

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 126-148 OXFORD STREET, LEVIN, ON TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2009 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT

His Worship the Mayor, Mr B J Duffy (Chair)
Cr D A Allan (from 4.10 pm)
Cr D J Colling
Cr G G Good
Cr L E McMeeken (from 2.25 pm)
Cr A M Hunt
Cr B F Judd
Cr P K Keenan (from 2.30 pm)
Cr N D H Murray (from 3.30 pm)
Cr A D Rush
Cr R N Shaw

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D G Ward (Chief Executive Officer)
D M Clapperton (Strategic & Corporate Services Manager)
Mr D Law (Finance Manager)
Mr T Thomas (Environmental & Regulatory Services Manager)
Mr B H Austin (Manager - Community Assets)(from 3.02 pm)
Mrs K J Corkill (Meeting Secretary)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ms H Scott (Financial Accountant)
Ms C Carlyle (Support Officer) (to 5.00 pm)

MEDIA IN ATTENDANCE

Ms S Gillies ("Horowhenua Mail")(to 5.00 pm)
Mr D Reid (Radio New Zealand)(from 2.26 pm)

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 8 members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

APOLOGIES

There were no formal apologies recorded, although the Chair noted that some Councillors would arrive and leave at various times over the course of the three day submissions hearing due to other commitments. Council officers would also be in attendance at various times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following documents were tabled:

- List of speaking times for Tuesday 2 June 2009
- Details of additional submissions
- Submission No 2 - a page that was omitted
- Submission No 101 - a page that was omitted
- Submission No 298 - 3 pages that were omitted

- Submission No 426 - additional submission
- Submission No 427 - additional submission
- Submission No 428 - additional submission
- Submission No 429 - additional submission
- Submission No 430 - additional submission
- Submission No 431 - additional submission
- Muaupoko Forms x 18
- Summary of the questionnaire.

The Chair opened the meeting and called upon the Chief Executive Officer to provide an overview of the LTCCP process. Mr Ward advised:

- those who had requested to speak to their submissions would have the opportunity tonight, tomorrow and Thursday night, with five minutes speaking time allocated per submitter and with the opportunity for Councillors to ask questions;
- the balance of submissions, where no speaking rights had been requested, would also be reviewed;
- next Wednesday and Thursday (10 & 11 June 2009) from 4.15 pm, deliberations would commence, staff comments would be available and additional requested information would be provided;
- deliberations would conclude on 17 & 18 June 2009;
- adoption of the 2009-2019 LTCCP would take place on Wednesday 24 June 2009.

Mr Ward further noted:

- the majority of submissions received had focussed on Rates, Library Charges, Wastewater and Water Schemes;
- as part of the LTCCP process, Council was also seeking feedback from smaller communities (Hokio Beach, Waitarere Beach and Manakau) on the provision of water schemes which were eligible for substantial central government subsidies on capital cost. Should those communities wish to take the matter further, Council would be happy to provide any technical assistance required;
- LTCCP meetings had been well attended and he was happy with the level of knowledge that had been taken into the meetings.

Cr Hunt requested clarification as to whether rates were a justifiable expense for the Library.

NOTED

The Chief Executive Officer commenced working through the non-speaking submissions, with a brief comment on the topic(s) covered by each.

Submission 1 - Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (requesting that the youth goal of the Taskforce be included in the LTCCP)

Submission 2 - Horowhenua Events Centre (request to include in the LTCCP help with ground maintenance, help with marketing & promotion and an extension for five years on the interest free period on loan)

The role of Nature Coast and how well it worked in with such facilities as the Events Centre on marketing and promotion was queried. Mr Ward noted that the submission was written in February 2009 in response to a request that the matters raised become part of the LTCCP process. The convening of a meeting of all interested parties was suggested to see where some savings could be made.

With regard to assistance with ground maintenance, Council staff had been challenged to see if there was any capacity in existing budgets. It was noted that the Events Centre & AP & I Association were separate bodies, with the

request having come from the Events Centre for a site owned by the A P & I Association and it was important to have these two organisations around the table when discussing the issues.

Submission 3 - Sustainable Future Institute, Wendy McGuinness/Hayley Vujcich (sustainability ideas)

Submission 4 - Margaret Juene (Objection to Library Rate and the Library having to find 20-25% of running costs)

His Worship the Mayor clarified that there would be no decrease in the allocation of funding to the Library and requested this be conveyed to the submitter when responding.

It was also requested that the officer's report covering Library matters clarify the various funding issues raised by submitters with regard to Library funding and funding for the Library projects in Levin and Foxton.

Submission 5 - Aileen Kopke (Objection to Library contribution)

Submission 6 - Charles I Wallis (Support for water reticulation proposal for Waitarere Beach)

In answer to a Councillor query, Mr Ward advised that responses with regard to the water reticulation proposal for Waitarere Beach had been had two thirds opposed. He noted that the responses from the respective communities (Waikawa, Waitarere Beach and Manakau) on water reticulation would go back to the respective communities and the same process that had been used at Hokio Beach would be followed.

Submission 8 - Tracy Rae (Rate increase; Foxton swimming pool not used by Foxton Beach residents; water costs at Foxton Beach)

It was requested that the relevance of the distance from any swimming pool when it came to paying swimming pool rates, raised in this submission (which had also been noted by other submitters) be included in the officer's report on this matter to explore the possibility of a differential on pool charges.

With regard to the water supply legality issue raised by the submitter, Mr Ward advised that Council would not have passed the audit process if its processes were not legal.

Submission 9 - Bruce Imrie (Asks if the 25% proposed rate increase is sustainable in the future; concern with the Foxton Pool charge)

Submission 11 - Danny Burne (Traffic should be diverted from CBD via Kimberley and Koputaroa)

A bypass had been on the agenda at Government level for a long time. This would also tie into the Events Centre submission to market this area and what would need to be done if it became a reality. More research was needed on this matter.

Submission 12 - Neville and Helen Currie (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

The CEO would speak to the summary at the conclusion of the hearings.

Submission 13 - Jeanette Gilroy (Will there be improved lighting; retail be encouraged to come to Levin; scrap parking meters; The Mall could be turned into a food court; what are we doing with Regent Court)

It was suggested that attraction of retailers was outside Council's scope and this submission should be referred to Nature Coast.

Submission 14 - Brian Forno (Oppose rate increase as higher than inflation)

Submission 15 - Mr & Mrs I Butturini (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

Submission 16 - E M Thompson (Oppose water reticulation systems for Hokio & Waikawa Beach)

Submission 17 - Hansson J Leech ✓

Submission 18 - Henry C Ford (Waikawa Beach-Manakau water - prefer Option 1)

Submission 19 - Torsten Baker (Opposes water reticulation proposal for Waitarere Beach)

If beach communities did chose to have reticulated water, it was queried where the water would come from as there was already a shortage of water in Levin.

Submission 20 - Patricia Mary Bryant (All rates should remain as they are; continue with the recycle green bins; does not approve of Levin bypass; supports funding of community grants, especially running of the shuttle van; supports Adventure Playground, Events Centre & Swimming Pool)

Submission 21 - M R Carter (Opposes water reticulation proposal for Waikawa Beach)

Submission 22 - Pauline Hyde (Objection to swimming pool rate)

In relation to this and other submissions objecting to the rate for the Foxton Swimming Pool, which note that the pool is closed for 6 months of the year, the rate would be substantially higher to cover the costs of an all year round, heated pool.

Submission 23 - Mr & Mrs G Allen (Objection to Foxton/Foxton Beach swimming pool rate; increase in their rates not justified)

In response to the query as to how many ratepayers there were in the district, it would be helpful to provide that information to the submitter.

Submission 24 - Tim McGrath (Solid Waste - does not support that 90% be paid by the charge on refuse bags)

Submission 25 - Graeme Smith (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

Submission 26 - Dr Peter Jackson (All Library Rate should go to Library)

Submission 27 - J & J Harrison (Objection to proposal for reticulated water to Waitarere Beach)

The premise raised in the submission would not be correct if harmonisation was adopted as charges would be substantially less. Knowledge of this fact could alter the views of some of the submitters.

Submission 28 - Arthur & Glenys Woollard (Objection to rate increase)

Submission 29 - Ray & Monica Blackwood (Superannuitants objecting to rate increase)

It was commented that the percentage noted in this and some other submission reflected a different picture to that when considering any rise in dollar terms.

Submission 30 - Jason Ellery (Development Contributions Policy)

Submission 427 - Department of Conservation - Ian Cooksley (Community Outcomes; District Plan Review; Manawatu Estuary; Water; Wastewater; Dune Management; Rates Remission Policy; Removal of Uniform Annual General Charge)

Mr Ian Cooksley spoke to this submission reiterating the matters raised in the Department of Conservation's submission.

In response to a query on water metering, Mr Cooksley said he could not be specific on this as water metering was only one way to conserve water, with there being a whole raft of other measures that could be undertaken. He was also not aware of any models available that had been effective in reducing water consumption. This was an issue being faced by most councils; water metering was a deterrent, education worked for some. There was no quick fix.

With regard to the multiagency management plan that had been prepared for the Manawatu Estuary, he noted there were issues that arose between the traditional use of the estuary area and preservation of the eco system.

Mr Cooksley also stressed the importance of preserving dune lands as a number of these areas were being lost through attrition.

A copy of Mr Cooksley verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

Submission 31 - Ray Toy (The Library should not be financed through a targeted rate, it should be user pays; the swimming pool should be totally funded on a user pays basis)

Submission 32 - Anne Gordon (Levying of rates as she is living alone; swimming pool costs should be user pays)

Mayor Duffy stressed that the property was rated, not the number of people in the property.

Submission 33 - The Taylor Family Trust (Water supply proposal for Waikawa Beach)

Submission 34 - Matthew Vining (proposed Library rate)

Submission 402 - Bert Judd (Water, Sewage, Landfill, Property)

Mr Judd joined the table to speak to his submission stressing he felt the priority should be for the health of the ratepayers of the Horowhenua Region, with water particularly being important and precious. He suggested our water was not good for us, with chemists in the town having to use distilled water. He also expressed his concerns in relation to sewage standards and the landfill.

For clarification with regard to residue from the landfill, His Worship the Mayor observed that this was being piped back to the Levin Sewage Treatment Plan

and was being treated before being piped to the Pot. No resource consent was required for this.

Submission 349 - Mrs Carroll Cumming (Request for provision for spa/hydrotherapy pool at the Levin Aquatic Centre)

Mrs Cumming requested that Council support this submission for a hydrotherapy pool at the Aquatic Centre. As far as costings were concerned, until the go ahead was received it was difficult to pursue avenues for funding.

It was noted that prior to deliberating, Councillors would need information of what it would cost to install such a facility and the impact on operational costs at the Aquatic Centre.

Council's Parks Assets Officer confirmed that funding accessed was for replacement of the spa pools at the Aquatic Centre.

Submission 245 - Richard Tingey (Property holdings; reviewing reserve management plans)

Mr Tingey, in speaking to his submission, said he did not support Council selling off surplus properties and stressed that public open areas were much valued by the community.

A copy of Mr Tingey's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes).

Submission 36 - G D & J P P Trow (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

Submission 37 - Victor Walker (Rates, support for accessing funding to upgrade water supply at Waikawa Beach)

Submission 38 - Helen Harrison (Library rate)

It was requested that this submitter receive information on what percentage of rates actually is allocated to the Library.

Submission 41 - Christopher & Michelle Starr (Objection to Waitarere Water proposal)

Submission 42 - Deborah Fitchett (Do not reduce funding to the Horowhenua Libraries)

Submission 285 - Jackie Murray and Bryan TenHave

Mr TenHave in speaking to his submission said that the world was in the grip of a depression, not a recession and it was not a good time to be removing differentials. In some cases the poorest areas were going to become the most heavily rated without getting any further benefits, which would severely hurt people on fixed incomes. Mr TenHave further stressed the other matters raised in his written submission.

In responding to queries, he did express appreciation for Councillors giving generously of their time during the process to meet with him and discuss issues.

With regard to the petition provided by Mr TenHave which had been signed by Real Estate Agents, His Worship the Mayor said he had spoken to the owners of some of the Real Estate businesses and they did not support the petition.

The meeting adjourned briefly at 3.50 pm and resumed at 4.05 pm.

Submission 306 - Mrs Zora Peniak-Dixon (objection to rate increase at Waitarere Beach)

Mrs Peniak-Dixon suggested that a number of people at Waitarere Beach would have financial difficulty should the rates rise. She was on a widows' pension and did get a rates rebate, but she was not in a position to get money from anywhere else. Should the rates rise she may have to consider selling up and moving, which she did not want to do. She also did not support the proposal to provide reticulated water at Waitarere. She had built at Waitarere in 1992 because of the low rates, friendly people and chlorine free water.

Submission 425 - Jack Barber (issue with water and wash outs)

Mr Barber raised an issue he had with excess water and wash outs. He queried who would be responsible for the water should the bank break - Horowhenua District Council or Horizons.

Submission 43 - Rosemary Joyce (Library should be free to all in the community with limited fees charged for overdue books and dvds, etc)

- Submission 44 - Judith Holloway (All proceeds from Library rate should go to the administration of the library)*
- Submission 45 - Barry Barker -(supports the removal of the UAGC and supports the proposed new rating system)*
- Submission 46 - Lakeview Farms Limited and associated farming business/Peter Everton (Object to any proposed rate increases)*
 Mayor Duffy noted that any rate increases would be spread over some 60 properties. Mr Everton leased numerous lots of Māori-owned land on which he paid rates in return for leasing the land.
- Submission 47 - Pippa Coard (Rural differential rate/ supports the targeted library services rate)*
 It was NOTED that there were a number of similar submissions querying the definition of rural residential and rural productive. Staff had been requested to provide a definition of rural and rural residential in an officer's report for next week's meeting. The treatment of contiguous properties with regard to the charging of rates was also queried with clarification also requested.
- Submission 49 - Megan McMullan (Opposed to any proposed increase in charges for Library users)*
- Submission 50 - Chris Lloyd (Opposed to Library having to raise 20-25% of operating expenditure. All of Library rate should go to Library)*
- Submission 51 - Ruth Munro (Opposed to Library having to raise more funds for operating expenses)*
- Submission 52 - Suzanne Maxwell Johnson (Shannon: to fund and building new 24 hr toilet facility in CBD, Plimmer Terrace; to build a children's play park in the CBD; increase picnic areas - more tables and seats; beautification of CBD and increase signage; install surveillance cameras or sound system at CBD, increase size of skateboard park and provide a BMX track; move crossing in Ballance Street)*
- Submission 54 - Vance (Council should more actively encourage retail shops and increasing manufacturing or other businesses to the area; ban all gang patches; concern raised re footpaths and roads covered in lichen and algae)*
- Submission 55 - Marilyn Cranson (Shannon: location of toilets; bus shelter; Shannon Library; request for clip on footpath on the small bridge in Margaret Street; "No Entry" sign requested on the triangle piece of road on Ballance Street/Margaret Street corner; Shannon ratepayers receive 2 vouchers per year for green waste disposal; local people be given to mow lawns, clean stormwater drains, etc)*
- Submission 56 - Carole & David Hopkins (Development Contributions should be scrapped; Council should review subdivision process)*
- Submission 57 - Anthony Peterson (Supporting proposal to provide water reticulation at Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 58 - Janette Millikin-Dreaver (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)*
- Submission 59 - Noel W Johnston (disagrees with being rated for libraries and swimming pools on rural land that does not having housing)*
 A report was requested to cover the rating of bare land and what impact there would be if Council decided not to go ahead with what was proposed.
- Submission 62 - Erica Guy (Levin Adventure Park - drawing attention to an anomaly with libraries and swimming pools being rated on bare land)*
 It was noted that all Council facilities, parks and reserves pay rates. There were remissions available on some Māori land and some charitable organisations could apply for rates remissions.
- Submission 63 - Beverley Jane & William Hamilton (Objection to rate increases)*
- Submission 64 - Ty (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)*
- Submission 65 - Margaret Stantiall (Objecting to proposal re changes to the Libraries Funding)*
- Submission 66 - John Hammond (Suggesting proposed long term policies have not taken into account the economic prospects facing New Zealanders and, in particular, Horowhenua residents and deferring implementation of rating proposal)*
 It was noted that "affordability" would be part of the debate that would follow the hearing of submissions.

Submission 67 - Bill Lennox (Opposing the proposal to provide reticulated water to Waitarere Beach)

Submission 415 - Federated Farmers of NZ/Geoff Kane

Mr Kane joined the table to speak to the submission from Federated Farmers, commenting:

- the submission from Federated Farmers was possibly the most important submission Council would receive as it covered those who contributed over 30% of the rate take;
- considerable consultation had been held over the past month with the CEO;
- it was important that this Council backed up the work done at a national level;
- rating should not cover social issues;
- farmers had no ability at present to absorb additional costs;
- Federated Farmers would not be supporting anything rise that was above the rate of inflation;
- there was a concern that differentials did not show the true picture;
- there was also a concern that there was not enough detail provided;
- where a service benefitted people a targeted rate should be in the form of an annual charge and he believed it could be spread even more widely.

In conclusion, Mr Kane said that it had been written into policy that farmers would not pay more than 32% of the rates and this should drop to 26% as 6% should be coming from the rural residential area. Farmers would be having a 15% increase in rates in a year when they were facing substantial cuts in income and he exhorted local government to take these matters into account.

In response to Councillors queries on the matters raised by Mr Kane, His Worship the Mayor noted that Council had met with the farming community and from Council's perspective these meetings had been productive and helpful. Everyone involved with the discussions were well aware of what was being proposed and Mr Kane's verbal submission added value to Federated Farmers' written submission.

A figure was requested for the completion of sealing of Whirokino Road.

Submission 400 - Susanne Hanlon (Objecting to rates increase at Waitarere Beach)

Mrs Hanlon, in speaking to her submission, outlined her various arguments against the proposed increase in rates (a copy of Mrs Hanlon's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes).

Mayor Duffy noted, with regard to the use of consultants, that the CEO's views on using consultants was well known with no consultant being engaged unless the skill set required what outside Council's scope, and no consultant was engaged unless approved by the CEO.

Submission 370 - Diane & Errol Brown (Rating proposals)

Mr & Mrs Brown joined the table to speak to their submission, remarking:

- with regard to rating differentials, no explanation had been given by Council as to why it was critical of them and why differentials had been put in place in the first place;
- they did not feel the consultation process had been long or comprehensive enough for ratepayers to make informed decisions;
- the wider community did not support the proposals in their current form;
- residents in smaller beach communities would be charged higher rates when they did not get the services;
- they did not use Council services so why should they be expected to pay for services they did not use;
- differentials covered the fact that rural residents used Council services less;
- a number of people had moved to the district from the Kapiti Coast because of the lower rates;

- Horowhenua had been the lifestyle capital of New Zealand but if rates were going to increase it could destroy that;
- the proposed policy was one of division and envy;
- Council should step back and rethink the proposed plan;
- there was nothing in the plan for Road Safety and there was a lot of work that Council could do in this context.

With regard to road safety, Cr Keenan mentioned that he was putting together a paper to be brought to Council on traffic flows and car speeds around schools.

Mr Brown said this was a commendable initiative which should be included in the Draft Plan.

Mayor Duffy also noted that he had been part of a 'walking bus' last week and there had been a huge turnout. He attended one each year. However, Council did not see it had a role in funding these programmes, which were being done by Road Safe Central. Schools were well supported in these particular initiatives.

Submission 376 - Mrs Judy Keall (Unhappy with the process Council has followed and with Rating proposal)

Mrs Keall clarified prior to speaking that she was speaking in a personal capacity and not as the Chairperson of the Manakau District Community Association, although some of her views were also expressed by Manakau residents at the recent public meeting.

Mrs Keall expressed her dissatisfaction at the consultation process as she felt the information was not clearly presented, it did not give ratepayers enough time to absorb the information and respond appropriately, contrasting it with the recent Development Plan consultation process which she felt had worked well. Whilst she was not advocating no change, she did feel the proposed increases were too big high, particularly for those on fixed incomes.

Submission 275 - Lynne Bailey (Congratulating Council with respect to the proposed changes with regard to differentials and equalisation of water and sewer rates, and targeting of rates; also commenting on water conservation; community outcomes; Council performance measures)

Whilst being very supportive of the changes Council was seeking to make and under why, Mrs Bailey also expressed considerable empathy as an affected beach resident, particularly for those living on fixed incomes who perhaps fell below the threshold of the rates rebate scheme. She also felt there were a number of complex changes being instituted at one time which made it difficult for people to grasp. Issues raised by Mrs Bailey included water conservation, levels of service, community outcomes, fairness and equity in the prioritisation of Council projects, financial and non-financial performance measures. As an overview, Mrs Bailey suggested that this LTCCP was a foundation for something greater and the next LTCCP would be the one that substantially shaped the Horowhenua. The New Minister of Local Government could also have an impact on the picture.

Submission 401 - Graeme Bagrie (Council to take the lead in the future ownership and management of natural facilities)

Mr Bagrie expanded on the matters raised in his submission and measures Council could take to achieve its stated vision for environmental well-being of outstanding natural district features to preserve them at least in their present state so they could be appreciated and enjoyed. He felt developing natural features such as the dune lakes created an opportunity for future growth and enhancement of the Walking and Cycling strategy and could promote the Horowhenua as a desirable destination and not just a place to drive through. He was a great believer in Council owned assets that could be managed for the benefit of the community and this was an area where Council, with involvement from Horizons and Doc, could take the initiative.

In summing up Mr Bagrie's comments and also comments from Councillors, His Worship the Mayor said this was a visionary submission which sowed the seed of opportunity. Whilst it was an initiative that he would not expect to happen overnight, he did not want to lose sight of the prospect.

Submission 392 - Murray Hanlon (Rating proposal)

Mr Hanlon expressed his opposition to the proposed rate rises, particularly for smaller communities such as Waitarere Beach and reiterated the matters raised in his submission. Mr Hanlon concluded by saying that he believed the rating system needed restructuring and some areas needed to be differently zoned. He also queried Council's use of Consultant's and was Council getting value for money. A copy of Mr Hanlon's further comments are **attached** to the official minutes.

The meeting adjourned for a meal break at 6.03 pm and resumed at 6.30 pm.

Submission 398 - Carol Dyer (Funding for new Library upgrade; objecting to increase in loans and expenditure, increase in land values when property values decreasing; concerns re level of consultation and predetermination)

Mrs Dyer concentrated her further comments on the new library upgrade and her dismay that this was not included in the LTCCP. She felt this was an inexcusable omission, particularly as Council was relying on volunteer/community personnel to raise the finance for the upgrade. She felt the Library was as important, if not more so, than sports and fitness facilities.

(A copy of Mrs Dyer's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes).

Mayor Duffy, in acknowledging Mrs Dyer's comments that the Horowhenua was not a wealthy district, clarified the position with regard to fund raising for the Levin and Foxton Library upgrades, with it not being feasible for Council to finance the upgrades totally. The Library Trust was in a position to access funding for the upgrades that Council was not. Mayor Duffy also noted the additional costs that would accompany the running of an expanded library service which would also have to be funded.

Submission 362 - Save our River Trust/J A Murdoch (Request for funding to be brought forward)

Mr Murdoch did not attend to speak to this submission.

It was NOTED that Mr Clapperton would speak to this matter at the 1 July 2009 Council meeting.

Submission 375 - Horizons Regional Council

A letter had been received from Horizons Regional Council apologising for the non-attendance of its representative at tonight's meeting. A rescheduling of the speaking time would be organised.

Submission 395 - Olwen Burbery (Water supply; solid waste management; rubbish bags; sewage/library; cemetery fees; rates; debt)

An apology was recorded for Mrs Burbery, who could not attend to speak to her submission due to ill-health.

The CEO summarised the matters raised in this submission.

Submission 420 - P J & S H Ingram (Rating proposal)

Submission 67 - Bill Lennox (Opposed to reticulated water at Waitarere Beach)

Submission 68 - Julie Kuttner (Raising concerns re Library rating and funding)

Submission 70 - D J Caine (Objection to rural residential zoning)

Submission 71 - Mr M & Mrs E Beach (Objection Library rate; support for provision of Foxton Amenity Centre)

Submission 72 - Barbara & Bill Spicer and Elizabeth Drake (Objection to land zoning changing)

Submission 73 - Graham Cree (requesting that flooding in the vicinity of Easton Way be resolved)

Submission 74 - A S & F Burak (Water supply; objection to rate increase)

Submission 75 - J W & J Arthurs (Waitarere Beach Water)

Submission 76 - V J Warwick (opposed to water reticulation at Waitarere Beach)

- Submission 77 - C M Smith (objects strongly to proposals in LTCCP; capital works should be financed by long term loans)*
- Submission 78 - J H & V G Jenkins (objections to proposed water reticulation at beach communities)*
- Submission 81 - Cecilia M Dodson (objecting to proposed water reticulation at Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 83 - Maureen Lee (concern about large increase in rates for people on fixed incomes; provision of more footpaths; flooding could be rectified by putting in stormwater drain)*
- Submission 84 - Ron Gibbard (Support for water reticulation at Waitarere Beach)*
The issue of salt water intrusion to be clarified with this submitter.
- Submission 378 - Peter Sim (objecting to rating proposal)*
Mr Sim reiterated the various concerns raised in his submission querying the removal of differentials and the basis of proposed rates increases. Levels of service with regard to stormwater and drainage, sewage disposal, water reticulation and rubbish disposal, particularly for rural areas, were also queried. Mr Sim requested that Council relook at its proposals because he did not feel people 'out of town' should subsidise those in the towns.
- Submission 374 - S J :& C A Willis (Rating proposal)*
The Willis' joined the table to speak to their submission. As rural lifestyle block owners they could not see what they were getting for their rates. They also tended to go to Palmerston North for schooling for their children and consequently shopped and recreated there.
As a businessman, Mr Willis also said that, particularly in times of recession, everyone had to work harder and smarter and if he could not see any justification for what was being proposed, he was against it.
His Worship the Mayor noted the valid query but clarified that Council's role was to rate and it rated the property not individuals. Just because present owners of a property did not utilise Council services, it did not mean that future owners would not. The Horowhenua was a small community and the challenge was for Council to find a way to spread the rates load more equitably.
- Submission 86 - Edward Butters (Opposed to proposed water reticulation at Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 87 - George Butters (Opposed to proposed water reticulation at Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 88 - Gary Drake (Objection to water system at Waikawa Beach; would like speed humps on Waikawa Beach Road)*
- Submission 89 - Ross & Illona Davis (They own three properties and think it unfair that they pay all charges on all properties)*
- Submission 90 - Eunice Daly (No to LTCCP rating system; no to reticulated water for Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 93 - Phil & Judith Brunskill (Development levy)*
- Submission 95 - Te Manawa Museums Trust/Steven Fox (Would welcome any contribution Council may see fit to make to the Trust; would like Council to provide temporary space for its exhibitions)*
It was NOTED that this submission should be further explored.
- Submission 94 - Wayne Lowther (Objection to water reticulation proposal for Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 96 - Owen M Moore (Objection to proposed changes to library charges)*
- Submission 97 - Andrea Bailey (Concerned about proposed rate increases)*
- Submission 98 - Jim Waters (Supports proposed water reticulation for Waitarere Beach and supports applying for available Government subsidies; comment that the proposed rates increase appears to be steep)*
- Submission 99 - John Andrews (Support removal of differentials, but would like it phased in over 5 years; opposes the water reticulation proposal for Waikawa Beach)*
- Submission 102 - Susette Playford (Objecting to rate increase)*
- Submission 103 - Trish Mackenzie (On a fixed income and objecting to rate increase)*
- Submission 104 - Barry Brown (Against proposal for reticulated water supply for Waikawa Beach)*

- Submission 105 - Susan Speedy (Objecting to rate increase; would like Council to give the Regional Council support in eradicating invasive acacia on the dunes at Waitare Beach and plant more marram grass)
The eradication of acacia on the dunes to be NOTED.*
- Submission 106 - George F & Margaret J Haggland (Objecting to rates increase at Foxton Beach)*
- Submission 107 - Kenneth P Amey (Objection to rates increase; thinks Council is “double dipping”)*
- Submission 108 - Mr & Mrs Fellowes (Suggests Council stick to its core business; rate increases will be unaffordable to thousands)*
- Submission 110 - B E Carey (Shannon: more footpaths, lighting, trees/shrubs, toilets, bigger fenced park, more signage, better security systems, cameras or sound system, leave Library where it is, better picnic area)*
- Submission 111 - Kerry Lints (Objecting to draft LTCCP and rates increase; paying extra for water for Waitare Beach would be unacceptable)*
- Submission 112 - V Hayward (Objection to Library and swimming pool targeted rate)*
- Submission 113 - Bernard F Doyle (Comments on the removal of rating differentials; provides own water and sewerage disposal)*
- Submission 114 - Jeremy W Manks (No 2) Trust/Jeremy Manks (Suggesting rating premium on urban properties should not be totally removed over the next five years; rating differentials; charges for roading)*
- Submission 115 - Robbie Uivel (Objecting to rate increase)*
- Submission 119 - Sheila Hammond (Commenting on the numerous expressions of concern about lack of information being released relating to the basis on which apportionments have been made in arriving at the several proposed targeted rates; concern at the tight timetable preventing adequate consultation)*
- Submission 120 - Penelope Furjess (Objecting very strongly to proposed rural rate increases)*
- Submission 121 - Kiwi Johnson (Supporting Council’s efforts to improve Shannon’s CBD)*
- Submission 124 - Simone Field (Sewer system at Waitare Beach; no reason for big jump in rates; Council should aim for an ecologically-sound “no growth” strategy; developers should pay all future costs for their development)*
- Submission 125 - R & S Dawkins (All of the targeted Library rate should go to the Library)*
- Submission 126 - Shirley Reader (Requesting a rethink of levels of service in respect of Parks mowing; ratepayers should be encouraged to keep footpaths clear of overhanging trees)*
- Submission 127 - Peter Egan (Opposed to proposed amendments to Revenue and Financing Policy)*
- Submission 129 - Russell & Colleen Wylie (Supporting submission No 122 re Development Contribution Policy)*
- Submission 130 - Jennifer Walton (Does not support reticulated water proposal for Waitare Beach)*
- Submission 131 - Rosalie Blake (Opposing the proposal to reticulate water in Manakau)*
- Submission 132 - Cathy Downes (Opposing the water reticulation proposal)*
- Submission 133 - Max Pedersen (Supporting the proposal to install water reticulation at Waitare)*
- Submission 134 - Barry Stone (In opposition to rates increase; querying where the water would come from for Waitare should it be reticulated as water currently was in short supply)*
- Submission 135 - R W Bishop (Rate increases unacceptable)*
- Submission 136 - Joan Bishop (Concern re rate increases, available amenities, etc)*
- Submission 137 - Submitter Unknown (Comments on questionnaire)*
- Submission 139 - T R O Field (Indicative Rates are unacceptable; objecting to proposed water reticulation for Waitare Beach; suggests universal water metering)*
- Submission 140 - Lawrence T Daly (Opposing reticulated water for Waitare Beach; opposing LTCCP rating system)*
- Submission 141 - D & J Brandon (Targeted rates not supported; proposed water reticulation for Waitare Beach not supported)*
- Submission 142 - V F & G F Osborne (Recommended changes to the rating assessment are unfair; suggesting user pays for everything)*

- Submission 144 - Shannon and Tokomaru Petition - collected by Suzie Johnson (The construction of the proposed new toilet along Plimmer Tce; the placement of improved signage throughout the town; the construction of the proposed playground on Plimmer Tce, opposite Shannon Club Hotel; more planting and picnic seating areas; increased lighting and security; revamp of the bus shelters; new basketball hoops and tennis nets for kids; BMX track for kids; larger skate board park)*
- Submission 143 - Carlene Robinson (Shannon: re main street lighting, moving of pedestrian crossing; playground location; put water feature in park; upgrade Hyde Park, skate park and bus stop; put new toilets by station; awesome planting by War Memorial)*
- Submission 145 - Mr & Mrs A Menzies (Objecting to rate increase)*
- Submission 147 - Kevin N Croad on behalf of the Kevin Croad Family Trust & Lyall Croad Trusts (Objecting to rate increase)*
It was noted that this was another submission that raised the issue of the distinction between rural and rural residential.
- Submission 148 - Ian McPhee (Requesting regular mowing of the Park so children did not play on the road)*
- Submission 431 - Ken & Lynn Riddle (Opposing the HDC Draft LTCCP, in particular the proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy)*
Mr Riddle accompanied by Mrs Riddle joined the table to speak to this submission. Mr Riddle reiterated matters raised in their submission querying:
- the fairness of the proposed change in the rating system;
 - the removal of differentials;
 - whether their property was rural lifestyle or a farm and the lack of a clear definition between the two;
 - the affordability and sustainability of the proposed rate increases in an economic downturn.
- Mr Riddle concluded by suggesting that some form of differential should remain for small farmers and any major change in the rating structure should be done over a longer period, perhaps seven to ten years, giving people more opportunity to financial adjust, budget and cope with the extra tax burden. (A copy of Mr & Mrs Riddle's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes).
- Submission 363 - Joe Havill (Requesting a distinction be made between rural property with and without dwellings and rates targeting accordingly)*
Mr Havill said his submission concentrated on the impact of rural properties being brought into the changed rating structure and he queried just what was a rural property for rating purposes. He suggested that a rural property for rating purposes should benefit from the services being charged for and rural properties without households or dwellings should not be rated the same as those that did. He submitted that all rural bare-land properties should not be subject to most of the targeted rates until such time as there was a dwelling (household) on the property and the trigger point would occur when Council issued a building consent for a dwelling. This subtle change would make the base to the new rating system stronger and more robust, as well as fairer and more equitable. (A copy of Mr Havill's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes).
- Submission 356 - Austin Fraser (Consultation; rating proposals; development levies; economic development levies, economic development)*
Mr Fraser expanded on the issues raised in his written submission covering Community Consultation, Estimates/Options, Development Cost Levy, Economic Development and Levin water supply. With regard to economic development, Mr Fraser suggested that a working relationship should be developed with Massey University with benefits accruing in the fields of horticulture/agriculture, business administration, urban planning, research and

marketing. He also commented with regard to tourism and provided a supporting paper by *Daniel S Stynes* "Economic impacts of Tourism" for Council's information.

In response to questions from Councillors, Mr Fraser responded:

- he felt that in some cases differentials should be removed;
- rates needed to be harmonised in some way;
- the \$500,000 expended each year on economic development should be more customised to the district rather than continue with the current arrangement with Kapiti District; although he had no problem with the Information Centre;
- this was a district with an ageing population with a declining economic base, which he felt should be noted.

Submission 354 - John G Hewitson (Finance; Differentials; Roothing; Confusion re Water; Development Levies; Targeted Rates; Rates; Reticulated Water; Climate Change - Development)

Submission 355 - Helen Hewitson (Waikawa Beach Water Reticulation; Proposed Rating System; Planned Future Development; Water Reticulation; Inadequate Consultation Time)

Mr Hewitson joined the table to speak to the submissions from his wife and himself further noting:

- they believed there was inadequate time allowed for the Consultation Process;
- it was unfair to expect Waikawa Beach residents to contribute on an equal basis with Levin ratepayers when they received lesser services;
- the roading system was mainly damaged by contractors' heavy vehicles and was unfair to expect ratepayers to carry the total cost of road maintenance for damage that had been done by others;
- it was unfortunately that the water reticulation consultation had been done at the same time as the LTCCP as they were not related;
- levies should be paid by those (developers) who caused extra costs to Council as they were the ones benefiting;
- the proposed rate increase over the next five years was grossly unfair because of the previous issues commented upon;
- Council had not reacted in the LTCCP to the development issues arising from climate change, such as only permitting the appropriate level of development away from the low lying areas and designated flood plains;
- Council was also requested to honour its undertaking to limit the size and location of the Green Belt area surrounding the Waikawa settlement, as had been agreed in previous consultations.

Submission 238 - Frank & Adrienne Evans (Rating proposals)

In speaking to this submission, Mr Evans reiterated the issues previously raised to do with the level of rates rise, the minimal services received by the residents at Ohau and Council's need to prioritise expenditure rather than putting money into expensive items that did not benefit the whole community. A rate increase in line with the CPI was the maximum that would be acceptable at the present time.

His Worship the Mayor NOTED the stormwater drainage issue raised in the Evans' submission for officers to respond to.

Submission 297 - Hokio Progressive Association/Rose Cotter (Widen Hokio Beach road, Cycle Track to Hokio, Community Outcomes are very visionary and lack specifics, Library extensions, targeted rates, increased level of debt)

Rose Cotter, in speaking to this submission, commented:

- she would advocate for a rethink of the time line for the LTCCP;
- Councillors had had time to digest all the information provided, but people in the community had not had the same opportunity;

- ratepayers were being asked to pay more but would receive nothing more;
- 30% of the population would be carrying the load;
- the Horowhenua was classed as one of the four lowest socio-economic areas in the country;
- more time should be taken to inform people of the implications of the proposed changes;
- the fact that there was currently a recession should also not be lost sight of.

The suggestion raised in the submission of combining projects, such as widening the road with a cycle track/walkway when water pipes were laid, was noted as this could also incorporate other enhancements (laying ducting for future broadband).

Submission 391 - Ema Jacob (Keep access to the Library welcoming, open and free)

Submission 392 - Peter Ferrier (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

Submission 149 - Joan Leckie (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

Submission 150 - M Thompson (Objecting to rating proposal, proposed reticulation of Waitarere water and Council borrowing money)

Submission 151 - Helen M Feek (Objecting to removal of differential rating)

Submission 152 - B J Clarke (Objection to proposed rating system, objecting to proposed water reticulation at Waikawa)

Submission 153 - Mike & Gill Regan/Ross & Helen Wilson (Objection to rating proposal)

Submission 155 - Carolyn Seal (Objection to water reticulation proposal)

Submission 156 - L Mackie (Opposing proposed water reticulation for Waikawa)

Submission 157 - Rachelle Calkoen (Opposing water reticulation proposal and increase in rates)

Submission 158 - D & C Cree (Opposing water reticulation proposal for Waitarere; objecting to proposed rates increase)

Submission 159 - Alan Dixon (Supporting any proposals for cycleways in the Horowhenua)

Submission 160 - Ariejan Ruardij (Objecting to proposed rates increase)

Submission 163 - H & M Jordens (Proposed rate increase should be applied over a longer time scale if necessary; include on rates notices how low income people can apply for rates rebates; water reticulation proposal for Waitarere would not provide any health or economic benefits)

Submission 164 - Robert Chrystall (Issues re Rating differentials and proposed rate increases; Council should rein in its spending)

Submission 166 - Graham & Valerie Olsen (Rate increases at Foxton Beach unfair)

Submission 169 - Paul Field (Supporting targeted rate for Library funding but concerned at any proposed change to funding levels)

Submission 172 - George & Nona Coutts (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)

Submission 174 - V Smith (Objecting to rates increase; requesting breakdown of what rates are for)

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting stood adjourned at 8.55 pm to be reconvened on Wednesday 3 June 2009 at 1.00 pm.

CONFIRMED this day of

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Chairperson