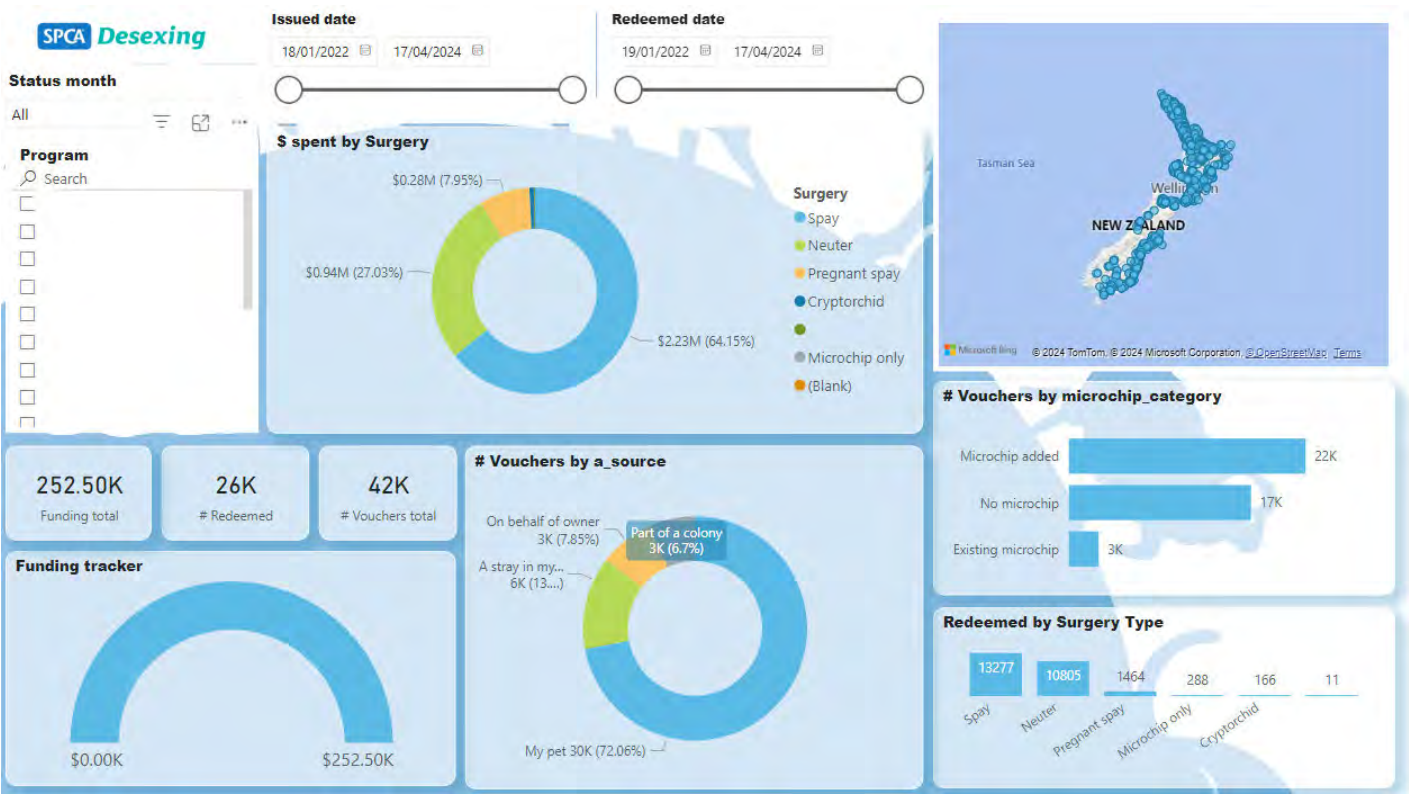
Waitaki resident, Helen, on Facebook said "Thank you so much for this wonderful initiative. I live on a rural property and got a huge surprise when a little wildie/dumped kitten wandered into my kitchen in late January. S/he (I think he's a 'he') has settled into domestic life perfectly. He's staying in the house with another former wildie until I can build an outside house/enclosure for them. The subsidised spaying/neutering is greatly appreciated."

Duration:

- Studies have shown that to make effective change, desexing initiatives should be run regularly over a number of years
- A Campaign funded at \$15k per year over 3 years (\$45k total), could desex 350 cats and prevent thousands of unwanted kittens.

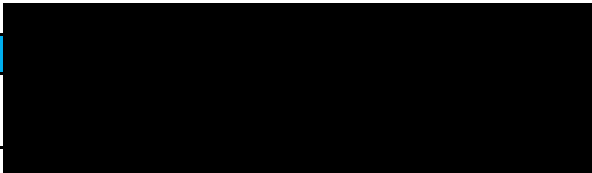
Reporting:

An example of the types of reporting available



SPCA Key Contact:

Contact Name	Title
Rebecca Dobson	National Desexing Programmes Manager





Respondent No: 27

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 05, 2024 15:48:37 pm

Last Seen: May 05, 2024 15:48:37 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Michael Woodward

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Federated Farmers NZ - Otorohanga branch

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 2 - Continue to collect \$2.1 million in rates to fund depreciation of assets for the next three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

as attached in submission

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

as attached in submission

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Otorohanga District Council

Submission on: **Otorohanga Long Term Plan 2024-34**

Date: 6 May 2024

Submission by: Federated Farmers

Michael Woodward
OTOROHANGA CHAIR
WAIKATO FEDERATED FARMERS



Address for service:

INTRODUCTION

The Otorohanga Branch of Waikato Federated Farmers welcomes the opportunity to submit to Otorohanga District Council on its *Long Term Plan Consultation Document 2024-2034*.

Federated Farmers submits on Annual Plans and Long-term Plans throughout New Zealand and make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.

Federated Farmers also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government has the appropriate resources to carry out their functions.

Federated Farmers base our arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, the rates levels on farms compared to other residents and businesses, and the failure of property value to reflect the incomes of farmers and their relative ability to pay.

Federated Farmers feedback represents the views of farming members and rate payers from the Otorohanga District.

We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers.

Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.

Federated Farmers requests the opportunity to discuss this submission with the Council during the hearing process.

RATES INCREASES

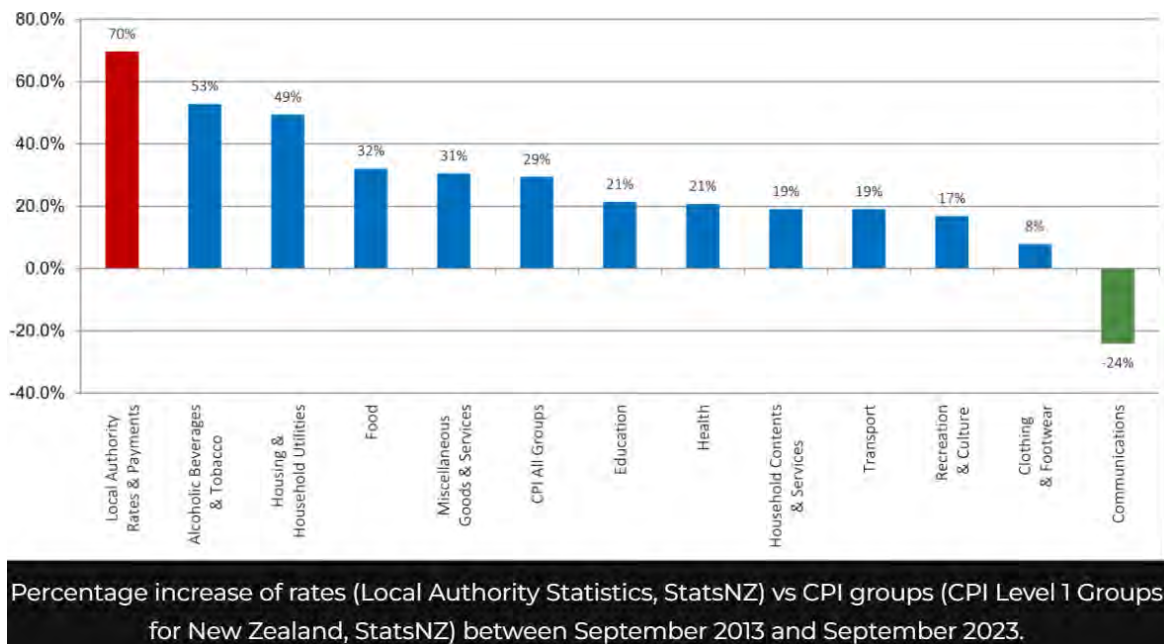
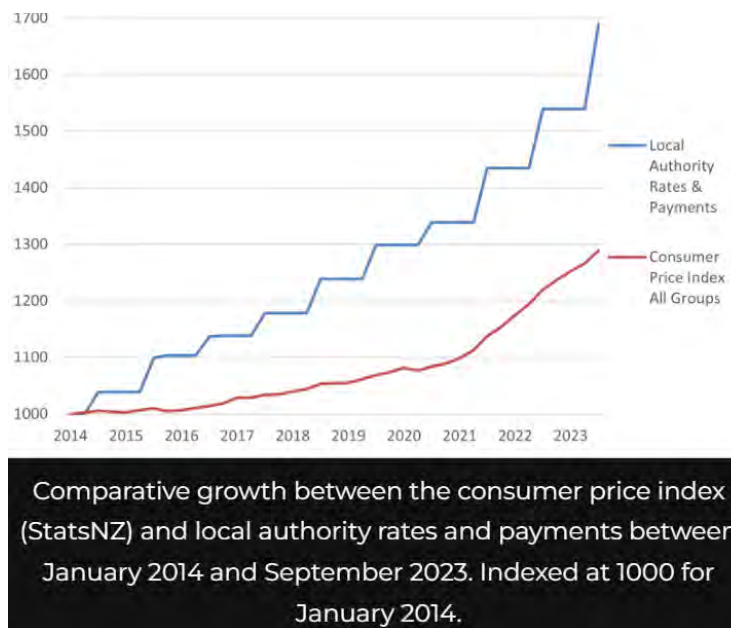
Federated Farmers is unimpressed by the rates increases proposed for this Long Term Plan. District-wide average increases of almost 10%, 9% and 8% in the first three years of the LTP alone are unsustainable, and the extreme end of the increases are masked by the averages reported. These increases are cumulative, so the percentage increase represents even more dollars to the ratepayer every year. The Council is not adhering to the increases projected in the previous Long Term Plan for the next three years.

The LTP reporting masks the true cost to ratepayers of these significant, cumulative, decade-long increases, when it only reports the example properties' extra rates only for the single year 2024-25. An extra \$309.88 for the example farm doesn't sound like much, but the real rates bill for this property will be \$4,303.88 for 2024-25 year, and climbing hereafter. These are not insignificant amounts in today's financial climate. Federated Farmers also considers this \$2,300,000 value farm is on the lower value end of the scale for farms in the district and not particularly reflective of the average farm and rates bill.

PROJECTED RATES INCREASES AND RATES LIMITS



To demonstrate how far ahead rates increases are from the CPI rate of inflation, Federated Farmers provides our annual comparison of the growth in rates compared to other costs. This chart shows how the rates component of Statistics New Zealand's Consumer Price Index (CPI) has grown compared to the CPI as a whole, and against some of its sub-groups. Once again, local government disappoints us with how much rates are growing compared to CPI.



Submission:

1. That rates increases are reigned in and the Council ensures that core functions are prioritised, with other activities reduced or deleted.

GENERAL RATE.

Part of the rates unaffordability problem is that the capital-value based General Rate is undifferentiated.

The LTP reports the General Rate at \$0.0008412 cents in the capital value dollar in the table on page 8 of the draft Funding Impact Statement. In the 2021-22 rating year, the General Rate was struck at \$0.0008107.

The amount collected from the general rate will be \$5,460,600 in the 2024-25 rating year. In the previous Long Term Plan, the revenue raised by the General Rate in the 2021-22 rating year was \$3,960,634. In just a few years, the revenue from this single rate alone has increased by 31% with the Council collecting \$1.5mil more. The cents in the dollar has changed but 3.7% in that time, so the increase must be driven by other factors such as increasing capital values, but mostly the increase in rating units which has gone from 4,885,449,200 in 2021-22 to 6,491,473,500 in 2023-24.

The burden of an undifferentiated General Rate falls unfairly onto farms. This is demonstrated starkly by the \$1,283 that a farm property pays towards Governance, and the \$354 that an Otorohanga residential property will pay. Both ratepayers receive the same value of governance, so there is no reason for one ratepayer to contribute exponentially more.

We implore the Council to investigate differentials for the General Rate to address this discrepancy. Otorohanga is one of the few rural councils that do not have a full differential system for the General Rate. The differential targeted rates for Commercial and Residential land use categories demonstrate that the Council is capable of managing differentials, and we urge you to develop a full diff system for the General Rate.

We suggest that a differential system similar to Hastings is investigated. Hastings uses two rating areas, and then land use differentials within these areas. Otorohanga may not need as many differentials as Hastings (being 10 for this rate) but the overall idea of a rating area plus land use differentials allows rates to be apportioned accurately and affordably.

[Hastings describes their system:](#)

Rating Areas

Hastings District is divided into two rating areas: Rating Area One Urban and Rating Area Two Rural.

The rating areas are based on:

- *The Department of Statistics broad definition of an urban area.*
- *The relative closeness of urban-based facilities and therefore the opportunity to make regular use of them; within an approximate 10-15 minute drive of central Hastings.*
- *Hastings District Council planning zones, which govern the ways land can be used.*

The costs of Council's various activities are shared out to the two rating groups using formulae which reflect, as near as possible, the costs of providing services to each of these areas. In particular, some costs (within the Community Services Group) are charged at a reduced rate to Rating Area 2 (rural) to

reflect remoteness and therefore less access to these facilities.

The differential system

Within each rating area in the district, the Council recovers the general rate requirement on a differential basis, calculated on the land value of a property.

Differentials are used to allocate costs between different groups of properties based on the broad level of service and benefit they receive. The higher the differential, the greater the perceived level of service and benefit those groups of properties receive.

Recommendation:

2. That a differential system for the General Rate is investigated to provide for rating areas plus land use differentials similar to Hastings.

DEPRECIATION

Federated Farmers is concerned that Otorohanga, like many other territorial authorities, is not properly funding depreciation, nor adequately reinvesting in core infrastructure.

Water New Zealand calculated the median capital expenditure on the replacement of existing wastewater assets compared to depreciation between 2017 and 2019 was only 53 percent. That's just half of the depreciation going to replace sewers and wastewater treatment plants. For drinking water it's better at 70 percent, though that's still not replacing the depreciating assets. For storm water it's far worse: just 15 percent. We refer you to this useful [Newsroom article](#) on the topic of councils underspending depreciation. This [Auditor-General's report *Insights into Local Government 2019*](#) found that councils spent only 63-77 percent of the value of the depreciation in renewing their assets between 2012 and 2019. The [2021 Report](#) Matters Arising from Audits of 2021-31 Long Term Plans, found that the renewals gap was still concerning, but councils are forecasting to invest more in their assets than in previous long-term plans, which is a positive change, assuming that councils deliver this planned investment.

The Auditor-General's 2021 report advises that *effective renewal strategies are based on the asset's age, condition, and performance information. The more an asset is critical to the success of the asset network, the more councils need to better understand its condition and performance information.* Federated Farmers agrees with this statement, and urges the Council to reconsider the blanket reduction in depreciation funding.

We are concerned that Otorohanga has been operating a substantial renewals gap and not keeping up with maintenance and renewal of existing depreciating infrastructure, and that this gap will get even worse with the proposal to reduce depreciation rating. Is the consequence of reduced depreciation rating mean that there will be corresponding reduced work carried out to keep the infrastructure operational?

When the correction occurs and suddenly rates need to be hiked urgently to fix crumbling infrastructure, Federated Farmers will oppose moves to increase the General Rate or UAGC to subsidise these services. We have noticed a nation-wide theme of the cost of remedying local government's water and wastewater failings is steadily working its way into farm rates for properties that provide their own services and not connected to reticulated services.

We are unable to see what level Otorohanga is currently spending on depreciation costs of stormwater, wastewater services, and potable water supply. We suspect all services are lagging well under the 100% mark.

There are other methods of reducing rates unaffordability without shooting oneself in the foot by underfunding depreciation. A focus on core services and making the hard decisions to reduce or cancel nice-to-have projects is a must.

Submission:

3. Federated Farmers opposes the reduction in depreciation rating as we fear it will widen the renewals gap and risks an over-correction on rates increases in the future.

RATES REMISSIONS

Federated Farmers is pleased to see a range of rates remissions available.

Remission for Covenanted Land.

Federated Farmers supports the remission of 100% of rates on covenanted land. However we are concerned that a technicality may be preventing better use of this covenant. In most cases the land is not owned by QEII Trust, the ownership remains private yet the defined land is protected in perpetuity for environmental or recreational purposes. Federated Farmers considers that other registered covenants are also considered for this remission, such as under the Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1986; or Reserve Management Plan approved under the Reserves Act 1977. If the Council is considering these other covenants when seeking to protect indigenous vegetation of outstanding landscapes in the District Plan, then a corresponding remission will be necessary.

Remission for Natural Calamity

Federated Farmers would like the natural calamity remission to include declared droughts and fire as well erosion, floods and subsidence. Droughts, like the other calamities, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and remissions applied proportionally. Although it can be argued that these are included in the *or other calamity*, adding the few extra words ensures that readers and ratepayers have assurance that these disasters are included.

A word of warning from Federated Farmers recent experience with natural calamity remissions after a large-scale event like Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawkes Bay: generic remission policies for natural calamities are great for small scale events that only affect a few individual properties or well-defined small areas. In large scale events such as Cyclone Gabrielle an event-specific remission will be

necessary. Relying on generic remissions have a number of disadvantages such as an application processing back-log for the Council, and re-traumatising victims who have to apply and provide personal details as to how their properties, businesses and homes have been destroyed and the financial hardship they suffer. This was exacerbated by the fact that many victims in Hawkes Bay no longer had a fixed abode or even a mailbox. Kaikoura District Council has told Federated Farmers they were still going through applications 18 months after the earthquakes of 14 November 2016, so lag-time between the event and the rates relief being approved was significant. Hastings District Council had to do some intensive investigations on event-specific remissions immediately after Cyclone Gabrielle, which would have been challenging to say the least.

Recommendation:

4. Federated Farmers supports the wide range of rates remission available.
5. That the Natural Calamity remission is expanded to included drought and fire as well as the current erosion, subsidence and inundation.
6. That the Council investigates event-specific natural calamity remission policies, and drafts one to keep up its sleeve.

RATING REVALUATIONS

Federated Farmers is concerned about the effect of the recent revaluations on property capital values and subsequently their rates. [Pastoral farms are reported by QV](#) as having a 33.6% average increase in value. With increasing development in lifestyle areas or on the greenfield areas around town, some farms will experience an increase in value that is unrelated to their current pastoral land use and more on their future development potential.

Farmers who experience significant increases in property value because of subdivision potential and amenity aspects like being close to a village or on a tourist route may feel forced to subdivide in order to gain capital to pay their rates bills. While the Council may feel that the origin of this problem lies with QV, QV maintain that councils set rating policies and so what rates a property is charged is the responsibility of a council.

This problem could be solved by a rates remission or postponement policy. A rates postponement or remission policy would allow farmers in “desirable” locations to continue farming and not feel forced to subdivide to release capital and reduce their rates burden, nor to be rated significantly higher than similar properties. A postponement policy would be intended only for landowners who continue with their existing primary production land use. When the property is sold and the increased capital value is realised, the postponed rates may be payable back to Council.

Other Council Examples

A number of other councils have a similar issue and have approached it by offering a rates remission or postponement for properties used for primary production that have experience an increase in value and subsequently rates disproportionate to a farming use when compared to other farming properties within the district.

- [Policy 12/412](#) in the Northland Long Term Plan provides for postponement of rates for land that is farmed near the coast but may have experienced a huge increase in rates due to subdivision potential.
- Kapiti Coast District has [Policy Part 2](#), for farmland whose rateable value in some measure is attributable to the potential use to which the land may be put for residential, commercial, industrial, or other non-farming development; and is actively and productively farmed by the ratepayer or the farming business.
- Horowhenua District Council have [Remission Part 7](#) available for farms that were rezoned as residential or business due to an ambitious new town boundary expansion around Levin. The remission is only available to farmers who continue their farming activities.

Submission:

6. That a new rate remission policy is introduced to provide relief for revalued farms where their new valuation is disproportionately higher than comparable farms due to unrealised urban or lifestyle subdivision or development potential.

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.



**FEDERATED
FARMERS**
OF NEW ZEALAND

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.



Respondent No: 29

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2024 13:34:47 pm

Last Seen: May 06, 2024 13:34:47 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Michelle Hollands

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Otorohanga District Development Board - Economic Development Manager

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** OPTION 2 - Continue to collect \$2.1 million in rates to fund depreciation of assets for the next three years

Q8. **Community presence** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Don't buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** Option 1 (our preferred option) - Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Please see attached

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

Please see attached

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Please see attached

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

**ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SUBMISSION TO ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2021 - 2031**

“STEADY AS SHE GOES”

1ST May 2024



SUMMARY:

1. This submission is made on behalf of the Ōtorohanga District Development Board (the ŌDDDB).
2. The ŌDDDB would like to thank the Ōtorohanga District Council (the ODC) for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. We commend the ŌDC for the focus on a “Steady as She Goes” approach after the 2021-2024 focus on Vibrancy. This switch in focus is appropriate for the challenging economic climate in which we find ourselves and seeks to find balance for a growing district with high aspirations to continue to build a strong economy and an attractive place for families to live.
3. The ŌDDDB further wish to thank the ŌDC for its ongoing support and annual contribution towards our operational funding.
4. The ŌDDDB wish to commend council on its role in partnering with the community and the District Development Board to create a vision for the district. We continue to focus on our role in economic development and wish to highlight the need to provide sufficient land zoned for future residential, commercial, and industrial development alongside the provision of the quality infrastructure to enable and deliver quality services for the community of today and the community of tomorrow.
5. Our direct feedback on the three consultation priorities are outlined below.

ŌDDDB FEEDBACK ON THE ODC LONG-TERM PLAN

The ŌDDDB agree that being careful with your money is very important at this time, “Kia mau tātou ki te ara – steady as she goes” is the right approach.

This said, we highlight concern for ongoing rate increases and wish to support the ŌDC and Local Government across New Zealand to find a significantly more sustainable model. Continued increases across all Local Government authorities and for many balance sheets that will not provide any ability to invest in our futures continues to be a worrying trend that will greatly impact future generations. The time most certainly has come to make decisions on how best to work together to minimise costs and improve investment capability across boundaries and in partnership.

While the ŌDC, since 2021, has built stronger connections, positive relationships, Town Concept Plans, and an Economic Wellbeing Strategy there remains the critical issue of investment capability to both maintain and build large infrastructure assets that are needed to support our community. We must ‘Move from Plan to Do’ in a cost effective and partnered way that sees our community able to thrive.

Consultation Items

Consultation Item	Council Preferred Option	Our Preferred Option	ŌDDB Feedback
Depreciation	Option 1 Reduce the amount by \$2.1 million we set aside for funding depreciation of assets for three years	Option 2	Continue to fund depreciation so that future generations are able to renew assets. Alongside this consider divestment of 'non-critical' assets to either private ownership or if utilisation levels are low removal of assets. Reducing depreciation places burden on future generations.
Community Presence	Option 1 Don't buy the van	Option 1	We agree, while this option would provide the ability to be even more present in the community, now is not the time to invest in this asset
Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates	Option 1 Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities	Option 1	The single targeted rate appears to provide the simplest and fairest solution, provided this option supports the long-term outcomes of the community without burdening future generations we support this approach.

OTHER IDENTIFIED ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE FOR THIS LONG-TERM PLAN

COVID-19 has continued to have a significant impact on our economy, business, and community. Inflation has and continues to greatly impact business and households. Communities, business, and government all remain ultimately uncertain about the future making this most certainly a difficult time to be establishing and confirming a Long-Term Plan. We note the following:

1. Retail Revitalisation – as we reach the conclusion of this project, we note the need to ensure the Long-Term sustainability of the solution provided. We promote the inclusion of a targeted rate in the next Long-Term plan to provide for both the cleaning and painting of our mainstreet. Ensuring it is a source of pride in our community for the future.
2. i-SITE – the ŌDDB proposes to no longer be part of the i-SITE brand because of the annual subscriber cost of \$3,5k pa + extras. ŌDDB's objective is to continue to be a Community Information provider (including Tourism information) without this brand. We aim to continue to engage resources on a contract basis to focus on Business Development and Economic Development functions. We propose to share the i-SITE brand costs and operational costs of community information provision with Senior Leadership to discuss our proposal.
3. Council Borrowing – we encourage a focus on borrowing for growth alongside the focus of 'steady as she goes'. Opportunities supported for growth should be partnered, provide leverage and be of long-term benefit to the community. Let's not lose the opportunity to be innovate in today's environment.
4. Partnership with Iwi – we support the ongoing partnership and strengthening of partnerships with Iwi. Iwi are a significant and valued partner.

5. Continuing to lift perceptions of Council Capacity and Performance – we acknowledge Council’s commitment to partnering and improved presence in the community. The next step will be to invest in innovative solutions that break down every day red tape for our community. Speeding up delivery of services and providing a solutions-oriented focus.

A number of challenges were noted in our submission to councils Long-Term Plan in 2021 and it is interesting to reflect on the continued presence of these challenges to this Long-Term Plan.

Opportunity and Challenge	Key points	What does this mean for Council and the ŌDDB?
Central Government Policy Change and Reform	<p>Three Waters, RMA and ongoing policy change/ Central Government Investment announcements and agency structural changes continue to challenge both the ability to make decisions and the timing of decisions. Indecision and/or delayed investment will continue to have a cost to investment in an environment where supply chain, workforce and operational costs are all increasing.</p> <p>Optimising outcomes of our decisions at a district level will require us to have clear plans in critical areas such as water, housing, roading and large infrastructure with implementation plans A, B and C to ensure we make the most of Central Government Investment.</p> <p>Partnerships and staying connected to national and regional decision makers and announcements will enable opportunities to best leverage investments and partner for quality community outcomes.</p> <p>Strategic alignment with our neighbours and regional programmes is also a priority during times when resources are constrained.</p>	<p>Clear plans with investment opportunities will enable us to apply for and receive funding as it is made available.</p> <p>Partnerships are essential at national, regional, and local level.</p> <p>Staffing and resourcing to enable quality partnerships, awareness of national and regional policy change, programmes of work and investment opportunities will be important to enable outcomes.</p>

Opportunity and Challenge	Key points	What does this mean for Council and the ŌDDDB?
Land and Housing	<p>Provision of Industrial and Residential land offers the opportunity to bring business and employment to the district. At present Council does not have a land investment strategy that provides the opportunity for leverage for housing or commercial/industrial outcomes.</p> <p>Housing is a significant challenge nationally and the Community Led Housing Plan highlights a number of opportunities and challenges specific to the local community. Quality, availability and affordability are significant challenges for our district.</p> <p>Economic development for our district requires us to consider our unique value proposition and connection to agriculture, manufacturing and engineering with a need for land and a business attraction strategy to support the development of these sectors.</p>	<p>The ŌDDDB in partnership with Council, Iwi and other local interested stakeholders wishes to connect to support the provision of land that enables outcomes for housing.</p> <p>In addition, it is an opportune time to revisit proactive partnered solutions to support growth of our economy with an emphasis on agriculture, engineering and manufacturing.</p>
Employment	<p>Employment challenges including unemployment and skills shortages continue to challenge rural New Zealand. Shortages for management, leadership and technical qualified skills are present across the region and Ōtorohanga is not immune.</p>	<p>Continuation of the great work being completed by the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs and partnerships with business, government agencies and community organisations will continue to see Ōtorohanga prosper. Shortages of training opportunities in our district should be our next focus.</p>
Safe and resilient roading	<p>Rural roading and access across our District remain a significant challenge. Partnering with Waka Kotahi to ensure sufficient investment is available to manage the quality of our roading network is essential.</p>	<p>The ŌDDDB wishes to partner where possible with the ŌDC to advocate for roading outcomes that support both our Economic and Community wellbeing.</p>



Respondent No: 30

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2024 14:30:12 pm

Last Seen: May 06, 2024 14:30:12 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Glenn Tootill

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** not answered

Q3. **Address** not answered

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** No

Q6. **Phone** not answered

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Submission attached regarding the Draft Rates Remission on Māori Freehold Land Policy.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

10 April 2024

Cassidy Temese
BY EMAIL: cassidy@otodc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Cassidy

Draft Rates Remission on Māori Freehold Land Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Draft Rates Remission on Māori Freehold Land Policy dated March 2024 ("the draft policy").

I write in my capacity as a trustee of a Māori freehold land block, Kāwhia N2B, within the Ōtorohanga District Council ("ODC") district.

I submit the draft policy should explicitly remit all of the rates on Māori reservations.

Draft Policy

I am generally supportive of the draft policy, in particular the framework for remission of rates for Māori freehold land under development and its associated staged rates implementation (as required by section 114A of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002).

Māori Reservations

However, I submit the draft policy should go further and explicitly remit all of the rates on Māori reservations within the district.

Māori reservations are a form of Māori freehold land under Part 17 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 ("the Act"). Section 338 of the Act states that the Māori Land Court may set apart as a Māori reservation any Māori freehold land or any General land-

- (a) For the purposes of a village site, marae, meeting place, recreation ground, sports ground, bathing place, church site, building site, burial ground, landing place, fishing ground, spring, well, timber reserve, catchment area or other source of water supply, or place of cultural, historical, or scenic interest, or for any other specified purpose; or
- (b) that is a wahi tapu, being a place of special significance according to tikanga Maori.

In my submission, land set aside for those types of purposes are worthy of remission of rates, and furthermore, it would be repugnant to demand rates on whenua set aside for any of those types of purposes.

Furthermore, given how easy it is for ODC to determine whether land within its district is set aside as a Māori reservation (a simple check on the Māori Land Court's Pātaka Whenua, online Māori land database), I submit the remission process in respect of Māori reservations should be automatic. In other words, rather than trustees (in most cases Māori reservations will have associated trustees) or beneficiaries being required to make application to the ODC, I submit the ODC should update the draft policy to explicitly remit rates on all Māori reservations within its district, *without an application being required*. In my submission this would remove an administrative task from already overburdened Māori reservation trustees.



I am available to speak directly to this submission if required.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi, ngā manaakitanga, nā

Glenn Tootill
Director





Respondent No: 31

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2024 14:35:16 pm

Last Seen: May 06, 2024 14:35:16 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Jeremy Mayall

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Creative Waikato

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** Option 2 - Buy the van

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

Please see attached documents

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

not answered

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**

Submission by: Creative Waikato

This submission is made in response to Ōtorohanga District Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

1. Council's activities

- Creative Waikato would firstly like to thank Ōtorohanga District Council for the work it does. We appreciate that it is complicated and challenging having to balance so many competing priorities. We acknowledge the time and energy that goes into these processes.
- Creative Waikato supports Ōtorohanga District Council's Strategic Direction and focus on People, Place, and Partnerships, and providing for Ōtorohanga's social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.
- Creative Waikato also supports these wellbeing outcomes, and has aligned these with focus areas in the Waikato Arts Navigator - our regional arts strategy - see point 7.
- In addition to this submission, Creative Waikato has created an LTP Councillor briefing and updated high-level infrastructure plan that can be provided for your future consideration. We outline these briefly in this submission.
- Creative Waikato is keen to ensure Council consults and engages with Creative Waikato as a key strategic partner that focuses on capability building in the arts, culture and creative ecosystem of Waikato.

2. Summary of Feedback in connection to Art, Culture and Creativity

Creative Waikato has identified the following opportunities for Council to consider when finalising the 2024/2034 LTP:

Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy

- Creative Waikato acknowledges the decision to delay the completion of an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. While this is an important piece of work, and we look forward to seeing this developed in future years of the plan, we understand it is to better serve the community and to connect with the development of other council strategies around wellbeing.
- We look forward to working with council on this future development and look forward to the possibilities of better serving the community of Ōtorohanga together.

Community Presence

- Creative Waikato commends council's commitment to prioritising engagement with community, through its engagement with the CouncilMARK programme, trial council pop-ups, and building closer relationships with iwi.
- The implementation of a multi-purpose van provides opportunity for increased outreach, and creative Waikato supports bringing books and in-place opportunities for connection for remote communities.
- Creative Waikato commends council's forward-planning for affording satellite WIFI and device charging in the case of emergency events.

Kāwhia and Aotea Seawall rates

- Creative Waikato supports Council's prioritisation of investing in seawalls and its focus on 'Community unity- protecting where people live helps to keep communities strong and together'.
- There is an opportunity to engage local creative communities in storytelling around the need for climate-resilient development and the need for funding and collective investment in this.
- Arts and culture can be a powerful tool for helping communities to connect with and understand the importance of preparing for climate change.

Resilient Infrastructure

- There is an opportunity to infuse this roading, waters, flood protection and climate change work with arts and culture, to support public engagement and understanding, and to help protect assets through crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) approaches.
- We encourage the use of public art and cultural storytelling in the design and implementation of these infrastructure developments. Embedding these things early can be a cost-effective way to get positive outcomes and contribute to civic identity and local pride.

Strong Communities

- Creative Waikato supports council in enabling communities to take collective action on issues important to them, providing funding and support to organisations and other community groups.
- Art and culture can be employed to support the promotion of the District and support for local businesses.

Libraries

- Creative Waikato offers tautoko to Tori Koroheke's statement that: "Evolving our library services with the changing world ensures our community stays connected to opportunities for life long learning"
- Creative Waikato supports the introduction of a Makerspace into the Ōtorohanga library. We encourage council to invest in the activation and promotion of this valuable community resource.
- Creative Waikato supports an increase in the te reo Māori collection
- Creative Waikato supports the evidence-based decision to join Fines Free Public Libraries Aotearoa, and the increased community accessibility that this enables.

Multi-Purpose Facility

- A feasibility study has been undertaken on developing a multi-purpose community hub in Ōtorohanga to look at providing better spaces for community, arts and cultural activities, meeting social needs of residents and hosting events.
- Creative Waikato commends the community engagement around the design of this facility and hope that the process continues to explore the ways this

can best be activated by the artists and organisations who serve this community.

Infrastructure Strategy:

- Creative Waikato commends the prioritisation of a ‘sound management’ approach above a ‘do minimum approach’ with regard to infrastructure management.
- In serving the growing community, and investing in resilience to place the district in the best possible position for future challenges.
- Creative Waikato advocates for the inclusion of community facilities such as halls, toilets, swimming pools and other property in the continued development of Infrastructure strategies, and to integrate arts, culture and local storytelling in development of essential hard infrastructure
- Creative Waikato suggests an allocation of support for the activation of these investments and infrastructure through investing in soft infrastructure (the people, programmes, and activities that bring these spaces to life).
- Creative Waikato encourages council to consider the role of artists and community cultural and creative groups in growing public understanding of effects of inundation, slips and drop outs, and value of water assets. Creativity is a great tool for connection.

3. Strategic initiatives

Creative Waikato has led key strategic initiatives which have contributed to long-term impact in the areas of arts, culture and creativity in the Waikato Region. These initiatives include:

- Waikato Arts Navigator 2023 - A shared framework, including a vision and strategy, for supporting and strengthening our arts and culture in the region. It guides planning and decision making.
- Performing Arts Strategy 2023 - A strategy informed by the performing arts sector which builds on the strengths of local performing arts activity and connects with the new Waikato Regional Theatre.
- Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024 - A high-level update on the Waikato Creative Infrastructure report originally prepared in 2014.
- Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato 2022 - Social impact reports that assess the impact of arts, culture and creativity on the people of the Waikato region.

Additional Strategic Outcomes: Maintaining relationships with Creative New Zealand, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, NZ Music Commission, Regional Arts Network Aotearoa, and Te Ora Auaha to support positive outcomes through funding and support for Waikato artists.

4. Creative Waikato mahi in the Ōtorohanga District.

In addition to the above strategic initiatives, Creative Waikato has provided significant capability building support in the Ōtorohanga district, which has included a range of targeted offerings. Examples of the programmes we provide are:

- Elevate - A funded e-learning programme to provide creatives with resources and tools to build sustainable creative careers
- Creativity Every Day - A first-of-its-kind innovative programme designed to bring creativity into daily routine at work or at home. Delivered to many businesses and organisations.
- ArtReach - A community-focused creative development workshop series. Presented in an e-learning video format to ensure accessibility, used as an example of good practice nationally. Workshops include: Governance, Strategic Planning, Evaluation, Impact and Insights and more.
- Things to do - A community guide to creative events in the Waikato region.
- Kotahitanga - A movement and campaign to combat racism and bring the community together through the accessible power of creativity.
- Creative Acts of Kindness - A project which commissioned local artists to celebrate kindness using their arts practice.

Creative Waikato has also undertaken work with Ōtorohanga District Council and their communities. Some examples are below:

Engagement with Council

- Creative Waikato has been involved with council consultation regarding the proposed multi-use community space
- Connection with Community Development and Wellbeing around the Waikato Arts Navigator and our regional wellbeing research.
- Developed Ōtorohanga District arts, culture and creativity profile.

Community engagement

- Work with local creatives on the Kotahitanga and Creative Acts of Kindness projects.
- Contributions to local performing arts groups in Best Fest community activation.
- Working with local artist Carole Shepheard, employed as a mentor for first-of-its-kind multiple artist in residency programme, Whiria Te Tangata
- Creative Development and connection with local artists and groups including the Ōtorohanga Creative Conduit, Kāwhia Old Post Office Gallery, Red Shed.
- Music performance at Ōtorohanga College with approximately 250 students
- Creative workshop with 15 students at Ōtorohanga College
- Community outreach event with locals, featuring local artists
- Connection with Elle Freestone from Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs

5. **Embedding Arts, Culture and Creativity**

Ōtorohanga District Council plays a pivotal role in the wider ecosystem¹ in supporting arts, culture and creativity to thrive. To achieve the broadest possible impact, it is essential to view the contribution of arts, culture and creativity as part of a system which affects all facets of society. This system-based approach acknowledges cross-sector opportunities to enable effective outcomes and deliver better public services. This ecosystem approach is fundamental to the Waikato Arts Navigator - our regional arts strategy.

6. **Ōtorohanga District Council's Priority Areas and alignment with the Waikato Arts Navigator**

- The Waikato Arts Navigator is a shared framework that helps community enablers achieve broader impact and focus on community benefit, with a vision and strategy to support and strengthen arts, culture and creativity in the region.
- Ōtorohanga District Council vision is for:
 - People:** Connected, empowered, engaged communities; welcoming, proud, thriving district
 - Place:** Vibrant, diverse, liveable communities; sustainable, resilient district
 - Partnerships:** Progressive, enduring, supportive partnerships for district wellbeing; Aspirational, united, responsible leadership

Alignment of Ōtorohanga District Council's priority areas (community outcomes) and the Waikato Arts Navigator threads are outlined in pages 6-8 below.

¹ Details on the ecosystem and council's involvement can be found in the Waikato Arts Navigator Regional Arts Strategy, the Creative Waikato Briefing for Councillors, and the Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan, available on the Creative Waikato Website: <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/>

Alignment of Ōtorohanga District Council's strategic priority areas and the Waikato Arts Navigator threads

Priority Area	This means	Waikato Arts Navigator thread	
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected, empowered, engaged communities; - Welcoming, proud, thriving district. 	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Tourism opportunities - Positive national perceptions - Increased investment from funders
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People experience local, national, international arts - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Upskilling creative professionals - Community art classes and projects - Youth development - Audience development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business partnerships

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression - Creative export opportunities
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progressive, enduring, supportive partnerships for district wellbeing; - Aspirational, united, responsible leadership 	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Positive national perceptions - Increased investment from funders
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory arts projects - Community art classes and projects - Youth development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business partnerships - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression - Creative export opportunities

Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public spaces are fun, inciting and reflect our local culture and heritage - Everyone has access to safe, healthy and affordable homes - Roads and bridges are safe and well-maintained - We have a reliable drinking water supply - We plan for and adapt to the effects of climate change 	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People experience local, national and international arts - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Upskilling creative professionals - Community art classes and projects - Youth development - Audience development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression

7. Arts, culture and creativity connect across Council department areas

An LTP Councillor briefing document has been created and can be provided as an additional component to support this submission.

- While this document is cognisant of the current financial situation and social environment, the aim is to present a range of possibilities that may extend current thinking, and explore cross department/sector/locale opportunities for collaborative outcomes.
- The attached briefing document outlines concrete examples of the many and diverse ways that arts, culture and creativity connect across departments within Council.

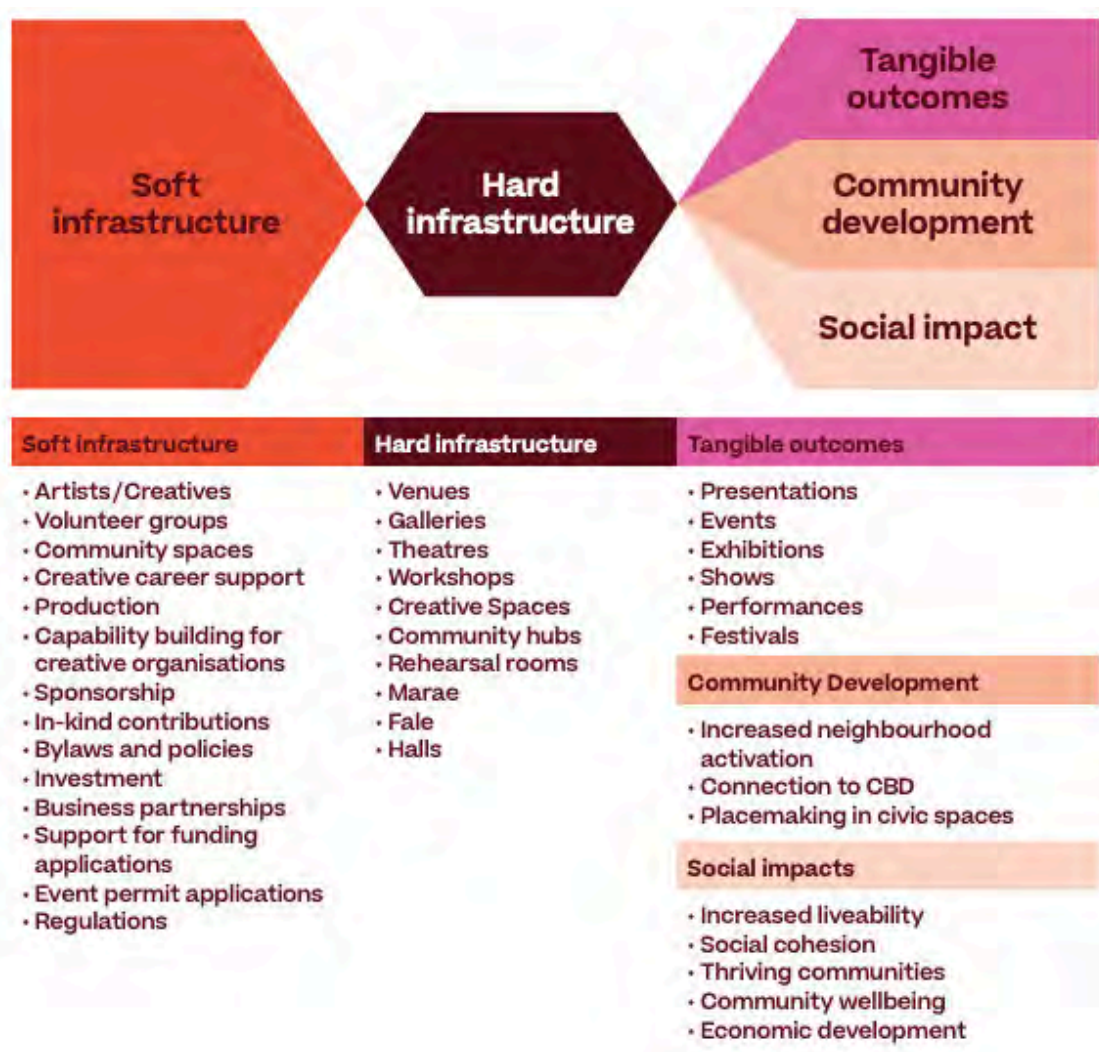
8. Importance of soft infrastructure - people and services

In addition to the LTP Councillor Briefing document, Creative Waikato has also created an updated Creative Infrastructure Plan which is an initial high-level scan of hard and soft infrastructure in the Waikato. This plan builds on an initial report that was developed in 2014. This can also be provided after the LTP process.

A previous lack of data, insight, and sustainable investment have shaped potential issues for the ongoing sustainability of our essential soft infrastructure.

- Soft infrastructure is associated with the development of human and social capital integral to community-building and the promotion of ‘high quality’ living². It is the mahi and expertise required to activate hard infrastructure. Forms of soft infrastructure include programmes and facilitators in libraries, museums and other community resources.
- Whilst hard infrastructure (facilities, venues etc) is important, it is the people (soft infrastructure) that are most important. Supporting those people and services which activate hard infrastructure contributes to thriving communities.

² Brail, S., Mizrokhi, E. and Ralston, S. (2017) ‘Examining the transformation of Regent Park, Toronto’, in: N. Wise and J. Clark (eds). *Urban Transformations: Geographies of Renewal and Creative Change* pp. 177-194; London: Routledge in Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research ‘Infrastructure, placemaking and sustainability’ A Report for Places for People (May 2020)
https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/files/documents/DownloadTemplate_49.pdf



9. Investing in communities and arts, culture and creativity

The collective toll of Covid-19, climate change and the cost of living crisis on our communities has been immense.

9.a - The Role of Council

- It is Council's role to enable and support creative infrastructure.
- Cultural wellbeing, alongside social wellbeing, are legislated delivery outcomes for local government, and are worthy of prioritised value and sustained investment.
- Arts, culture, creativity and ngaa toi Maaori can make significant contributions to thriving communities if they are supported. The community already makes a significant contribution to these areas through investment, in-kind support, volunteer time, and creative skill; it is essential that the council maintains investment into this sector.

9.b - Economic considerations

- The creative sector is one of the fastest growing sectors for economic development in Aotearoa, with the potential for international export alongside

local activation. Community activity creates essential learning and development pathways for creative professionals.

- Artistic activity is a contributor to vibrant and thriving places, and the wellbeing of communities, both now and in the future.
- Engagement in creative activity in and around the workplace makes measurable contributions to productivity, innovation, and mental health.
- Toi Maaori is a significant asset in Aotearoa, and is a contributor to international interest in tourism, and connection to place. Ōtorohanga District Council has the potential to increase support to ngaa toi Maaori, and to enhance the skilled practitioners based in this district to highlight this opportunity for growth and development.

9.c - Wellbeing and Impact

- Impact is not only measured in terms of financial return and asset utilisation, but also wellbeing, and the ways in which these experiences contribute to things like community cohesion, connection to place and land and self.
- Arts activity, like public art, events, concerts and theatrical performances contribute to civic, amenity and cultural value, which has implications for changing perceptions about the district, and supporting future growth.
- Beyond economic measures, the impacts of the creative community on social and cultural wellbeing are also significant. In-depth Waikato-focussed research from 2022 showed that regular access and perceived access to arts, culture and creativity is a significant driver of individual wellbeing. This can contribute to better mental health outcomes, but also shows measurable connection to social cohesion, community connection, civic pride, and sense of identity.

At a time of increased need, now is the time to invest in people. Support the people who provide positive outcomes for diverse communities. Art, culture, and creativity sits alongside social services, kai, health, education, environment, and community connection as interwoven components of thriving communities. These things require civic investment as a part of ensuring community access. This forms part of the public good component of local government.

10. Creative Capability Development

- Creative Waikato wishes to build on its support and service delivery in the Ōtorohanga District. However, it requires adequate funding to enable us to do this.
- Services include capability building, strategic advice, research, insights, stakeholder engagement, community support and development.
- Creative Waikato would like to develop a formal strategic relationship with Ōtorohanga District Council, through partnership investment. This could be considered in a similar capacity to the existing relationship with Sport Waikato.

11. Specific Recommendations:

We request investment of \$30K per annum, with contribution to:

- a. Development of an 'Arts Action Plan' linked to the Waikato Arts Navigator Strategy, to provide a high-level strategy for how Council can further integrate arts, culture and creativity into what they do
- b. Investment to deliver
 - i. Cultural wellbeing outcomes
 - ii. Regional arts strategic activation
 - iii. Creative capability building in local communities
 - iv. Contribution to local and regional research and insights (including the Creative Infrastructure Plan).
- c. A high-level proposal and scope can be provided if required.

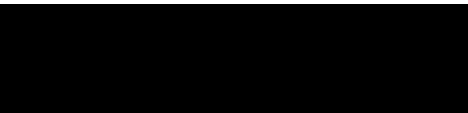
Creative Waikato formally thank Ōtorohanga District Council for the opportunity to make this submission.

Creative Waikato wish to be heard in support of this submission at a hearing.

Submitted by:

Sam Cunnane
Board Chair

Dr. Jeremy Mayall
CEO



Additional attachments available upon request:

- Creative Waikato Briefing to Councillors 2024

<https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Creative-Waikato-Briefing-to-Councillors-2024.pdf>

- Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024

https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Waikato-Creative-Infrastructure-Plan_2024-final.pdf



Respondent No: 32

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2024 17:25:19 pm

Last Seen: May 06, 2024 17:25:19 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Edwin Sheppard

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. **Is there anything else you would like us to know?**

Please see submission attached.

Q13. **You can upload a supporting document here if you wish**



SUBMISSION ON THE ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL'S 2024-2034 DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN

TO: Ōtorohanga District Council
17 Maniapoto Street
Ōtorohanga 3900

Name of submitter: Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is a submission on Ōtorohanga District Council's 2024-2034 draft Long Term Plan.
- 1.2 Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust ("ACAT") is a national organisation that represents the interests of New Zealand's rock climbing community. Its purpose is promote public access to rock climbing areas ("craggs") in Aotearoa, and to promote conservation and safe and responsible use of the climbing environment.
- 1.3 This submission relates to:
 - (a) Opportunities to promote rock climbing as a feature of Ōtorohanga District;
 - (b) The unfolding public access crisis that is threatening the future of rock climbing in Ōtorohanga District;
 - (c) The need for Council staff to work alongside ACAT to explore options to preserve public access to outdoor climbing areas; and
 - (d) The need for a budget allocation for 'Sport and recreation'.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The sport of rock climbing is rapidly growing in popularity in New Zealand and internationally, and was recently added to the Olympic Games. Contrary to popular perception, modern climbing is a relatively low-risk sport that is enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds.
- 2.2 High quality outdoor crags are rare in New Zealand and many of the North Island's best crags are concentrated in the Wharepapa South region, which is partly within the Ōtorohanga District. This provides recreational opportunities for Ōtorohanga residents and economic benefits from visiting climbers from around the North Island.

- 2.3 Despite this, public access to outdoor climbing areas in Ōtorohanga is severely threatened. All the Wharepapa South crags sit on farmland that is privately owned, and half of these crags have been closed to the public, most often after a farm sale. Continued closures threaten the future of rock climbing in the District.
- 2.4 ACAT was established in 2021 to address these issues, with support from the New Zealand Alpine Club (“NZAC”). ACAT has developed relationships with relevant landowners in the Ōtorohanga District and works with them to help retain public access.
- 2.5 However, many crags around Wharepapa South are either currently closed or have no access protection, and innovation is required to find solutions in partnership with landowners and the Council.

3. GENERAL SUBMISSION

- 3.1 ACAT seeks:
- (a) Stakeholder status with the Ōtorohanga District Council in relation to outdoor recreation matters;
 - (b) Council support for promotion of rock climbing as an attractive feature in Ōtorohanga District;
 - (c) Council endorsement for its staff to work alongside ACAT to explore options to preserve public access to outdoor climbing areas; and
 - (d) Consideration to a budget allocation to apply for the development, maintenance, and improvement of recreational climbing in the Ōtorohanga District.
- 3.2 The context and details of this submission are set out below.

4. NEW ZEALAND CLIMBING

- 4.1 Aotearoa has a proud history of rock and mountain climbing and continues to celebrate the exploits of our most famous climber, Sir Edmund Hillary. Today, Sir Ed’s legacy continues through many channels including the Hillary Outdoors Education Centres (formerly the Outdoor Pursuits Centre), which was co-founded by another famous climber, Sir Graeme Dingle. Hillary Outdoors has made a lasting impact on thousands of young people through its philosophy, “Youth Learning Through Adventure”. Sir Graeme Dingle is now ACAT’s patron.
- 4.2 New Zealand now has a thriving recreational climbing community that values getting out into nature and enjoying climbing on cliffs around the country. Nowadays, most climbers start out in indoor climbing gyms, which provide a safe learning environment in which to acquire skills and experience before venturing outdoors.
- 4.3 The advent of indoor climbing and improvements in safety have made making climbing ever more accessible to a range of age groups and communities, and it is changing from a fringe activity into a mainstream sport. Perhaps most symbolic of this change is its recent addition to the Olympic Games, with three categories, bouldering, sport climbing, and speed climbing.

All of these forms of the sport are relatively safe and the focus is on athletic performance rather than risk.

- 4.4 As the sport grows, more and more climbers are also heading outdoors to climb on real rock. Unfortunately however, the outdoor climbing scene faces significant issues. New Zealand has a limited amount of rock that is suitable for climbing, and many of these areas are on privately-owned farmland. In the past, many farmers have allowed access to their land, but as the sport grows in popularity, increasing numbers of visitors have increased the risk of crag closures. Access can be removed on a whim by landowners, who have no incentive to provide access except goodwill.
- 4.5 Within the past decade, several of the North Island's best crags have been closed to the public, including locations in Ōtorohanga, Waipa, Auckland, Waitomo, Taupō, and the Coromandel. Continued closures threaten the future of the sport, even as it grows more popular.

5. CLIMBING IN ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT

- 5.1 Ōtorohanga District provides both indoor and outdoor rock climbing opportunities for locals and visitors. The Harvest Rock centre in Ōtorohanga township is a great facility for locals and kids to get into the sport.
- 5.2 The area around Wharepapa South, half of which is in the Ōtorohanga District, is arguably the epicentre of rock climbing in the North Island. The exposed ignimbrite outcrops in this area are unique and impressive landscape features unlike anything else found in New Zealand. They date back to the Ongatiti volcanic event of around 1.3 million years ago.
- 5.3 The pockets of gas that were trapped in the rock now provide perfect holds for rock climbing. Ōtorohanga District features two popular crags that are publicly accessible; Sheridan Hills and Shawthing Rocks. It also contains three established crags that are currently closed to the public; Smiths Rock, Bayley Road, and Halls. These are shown in Figure 1 below, which includes the Ōtorohanga / Waipa District boundary.

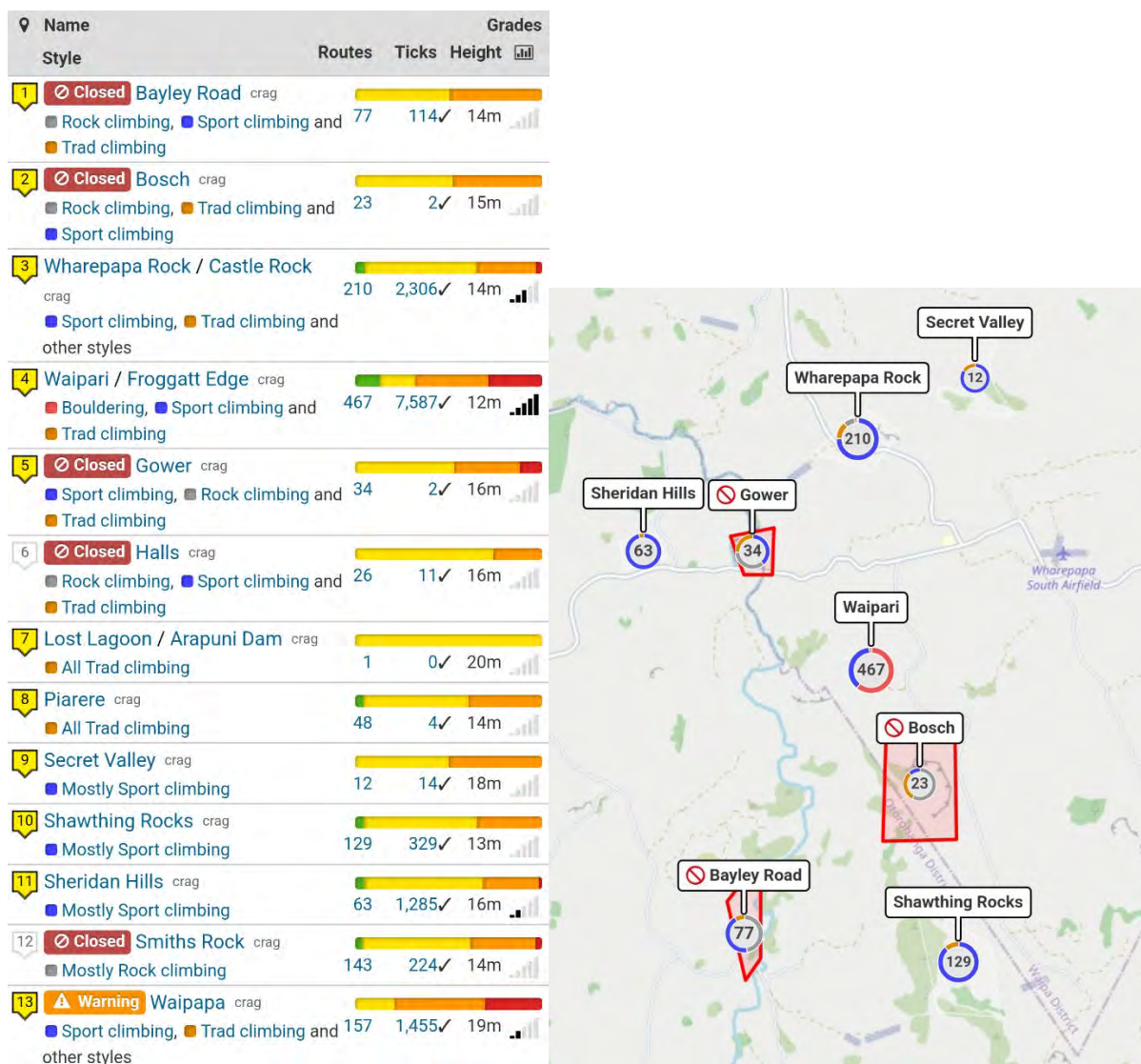


Figure 1: Wharepapa South crags list and map (from thecrag.com)

6. BENEFITS TO THE DISTRICT

- 6.1 Rock climbers make the trip from as far afield as Wellington to do weekend trips to the quality crags around Wharepapa South. It is the closest outdoor climbing area to Auckland and Hamilton, and hosts a weekly pilgrimage of visiting climbers, who stop at bakeries, supermarkets, service stations, and takeaway shops on their journeys back and forth.
- 6.2 These climbing areas also provide opportunities for schoolkids to participate in outdoor recreation programmes and provide locals with recreation opportunities right in their backyard.
- 6.3 A number of companies benefit from and are reliant the climbing community continuing to visit Wharepapa South. This includes outdoor adventure companies and organisations such as Raglan Rock, Bigfoot Adventures, and Adventure Specialties Trust. There is even a shop in Wharepapa South, Bryce's Rock Climbing, that caters purely to visiting and local climbers.

- 6.4 There are no good figures for the total amount of climbing traffic in the District, however, one crag, Wharepapa Rock, receives 1,000 – 1,500 paying climbers per year pay, mostly school groups on outdoor education programmes. The nearby crag of Waipari is visited by many thousands of climbers each year as it is free of charge and is very popular with recreational climbers.

7. ACCESS CRISIS

- 7.1 All the climbing areas in Ōtorohanga are on private land and as such, climbing access is often precarious. Unfortunately, many of the high-quality climbing areas in Ōtorohanga District have been closed to the public over the past 20 years. The closed crags are Smiths Rock, Halls, and Bayleys Road.
- 7.2 Crag closures have most commonly occurred when a farm containing the cliffs has changed hands, and the new owner did not welcome visitors. This mirrors trends around New Zealand.
- 7.3 Several factors are fuelling this crisis, including:
- (a) Misconceptions about potential landowner liability under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (“HSWA”);
 - (b) A lingering (mis)perception that rock climbing is a high-risk sport;
 - (c) Increasing climber numbers increase the likelihood of incidents such as gates being left open, which raise concerns for farmers; and
 - (d) Landowners have no incentive to permit public access except goodwill.
- 7.4 The perception of risk associated with climbing is largely overstated and misunderstood, as is the perception that farmers may be held liable for recreational accidents on their land (this is generally not possible). However, unless farmers receive some benefit from permitting public access to their land, any amount of risk or hassle will usually result in access being closed.

8. AOTEAROA CLIMBING ACCESS TRUST

- 8.1 ACAT is an independent charitable trust that was created in 2021 with support from NZAC, in response to the escalating access crisis. It works with stakeholders such as landowners, DOC, Councils and iwi to ensure that current and future generations of New Zealanders continue to have opportunities to experience climbing and adventure in the great outdoors.
- 8.2 ACAT has already had success in building relationships and finding innovative approaches to difficult access issues. For example, we have worked with Ngāti Te Maunga to reopen rock climbing access at Whanganui Bay on the shores of Lake Taupō after years of closure, through the creation of a climber registration and payment system that sees benefits flowing to the hapu.
- 8.3 The Wharepapa South region has been a strong focus area for ACAT, due to the large number of high-quality crags with precarious access. We helped to save public access to Waipari and Wharepapa Rock crags after the farms were sold late in 2020, and have also worked closely

with the owners of Sheridans and Shawthing Rocks. We do a lot of education work within the climbing community to ensure that climbers are sensitive to landowner concerns.

8.4 In 2022 and again in March 2024 we ran the ACAT RockFest event at Waipari crag. This was the largest climbing event in Aotearoa, with 250 people coming together for a 3-day celebration of all things climbing and community. We made tickets available to members of the local community for free and had more than 50 locals turn up and check it out. We ran free climbing clinics for the Wharepapa South School kids, plus had local stalls, food trucks and a sausage sizzle fundraiser for the School. This all follows from our kaupapa of creating strong relationships between climbers and communities. An article about the event by the Waikato Times is **attached**.

8.5 Despite all this work, crag access in the Wharepapa South region remains precarious, as it relies entirely on the goodwill of the landowners. Solutions also remain to be found for the five crags around Wharepapa South that are currently closed to the public.

9. OPTIONS FOR PRESERVING CLIMBING ACCESS

9.1 Possible approaches to secure permanent access might include:

- (a) In certain circumstances, Environmental Lots could be used to provide landowners with a right to subdivide part of their land in return for placing climbing areas under permanent covenants and undertaking ecological restoration projects. A scheme of this nature has been put in place by the Waipa District Council in response to ACAT's submission on their 2021-2031 LTP;
- (b) A funding contribution by the Council to support specific land acquisitions by ACAT to secure perpetual access rights;
- (c) A rates reduction or other financial incentive for landowners to permit public access to land that has high value for recreationalists;
- (d) Council purchase of a new recreation reserve with funding support from the climbing community (note climbing is endorsed by local authorities within recreation reserves in the Auckland and Southern Lakes regions).

9.2 It is not submitted that all these approaches will be feasible, only that options exist to protect the future of climbing in Ōtorohanga District and are worth exploring. No doubt other possibilities will emerge over time. An outline of the Waipa District Council scheme is below.

10. WAIPA DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL LOT SCHEME

10.1 In 2021 ACAT made a submission similar to this one on Waipa District Council's LTP. In response, the Council agreed to set up an informal scheme to issue Environmental Balance Lots (referred to as 'Environmental Lots' in the Ōtorohanga District Plan) to landowners who protect recreational climbing access through a permanent recreational access easement. The Environmental Balance Lot can be sold to other landowners (a Transferable Development Right).

10.2 ACAT has since developed a legal agreement and easement instrument that the Council confirmed would meet the requirements of its scheme.

10.3 ACAT is currently in negotiations with a landowner in Waipa District who is interested in permanently protecting recreational climbing access on their land via the Council's scheme.

11. ADDRESSING CONCERNS

11.1 As noted above, it is common for rock climbing to be perceived as a high-risk activity and for concerns to be raised about potential liability for accidents. These concerns are addressed below.

11.2 In respect of the level of risk associated with climbing, there is no evidence to suggest that modern sport-climbing or top-roping (the forms of climbing that predominantly occur in Ōtorohanga) could be defined as high-risk activities. In fact, these are relatively safe activities when compared with other sports such as rugby or mountain-biking.

11.3 The position of recreational rock climbing under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 was clarified by WorkSafe in 2019. WorkSafe's Policy Clarification and FAQs in regard to recreational access to land can be found on their website.

11.4 WorkSafe's guidance confirms that HSWA does not apply to recreational activities such as outdoor rock climbing, and that landowners do not have to manage the risks of the recreational activity. WorkSafe made a particular point of emphasising that it does not want to stop recreational access, and that it has never taken action in relation to recreational accidents. Recreational users are responsible for their own safety, and organisations like NZAC and ACAT work to promote safe and responsible climbing.

11.5 Note that 'recreational activities' are distinct from regulated activities provided by Adventure Activity Operators under the Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016.

12. OUTCOMES SOUGHT

12.1 To date there has been little recognition of rock climbing as an attractive and beneficial feature of Ōtorohanga District. ACAT would be happy to provide information and work with the Council as a stakeholder to promote the sport and the great opportunities available in the District.

12.2 In terms of addressing the access crisis, ACAT understands that Council funding and staff time is constrained by the current Long Term Plan. ACAT seeks an endorsement for Council staff to work alongside ACAT to explore options to maintain public access to rock climbing areas.

12.3 With rock climbing, the recreational facilities already exist (natural cliff formations) and they are developed by enthusiastic members of the climbing community. It is anticipated that future opportunities will arise to secure these sporting assets for the benefit of the District.

12.4 ACAT understands that the Council's budget is currently under significant pressure and it is not seeking Council funding for any specific initiatives at this time. However, it encourages the

Council to consider the value of a future budget allocation to apply for the development, maintenance and improvement of rock climbing in the Ōtorohanga District.

- 12.5 ACAT submits that these outcomes align with Council's goal of creating vibrant spaces and places.

Dated at AUCKLAND this 6th day of May 2024

AOTEAROA CLIMBING ACCESS TRUST

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E Sheppard'.

Edwin Sheppard
Kaiwhakahaere Matua - General Manager

Address for service of submitter:

Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust



[NEWS](#) [LIFE](#) [OPINION](#) [BUSINESS](#) [SPORT](#) [PUZZLES](#) [SUNDAY STAR-TIMES](#) [REGIONS](#) ▼

Waipari RockFest 2024: The King Country farm turned climber's paradise



Te Aorewa Rolleston | WAIKATO TIMES

April 1, 2024

↗ Share



RockFest is about more than just climbing - this epic celebration has a load of extra activities on offer to make it a truly unforgettable experience.

VIDEO CREDIT: CHRISTEL YARDLEY

Dangling from a 30m highline bolted between two cliffs is the type of adrenaline rush that attracted hundreds of climbers to a rural paddock in the King Country over the long weekend.

Karl “Merry” Schimanski’s property, nestled among sprawling farmland east of Otorohanga, is a climber’s paradise after buying the place in 2021 in order to keep it open long-term.

The Waipari property was the scene for RockFest, a three-day event that essentially turned the land into a climbers’ commune for the second year running.



A Waikato farmer’s rural property has become a mecca for climbers seeking a slice of “zen”.

CHRISTEL YARDLEY / WAIKATO TIMES

The towering stone faces make an ideal playground for climbers seeking a slice of “zen”.

They say it can become an “obsession”, fuelled by a fascination with heights and mental challenges.

Schimanski, an avid climber of more than 20 years, scaled his first walls here.

Despite “paying significantly more” than expected for the site three years ago, it was an investment into a long-held dream of improving access to rock climbing and bouldering areas around NZ.



Karl "Merry" Schimanski's Waikato farm looking picture perfect on Sunday.

CHRISTEL YARDLEY / WAIKATO TIMES

"This place was up for auction at the time and there was a very real concern that we might lose access to climbing," he told the *Waikato Times* on Sunday.

People came from both overseas and close to home in search of the more loose environment, outdoor camping and concerts, spine tingling activities and tight-knit community that attendees say is worth travelling for.

It becomes a "habit", veteran climber and highlining fanatic Matt Warwick said.

An at times debilitating battle with anxiety can't stop Warwick from clipping his harness in and putting faith in his skills and ability to remain "calm" and composed.



Visitors had travelled from both overseas and close to home in search of the spine tingling activities, camping, concerts and the tight-knit community.

CHRISTEL YARDLEY / WAIKATO TIMES

“You just want to succeed at it ... it’s to get to that happy place and be free.”

Waikato was regarded as the “epicentre” of climbing, those at the site say, but regardless of the country or the terrain “it’s all the same, a mountain is a mountain”.

Growing Waikato’s climbing culture and expanding the plethora of sites on offer for climbers is what the organiser, Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust, is all about.



Climbing becomes an obsession, veteran climber and highlining fanatic Matt Warwick says.

CHRISTEL YARDLEY / WAIKATO TIMES

While there was a serious appetite for climbing overseas, New Zealand didn't have the same "legacy of climbing" compared to places such as Europe and the United States, general manager Edwin Sheppard said.

It was a reality often influenced by a lack of access to good climbing sites and common misconceptions around the sport being deemed "reckless" or for "radicals" when it's not.

"Climbing has been developing in New Zealand since the '70s ... it was started by very adventurous people, I think back then it was a very small, very niche group of people that were drawn to this kind of crazy activity ... and it's continued to grow."



Improving access to rock climbing and bouldering areas around NZ is the catalyst for hosting RockFest, according to Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust generical manager Edwin Sheppard. He's pictured with property owner Karl "Merry" Schimanski.

CHRISTEL YARDLEY / WAIKATO TIMES

But through events like RockFest and forming partnerships with local organisations, landowners and iwi, ACAT was optimistic that it would lead to more awareness and progress towards building Aotearoa's climbing culture.

"The purpose is to bring the climbing community together to create connections between climbers and the local community."

- WAIKATO TIMES

➔ Share



Respondent No: 33

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2024 17:45:14 pm

Last Seen: May 06, 2024 17:45:14 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Full name** Tracy Hampton

Q2. **Organisation (if applicable)** Waikato Screen NZ

Q5. **Do you want to speak to your submission?** Yes

Q7. **Funding depreciation** not answered

Q8. **Community presence** not answered

Q9. **Kāwhia and Aotea seawall rates** not answered

Q10. **What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?**

not answered

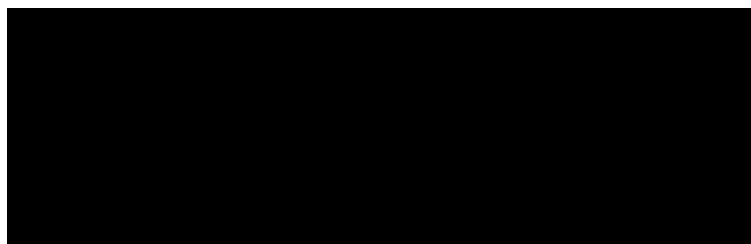
Q11. **What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?**

not answered

Q12. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Although our submission is not targeted towards a policy, we would like to add other feedback and ask to be considered in Ōtorohanga District Council's Long-Term Plan. We have attached a full proposal and included our latest report. Waikato Screen NZ is an economic development agency specific to the screen sector and in our first year we have already delivered on providing economic development for the region. Some examples of opportunities in the past year that we have been an integral part of establishing were: - Beyond Goodbye A Japanese Netflix production that had an estimated minimum spend of \$425,000 into Raglan and Hamilton communities. This medium sized production was spent on accommodation, catering, venue hire, community engagement and employed over 100 locals as extras, security, and PA's. - International Huntly production Initially this production was importing everything and everyone from Auckland and had no intention to spend in the Waikato. With Waikato Screen's persuasive discussions that they needed to support the region and film here, they decided to accommodate crew and injected at least \$150,000, and massive community engagement over 3 days of filming, benefiting Waikato and Hamilton City districts. - Waitomo Documentary Through previous relationships established by our team, we convinced producers that their international documentary should not be in Auckland and Waitomo was more suitable. Delivering approximately \$100,000 to this district, which was a \$47 dollar return for each dollar invested from the Waitomo council. - The series 'The Gone' Boasted \$1million spend for a five-week period. This was a return of \$79 for every dollar invested by both the Hauraki and MPDC councils. With the second series currently commencing filming this week, again in Te Aroha and being welcomed by the local community, as we provide full support for the production. We would like to continue this momentum and capture more of the \$3.5 billion dollar NZ screen industry for the Waikato Region. The bonus about the film industry is it is not money circulated from within our local economic ecosystem. It is an economic injection mostly coming from other regions and other countries with the money going directly into our local economy with a wide reach. As a passionate advocate for the growth of our regional screen sector, we ask you to please include Waikato Screen NZ in your Long-Term Plan (LTP). The organisation's sustainability and vitality depend greatly on your continued support and funding. Supporting our regional film office is not just an investment in the arts and entertainment; it's an investment in our community's future prosperity and cultural richness. The momentum that Waikato Screen NZ has generated in building a thriving screen sector in the Waikato is undeniable, and therefore it is imperative that we have your ongoing backing. The support of our regional film office means the opportunity for our creative community to work where they live and feel connected. Another benefit, is the roll-on effect that film expenditure has on supporting our local businesses and positively impacting our regions economy. Please prioritise the inclusion of Waikato Screen NZ in your LTP. Your backing is not just an investment in Waikato Screen; it's an investment in our local economy and overall well-being of our community and region. Should you decide to redistribute your economic funding, please consider us.

Q13. You can upload a supporting document here if you wish





Proposal for Inclusion of Waikato Screen NZ in the Long-Term Plan.

Executive Summary:

Waikato Screen NZ is seeking inclusion in the Long-Term Plan of the Ōtorohanga District Council to secure an annual funding allocation of \$3,000 + inflation. Our organisation plays a crucial role in driving the growth of the screen sector in the Waikato Region, fostering economic development, cultural enrichment, and community engagement through education, work placement and art exposure. This funding will enable us to continue our strategic initiatives, partnerships, and economic development efforts to further enhance the screen industry in the region.

In addition to the substantial economic benefits, it's crucial to recognise the competitive landscape we face. Auckland, with its booming film industry, is our direct neighbour and a formidable contender for productions seeking locations and support services. The significant international investment of 3.5 billion dollars annually in New Zealand, with Auckland alone garnering 1.5 billion dollars per year, underscores the immense potential of the screen sector. By investing in Waikato Screen NZ, we position ourselves strategically to remain tapped into this lucrative market, capturing a share of these productions and bolstering our region's economic vitality. Without adequate funding and resources, we risk losing out to competing regions, forfeiting not only economic gains but also the opportunity to showcase the cultural richness and natural beauty of the Waikato on a global stage. Therefore, we urge the Ōtorohanga District Council to recognise the urgency of supporting our organisation and securing the future prosperity of the Waikato Region's screen sector.

Business Description:

The scope of our regional film office encompasses various initiatives aimed at supporting and growing the screen industry in the Waikato Region. Our goals include showcasing the region's unique locations to national and international productions, facilitating collaboration between local government, iwi, and productions, providing support to councils and productions with protocols and permitting advice, and enhancing cultural heritage within the screen industry. We also connect our local film industry with employment opportunities on productions and provide business for local service providers, ensuring productions support our region's economy.

Budget:

On request we can provide a detailed budget breakdown outlining the allocation of the requested funding. This includes costs for operational expenses, HR, marketing and attraction, development, youth and industry workshops, and community engagement initiatives. We are committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in the utilisation of funds, with a focus on maximising the impact of every dollar invested.

Timeline:

We have developed a comprehensive timeline for our organisation's future, highlighting key milestones and deliverables. We have effective, timely processes on reporting to achieve measurable outcomes. We recognise the importance of adhering to project-based objectives and will diligently work towards successful results for our initiatives.

Risk Management:

We have identified potential risks and challenges associated with our business and have developed strategies to mitigate them effectively. These include engaging with stakeholders to address concerns and maintaining open lines of communication. Our proactive approach to risk management ensures that we are well-prepared to navigate any unforeseen obstacles that may arise.

Community Engagement:

Community engagement is at the heart of our initiatives, and we have actively collaborated with stakeholders and community groups. We have also collaborated with local businesses, organisations, and industry guilds to support our initiatives. We actively implement educational workshops and advocate for work placements of locals on film projects in our region. The positive outcomes highlight the importance of our organisation and the value it brings to the region.

Environmental Impact:

We are committed to minimising the environmental impact of the screen sector industry and have incorporated measures to ensure sustainable practices as we work with productions. This includes reducing carbon emissions, minimising waste generation, and promoting eco-friendly production techniques. The film industry is globally aware of its responsibilities, and we support these initiatives.

Social and Economic Benefits:

The social and economic benefits of our project are vast, ranging from job creation and infrastructure development to career pathways for our rangatahi. By attracting national and international productions to the Waikato Region, we stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and showcase the cultural richness of our community to a global audience. The direct economic impact of the screen sector in the region is substantial, and we aim to further amplify this contribution in the long term.

Funding Request:

We are requesting an annual funding allocation of \$3,000 + inflation from the Ōtorohanga District Council to support the ongoing activities of Waikato Screen NZ. This funding, along with the current support from all other councils in our region, is essential to sustain our operations, drive the growth of the screen sector, and maximise the cultural and economic benefits for the Waikato Region. We firmly believe that this investment will yield significant returns for the community and contribute to the overall prosperity and well-being of the region.

Evaluation and Monitoring:

We have established processes and will continue to develop ways to evaluate and monitor the success of our industry's impact over time. This includes tracking performance indicators, collecting data on key metrics, and conducting regular assessments to measure progress and outcomes. We are committed to transparency and accountability in reporting our results to the Ōtorohanga District Council and other stakeholders, ensuring that the investment yields tangible benefits for the community.

Supporting an industry:

We have mapped the industry professionals in our region as a thriving sector offering employment and upskilling our rangatahi. Our crew database and their support demonstrates the viability and importance of the work we provide to the Waikato Region.

Conclusion:

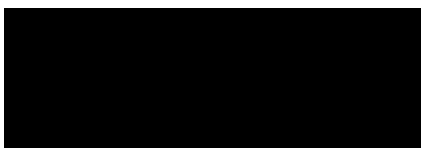
In conclusion, the inclusion of Waikato Screen NZ in the Ōtorohanga District Council's Long-Term plan is vital to the continued growth and success of the screen sector in the Waikato Region. Our work aligns with the council's strategic priorities, addresses community needs, and offers significant social and economic benefits. The screen industry provides ample work opportunities for locals, and education & upskilling for rangatahi, not to mention the positive economic longevity through screen tourism benefits.

We urge the Ōtorohanga District Council to consider our comprehensive proposal and allocate the requested funding to support our ongoing efforts to enrich the community and drive economic growth through the screen sector in the Waikato Region.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



WAIKATO SCREEN NZ



WAIKATO^{NZ} SCREEN

GROW WAIKATO SCREEN PROJECT FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT TO



Ōtorohanga

District Council

Where kiwi can fly

REPORTING PERIOD: AUGUST 2023 – JANUARY 2024

1 Executive Summary

We are delighted to share Waikato Screen NZ's biannual report summary, highlighting recent progress. As a **non-profit**, we drive Waikato's screen sector growth through strategic initiatives, partnerships, and economic development. Achievements include establishing a fully funded film office, attracting international productions, nurturing local talent and enhancing production efficiency. Grateful for support from advisors, stakeholders and industry partners like NZ Film Commission & Regional Film Office NZ (RFONZ). Together, we are shaping a vibrant, creative community in Waikato. Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

Our report highlights the;

- Relationships and networks
- Building the screen industry
- Performance targets
- Involvement with Council
- Key achievements in the past year
- Key challenges and risks
- Conclusion & recommendations

2 Relationships and networks

Throughout 2023 to Jan 2024, our film office flourished with Territorial Authorities' support, securing full funding in May 2023. We continue building industry connections, including our partnership with the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) holding bi-monthly meetings to facilitate film inquiries and showcase our locations to international industry professionals, boosting our global presence. Collaboration with NZFC enhances national representation and provides industry insights. Participation in RFONZ events and industry gatherings highlights our commitment to progress. Engaging with industry guilds and community groups fosters inclusivity and talent pathways. Continued stakeholder engagement and strategic planning demonstrate effective governance. Through collaboration and networking, we are building a strong film community for positive outcomes.







3 Building the screen industry

Waikato Screen NZ's key initiatives include:

- To support and grow the industry to deliver more significant outcomes for our communities and create a direct economic impact
- Showcasing the region's locations to National & International productions
- Facilitating collaboration between local government, iwi, and productions for ease of filming
- Connecting productions, crew, and local businesses to ensure community spending
- Providing support to councils & productions with protocols and permitting advice
- Working on environmental & sustainability solutions for the screen industry
- Assisting with iwi connections and communication with all stakeholders
- Creating upskilling and education workshops and assisting with career pathways
- Facilitating cast and crew job placement into screen sector employment
- Connecting, collaborating, and networking to build the screen sector eco-system
- Supporting the development of infrastructure and production hubs to strengthen future production services



4 Performance targets

Measure	Result	Half year/Year commentary
 Enquiries The number of enquiries from production companies received grows year on year	➔	Dec 22 – 1 st Jan 24 We received 38 enquiries in our first 12 months. Enquiries included crew and service providers connecting to Waikato Screen. This has now been automated through our website, and we had 84 crew signed up from August until December 2023 with continued registrations in 2024.
 Filming The number of productions filmed in the Waikato grows year on year	➔	28 Productions were recorded through Waikato Screen through productions using our services. 7 Feature Films / 6 TVC's / 2 Drama Series / 2 International Streaming / 2 Travel Shows / 2 Documentaries/ 3 Photo shoots/ 1 Music Video/ 4 TV series / 1 Micro Budget. Feature Films – include New Zealand stories, Micro, Indie. Most notable, a multi-million-dollar stream series that reported a spend of 150K per night. We also had 3 International Feature Films and have a blockbuster due to shoot in March 24.
 Communications and Marketing Create a marketing and communications plan to promote the Waikato as a destination for film within the first year of this agreement	➔	We send out a quarterly newsletter to over 400 screen industry personnel and stakeholders. Our marketing & communications is across our social media platforms. Our website is currently being designed and built, with the expected delivery in eight weeks. Collaborating with industry leaders & tourism to promote our locations and services we are commencing production of our industry Showreel. We also feature in both the NZFC Lookbook for the International Market and RFONZ website.
 Training and networking Host three training and/or networking events for the industry annually	➔	Our networking started with our inaugural Think Tank session with industry professionals and stakeholders. This was used to carve out the workshops most required. We commenced our calendar in Jan/Feb 24 with 2 collaborative workshops and have a calendar line-up in 2024 hosting 4 networking evenings, 15 school introductions to the screen sector, 4 youth film workshops and 5 professional upskilling workshops.
 Recce/famils Organise at least one group recce/famil annually	➔	We did a recce for an advertising agency and a group for a Japanese Netflix production, which both chose the Waikato for their productions. With some more recent larger production reece's currently underway. Over the next month we are planning to showcase and promote key locations to a group of Canadian Producers.
 Representation Represent Waikato Screen NZ at industry forums (at least one per year) and at the annual Regional Film Offices of New Zealand	➔	We represented our region at the Regional Film Office NZ Annual Hui, attended the NZ Game Developers conference plus attended the WIFT Awards (Woman in Film & Television) and hosting at the Big Screen Symposium representing the Mighty Waikato.

5 Involvement with Council

Our partnership with Territorial Authorities is crucial for support and communication. This collaboration aids in guiding productions through protocols and processes efficiently. Our upcoming website launch in April 2024 will further enhance this collaboration. Ideally, linking Waikato Screen NZ's website with Territorial Authorities will streamline enquiries and support the filmmaking process. This connection will also enable us to generate economic impact reports, providing insights into how each production benefits our communities. Progress on the location directory involves sharing images of unique locations with councils and NZFC to attract productions. Engaging with council staff aims to improve support for film logistics, permitting, traffic management and advancing our goal of becoming a more 'film-friendly' region.

6 Key achievements in the past year

Significant achievements have been made in bringing filming into the Waikato.

Notably and publicly, the Netflix production Beyond Goodbye was filmed in Raglan. The Waikato hosted a crew of 130 that resided in both Raglan and Hamilton.

Estimated economic spend included:

- 50 crew stayed 7 days in Hamilton (2 rest days) (\$50,500)
- Estimated rest day spend (\$15,000)
- 80-person accommodation in the Raglan and surrounding area (\$120,000)
- Crew Tabs at local coffee shops (\$1,000)
- 5 locations rented for filming (\$10,000)
- Beach Buggy transportation and drivers (\$5,000)
- Parking - unit base sites x 3 rented from Raglan Club, Raglan Rugby Club and the Kokore (on iwi land) & multiple personal driveways (\$20,000)
- Local security company hired to employ security approx. (\$20,000)
- Approx 90 locals employed, including extras, production assistants (\$30,000), beach drivers and security (as above)
- Donations made to surf life-saving (\$2,000)
- Catering and craft services purchased locally (\$30,000)
- Koha was provided for powhiri and lunch from Poihakena Marae (\$5,000)
- Crew per diems spent locally (\$16,000)
- Estimated total \$324,500

The importance of having a film office.

A film office facilitates crucial connections for productions, including business engagement, council contacts, traffic management and securing unique locations. These connections lead to economic opportunities for local businesses, employment, and cultural engagement, ultimately enhancing the region's appeal for filming.

Our dedication and connections have created a greater direct impact on the economy and culture.

Recent outcomes were measured and increased in these areas: Extended number of filming days | Increased employment of local industry crew | Increased local service providers | Connected with local iwi, Hapu engagement with the productions | Additional nights of crew accommodation booked | Local background talent from our communities | Used local catering services | The local Maraes were involved | Booked local Traffic Management companies & Security. This was directly because of Waikato Screen's showcase & facilitators' involvement in building connections and providing resources by establishing a relationship with the productions.

Key business achievements are:

- . Secured stakeholder support and commenced implementation of key initiatives under strong management team leadership
- . Sponsorship of the Aotearoa Mental Health Film Festival and supported youth film-maker school holiday programme
- . Held Key Industry Think Tank workshop for networking connections & building a strong film region
- . Hosted the Raglan Film course to foster local talent development
- . Established comprehensive local Crew and Business service provider directories
- . Initiated an iwi engagement plan to start the film-based process for cultural collaboration
- . Strengthened industry connections through engagement with Regional Film Offices and attendance at National Industry event
- . Expanded 'social media following' across leading platforms to enhance outreach
- . Received increased production inquiries, indicating growing industry interest
- . Formalised operational structure to streamline organisational processes
- . Planned workshops for youth and industry professionals in 2024 to promote skill development
- . Commenced Building up a regional image gallery to showcase filming opportunities in the Waikato region
- . Confirmation of 'The Gone' for Series Two, after great success in both NZ and Ireland

7 Key challenges and risks

Key risks and challenges for Waikato Screen:

- . Limited economic impact data access
- . Long-term funding uncertainty
- . Regulatory hurdles and permitting complexities
- . Competition from other regions
- . Talent retention and development
- . Environmental sustainability concerns
- . Uncertainty in international markets

Most of these risks and challenges were assessed in our initial Business Plan (included in our Grow Waikato Screen Master Plan). Moving forward if required, strategic planning and collaboration with stakeholders will mitigate ongoing efforts to help adapt to changing market dynamics while advocating for the importance of the screen industry for local economy and community development.



8 Conclusion & recommendations

Our management prioritises industry growth through education, upskilling, and partnerships, fostering a thriving local community for professionals. Film production offers job opportunities and boosts local businesses, contributing significantly to our economy. With dedicated leadership and sustained funding, we aim to increase our film industry's contribution to align with Waikato's GDP, positioning us as a premier film destination. Continued government and council support are essential for our long-term success in propelling the Waikato region forward in the film industry.

As we continue to showcase New Zealand on the global stage, securing ongoing government and council support through the Long-Term Plan (LTP) is paramount. With this support, we're confident in our ability to propel the Waikato region to the forefront of the film industry, ensuring sustained growth and prosperity for years to come.

9 Declaration

We, the undersigned declare the following:

- We have acknowledged the receipt of council funding in our organisation's accounts or a note in our organisation's Annual Report.
- If requested by funding councils, we will provide any files or records that relate to the expenditure of this funding for inspection.
- We acknowledge that if this funding has been misappropriated and no appropriate remedial action taken, then the council this relates to may recover the funding and may deem our organisation to be ineligible for further funding.
- The details we have given in all sections of this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge, and reasonable evidence has been provided to support our accountability report.

First name

Tracy

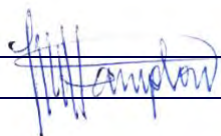
Last name

Hampton

Position (e.g. Chair, Director)

Film Office Manager

Signature



Date

12th March 2024

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nardolia
Date: 20 April 2024
Entered by: Blenden
Date: 20 April 2024
Ref #: 6

Full Name:

JANE LOWE

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Do you want to speak to your submission?

Yes

No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Reduce the amount we set aside for funding depreciation of assets by \$2.1 million total over 3 years.

OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.

OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.

OPTION 2:

Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls.

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nardella

Date: 20 April 2024

Entered by: Blenden

Date: 20 April 2024

Ref #: 7

Full Name: DAVID LOWE

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Do you want to speak to your submission?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

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HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nicky
Date: 13 April 2024
Entered by: Nardalia
Date: 22 April 2024
Ref #: 10

Full Name: John Haddad

Organisation: (if applicable) Haddads

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

"The further backward you look - the further forward you can see!"

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Do you want to speak to your submission?

Yes

No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Reduce the amount we set aside for funding depreciation of assets by \$2.1 million total over 3 years.



OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.



OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.



OPTION 2:

Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Use the existing ODC halls & facilities rather than getting the van.

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nicky
Date: 13 April 2024
Entered by: Nodira
Date: 22 April 2024
Ref #: 11

Full Name:

Bill Miller

Organisation: (if applicable)

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

Have more Farm Tours of our Region

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Do you want to speak to your submission?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Stop Cars Parking on Bus Stop if Tourist can Shop

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

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OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.

OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.

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HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nicky
Date: 18 April 2024
Entered by: Nadia
Date: 22 April 2024
Ref #: 12

Full Name:

Ernest Montgomery

Organisation: (if applicable)

✓

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Do you want to speak to your submission?

Yes

✓

No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Reduce the amount we set aside for funding depreciation of assets by \$2.1 million total over 3 years.



OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.



OPTION 2: Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.



OPTION 2:

Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls.

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nicky
Date: 13 April 2024
Entered by: Natalia
Date: 22 April 2024
Ref #: 13

Full Name: Kymba Montgomery

Organisation: (if applicable)

[Redacted area]

Do you want to speak to your submission? Yes ☒ No ☐

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

[Redacted area]

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

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OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.



OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42



OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.



OPTION 2:

Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls.

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nicky
Date: 13 April 2024
Entered by: Norah
Date: 22 April 2024
Ref #: 14

Full Name: Annelies Baek

Organisation: (if applicable)

[Redacted]

Do you want to speak to your submission?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

[Redacted]

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

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OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.

OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.

OPTION 2:

Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls.

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

Yes for Otewa Rd picnic sites !!

Yes for riparian planting.

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

The gravel pit at #14

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

HAVE YOUR SAY SUBMISSION

Received by: Annette
Date: 29 April 2024
Entered by: Nardra
Date: 1 May 2024
Ref #: 19

Full Name:

Peter Sayers

Organisation: (if applicable)

[Redacted]

Do you want to speak to your submission?

Yes

No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission,
please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.

[Redacted]

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn
more on
page 40

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Reduce the amount we set aside
for funding depreciation of
assets by \$2.1 million total over
3 years.

OPTION 2: Continue to collect
\$2.1 million total over 3 years
in rates to fund depreciation of
assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn
more on
page 41

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.

OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn
more on
page 42

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate
for all three seawalls across
both communities.

OPTION 2:

Each community continues to
pay for their own seawalls.

Please see
attached.

What do you think about our plans for our other
projects and activities?

What do you think about our plan for finances,
including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include
your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions
(including your name, address and contact details) are provided
to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing
feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the
administration of the engagement and decision-making process.
Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will
be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released
under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act
1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there
are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept
confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

Kawhia and Aotea Seawall Rates

In relation to changing the way the Aotea Seawall is funded, without further information I find the 2 options given, with Option 1 noted as "our preferred option" - quite arrogant.

- Why is it your preferred option?

I understood that the wall was to be built and maintained by Aotea Village residents. Why should this condition change part way through?

Those residents live there with all the benefits of a waterfront property so therefore they can also live with the consequences.

Don't expect me and others to pay for their consequences through our rates, taxes and insurances.

There is an "old" story about the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and the "other".... man who built his house on the sand.

~~There~~^{This} is a "new" subdivision - When will people learn.

I'm ok with people living there but they need to "stand on their own feet".

More information on the "whys and wherefores" should be provided.

Peter Sayers

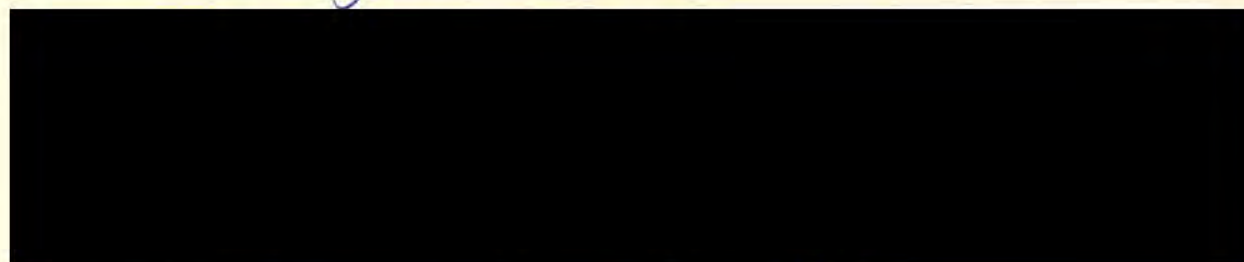
Peter Sayers
27-4-24

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION FORM

Received by: Nicky
Date: 13 April 2024
Entered by: Nicola
Date: 3 May 2024
Ref #: 22

Full Name: Leo Hylton-Skelton

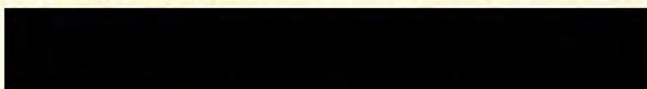


Do you want to speak to your submission?

Yes

No

If you would like to speak to councillors about your submission, please provide your phone number so we can contact you with the date and time.



DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

FUNDING DEPRECIATION

Learn more on page 40

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Reduce the amount we set aside for funding depreciation of assets by \$2.1 million total over 3 years.

OPTION 2: Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.

COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Learn more on page 41

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Don't buy the van.

OPTION 2:

Buy the van.

KĀWHIA AND AOTEA SEAWALL RATES

Learn more on page 42

OPTION 1:

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.

OPTION 2:

Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls.

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?

I would like to compliment staff about ODC work. I know about international changes in trade supplies and changes in labour supplies and I'm

What do you think about our plan for finances, including our proposed limits on rates and debt?

frustrated that many people in our district don't see the bigger picture. I want to congratulate you on doing good work

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

under these challenging financial circumstances.

Take note: For your submission to be valid, you must include your full name, a postal address or email address. All submissions (including your name, address and contact details) are provided to Council staff and Elected Members for the purpose of analysing feedback. Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the engagement and decision-making process. Submissions (with the individual's name and organisation only) will be available online. If requested, submitter details may be released under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 unless there are grounds to withhold this information. If there are good reasons why your name and/or submission should be kept confidential please contact us by emailing info@otodc.govt.nz.

APPENDIX FOUR: LIST OF SUBMITTERS/SPEAKERS

SUBMISSION NO.	NAME/ORGANISATION	REQUESTED TO BE HEARD
1	Deborah Pilkington	Yes ² now NO
2	Sahndra Cave	No
3	Alan Davey	No
4	Te Huia and Rangiwherowhero Whānau Trust	No
5	Waikato Regional Airport Ltd	Yes
6	Jane Lowe	No
7	David Lowe	No
8	Keith Robbins	No
9	Tourism Export Council of New Zealand	Yes ³ now NO
10	Haddads	No
11	Bill Millar	Yes
12	Earnest Montgomery	No
13	Kymba Montgomery	No
14	Annelies Black	Yes
15	Hamilton and Waikato Tourism	Yes
16	Sport Waikato	Yes
17	Michelle Erikson	No
18	Waipā Rere Noa Inc. - Catchment Group	Yes
19	Peter Sayers	No
20	Ōtorohanga Returned & Services Association Incorporated	No ⁴ now YES
21	John Sabini	No
22	Leo Hylton-Skelton	No
23	New Zealand Recreation Association/Recreation Aotearoa	No
24	Sport New Zealand	No
25	Withdrawn	N/A
26	Royal New Zealand SPCA	Yes
27	Federated Farmers NZ - Ōtorohanga Branch	Yes
28	Withdrawn	N/A
29	Ōtorohanga District Development Board	Yes
30	Maurea Consultancy	No
31	Creative Waikato	Yes
32	Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust (ACAT)	Yes
33	Waikato Screen NZ	Yes

² This submitter has since declined to speak at Hearings

³ Submitter indicated online that they did not wish to speak to their submission but stated in their written submission that they would be available to speak to the submission. They have since confirmed they do not wish to speak

⁴ This submitter has since requested to speak

Item 5: Deliberation of the Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel

From: Nardia Gower, Group Manager Strategy and Community

Date: 28 May 2028

Relevant community outcomes: Thriving Engaged Welcoming



1 Purpose | Te Kaupapa

- 1.1 To provide an analysis of the submissions received on the Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy (EWS) to assist the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel (the Panel) with its deliberations.

2 Executive Summary | Whakarāpopoto Matua

- 2.1 Ōtorohanga District Council (the Council) adopted the EWS for public consultation at its 23 April 2024 meeting. The consultation period was open from 6 May to 20 May 2024.
- 2.2 Oral hearings will be held on 28 May 2024 allowing submitters the opportunity to speak to their submission and for elected members to ask questions for clarification.
- 2.3 A summary report of submissions, including staff recommendations/comments will be circulated to elected members on 29 May 2024 to support deliberations.

3 Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā Kaimahi

That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel:

- a. Receive the submissions on the Ōtorohanga District Economic Wellbeing Strategy.
- b. Receive the Hearing Summary Report.
- c. Recommend, having considered, and deliberated on the submissions received, to Ōtorohanga District Council that the following changes be made to the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy ...

4 Discussion | He Kōrerorero

Process

- 4.1 The draft EWS process was assisted by Veros consultancy and completed using a co-design process involving over 100 people and organisations across the district and has been supported by a separate mana whenua advisory group. Councillors Christison, Prendergast and Tamaki have provided governance oversight throughout its development.

- 4.2 On 23 April Council adopted the draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy (EWS) for consultation, with the consultation period running from 6-20 May 2024.
- 4.3 The oral hearing will be held in Ōtorohanga on 28 May 2024 with 5 submitters speaking to their submission.
- 4.4 During deliberations the Hearing Panel will decide what, if any, amendments/changes will be included in the final EWS to be adopted by Council on 25 June 2024.

Submissions

- 4.5 Council received 7 EWS submission. All submissions received, including written and via email, were entered into Council's online submission platform and were attached to the EWS Hearings Report (as Appendix 3).
- 4.6 On Wednesday 29 May 2024, following oral hearings and prior these deliberations a separate hearing summary report for the EWS will be circulated. This report provides an overview of submissions, additional matters raised by submitters, along with staff recommendations/comments to assist with considerations/deliberations. This report will formally tabled during this item.
- 4.7 The adoption of the EWS will not automatically mean every action/project signalled will be progressed as a matter of course. An implementation plan will be developed post adoption with actions/projects prioritised giving consideration to resourcing and identifying/confirming delivery partners.

5 Considerations | Ngā whai whakaarotanga

Significance and engagement

- 5.1 Public consultation for the draft EWS did not require Council to follow a special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), meaning that a consultation period of 2 weeks, rather than 4, was applied because of the extensive engagement/consultation undertaken in developing the draft. It also meant that conducting oral hearing for EWS submissions was optional. However, given the significant interest from external agencies funded by Council to deliver economic wellbeing, the opportunity to speak was offered to submitters.

Impacts on Māori

- 5.2 Council's commitment to develop stronger relationships and partnerships with iwi/mana whenua is well established, and inherent in the development of the draft EWS which identifies iwi/mana whenua as partners in a number of key actions and shared outcomes. Given the level of input by iwi/mana whenua the outcome of the deliberations and adoption will be of interest.

Risk analysis

- 5.3 The risk of Council deferring deliberations would be of a reputational matter.

Policy and plans

- 5.4 The deliberation of the EWS submissions is not inconsistent with any Council policy or plans.

Legal

- 5.5 There is no legal requirement to deliberate or adopt the EWS.

Financial

- 5.6 While the EWS alone does not commit funding to any external agency or project, considerations, and deliberation on submissions to the EWS may have an impact on the deliberations relating to the LTP.

Option 1: Complete Deliberations on the Draft EWS

- 5.7 Deliberate on and resolve decisions/changes to the draft EWS for Council's final adoption on 25 June 2024.

Option 2: Defer Deliberations on the Draft EWS

- 5.8 Defer deliberations on the draft documents draft EWS until some future date.

Analysis of options

- 5.9 While the adoption of the EWS does not have any legislative timeframe given the high level of community engagement throughout its development, should Council choose to delay the process it could impact Council's reputation.

Recommendation option and rationale

- 5.10 Option 1. To meet community expectations the Hearings Panel should deliberate on and recommend decisions/changes to the draft EWS for Council adoption on 25 June 2024.

6 Appendices | Ngā Āpitihanga

Appendix #	Name
1	Hearing Summary Report (to be distributed separately on 29 May)

Item 6: Rural Water Supply Charges – 2024/25

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel

From: Graham Bunn, Group Manager Business Enablement

Date: 28 May 2024

Relevant community outcomes: Resilient Sustainable Liveable



1 Purpose | Te Kaupapa

- 1.1 To consider the water supply charges recommended from the four Rural Water Schemes of Tihiroa, Waipa, Arohena and Ranginui.

2 Executive Summary | Whakarāpopoto Matua

- 2.1 The Rural Water Scheme Committees met in early May to discuss their forward works programme and their financial accounts for the 2023/24 year. They also made recommendations to Council on the proposed water charges for the 2024/25 year.

3 Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā Kaimahi

That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel recommend to Ōtorohanga District Council the following water charges be included in the draft Long Term Plan:

- a That the Tihiroa Rural Water rate be \$1.89 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and a fixed charge of \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.
- b That the Waipā Rural Water rate be \$1.30 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and a fixed charge of \$500 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.
- c That the Arohena Rural Water rate be \$0.80 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and a fixed charge of \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.
- d That the Ranginui Rural Water rate be \$0.55 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and \$1800.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.

4 Context | Horopaki

- 4.1 The four Rural Water Scheme Committees of Tihiroa, Waipa, Arohena and Ranginui met to discuss their forward works programme and their financial accounts for the 2023/24 year. All of the Rural Water supply accounts with the exception of Ranginui are carrying considerable deficits and Water Supply charges for the 2024/25 year need to be lifted to meet these deficits as well as increased operating costs.

- 4.2 Waipa and Arohena RWS Committees both recommended to increase their water supply charges to the income level sought in the Long-Term Plan, whereas the recommendation from Tihiroa RWS Committee didn't meet this level. The staff recommendation is to increase water supply charges for Tihiroa RWS to meet the level of income budgeted in the Long-Term Plan.

5 Considerations | Ngā whai whakaarotanga

Significance and engagement

- 5.1 In accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, this matter has been assessed as having low significance therefore engagement is not required.

Impacts on Māori

- 5.2 Staff consider the matters set out in this report do not have a direct impact on cultural wellbeing, sites of significance or waterways.

Risk analysis

- 5.3 Staff consider that this matter is a routine setting of charges and carries a low level of risk.

Policy and plans

- 5.4 There are no specific policy considerations however the proposed changes will need to be included in the Funding Impact Statement for the 2024-34 LTP and the Rates Resolution for the 2024/25 financial year.

Legal

- 5.5 There are no legal considerations.

Financial

- 5.6 Tihiroa, Waipa and Arohena Rural Water Supplies are carrying considerable deficits and Water Supply Charges need to be lifted to meet their current level of expenditure. There will need to be further increases in subsequent years to reduce the deficit.

6 Discussion | He Kōrerorero

Option 1: Increase charges as recommended by the Tihiroa RWS

- 6.1 That Tihiroa RWS increase their Water Supply charges to \$1.75 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and a fixed charge of \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year as recommended by the Tihiroa RWS committee.

Option 2: Increase charges to meet operating expenditure and the deficit in the Water Supply Account

- 6.2 That Tihiroa RWS increase their Water Supply charges to \$1.89 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and a fixed charge of \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.

Recommendation option and rationale

- 6.3 The preferred option is Option 2, that Tihiroa RWS increase their Water Supply charges to \$1.89 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and a fixed charge of \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 6.4 Increasing the cubic metre rate to \$1.89 will meet the budgeted income for the 2024/25 year included in the Long-Term Plan.
- 6.5 By only increasing the cubic metre rate to \$1.75 per cubic metre as recommended by the Tihiroa RWS Committee, Council will not meet operating expenditure and the deficit in the Water Supply Account will increase by approximately \$30,000.

7 Appendices | Ngā Āpitihanga

Appendix #	Name
1	Resolutions from the Rural Water Scheme Committees

Appendix 1: Resolutions from the Rural Water Scheme Committees

Resolution from Tihiroa Rural Water Scheme Committee

RESOLVED TC5: That the Tihiroa Rural Water Scheme Committee recommend to Ōtorohanga District Council to increase the scheme’s water rate to \$1.75 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and keep the fixed charge at \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.

Andrew Moir | Duncan Coull

Resolution from Waipa Rural Water Scheme Committee

RESOLVED WC6: That the Waipā Rural Water Scheme Committee recommend to Ōtorohanga District Council to increase the scheme’s water rate to \$1.30 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and increase the fixed charge to \$500 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.

Allen Johnston | Tony Collingwood

Resolution from Arohena Rural Water Scheme Committee

RESOLVED AC5: That the Arohena Rural Water Scheme Committee recommend to Ōtorohanga District Council to confirm the rate of \$0.80 (excluding GST) per cubic metre and \$750.00 per meter (excluding GST) per annum for the 2024/25 financial year.

Herbie Lenssen | Vaughan Sinton

Item 7: Deliberations Report for Submissions on the proposed 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel

From: Nardia Gower, Group Manager Strategy and Community

Date: 28 May 2024

Relevant community outcomes: Connected Empowered Engaged



1 Purpose | Te Kaupapa

- 1.1 To provide an analysis of the submissions received on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) to assist Ōtorohanga District Council (the Council) with its deliberations.

2 Executive Summary | Whakarāpopoto Matua

- 2.1 Council adopted the LTP Consultation Document and supporting documentation for public consultation at the 26 March 2024 Council meeting. The consultation period was open from 5 April to 6 May 2024.
- 2.2 Oral hearings were held on 28 May 2024 allowing submitters the opportunity to speak to their submission and for elected members to ask questions for clarification.
- 2.3 A summary report of submissions, including staff recommendations/comments was circulated to elected members on 29 May 2024 to support deliberations.

3 Staff recommendation | Tūtohutanga a ngā Kaimahi

That the Ōtorohanga District Council Hearings Panel:

- a Receive the submissions on the 2024-34 Long Term Plan Consultation Document and supporting information.
- b Receive the Hearing Summary Report.
- c Recommends, having considered and deliberated on all submissions received, to Ōtorohanga District Council to:
 - i **EITHER** reduce depreciation funding of assets by \$2.1 million total over 3 years proposed as Council's preferred option in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Consultation Document **OR**
 - NOT** reduce depreciation funding of assets by \$2.1 million total over 3 years, proposed as Council's preferred option in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan

	<p>Consultation Document and instead continue to collect (\$2.1 million) total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.</p>
ii	<p>EITHER NOT purchase the van to enhance community presence proposed as Council's preferred option in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Consultation Document OR</p> <p>purchase the van to further enhance community presence.</p>
iii	<p>EITHER apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across the Kāwhia and Aotea communities proposed as Council's preferred option in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Consultation Document OR</p> <p>NOT apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across the Kāwhia and Aotea communities, proposed as Council's preferred option in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan Consultation Document and instead each community, being Kāwhia and Aotea, continues to pay for their own seawalls.</p>
d	<p>Recommends, having considered and deliberated on the submissions received, to Ōtorohanga District Council that the following changes be made to the proposed 2024-34 Long Term Plan supporting information for Council adoption on 25 June 2024.</p>
i	Draft Infrastructure Strategy
ii	Draft Financial Strategy
iii	Draft Fees and Charges for 2004/25
iv	Draft Revenue and Financing Policies
v	Draft Policy on the Remissions of Rates
vi	Draft Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land
vii	Draft Significance and Engagement Policy
viii	Draft Ōtorohanga District Water Supply Asset Management Plan
ix	Draft Ōtorohanga District Drainage (Wastewater and Stormwater) Asset Management Plan ...
x	Draft Ōtorohanga District Land Transport Activity Management Plan ...
e	<p>Recommends, having considered and deliberated on the submissions received, to Ōtorohanga District Council that the following changes be made to the proposed 2024-34 Long Term Plan supporting information for Council adoption on 25 June 2024.</p>
i	Fund Hamilton Waikato Tourism \$xxx for (year one of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan/first three years of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan)
ii	Do not fund Te Waka due to their announcement of closure from 1 July 2024.

f	<p>iii Fund Ōtorohanga District Community Board \$xxx for (year one of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan/first three years of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan)</p> <p>Recommend, following the formal Audit process, the amended 2024-34 Long Term Plan documents be presented to Council for adoption at a meeting scheduled for 25 June 2024.</p>
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4 Context | Horopaki

- 4.1 Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), Council is required to prepare and adopt an LTP every three years. The LTP includes the proposed activities, programmes, budgets, financial strategy, key financial policies, and rating levels covering a ten-year period, and the Infrastructure Strategy covering a thirty-year period. The last LTP was adopted in June 2021.
- 4.2 Prior to producing the final LTP Council is required to consult the community on any changes proposed to activities and services, key new projects and how they are funded. This involved the preparation of a consultation document (CD) to which the public were invited to share their views on key consultation items and supporting documentation via written submissions with the option of submitters speaking to their submission in a formal hearing process.

5 Considerations | Ngā whai whakaarotanga

- 5.1 The LTP is Council's most significant strategic document. It has been created over eighteen months through a process of engagement with our community and reflects the aspirations we have for our community's future. The decisions Council are making are around whether to incorporate the feedback from the submission process, and other matters that have come to light since the consultation process began, into the final LTP document and the draft supporting documents to be adopted on 25 June 2024.
- 5.2 In completing the LTP submission consideration process Council needs to be satisfied that the consultation and decision-making requirements of the LGA have been complied with. Staff believe that the relevant consultation requirements have been followed and this report sets out the decision-making process required to be followed.

6 Discussion | He Kōrerorero

Process

- 6.1 The content of the LTP CD and draft supporting information was developed through 18 workshops held with elected members over 2023 and the beginning of 2024.
- 6.2 Council adopted the consultation document 'Kia Mau Tātou ki te Ara - Steady as we go' along with the draft supporting documents on 26 March 2024 prior to the consultation period, running from 5 April to 6 March 2024.

- 6.3 The oral hearing will be held in Ōtorohanga on 28 May 2024 with 13 submitters speaking to their submission.
- 6.4 During deliberations the Hearing Panel will decide what will be included in the final 2024-34 LTP and supporting documents to be adopted by Council.
- 6.5 Following deliberations, the final draft LTP and relevant supporting information/documents will be audited prior to Council adoption on 25 June 2024.

Submissions

- 6.6 Council received 33 LTP submissions with two subsequently being withdrawn, leaving a total of 31 for consideration. All submissions received, including written and via email, were entered into Council's online submission platform and were attached to the Hearings Report as Appendix 2.

Long Term Plan Key Consultation Items

- 6.7 The LTP CD had three key consultation items. Each item had identified two options one of which being councils preferred option. The following table shows submitters support for each item option. Note not all submitters commented on the key items.

<i>Key Consultation Item</i>	<i>Option1 Council's Preferred Option</i>	<i>Option 2</i>
Funding Depreciation	Reduce the amount we set aside for funding depreciation of assets by \$2.1 million total over three years	Continue to collect \$2.1 million total over 3 years in rates to fund depreciation of assets.
Number of Submitters in Support	5	5
Community Presence	Don't buy the van	Buy the van
Number of Submitters in Support	7	5
Kāwhia and Aotea Seawall Rates	Apply a single targeted rate for all three seawalls across both communities.	Each community continues to pay for their own seawalls
Number of Submitters in Support	10	4

Additional submission item

- 6.8 A separate hearing summary report for the LTP, including staff recommendations/comments, was circulated on Wednesday 29 May 2024 following oral hearings and prior these deliberations.
- 6.9 The summary report summarises submissions received on the following documents by topic:
- 2024/34 LTP Consultation Document
 - Draft Rates Remission Policy
 - Draft Rates Remission on Māori Freehold Land Policy

- Draft Fees and Charges 2024-2025
- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy

6.10 Following consideration of the summary report and hearings Council will resolve decisions/changes to the draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan and supporting information.

6.11 Since the CD and budgets were prepared, some new information has come to light that Council will need to decide whether this are incorporated into the LTP or not. These are outlined below.

Objective Building Consent Platform

6.12 A new fee has been proposed for electronic submission and processing of building consents. This is anticipation of Council moving from a paper-based building consent system to an on-line/electronic building consent system. The fees are indicated as “actual costs” as the fees will be determined based on the system provider’s costs, as recovered from consent applicants, pro-rata’d across the number of building consents received. This fee may vary, and at this stage the indicative cost for electronic submission and processing of building consents will be in the order of \$60 per application, over and above standard building consent fees.

Trading in Public Places

6.13 As part of the Trading in Public Places Policy, staff have reviewed associated fees and charges. These are proposed to be updated to reflect actual administration costs of processing applications and issuing approvals, and to provide additional clarify around when and where these fees apply. Tracked changes are identified as follows:

TRADING IN PUBLIC PLACES HAWKERS AND MOBILE SHOPS

Mobile Shops <u>and stalls (annual fee, per each location)</u>	\$150.00	\$250 <u>150.00</u>
Mobile Shops <u>and stalls</u> (Temporary license for 3 months, <u>per each location</u>)	\$50.00	\$100 <u>50.00</u>
<u>Events and markets (annual fee, per location)</u>	<u>\$n/a</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>

Waka Kotahi Funding

6.14 Council is still waiting on confirmation from Waka Kotahi regarding funding allocation for the first 3 years of the LTP. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Economic Wellbeing Strategy

6.15 The hearings, deliberation is scheduled for this meeting but prior to the LTP deliberations. The outcome of that process may include recommendations/amendments relevant to the LTP. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Ōtorohanga Memorial Swimming Pool Tender

- 6.16 The pool contract tender is being considered by council at their 21 May 2024 meeting. Any impact on the LTP will be provided as a verbal update at the meeting.

Option 1: Complete Deliberations on the Proposed LTP

- 6.17 Deliberate on and resolve decisions/changes to the draft documents and supporting information for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to allow preparation for audit review and Council's final adoption of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan on 25 June 2024.

Option 2: Defer Deliberations on the Proposed LTP

- 6.18 Defer deliberations on the draft documents and supporting information for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan until some future date.

Analysis of Options

- 6.21 Not deliberating or delaying deliberations would have a significant impact on the timeline of the LTP, meaning Council would not be able to adopt it by the 30 June statutory deadline. This would adversely impact Council's reputation and delay the setting of rates for 2024/25.

Recommendation option and rationale

- 6.19 Option 1. To meet current timelines with audit and the legislative timeframes agreed to meet with Central Government, Council should deliberate on and resolve decisions/changes to the draft documents and supporting information for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. There are no benefits for or compelling reasons why Council should delay completing deliberations on the proposed LTP.

7 Appendices | Ngā Āpitihanga

Appendix #	Name
1	Submission Summary Report (to be distributed on 29 May)

CLOSING FORMALITIES

CLOSING PRAYER/REFLECTION/WORDS OF WISDOM | KARAKIA/HURITAO/WHAKATAUKĪ

The Chairperson will invite a member to provide the closing words and/or karakia.

MEETING CLOSURE | KATINGA O TE HUI

The Chairperson will declare the meeting closed.