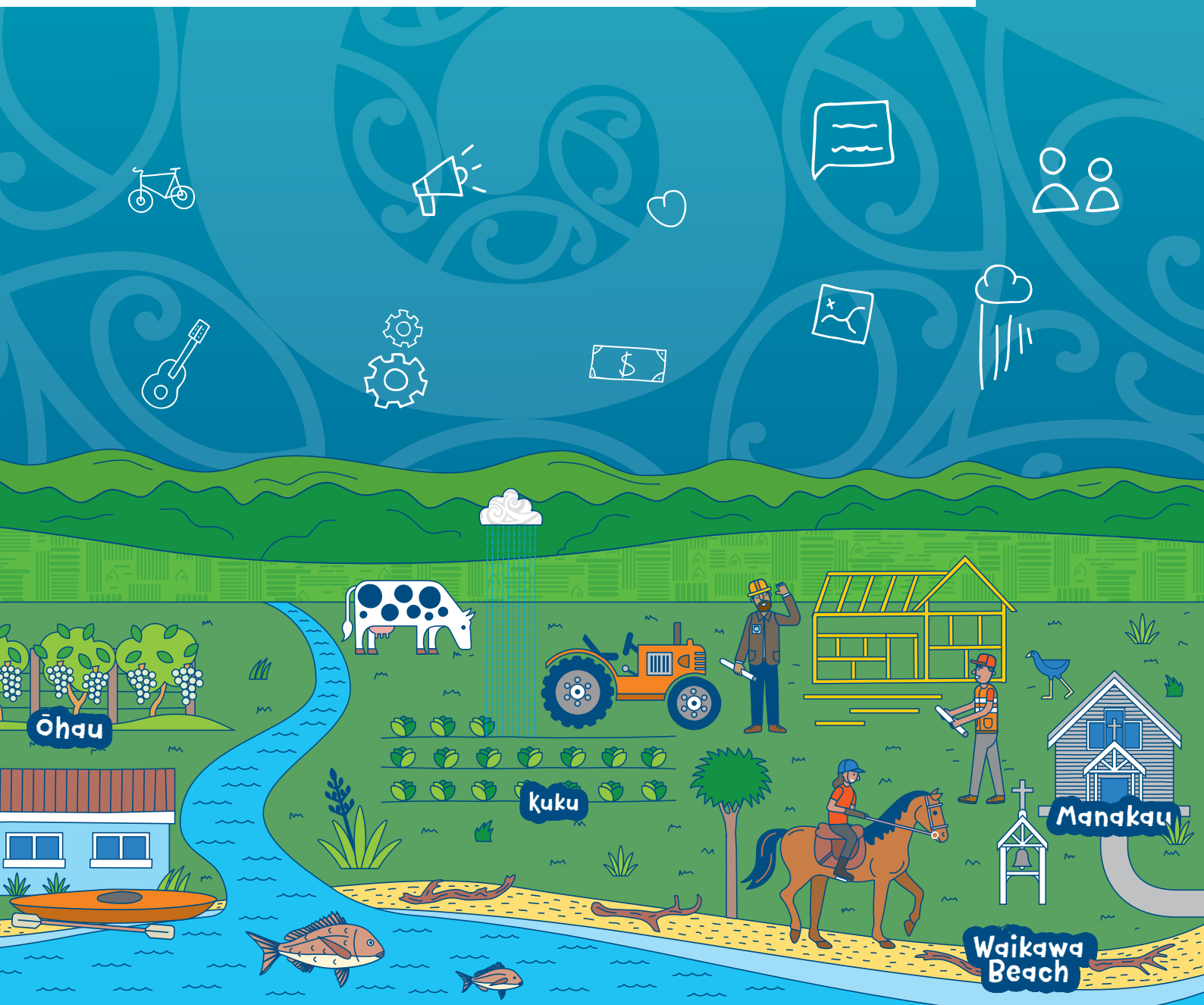


DRAFT Officer Response to Submissions

2019/2020 DRAFT Annual Plan



Please note the analysis from officers included in this report is in DRAFT form. The purpose of providing this information prior to the hearing is to enable submitters to refine the points they raise when speaking to their submission at the oral hearing.

Council will deliberate on submissions and make decisions after the oral hearing.

Submission's #41 and #42 were received late, therefore, have not been included in the analysis contained in the report. However, the points raised in the submissions will be considered during deliberations.

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Finance

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Topic 1 – Rural ratepayer concerns over their rate increase, cost increases and debt

Submitter and Submission number

Whiripa Land Co Ltd, Bryan Kilsby (# 9), Ian August (#14), Karen McErlean (#19), Lakeview Farm Ltd, Peter Everton (#24), Ann Thomas (#26), Lewis Farming Ltd, Geoff Lewis (#29), Federated Farmers of New Zealand – Manawatu/Rangitikei, Richard Morrison and Geoff Kane (#31), Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers, Ann Thomas (#33), Doug and Glynis Easton (#34), John and Wendy Allen (#37), Ian and Sandra Gray (#39), Pauline Masters (#40).

Summary of submissions

The following matters were raised in these submissions:

- Average rates increase for rural properties will be 9.5%.
- A number of rural ratepayers will have an increase of 15%.
- Increase attributed to the general rate (\$900,000 more than forecasted in the Long Term Plan (LTP)). General rate provides services more likely to be used by urban ratepayers. The submitters do not think it is fair to increase rates for activities which they receive little benefit from.
- Concern about inability of Council to keep within forecasted spending. Questions why there are considerable rates increases, despite no additional services to be provided.
- Concern about debt increasing to \$109M from \$105M. Serious concerns about the level of debt. Concerned about what the long term forecast of debt will be.
- Council should provide a breakdown of the borrowings and interest costs for each individual asset.
- Council should re-assess activities and services, aiming to focus on core services and reduce operating expenses.
- Council should reduce debt and keep rates at the current level.

- Community wide rates increases of the level Council is proposing is unsustainable. With inflation as low as it is, cost should support rates increase of a much lower level than those proposed.

Officer Analysis

Officers would like to clarify that the advertised 5.98% increase in rates does not represent an 'average rate increase' but rather it is the proposed increase in the Council's total rates revenue. The complexity of the rating system means that actual rate increases for ratepayers will vary and depend on a raft of different factors. These factors include costs related to particular activities covered by targeted rates as well as general rates, the level of growth in the rating base, changes that occur with house building, subdivision etc.

The rate increase related to the rating units classified as farming is \$391,000 or 8.9% spread over 1,095 assessments (there may be less actual farming operations) and total rates of \$4.7m or 10.3% of the \$45.2m collected in rates (GST Inclusive).

The General Rate increase between 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 is \$1.6 million. This is \$918,000 above the LTP forecast for 2019/2020. The reason for the overall \$1.6m increase in the General Rate is for the following reasons;

- Increase in employee costs relating to the necessity of recruiting and retention of staff to ensure we are able to cater for the anticipated growth and still deliver on the levels of service that are statutorily imposed and those that Council has traditionally delivered. This is also being done in an increasing complex environment with added compliance and regulatory impositions. Growth is occurring right now and at a rate higher than anticipated. Council must plan and respond to this growth to ensure it is managed and occurs in a manner that provides maximum benefit both in the near and long term. It is anticipated that Council will be able to recover some of the cost of this investment over time from external sources as projects such as O2NL further progress.
- Council has been able to achieve a lower interest rate on external borrowing. Council has reduced the assumption for interest from 4.75% to 4.25%. This lowers the interest costs to those (predominantly the three water activities, libraries/community centres and property) but it also lowers the interest received by the internal "bank". In the same way a real bank would have lower interest income if it reduced its mortgage interest rates to customers. As the treasury function is a General Rate activity the loss in interest income affects the General Rate.

In relation to the \$918,000 shift in costs to the General Rate;

- The Annual Plan modifies the LTP Year 2 to account for differences that have occurred and operating budgets need adjusting. While the overall delivery of services and projects remain the same as the LTP, the mode of delivery and underlying costs change. In addition Council has reorganised its internal operating departments to reflect a change in emphasis to planning and reacting to growth which is predominately covered by the General Rate.

It is important when considering the rural ratepayer contribution to the General Rate not to do so in isolation. Comparatively, for 2019/2020 the roading rate has decreased for rural ratepayers from \$1.39m in 2018/2019 to \$1.31m in 2019/2020. The Roothing Rate is not

dissimilar to the General Rate as it too is a rate levied on Land Value. 54% of the Roothing Budget is spent on Rural Roads however properties in the Rural Category only contribute 29.5% of the Roothing Rate, the remainder coming from Rural Residential and Urban Ratepayers. So whilst Rural Ratepayers may argue that they are subsidising urban ratepayers for services they don't have them level of access too Urban and Rural Residential property owners could mount a similar argument around Roothing.

The wider rural area (inclusive of all rural ratepayers, except rural residential and lifestyle) have the benefit of the differential of 25% of the General Rate. The rest of the District cover the other 75%. This rural group have 2,235 assessments (12.53%), 52% of the Land Value and 31% of the Capital Value. The overall dollar increase for this group was \$472,000 (8.55%). However, the Rural Residential ratepayers, number 2,670 assessments, had an increase of \$463,000 (8.24%). The General Rate is not used to fund predominantly urban services. The services provided include; building and resource consents, which are widely used by rural ratepayers, while community services and facilities are also used by rural communities, and although they have to travel further to access these this is one of the reasons for the rural differential. The commercial property and treasury activities actually decrease the General Rate for urban and rural alike.

Debt is linked to assets, most of the assets built that will contribute to debt are linked to urban infrastructure and will be serviced by urban rate payers connected to that infrastructure. The capital expenditure programme for 2019/20 is ambitious at \$35m. This level of expenditure is unlikely to occur which will reduce the predicted debt below \$109m closer to or even lower than the \$105m in the LTP especially if the proposed asset sales of \$7m occur in the next 6 to 12 months.

Council believes it is transparent about debt. Every quarter the Finance Audit and Risk subcommittee of Council receives a report that lists all borrowings, and breaks the borrowing against the activity to which it relates. Also every quarter the committee receives a Treasury report written by an independent treasury advisor to Council, Bancorp. These reports do show "a breakdown of the borrowing and interest costs" by activity as submitter #24 has requested. Debt will reduce in line with that forecast in the Financial Strategy from a peak in 2031.

Council cost drivers are not the same as domestic cost drivers measured by the Consumers Price Index (CPI). That is why Council's Financial Strategy bench marks against the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) which is more in line with movements in materials that drive costs to local government.

Sustainability and affordability are different but subjective assessments. Council is endeavouring to get to grips with both and would welcome the submitter's analysis over farming sustainability and any study that may have been done to support the "unsustainability" assertion.

It is also important to note that during the 2019/20 Financial Year Council will be undertaking a review of its Revenue and Financing Policy. One of the considerations will be the levying of rates on the basis of Land vs Capital Value. Officers encourage the submitters to engage in that review process.

Topic 2 – Rates increases, sustainability of debt, cost increases

Submitter and Submission number

Federated Farmers of New Zealand – Manawatu/Rangitikei, Richard Morrison and Geoff Kane (#31).

Summary of submission

Rates Increase – The submitter raises concerns about rates increases for rural ratepayers. The submitter also has concerns about the Council being unable to keep within forecasted spending. The submitter requests that Council a) review its areas of expense with a view to delete any work programmes that are non-essential; and b) re-assess Council business or service delivery with a view to reduce operating expenses.

Debt – The submitter is concerned about debt and asks that Council work to ensure debt is reduced over the final two years of the Long Term Plan (LTP). The submitter feels that Council's forecast debt is not sustainable. Council and the community should make hard decisions on which areas of expenditure are currently a priority and which can be deferred.

Officer Analysis

Officers would like to clarify that the advertised 5.98% increase in rates does not represent an 'average rate increase' but rather it is the proposed increase in the Council's total rates revenue. The complexity of the rating system means that actual rate increases for ratepayers will vary and depend on a raft of different factors. These factors include costs related to particular activities covered by targeted rates as well as general rates, the level of growth in the rating base, changes that occur with house building, subdivision etc.

The rate increase related to the rating units classified as farming is \$391,000 or 8.9% spread over 1,095 assessments (there may be less actual farming operations) and total rates of \$4.7m or 10.3% of the \$45.2m collected in rates (GST Inclusive).

The wider rural area (inclusive of all rural ratepayers, except rural residential and lifestyle) have the benefit of the differential of 25% of the General Rate. The rest of the District cover the other 75%. This rural group have 2,235 assessments (12.53%), 52% of the Land Value and 31% of the Capital Value. The overall dollar increase for this group was \$472,000 (8.55%). However, the Rural Residential ratepayers, number 2,670 assessments, had an increase of \$463,000 (8.24%).

The General Rate is not used to fund predominantly for urban services. The services provided include building and resource consents which are widely used by rural ratepayers while community services and facilities are also used by rural communities, and although they have to travel further to access these this is one of the reasons for the rural differential. The commercial property and treasury activities actually decrease the General Rate for urban and rural alike.

Debt is linked to assets, most of the assets built that will contribute to debt are linked to urban infrastructure and will be serviced by urban ratepayers connected to that infrastructure. The capital expenditure programme for 2019/20 is ambitious at \$35m. This level of expenditure is unlikely to occur which will reduce the predicted debt below \$109m closer or even lower than

the \$105m in the Long Term Plan (LTP) especially if the proposed asset sales of \$7m occur in the next six (6) to 12 months.

The last four (4) years of debt against the LTP prediction are shown below.

| Year | LTP | A/R |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| | \$m | \$m |
| 2014/15 | 56 | 60 |
| 2015/16 | 76 | 65 |
| 2016/17 | 75 | 77 |
| 2017/18 | 90 | 80 |

Council uses the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) to borrow from. The LGFA is widely used by Councils in New Zealand for borrowing and this agency sets its own benchmarks of affordability above which it will no longer lend to Councils. The most pertinent of these benchmarks is Council's net debt (i.e. debt less cash) against revenue. The limit is 250% and Council is currently 159% below its self-imposed limit of 195%. Also the credit rating agency Standard and Poors, who assess Council's long-term debt sustainability, has maintained Council's A+ credit rating over the last four (4) years. Council's Debenture Trustee, who look after the interests of Council's lenders have also not raised any issues, nor have Audit NZ (Council's auditors).

The financial forecasts for 30 June 2019 were recently considered at a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting. Those financial forecasts have been through a robust review process to ensure that non-essential expenditure is put on hold. Also considered at that meeting was the recent confirmation of Council's Standard and Poor's Credit Rating. Council noted Standard and Poor's comments regarding not delivering on its capital works program and requested that officers undertake a robust review of the proposed capital works programme as part of finalising the 2019/20 Annual Plan.

Topic 3 – Rating system and method of consultation

Submitter and Submission number

Horowhenua Grey Power, Lewis Rohloff (#11).

Summary of submissions

The submitter indicates that they are concerned with the consultation approach adopted by Council for this Annual Plan.

The submitter is opposed to the proposed 5.98% rates increase and considers it to be 'extraordinarily high' by national standards. The submitter wants Council to review its rating model as they believe the current model disadvantages low and middle income households. The submitter notes that Council committed to undertaking a rate review but that this has not happened.

The submitter questions why the rating differential is so heavily biased in favour of Rural Business when the norm for the Councils throughout New Zealand is .070 vs 1.000 where Land Value is the basis of determination.

Officer Analysis

This Annual Plan does not contain any significant or material changes from what was proposed in the Long Term Plan (LTP) for the 2019/20 financial year. As such Council was not required to consult on this Annual Plan. However, in the interest of ensuring that the public still have a chance to be heard in relation to what Council has planned over the next 12 months the decision was made to consult anyway.

The advertised 5.98% does not represent an average rate increase, it reflects only the proposed increase in the Council's total rate revenue. The complexity of the rating system means that actual rate increases depend on a raft of different factors. These factors include, costs related to particular activities covered by targeted rates especially but also general rates, the level of growth in the rating base, changes that occur with house building, subdivision etc.

Recent straw polls amongst Councils would suggest that we are not alone with above inflation rate income increases, and not alone with a rate income percentage increase of this magnitude. The productivity commission is studying this phenomenon as part of their investigation into Local Government funding.

Council intends to embark on a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy in the 2019/20 financial year. This review will also look at affordability. We will welcome the submitter's input to the process where we would like to see the results of any affordability studies Grey Power may have done.

The Land Transport (Roothing) rate does have a small incentive for businesses over other uses. This was (in a small way) to try and encourage businesses to locate in Horowhenua in conjunction with the highway construction to the south. This would, hopefully bring a young working generation, broaden our rate base and lower the impact on existing ratepayers who have an increasingly older demographic.

The Rural differential submitter #11 describes on the table on page 2 of their submission is necessary when over 52% of the land value is held by 13% of the rating units. A purely Land Value based rating system with no differentials would mean a disproportionate rate burden on a relatively small proportion of our district. Council notes that Grey Power's stated national bench mark of 0.07:1 is lower (not higher) than Councils 0.302:1.

Rating units that contain businesses cannot use community facilities (unless the owner and their employees also reside in the same rating unit).

Topic 4 – Source of debt funding

Submitter and Submission number

Social Credit NZ (Western Region), Heather Marion Smith (#30).

Summary of submission

The submitter advocates that Council source its borrowings through the Reserve Bank of New Zealand rather than the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA).

Officer Analysis

The LGFA is an organisation set up primarily by Local Government to lower the cost of debt to local government. Council has no stated intention of seeking debt funding from any other organisation/agency nor does it see the need for alternative sources of funding other than the LGFA.

Although it may be possible for the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to source debt funding for Local Government, the Government has not, nor is it likely to, allowed such practices to occur. The taxpayers, not ratepayers, would end up covering the debt servicing, with the equity and fairness issues that would follow. For example, officers consider that the ratepayers in Southland, (where there is no debt) would not welcome covering debt pertaining to the growth of Auckland.

Topic 5 – Funding of the Foxton east drainage scheme improvements

Submitter and Submission number

Foxton Community Board, David Roache (#35).

Summary of submissions

The submitter notes that they support the Regional Council's amended funding split. The submitter suggests that the project should be delayed for one year so that the community can work with Horizons Regional Council officers on the most cost effective solution.

The submitter recommends that the local rating component be funded by urban areas in the Horowhenua District, noting that it is consistent with Council's harmonisation policy

Officer Analysis

Officers can confirm that Horowhenua District Council's rating system for stormwater is funded district wide on all urban properties, using capital value.

The Council recently received a report on this project and noted that ongoing engagement with key stakeholders is necessary as the engineering design/solution is finalised.

Topic 6 – Farmers rate increases and fairness of these, poor budget control

Submitter and Submission number

Geoff Kane (#16).

Summary of submission

The submitter lists some of the following matters as key points of their submission:

- Poor budget management, already the long term plan has been broken and budget blowouts are occurring
- Unfair distribution of rates. Because the General Rate is set on land value, farmers are paying an unfair portion.
- Rates are being spent on social items instead of core business.

The submitter talks about their own rates and these are increasing. The submitter states that 300 new houses were built this year and queries where the extra rates from these have gone.

Officer Analysis

Council throughout the financial year has been closely monitoring its financial situation. In doing so it has committed to certain works that are outside the budgets provided in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan, particularly in the areas of responding to Growth, O2NL and changes to service levels around Solid Waste Management. Long Term and Annual Plans are just that, and often unplanned events occur that Council must respond too. Planning for growth is a core responsibility for Council. Growth is occurring now at a higher rate than anticipated and it is important that Council responds in a 'fit for purpose' way so to ensure that growth occurs in a managed way and that it gives effect to Council's community outcomes.

The work that Council has been doing in planning for the future of the Horowhenua District (e.g. H2040 and Community Plans) has strongly demonstrated that the community have an expectation that Council involves itself in more than what some might consider to be the core business of Local Government. The community have very high expectations that Council will work with other providers, not for profits and agents of Central Government to ensure that fit for purpose and innovative solutions are delivered for the community across the board.

The premise being, that it is local government as the level of government closest to its community, which has the best understanding of the needs of its community and is therefore best positioned to work with other stakeholders to advocate for solutions to local problems (i.e. the one size fits all delivery model from Central Government does not always work).

In terms of the distribution of rates, the wider rural area (inclusive of all rural ratepayers except rural residential and lifestyle ratepayers) have the benefit of the differential of 25% of the General Rate. The rest of the District cover the other 75%. This rural group have 2,235 assessments (12.53%), 52% of the Land value and 31% of the capital value. The overall dollar increase for this group was \$472,000 (8.55%). However, the Rural Residential ratepayers, number 2,670 assessments, had an increase of \$463,000 (8.24%).

It is important to note that during the 2021/20 Financial Year Council will be undertaking a review of its Revenue and Financing Policy. One of the considerations will be the levying of

rates on the basis of Land vs Capital Value. Officers encourage the submitter to engage in that review process.

The submission mentions that 300 new houses have been built, to date 157 new dwelling consents have been received against 143 for the same period last year. It is incorrect to assume the increase in rates will be \$2,000 for each house. This is because Council already rate the Land Value and the value uplift is restricted to those rates that are based on Capital Value (i.e. Roading and Stormwater Targeted Rates). The benefit of any increase in the rating base from new dwellings or subdivisions will be shared by all ratepayers in the differential class that the new dwelling is located, reducing the increase in rates to existing rating units from what would have applied before the introduction of the new dwelling values and services. There is also a delay in Council's ability to pass this on as rates are set on the situation that exists on the 30 June each year (which means that a person may have built a new house but the increase in rates may not come into place until the next financial year).

Topic 7 – Cost of Council Employees

Submitter and Submission number

Simon Smelt (#23), Pauline Masters (#40).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #23 raises concerns about Council's financial management. The submitter notes that from year ending June 2012 to June 2018 revenue from rates rose by 51.3%, expenditure on employee benefits rose 87.9%. The submitter indicates that in 2012, expenditure on employee benefits accounted for 16.5% of Council expenditure and by 2018 this had grown to 26.6% of expenditure.

The submitter suggests that a reasonable goal for Council is to reduce employee benefit expenses within 2 years to no more than 20% share of Council expenditure.

The submitter indicates that the Council should provide ratepayers with full details of the past and intended future growth in employee numbers, job allocations, and remuneration and the factors and specific decisions lying behind these.

Submitter #40 asks that Council look at staff employed and queried what are their salaries/wages.

Officer Analysis

Council circumstances have changed since the forecasts of a year ago, with the necessity of recruiting and retention of staff to ensure we are able to cover the increases, and planning necessary, to cater for the anticipated growth and still deliver on the levels of service traditionally delivered in an increasing complex environment with added compliance and regulatory impositions than was the case seven (7) years ago. In some cases the levels of service have increased, for example the development of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.

Also, on 1 July 2016 Council brought the Library service in house from what was previously delivered through a charitable trust. This created a one off increase in employee costs of \$1.7m.

The resourcing of Council is an operational matter. Council establishes service levels in consultation with and on behalf of the community and then provides an operational budget for the Chief Executive to develop the internal capability and capacity to deliver on those service levels. Unforeseen circumstances may mean that from time to time the Chief Executive, with the support of Council, may need to exceed that operational budget to deliver on the Council's and communities expectations.

Strategy & Development

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| Topic 1 | Calculation of 5377 Additional Houses |
| Topic 2 | Transport Planning |
| Topic 3 | Advocacy for the Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway Project (O2NL) |
| Topic 4 | Levin Town Centre Development |
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| Topic 9 | Coastal Settlement |
| Topic 10 | Climate Change |
| Topic 11 | Flood Control |
| Topic 12 | Regional Council: Relationship and Work Programme |
| Topic 13 | Breadth of Projects and Activities |
| Topic 14 | What is Council doing for the rural ratepayer |

Topic 1 – Calculation of 5377 additional houses

Submitter and Submission number

Margaret Williams (#3).

Summary of submission

The submitter queries how Council calculated 5,377 additional dwellings by 2040 as this number seems curiously specific.

Officer Analysis

The Horowhenua District is growing and in order to appropriately plan for and manage this growth Council needs to understand the rate that this growth is likely to occur over the next 20+ years. Therefore, Council commissioned Sense Partners to project the District's population growth.

In July 2017 Council adopted the 50th percentile growth scenario from the Socio-Economic projections developed by the Sense Partners which included the projection for an additional 5,377 households in the District by 2040. As with any projection it is based on the best

information available and a range of relevant factors get taken into account when providing the projection and identifying a specific number of houses, people or jobs for that timeframe.

Topic 2 – Transport Planning

Submitters and Submission numbers

Dale Hartle (#1), Margret Williams (#3), MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13), Gary Good (#20), Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submissions

The Council received a number of submissions on the issue of Transport Planning:

- Submitter #1 advocates for Council to investigate increased train services from Levin to Palmerston North and from Levin to Wellington. The submitter requests the Capital Connection service is expanded to be more regular, and with cheap fares to get people off the road and onto public transport. The submitter requests that Council advocate for these improved services at every opportunity.
- Submitter #3 requests more information on Council's plans for increased public transport services for the District's ratepayers.
- Submitter #13 identifies their interest in assisting with the development of an Integrated Transport Strategy. The submitter also advocates that Council encourage active transport and School Travel Management Plans within the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- Submitter #20 supports the intent to prepare an Integrated Transport Strategy and to work with the NZ Transport Agency on the Strategy. The Submitter comments that now is the time to develop a cohesive strategy and it is a good opportunity to access funding for the Expressway development.
- Submitter #27 supports the provision of effective public transport systems and supports initiatives to maintain and improve commuter services in Horowhenua. The submitter also notes that public transport benefits the environment.

Officer Analysis

Council acknowledges and recognises that Horizons Regional Council has the primary statutory responsibility for managing public passenger transport services within the District and inter-regionally. Council supports public passenger transport services and regularly advocates to Horizons Regional Council and the Regional Transport Committee for improved passenger transport services. Council has recently presented a submission on the Horizons Regional Council's Annual Plan 2019-2020 in support of the Capital Connection Commuter Service and a new service to provide an off-peak bus service from Levin to Palmerston North, Mondays and Wednesdays. Council also advocates, on the community's behalf, to the Central Government agencies, relevant ministers of the Crown, for improved passenger transport services (including rail) for the District.

Council has made a commitment to develop a 30 year Integrated Transport Strategy for Horowhenua which will be developed in consultation with the community. The interest of MidCentral Health's Public Health Service in the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy (HITS) is noted, and officers will work with them during the development of the Strategy. The comments about encouraging active transport and School Travel Management Plans are noted as matters to be considered when developing the Integrated Transport Strategy.

The support for preparing the Integrated Transport Strategy by submitter #20 is noted. A range of key stakeholders will be involved in the development of the Strategy, including NZTA. The NZTA involvement will include being part of the HITS Project Governance Group. The comments from submitter #27 supporting the environmental benefits of public transport are noted.

Topic 3 – Advocacy for the Otaki to North Levin Expressway project (O2NL)

Submitter and Submission number

Dale Hartle (#1), Garry Good (#20).

Summary of submissions

The submitters would like to see the Council actively engage with NZTA to ensure the O2NL bypass built as quickly as possible. The traffic issues experienced this summer are only going to get worse and Council must put as much pressure on NZTA as possible to expedite this project.

Officer Analysis

Officers have been actively engaging, and will continue to engage with NZTA and Central Government to advocate for the next stage of the O2NL project. The next stage involves the funding and completion of a Detailed Business Case (DBC) and route protection through the RMA process (Designation). Council remains concerned by the lack progress on the DBC since the preferred corridor announcement in December 2018. Council officers continue to engage with NZTA at a variety of levels and have been requesting the Minister of Transport to provide the required certainty around the delivery of the project.

Topic 4 – Levin Town Centre Development

Submitter and Submission number

Margaret Williams (#3), Gary Good (#20).

Summary of submissions

Council received two submissions related to the Levin Town Centre development.

- Submitter #3 raised concerns about outdoor dining areas associated with cafes on Oxford Street, due to potential health effects on users due to traffic noise and exhaust fumes.
- Submitter #20 supported the Levin Town Centre development, but noted the importance of getting some 'quick wins' before the town centre is bypassed by the State Highway.

Officer Analysis

Submitter #3's concerns about the effects of traffic noise and exhaust fumes of the health of people using outdoor seating areas on Oxford Street are noted. As Oxford Street is currently a State Highway, there is little that Council can do in the short term to address this issue. However in the future, the State Highway will bypass the Levin Town Centre. This will likely reduce traffic volumes, particularly heavy vehicles, on Oxford Street. As such, traffic noise and exhaust fumes are likely to be reduced in the future. Once the State Highway is returned to Council as a local road there will be options for how Council may design the use of this road in the future.

Submitter #20's support for the Levin Town Centre development is acknowledged, as are the submitter's comments regarding the importance of implementing some changes in the short term. The Levin Town Centre Building Frontage and Signage Policy has been recently adopted by Council and will set a higher standard for building frontages and signage in the town centre. This is being supported by a fund to assist building and business owners with upgrading their building and signs.

The fund is set to open for applications in May and June 2019, with funding to be allocated during July and August 2019. This fund will encourage building and business owners to improve their buildings and signs in the short term. In addition, Council is currently undertaking placemaking projects, including the 'Adopt-a-Pot' scheme and the Community Space project which will see the first one to be delivered in partnership with Hell Pizza. These projects are considered to represent 'quick wins' that assist with improving town centre satisfaction, boosting civic pride, and contributing to the overall objective for the town centre to develop as a place to 'do stuff' not just 'get stuff'.

Topic 5 – Community Plans

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22), Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submissions

Council received three submissions related to Community Plans, with the key points in the submissions summarised below:

- Submitter #22 supports the creation of Community Plans.

- Submitter #28 supports the creation of Community Plans and would like the Foxton Beach Community Plan to proceed in 2019/2020.
- Submitter #32 would like to ensure the correct environmental groups are informed and are actively involved in Community Plans.

Officer Analysis

Council will be creating Community Plans in partnership with iwi and alongside the community for each settlement within the district. A Community Plan sets out the vision and aspirations of that community, they can also include a list of actions that the community feels are important to them and a framework for the community and Council to carry forward.

Officers acknowledge the support of Tokomaru Village and Community Association for the development of Community Plans.

Officers appreciate the discussions held to date with the Foxton Beach Progressive Association (submitter #28) on the Foxton Beach Community Plan. As agreed with the FBPA, Council officers will provide support to enable the FBPA to lead the development of the Community Plan for Foxton Beach.

Officers acknowledge the comments from submitter #32 and will work with Environment Network Manawatū to ensure the correct groups are engaged with during the creation of Community Plans.

Topic 6 – Master Plans

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13).

Summary of submission

The submitter advocates that Horowhenua District Council include provision for active transport within the master plans being developed.

Officer Analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitter's interest in the Master Plans which Council is preparing for communities which are experiencing substantial growth, and the need to provide for active transport when forward planning for these communities. The submitter will have the opportunity to be engaged in the Master Plan processes and provide feedback on the active transport planning incorporated into the Master Plans.

While each Master Plan will have some unique site specific considerations, the design principles will ensure that active transport is an important factor built into the design of the Master Plan layout.

Topic 7 – Subdivision Development in Foxton Beach

Submitter and Submission number

Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28).

Summary of submission

The submitter identifies concern about future change and growth at Foxton Beach – an anticipated 350 new homes. The submitter has an interest in being involved in the Foxton Beach Growth Area Master Plan to ensure the lifestyle and environmental character of Foxton Beach is retained.

The submitter also requests that to maximise strategic benefit to Foxton Beach, that the least possible expenditure from the LTP provision of \$2.5 million is used for the Forbes Road/Kilmister Block subdivision.

Officer Analysis

Officers have been engaging with the submitter regarding the Foxton Beach Growth Area Master Plan and will continue to do so. Officers will also be supporting the Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc to lead the development of the Community Plan for Foxton Beach.

Until Council is further along the process in developing the Foxton Beach Growth Area Master Plan, costs of the subsequent subdivision cannot be confirmed.

Topic 8 – Relaxation of Subdivision Requirements (Waikawa Beach)

Submitter and Submission number

Ian Baggott (#12).

Summary of submission.

The submitter refers to the planned growth in population predicted for the Horowhenua District as a result of the PP2O (Peka to Ōtaki Expressway) and O2NL (Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway) road projects, and queries why Council is not relaxing the restrictions on land subdivision to provide for this growth.

The submitter uses their own property as an example, stating that it is nearly 7000m² with a single dwelling occupying less than half of the section. The submitter notes that they are unable to subdivide due to Council's restrictions on sections being at least 5000m² in area.

The submitter also notes that they are aware of sections of around 8000m² being subdivided into 4000m² sections based on submitting a strong case to subdivide to allow the building of a second dwelling.

The submitter requests that Council amends its rules to allow them to subdivide and make available around 3500m² for a new resident to build a home.

Officer Analysis

In November 2018 Council adopted the Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040. This Strategy provides an integrated and proactive framework to help Council manage and plan for growth over the next 20+ years. The Strategy identifies where growth is anticipated to occur and whether land currently available for development in these areas will be sufficient to accommodate predicted growth. Where a shortfall in 'available land' has been identified, potential growth areas have been identified.

Two potential growth areas have been identified for Waikawa Beach. Potential growth area WB1 is located to the north of Waikawa Beach Road and east of the existing settlement. Potential growth area WB2 is located to the east of Strathnaver Drive (south of the original part of the Waikawa Beach settlement). Going forward Council will look to rezone potential growth areas throughout the District as required to ensure that there is sufficient land available to accommodate growth.

In addition to rezoning land and providing for development within growth areas, Council also sees infill development playing an important role in accommodating future growth. Current provisions in the District Plan specify 5000m² as the smallest lot size for properties in the Rural zone as well as for properties in the Greenbelt Residential zone which are not serviced with reticulated water and wastewater. The 5000m² requirement is largely based on these properties needing to provide for onsite wastewater disposal and the Regional Council's requirements that are associated with this.

The possibility of developing reticulated water and wastewater services for settlements that do not currently have them in this District (including Waikawa Beach) was one of the key topics Council consulted on during the development of its Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2028. The provision of these services would allow these settlements to be developed to a greater level of density. Feedback received from members of the Waikawa Beach community as part of the LTP process meant that Council will not be exploring the provision of these services to this community at this time. A significant portion of this feedback from Waikawa was not supportive of additional development at Waikawa Beach.

Although 5000m² is identified in the District Plan as the minimum lot size there are instances where property owners have been able to subdivide their property into lots that are smaller than 5000m². This is possible where Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council have been satisfied that wastewater disposal will be able to be effectively managed on a smaller lot as well as the subdivision meeting other considerations for effects on the environment.

In situations where landowners are interested in subdividing or believe that there may be mitigating circumstances to support departing from the rules, landowners are able to discuss this with the Council planner who is available Monday-Friday, during normal office hours.

Topic 9 – Coastal Settlement

Submitter and Submission number

Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submissions

The submitter commends Council for attention to coastal hazards in the Long Term Plan (LTP). The submitter has suggested that any mitigation approaches should work with changes in our environment, rather than fighting against such changes. Council should consider how it will manage flood-prone and coastal land, particularly in regard to how the retirement of this land back to ecological buffer areas will be resourced.

Officer Analysis

Officers support in principle the comments made by the submitter seeking that mitigation approaches should work with changes in our environment. There are a wide range of potential responses to coastal hazards. Across the district's coastline the pressures range from parts of the coast that are eroding through to parts of our coastline which are accreting.

Current investigations are being undertaken in conjunction with Horizons Regional Council for some at risk areas of our coastline. Council does not currently have an identified funding mechanism that would support the retirement of flood prone or coastal land back to ecological areas. The option of retiring flood prone or coastal land back to ecological areas does exist for current landowners, however it is recognised that without some form of compensation or incentive it becomes less likely to occur.

One such option that Council may wish explore is a targeted rate in the coastal communities to fund appropriate mitigation responses. If Council were interested in exploring this sort of funding mechanism it would need to be considered as part of a review of the Revenue & Financing Policy. To be able to appropriately explore a targeted rate it is necessary to understand the potential funding requirements associated with proposed mitigation responses. It is noted that in the recent discussions around potential coastal hazard management solutions at Waikawa Beach, Horizons Regional Council have indicated that the potential solutions could also require a targeted rate to the Regional Council to fund the chosen solution.

Topic 10 – Climate Change

Submitter and Submission number

Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submissions

The submitter identifies that Council should work to lessen its contribution to climate change, including divesting from assets and infrastructure that have a reliance on fossil fuels. This would not only reduce the region's contribution to climate change, but also ensure ratepayers

assets are protected from the loss of value that is likely to come when worldwide attitudes change.

The submitter implores Council to sign the Local Government Leaders Declaration on Climate Change and to act on the responsibility this would bring.

Officer Analysis

Council has sought to better understand and reduce its contribution to climate change through collaborating with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). The energy efficiency work undertaken in the past 12 months has included energy audits of the Council's Civic building and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, and a continuous commissioning report on Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Other initiatives include the financial support that Council has contributed towards four electric vehicle charging stations (two in Shannon and two in Foxton) to be installed later this year. Officers will continue to explore different ways that Council can reduce its contribution to climate change.

In terms of the Local Government Leaders Declaration on Climate Change, it is understood that over 20 Councils are yet to sign the declaration. Horowhenua District Council is one of the Councils that have signed the declaration. A copy of the Local Government Leaders Declaration on Climate Change (including signatories) can be viewed on the Local Government New Zealand website.

Topic 11 – Flood Control

Submitter and Submission number

Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submission

The submitter commented that any flood control work should focus on the use of natural systems to attenuate the flood risk as these tend to be less costly than long term engineering solutions. The submitter would support initiatives to plant riparian strips for flood control.

The submitter identified that the risk of planning for natural hazards and disasters is extremely important given climate change. Horowhenua District Council are implored by the submitter to undertake as much action as possible to minimise the contribution of the region to climate change and lessen the risk for the region.

Officer Analysis

In our district and region flood protection and land drainage are a core responsibility of Horizons Regional Council. They perform this role by managing rivers through engineering works (and other means) to help prevent floods and provide adequate land drainage where necessary.

At a district level officers support in principle the consideration of natural system solutions that can be less costly than engineering solutions. Officers acknowledge that it is essential that the correct response to the hazard is put in place. Across the district there are a number of different responses to natural hazards and as the hazards are better understood, consideration will be given to ensure that the most appropriate response is used to manage the effects associated with the hazard. In some situations a natural system solution may be identified as the best response.

Topic 12 – Regional Council: Relationship and Work Programme

Submitter and Submission number

Horizons Regional Council, Michael McCartney (#38).

Summary of submission

The Submitter states that they value the strong relationship between our two organisations (being Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council). The Submitter advises that they look forward to continuing to work together on projects and processes of mutual interest and concern, particularly those with implications for natural resource management.

The Submitter supports Horowhenua District Council's ongoing implementation of work programmes, including moving treated wastewater at Foxton from water to land-based disposal and Council carrying out a feasibility study for stormwater treatment that will lead to improved environmental outcomes.

Officer Analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitter's comments and appreciate the support of Horizons Regional Council in regards to key programmed works.

Topic 13 – Breadth of Projects and Activities

Submitter and Submission number

Federated Farmers of New Zealand – Manawatu/Rangitikei, Richard Morrison and Geoff Kane (#31).

Summary of submissions

The submitter contends that the Annual Plan proposes a number of work programmes which are non-essential. These should be proposed via a Long Term Plan (LTP). The submitter's particular concerns include destination management, master plans, community plans, and the Levin Town Centre development. The submitter has requested Council does not proceed with these projects at this stage and instead asks that Council park these and focus the next 20 years on reducing debt and at the very least holding rates at current levels.

Officer Analysis

These projects form an important part of the strategic direction of Council in planning for and responding to growth. The Council in approving the Financial Strategy in the Long Term Plan supported the projected debt and rate levels.

While officers understand the submitter's desire to see a reduction of debt and static rates it is considered in the current growth environment it is vital that the Council works with the community in an intentional way to plan the future of the district. The detailed level of planning involved in master planning or the Levin Town Centre development is vital so that the development that occurs in the future is not accidental and achieves positive outcomes for the district.

The growth environment resulting from steady population growth over the last three (3) years is creating new pressures which require a planned response. The District Plan is a core responsibility of the District Council. What may not be widely understood, is that the Master Plans being prepared, will be used to inform changes to the District Plan in the same way that Structure Plans (being plans with a lesser level of detail than Master Plans) have previously informed the changes to the District Plan. The Master Planning work is a vital part of ensuring the District Plan is relevant to the context. Planning for growth has positive implications for the farming community. Council aims to consolidate growth around existing urban areas to manage the loss of productive land and reverse sensitivity issues, which are more likely to occur if growth occurs in an ad-hoc manner.

Community Plans will have great value for each community they are developed for. They will help a community come together and agree what's important to them and how they want to look in the future. These Plans will also be used by Council as a reference point to better understand each community's aspirations and needs as it develops Long Term Plans and Annual Plans in the future.

Topic 14 – What is Council doing for the rural ratepayer

Submitter and Submission number

Lakeview Farm Ltd, Peter Everton (#24).

Summary of submissions

The submitter indicates that the 'What's Our Plan 2019/2020' booklet is all about what Council is doing for the town communities of Horowhenua and there is very little about what Council is doing for the rural ratepayers of the District (only an article about the Gladstone Road update).

Officer Analysis

The 'What's Our Future 2019/2020' document provides an overview of some of the key projects or service updates for 2019/2020 that Council would like to highlight to the community. It does not cover all of the projects the Council will undertake or all of the services that it will be providing for 2019/2020; this information is available in the Draft Annual Plan 2019/2020.

There are, however, a number of topics covered in the 'What's Our Plan 2019/2020' document that will benefit the District's rural ratepayers as well as our urban ratepayers. An example of this is the development of a districtwide Integrated Transport Strategy which will look at the transport needs of the entire district, with implementation plans being developed to deliver necessary transport improvements. Improvements to the Levin Town Centre will also benefit rural ratepayers who may like to spend time shopping or eating out in Levin. Rural ratepayers will also be encouraged to get involved in the development of the Community Plan for any of the communities that they identify with or have strong links with.

Representation & Leadership

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| Topic 1 | Heating for Foxtton Beach School from Foxtton Free Holding Account |
| Topic 2 | Foxtton Beach Free Holding Policy/Strategy |
| Topic 3 | Governance at Horowhenua District Council |

Topic 1 – Heating for Foxtton Beach School from Foxtton Freeholding Account

Submitter and Submission number

Foxtton Beach School, Hamish Stuart (#15).

Summary of submission

Request a grant of \$13,400 from the Foxtton Beach Free Holding Account to fund the air conditioning (heat pumps) in the Foxtton Beach School Hall.

Officer Analysis

The allocation of funding from the Foxtton Beach Free Holding Account requires a Council resolution. However, decisions surrounding the Foxtton Beach Free Holding Account are more appropriately considered by the Foxtton Community Board in accordance with the Foxtton Beach Free Holding Account Policy/Strategy. The most efficient way of addressing the issue is for Council to approve funding, subject to approval by the Foxtton Community Board.

Topic 2 – Foxtton Beach Free Holding Policy/Strategy

Submitter and Submission number

Foxtton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28).

Summary of submission

That the review of the Foxtton Beach Free holding Policy/Strategy should be a specific project listed in the 2019/20 Annual Plan in the 'Key Projects/What's happening' section.

Officer Analysis

The review of the Foxtton Beach Free Holding Policy/Strategy has been approved by Council.

Topic 3 – Governance at Horowhenua District Council

Submitter and Submission number

Geoff Kane (#16).

Summary of submission

The submitter expressed concerns as to whether elected members were focused enough on setting Council policy.

Officer Analysis

This is not a matter under consultation in the 2019/20 Draft Annual Plan. Council is setting providing strategic and policy direction and that direction is being actioned by Council officers. This is evidenced by way of adoption of Long Term and Annual Plans and unmodified audit opinions on successive Annual Reports.

Regulatory

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| Topic 1 | Local Alcohol Policy |
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Topic 1 – Local Alcohol Policy

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13).

Summary of submission

The submitter commends the Council for initiating the process of putting a local alcohol policy in place.

Officer Analysis

Council's Provisional Local Alcohol Policy continues to be in an appealed state. Council Officers will continue to pursue the adoption of a Horowhenua District Local Alcohol Policy through the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority.

Community Facilities

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| Topic 1 | Development of a Community Hub in Tokomaru |
| Topic 2 | Shannon Community Hall |

Topic 1 – Development of a Community Hub in Tokomaru

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22).

Summary of submission

The submitter requests Council's continued support to establish a Community Hub in Tokomaru.

Officer Analysis

Tokomaru Village and Community Association wish to continue to meet with HDC staff so they can assist the new Community Hall Society in the development of a Community Hub in Tokomaru. They wish to be aware of any future planned work and have the opportunity to have input to ensure they align with the community's focus.

Topic 2 – Shannon Community Hall

Submitter and Submission number

Glen William Monaghan (#21).

Summary of submission

The Submitter is not supportive of the idea of turning the Shannon Hall into a community centre and believes that Council should retain the Memorial Hall as a hall and give management to the Shannon Progressive Association or subcommittee as soon as possible.

Officer Analysis

The Feasibility Study will investigate the need, use, cost and potential scope of a Community Centre for Shannon. The study will consider whether or not Shannon Memorial Hall could be an appropriate site for this.

As part of the feasibility study there will be the further consultation with the Shannon community to understand its needs and aspirations.

Miscellaneous Matters

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| Topic 1 | Lake Horowhenua |
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Topic 1 – Lake Horowhenua

Submitter and Submission number

Anne Hunt (#2), Garry Good (#20), Lakeview Farm Limited, Peter Everton (#24).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #2 provides history on Lake Horowhenua and raises concerns around pollution of the Lake.

Submitter #20 identifies that Lake Horowhenua continues to be a significant challenge for the agencies attempting to clean it up. Continual interference undermines efforts to do so.

Submitter #24 also raises concerns about the deterioration of Lake Horowhenua. Particularly that the weed harvester has never been used, stormwater and Council's relationship with the owners.

Officer Analysis

As a privately owned lake, any work carried out on or around Lake Horowhenua must be agreed upon by its owners.

The Lake Horowhenua Accord action plan will continue to be worked upon once Lake Trustees and representatives to the Lake Accord Group are confirmed. Council remains supportive and committed to the Lake Accord and actions allocated directly to it. Council will also support and actively participate in the creation of a new action plan.

Council representatives have a good relationship and actively work with members of Muaūpoko Iwi who are appointed as representatives of working groups, Board members and others involved in Council related activity. Council is proud of these relationships and the partnership formed over the last few years.

Historically treated wastewater from Levin was discharged to the lake. The discharge was ceased in 1987 and as a result some 1,750,000 million tonnes of sediment that would have been deposited into the lake has been diverted to a land disposal site. Over that time period, the sediment would have reduced the average depth of the lake by 0.45m.

Stormwater is discharged to the lake when it rains – approximately 8 – 10% of the time. The stormwater contains runoff from paved areas, and landscaped areas. Residential properties dispose of stormwater on site. Stormwater from roads and landscaped areas can contain contaminants.

Council is focussed on assessing the extent of the effects of the intermittent discharge of stormwater to the lake in order that the effects can be mitigated. It is recommended that

Council continue with its programme of work to try to address the issues of contamination of the lake from stormwater discharges.

As part of the process for identifying and mitigating the effects of the stormwater discharge to the lake a consent application was submitted to Horizons Regional Council in late in 2018.

Community Engagement

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| Topic 1 | Sugar Sweetened Beverages Policy |
| Topic 2 | Support for Community Groups |
| Topic 3 | Increased Funding for Source to the Sea |
| Topic 4 | Funding Save Our River Trust |
| Topic 5 | Ōhau underpass mural |
| Topic 6 | Signage for Foxton Beach |

Topic 1 – Sugar Sweetened Beverages Policy

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13).

Summary of submission

The submitter has requested to address Council for 20 minutes on the benefits of Council adopting a sugar sweetened beverages policy.

Officer Analysis

As mentioned in the submission, in 2017 LGNZ passed a remit asking Councils to consider the development of a Sugar Sweetened Beverages Policy. Horowhenua District Council did not support the remit.

Over the past two years a number of Council's have developed a Sugar Sweetened Beverages Policy.

Earlier this year Mid-Central District Health Board contacted the Community Wellbeing Committee offering to present at the Committee, however at the time it was decided there were more pressing issues for the Committee to be considering.

Topic 2 – Support for Community Groups

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13), Wildlife Foxton Trust, Nola Fox (#18), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32), Foxton Community Board, David Roache (#35).

Summary of submissions

Council received four submissions which related to providing support to community groups.

- Submitter #13 thanked Council for the support it provides for meeting needs identified in disability forums and on-going work with the Older Persons' Network.
- Submitter #18 would like financial support for all not-for-profit groups that help provide activities and attractions that support the outcome of Horowhenua as a destination.
- Submitter #32 would like Council to resource community groups that work alongside Council to achieve the community outcomes.
- Submitter #35 would like \$20,000 to cover the contract for Cathy McCartney to continue promoting tourism in Foxton.

Officer Analysis

Council does provide some support for not-for-profit organisations and community groups, this is mostly through community capacity building workshops and the opportunity to apply for grants and support in applying for external funding.

Council has yet to develop an overarching destination management strategy for the District, however once that is complete Council will have a stronger direction and an ability to identify groups and organisations who align to that direction.

In the meantime, Council's Community Development team can support organisations and groups to identify other, external funding avenues.

This year Council employed a Marketing Specialist to enhance the visitor experience to Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and promote the destination effectively, to a wide range of target markets. While the role is centered on the marketing of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom there will be many crossovers and opportunities to promote Foxton as whole.

Topic 3 – Increased funding for Source to Sea

Submitter and Submission number

Wildlife Foxton Trust, Nola Fox (#18), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submissions

Council received two submissions which related to the Source to Sea project.

- Submitter #18 acknowledges support given to the environment Network Manawatu and would like financial support to be increased for the Source to Sea project
- Submitter #32 would like Council to become active participants in the Source to Sea project and would like \$10,000 per annum to help support it

Officer Analysis

Management of the Manawatu catchment fundamentally is within the regional Council jurisdiction rather than the district Council. However, as the submitter has highlighted there are linkages that relate to the river for us as a district Council, such as destination management.

Council currently supports other Trusts who also work towards improving the environment and are directly within Horowhenua.

Council does not currently provide financial support to Environment Network Manawātū for the Source to Sea project.

The Environment Network Manawatu submitted to last year's Long Term Plan, requesting funding but were declined due to the work being undertaken by the group, not currently being a top priority to Council. However, Council do have the ability to look at external funding sources and support the group in identifying an appropriate source and assisting with applying.

Topic 4 – Funding Save Our River Trust

Submitter and Submission number

Wildlife Foxton Trust, Nola Fox (#18), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32), Foxton Community Board, David Roache (#35).

Summary of submission

Submitter #18 congratulates Council on work to date and request continued support for opening the loop as soon as possible. Submitter #35 congratulates Council on the support it's given Save Our River Trust to date and has requested Council works with Central Government to secure more funding to advance the goals of Save Our River Trust. Submitter #32 requests Council assigns further budget to Save Our River Trust.

Officer Analysis

Earlier this year Council was successful in gaining funding from the Provincial Growth Fund. The investment from Central Government allows for scientific environmental research, a peer review of the GHD report into technical aspects and a destination management study.

While this is a fantastic start, Council is aware that the work will not stop there in order to achieve the collective goals of the Save Our River Trust, local iwi and our community.

Council will continue to advocate, research and work with our partners in order to achieve our goals for the Manawatu River Loop at Foxton.

Topic 5 – Ōhau Underpass mural

Submitter and Submission number

Sarah Walsh (#25).

Summary of submission

The submitter has requested the proposed mural for the State Highway 1 Underpass in Ōhau be included in the Annual Plan.

Officer Analysis

In 2018 Council was approached by the submitter for assistance in getting a mural painted in the underpass under State Highway 1 in Ōhau. Since then Council Officers have been working with the submitter in identifying artists, appropriate designs and community members who would also like to be involved in the project. Support has also been provided to gain a Vibrant Communities grant.

Topic 6 – Signage for Foxtton Beach

Submitter and Submission number

Foxtton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28).

Summary of submission

The submitter requests that Council continues to progress signage and branding proposal outlined in 2018.

Officer Analysis

The proposal from the Foxtton Beach Progressive Association regarding signage in Foxtton Beach is comprehensive and covers a wide range of topics – destination management, parks signs, roading signs. It is important that any signage and branding proposal implemented is integrated and gives effect to an overall destination management plan (soon to be developed) and the Community Plans currently under development. Officers will continue work with the submitter on improving signage in Foxtton Beach as budgets allow.

Solid Waste

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| Topic 1 | Kerbside Recycling Changes |
| Topic 2 | Kerbside Organics Collection |
| Topic 3 | Landfill Leachate |
| Topic 4 | Waste Education |
| Topic 5 | Tokomaru Recycling Station |
| Topic 6 | Waste Management and Minimisation |

Topic 1 – Kerbside Recycling Changes

Submitter and Submission number

Margaret Williams (#3), Patrick Thomas (#4), Christine Ayres (#8), Lakeview Farm Ltd, Peter Everton (#24).

Summary of submissions

Submitters identified that the addition of a 240L bin may create issues getting the bin to the kerbside for people with mobility problems, the elderly, or people with long driveways. One submitter identified that the fortnightly collections may be problematic for those that produce high quantities of glass and a further submitter requested clarification about whether soft plastics are recyclable with the improved service. Submitter #24 requested information on whether Moutere Road will be included in the improved kerbside recycling service, options for how the new recycling wheelie bins can be put out on the kerbside, and raised concerns about how the Kapiti kerbside recycling service (or suggested lack of kerbside recycling) may impact on the Hokio Landfill.

Officer Analysis

The new 240L recycling wheelie bins are for co-mingled recycling (plastics, paper, and cardboard), while the current crates will be used for glass only. Both the co-mingled wheelie bin and glass crate will be collected fortnightly on the same day. In a few instances this will result in a change of collection day for some residents and this will be communicated to them well in advance.

Residents who have concerns about their ability to move the 240L wheelie bin will be able to access an alternative – an 80L wheelie bin or a secondary crate which will be able to be used for co-mingled recycling. A secondary glass crate will be able to be purchased from Council for residents who require additional space for glass recycling, and additionally, extra glass can be recycled at one of the Council recycling stations for free.

Council will have tow-hitches for purchase which will enable residents to tow their wheelie bins behind their vehicle. These will be provided at cost (will likely cost around \$30 each). Soft

plastics (such as plastic bags, and chip and biscuit wrappers) remain problematic and are not currently able to be collected in this service.

The route for the kerbside recycling service is currently being confirmed. The contractor has indicated they will service part of Moutere Road. The exact location is yet to be confirmed.

Residents of Kapiti Coast District Council are provided kerbside recycling. Under the KCDC Bylaw and Waste Collectors License conditions, if a resident gets a commercial kerbside rubbish collection, the same provider has to also provide a kerbside recycling service.

Topic 2 – Kerbside Organics Collection

Submitter and Submission number

Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand – Ōtaki Branch, Sam Ferguson (#6).

Summary of submission

That a Council makes available a kerbside organics collection for kitchen and garden waste.

Officer Analysis

Organics comprise roughly 50% of the waste stream, however, the cost of providing a kerbside organics collection is currently prohibitive for Council - particularly with the current implementation of the improved kerbside recycling service that is being rolled out later this year. Many Councils are aware of the need to provide a kerbside organics collection in the upcoming years, but the recent collapse of the recycling market and associated increase in costs has made this problematic for the time being. Additionally, many households are currently disposing of kitchen waste via sink disposal units causing the kitchen waste to end up at the wastewater treatment plants. This can result in treatment issues and higher organic loading at these plants, while also causing blockages in the wastewater network. Providing a kerbside organics collection can remediate these potential issues, while reducing the quantity of waste sent to landfill significantly. Costs and benefits of this will be largely unknown until a detailed investigation is undertaken.

Topic 3 – Landfill Leachate

Submitter and Submission number

Leone Brown (#7).

Summary of submission

The submitter is concerned about leachate impacts on the environment and would like the landfill closed. The submitter does not want Council to adopt any waste management plan until 2020.

Officer Analysis

The historical issues with leachate entering the groundwater system is a result of the closed landfill. This landfill is currently compliant with its consent conditions related to groundwater quality. The current landfill is a modern system which is fully lined. Closing the current landfill will not remedy impacts to the groundwater system from leachate as it will continue to be produced in diminishing quantities from the old, unlined landfill until complete decomposition has been achieved. Council is currently investigating possible early closure of the modern, active landfill which needs to undergo a community consultation process scheduled to occur in the next 12 – 18 months.

The Horowhenua Waste Minimisation and Management Plan was adopted in 2018 is required to be reviewed every 6 years.

Topic 4 – Waste Education

Submitter and Submission number

Wildlife Foxton Trust, Nola Fox (#18), Gary Good (#20), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #20 requests that Council places a greater emphasis on waste education. Submitters #18 and #32 request Council funds the Enviroschools programme for schools in the District who want to be involved (Council currently funds secondary schools). Submitter #32 has identified that there are approximately 8 primary schools who would like to be involved, and that the cost to fund these schools is \$1,000 each.

Officer Analysis

Waste education is something that Council considers vital to the community and is continuously looking at ways this can be improved. Recently Council has increased community engagement regarding waste education. Central government provides funding to each district council through the Waste Minimisation Fund. With the improvements to the kerbside recycling collection system, more of this funding is now available to use on educational and innovative activities. Through the use of the Waste Minimisation Fund Council currently Funds the Zero Waste Education school program which is available to all schools in the district. The Zero Waste Education Programme provides waste education sessions led by an external facilitator.

Enviroschools is good way for schools to diversify their waste minimisation and environmental curriculum. It is up to the schools to each provide a facilitator, usually a teacher, to manage the program for each school. Currently Horowhenua District Council is the only district in the Manawatu-Whanganui Region that does not fund this program. Given recent changes to regarding to kerbside recycling, an increased amount of the Waste Management Minimisation Levy is available to provide \$8000 of funding to enable up to 8 schools to participate in Enviroschools.

Topic 5 – Tokomaru Recycling Station

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22).

Summary of submission

The submitter wishes to be better informed about changes to the recycling station and is concerned about potential loss of car parks as a result of the new recycling station.

Officer Analysis

As part of improvements to Council's recycling services in late 2018, a recycling station was located in Tokomaru at the Tokomaru Hall carpark. The new recycling station is transportable, and when it requires servicing the station is removed, emptied in Palmerston North, before being returned to the site later that day. The station is transportable, and only requires sufficient truck access for pick and drop off. The recycling station in Tokomaru can be moved to a new location if the need arises.

Topic 6 – Waste Management and Minimisation

Submitter and Submission number

Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submission

Identifies their support for efforts to reduce waste to landfill and suggests Council adopts a 'zero waste' goal. Support further recycling initiatives for e-waste, organic collection.

Officer Analysis

Council investigated adopting a zero waste vision as part the development of its Waste Minimisation and Management Plan in 2018. However, Council considered that there was too much confusion around the definition of zero was, and whether it was attainable. Instead, the vision Council adopted is:

To deliver community benefits and continued waste reduction, promoting individual responsibility. Horowhenua businesses and households will be provided with efficient and effective waste minimisation and management services.

The goals for waste minimisation and management in the Horowhenua District are to:

1. Avoid and reduce waste where we can.
2. Manage waste responsibly - make it easy to recycle and safely dispose of the materials that can't be recycled.
3. Maximise community benefits - employment, reuse of materials for economic benefit, cost effective services.

Land Transport

| | |
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| Topic 1 | Council Support for Bikes in Schools Programme |
| Topic 2 | Walking and Cycling |
| Topic 3 | Queen Street Roundabout |
| Topic 4 | Rural Roadside Planting and Fence Encroachments |
| Topic 5 | Speed Limits Around Tokomaru Village |
| Topic 6 | Tokomaru Footpaths |
| Topic 7 | Whirokino Trestle & Bridge |

Topic 1 – Council Support for Bikes in Schools Programme

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13), Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22).

Summary of submissions

Council received two submissions relating to the Bikes in Schools programme.

- Submitter #13 would like Council to consider how it can encourage schools in the district to adopt the Bikes in Schools programme.
- Submitter #22 has approached the Bike On Charitable Trust with the view to adopting the programme, and is seeking Council support to assist their application.

Officer Analysis

The Bikes in Schools programme was launched in 2010 to stem the decline in children riding bikes. The programme includes delivering a package of:

- Cycle tracks on school grounds (combination of circuit track, small pump track and skills course)
- A helmet for every child
- Up to 50 bikes in 4 different sizes
- Bike storage facility
- Cycle skills training – all within the school environment.

The documented outcomes for students are simple – increased health, fitness, skills, safety, confidence and self-esteem. There is also a positive flow-on effect to families and communities where the tracks are available outside school hours, and increased confidence by parents in their child's ability to ride safely, helping to re-develop a culture of cycling.

Bike On is the charitable organisation set up to deliver this programme, and provides free advice, project management and some funding assistance to any school or local Council in New Zealand interested in a Bikes in Schools project. They work with proactive schools, supportive funders and engaged partners, to enable more children to experience the benefits of regularly riding a bike at school.

The 'Bike Ready' learn to ride training programme has been delivered by New Zealand Police to a number of Horowhenua primary schools. It requires students to have a bike to participate. Bikes in Schools provides bikes, making cycling and cycle training accessible to every student. Horowhenua Police advise anecdotally that there is an increase in the number of high school children riding to school as a result of participation in primary school learn to ride programmes.

By way of example, Palmerston North City Council has a programme to support primary schools to adopt this programme. Their support includes a \$50,000 grant funding per year (for up to 3 schools) as well as officer advice and support with planning applications, seeking additional grants and assessing contractor quotes.

It would be beneficial for Council to hear more about the programme from the Bike On Charitable Trust to better determine if and how Council could support the programme in the future.

Topic 2 – Walking and Cycling

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22) and Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc., Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submissions

Council received two submissions relating to walking and cycling.

- Submitter #22 would like to see an update to the shared pathways plan and wants to know when it will be available to the community.
- Submitter #27 are supportive of initiatives to enhance walking and cycling as a sustainable method of transport.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers are still in the process of developing a network plan and supporting documentation for a shared pathway network. The network plan will capture the community's aspirations for a shared pathway network throughout the district. Consultation and engagement on the plan will integrate with a number of other planning projects that Council has underway, including community plans, growth area master plans, the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy and O2NL expressway planning.

Maps of the aspirational pathways are ready to be tested with communities through the community plan development process as well as with our partners, including Iwi and land owners. The shared pathway network plan will remain a draft, living document while this

engagement is underway. Follow this engagement, the shared pathway network plan will become the revised Shared Pathway Strategy for 2020 and beyond.

The Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy, which is currently being developed, will take into account walking and cycling in the wider context.

Topic 3 – Queen Street Roundabout

Submitter and Submission number

Dale Hartle (#1).

Summary of submission

The submitter would like to see the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout upgraded.

Officer Analysis

Safety improvements and renewal of the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout were scheduled to be complete this financial year (2018/2019). The planting in the centre of the roundabout was removed to facilitate the upgrade work. However, a pressure reducing valve is to be fitted onto the water main at this location so the roundabout upgrade work has been deferred until the coming financial year (2019/2020). The roundabout's landscaping will be reinstalled once the upgrade project has been completed.

Topic 4 – Rural Roadside Planting and Fence Encroachments

Submitter and Submission number

Geoff Kane (#10).

Summary of submission

The submitter requests that an officer be allocated to control trees on roadsides, police roadsides from being planted too close and ensure that wilding seedlings are destroyed before they become a problem.

The submitter also notes that some fence encroachment around the district do not comply with the standards set in Council's Land Transport Bylaw.

Officer Analysis

Improved standards concerning fence encroachments and planting within the road corridor, including better provisions for dealing with issues relating to them, were included in the updated Land Transport Bylaw 2017.

There are a large number of non-compliant fences and plantings around the district that will take a considerable amount of time to resolve. Currently members of the Roding Team contact offending landowners around the district on a case-by-case basis, as time allows.

Discussions have been held between the Roding Team and the Regulatory Team around how best to deal with enforcement in this area. However, resources are limited and it is not feasible to assign a dedicated officer to the enforcement of these issues.

Topic 5 – Speed Limits Around Tokomaru Village

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22).

Summary of submissions

The submitter would like speed limits around Tokomaru Village to be reviewed. The submitter states that they support the Rural Speed Limit review that is currently underway.

Officer Analysis

The Rural Speed Limit review that is currently underway is due to be completed this year. It will be followed by a review of the urban speed limits in Financial Year 2019/2020. Tokomaru Village speed limits will be reviewed as part of the Urban Speed Limit Review.

Topic 6 – Tokomaru Footpaths

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22).

Summary of submission

The submitter requests safer pathways that are better suited to the Tokomaru seasonal weather, rather than the lime footpath that was installed in Tawa Street.

Officer Analysis

The crushed lime footpath on Tawa Street was installed in 2015, when the open drain was filled in. Crushed lime was used for the path at the request of the Tokomaru Village and Community Association, in order to maintain a “village feel”. The preference of officers at the time was that concrete be used, due to the maintenance issues caused by using crushed lime.

Officers acknowledge the submitters comments about footpath safety and their request for safer pathways, and going forward officers recommend that concrete is used for footpaths in Tokomaru to reduce maintenance issues and ensure that they can be used year round.

To upgrade the crushed lime footpath on Tawa Street to concrete would cost approximately \$50,000. This is not currently in the Footpath Forward Works Programme and therefore has not been budgeted.

Topic 7 – Whirokino Trestle & Bridge

Submitter and Submission number

Concerned Residents for Whirokino Trestle & Bridge, Sam Ferguson (#17).

Summary of submissions (key matters raised)

The submitter advocates for the retention of the existing Manawatū River bridge and Whirokino Trestle Bridge. The submitter believes that these bridges could be used by cyclists, pedestrians and tourists as part of the shared pathways network.

Officer Analysis

The existing Manawatū River bridge and the Whirokino Trestle are at the end of their economic life, due to serious structural issues demolition is considered to be the only safe option. To retain them and have them become the responsibility of Council would be a liability.

Providing for cyclists and pedestrians is important. The existing cycleway (the Ken Everett Cycleway) within the floodway will be retained and improvement works will be undertaken as part of the construction project for the new bridges. The new bridges will also have much wider shoulders that will enhance the safety of cyclist and pedestrians using them.

Three Waters

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| Topic 1 | Wastewater – Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant |
| Topic 2 | Increased Water Demand from Growth and Compliance with Drinking Water Standards |
| Topic 3 | Stormwater |
| Topic 4 | Water and Wastewater Feasibility Studies – Ōhau and Waitārere Beach |
| Topic 5 | Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant |

Topic 1 – Wastewater - Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Submitter and Submission number

Garry Good (#20), MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13), Wildlife Foxton Trust, Nola Fox (#18), Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc, Joan Leckie (#27), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submissions

The Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant land based proposal is supported as it will improve water quality - this project is an example of what needs to be done on a bigger scale across the region. The improvement in water quality will decrease risk of people contracting water-borne disease through contact recreation in the area.

There are however concerns that the discharge to Matararapa Island could result in nutrient loss into the surrounding waterway at higher than expected levels. It is requested that water quality sampling be undertaken prior to discharge to land commencing (to establish a baseline) and then on an on-going basis. It is suggested that appropriate native species be planted and maintained near the water's edge, to act as a riparian strip to help mitigate any impact that nutrient may have on the waterway.

There is support for ongoing upgrades to waste water treatment facilities to meet best practice.

Officer Analysis

Council's policy is that all treated wastewater effluents are to be irrigated to land.

The resource consent granted for the project requires sampling of the Manawatu Loop both before and after the commencement of irrigation at the Matararapa island site in order to be able to monitor any impact on water quality as a result of discharge to land.

Targeted plantings are planned to mitigate against water quality deterioration.

Topic 2 – Increased Water Demand from Growth and Compliance with Drinking Water Standards

Submitter and Submission number

Garry Good (#20), Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submissions

The three waters and in particular water supply will challenge Council as the population grows. A greater emphasis on seeking new water sources and storage are a priority not mentioned in the Annual Plan. This includes support for the installation of water meters throughout the district, together with requirements for residential water storage in new developments (either for emergency or drinking water).

There is support for Council action to comply with legislation on drinking water supplies, together with the importance of ecological health and strong freshwater quality standards in protecting our municipal water supplies. Given that aquifers are under stress it is important that an approach is undertaken for reducing per-capita water use and pollution of these aquifers with nitrogen and other chemicals.

Officer Analysis

Council has already formed a Water Working Party to investigate future water scenario planning for the District. Both water supply and demand management strategies will be investigated and tools such as water meters and rainwater tanks will be considered.

Council Officers are exploring stormwater management options. One option that is being considered for the proposed 'Gladstone Green' development area in Levin includes requiring residential properties within this area to have rainwater tanks to capture roof runoff. These tanks may be required to be plumbed into internal non-potable demands (including toilets and cold laundry water) in addition to external seasonal demands such as garden watering. This approach may reduce overall water consumption, but are unlikely to result in any reductions in water demand during peak periods. This option will be tested as part of the plan change process to rezone the land for residential use. There will be opportunity for public submission as part of this plan change.

Council is committed to 100% compliance with the Drinking Water Standards, and measures for managing the water quality in the relevant catchments are included in the Water Safety Plan for each of the river supplied water treatment plants.

Council has an active leak reduction program throughout the District.

Topic 3 – Stormwater

Submitter and Submission number

Geoff Kane (#16), Horowhenua Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc, Joan Leckie (#27).

Summary of submission

Submitter #16 raises concerns regarding stormwater management for the North East growth area for Levin. The submitter suggests that there is no resource consent in place for this discharge, therefore, there could be delays with the construction of dwellings until the issue is addressed.

Submitter #27 supports action to increase public awareness of stormwater issues (education on the impact of washing cars on driveways). Support compliance monitoring and action. Advocate for a bylaw restricting the washing of cars on driveways.

Officer Analysis

The compliance monitoring of stormwater discharges is a Regional Council responsibility. The suggestions are noted as being valid to ensure stormwater and in turn waterways are not polluted. The development of a Bylaw to assist with the compliance of stormwater discharge consent conditions may be a useful tool in the future. The development of a bylaw should be considered once the stormwater consents for Lake Horowhenua and other catchments have been resolved.

Topic 4 – Water and Wastewater Feasibility Studies – Ōhau and Waitārere Beach

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submissions

Submitter #13 identifies support for reticulated water services for Ōhau and Waitārere Beach and reticulated wastewater for Ōhau as provision of these services could improve the health of communities by decreasing the risk of enteric disease associated with untreated drinking water or WW contamination.

Submitter #32 suggests that prior to Council investing in any potential reticulated water or wastewater systems at either Waitārere Beach or at Ōhau that Council prepare and adopt a water and wastewater strategy which incorporates the following;

- Provision of supplementary water supplies only to those communities that have already provided on site rainwater collection and storage. This means design requirements for the water supplies can be smaller with a lower build and environmental cost.

- Requiring dual flush toilets as part of any building consent application and or wastewater connection agreement.
- Offering subsidies or incentives for black/grey water separation for garden and flushing of toilets.

Officer Analysis

The feasibility studies into the possible provision of reticulated systems for Ōhau (water and/or wastewater) and Waitārere Beach (water only) will be undertaken in 2019/20. Any funding necessary to implement the recommendations will then be included in future Annual or Long Term Plan documents.

Development of a water and wastewater strategy is something that Council may want to consider in the future as it would establish policies with regard to the use and disposal of water. Other processes have been adopted already to consider aspects of the long term use and disposal of water through the recent formation of a Horowhenua Water Working Party, and leak detection efforts that are ongoing in the district.

Designing a water scheme to be supplementary to a system whereby properties are served by rainfall tanks and storage generally does not result in any reductions in build size of the reticulated system and nor does it reduce the consumption of water. The problem is that water tanks on private properties tend to run out during dry periods, which coincides with periods of peak demand on the water reticulation system – due to garden watering etc. Pipes are sized to cope with peak (not average) demand. Even if the pipes were sized only to cope with average demand properties with empty water tanks would simply arrange for re-filling with water taken from the Council’s reticulation system – so the overall impact on the water resources would be the same.

A requirement for installation of dual flushing on toilet cisterns cannot be required under the Building Act, but most cisterns on the market are dual flush systems already. However, either the Council’s Water Supply or Wastewater Bylaw could be amended to include a requirement for dual flush cisterns in new building consents and then any building consent application could only be approved if a dual flush cistern was installed.

Installation of a separate black and grey water system at a dwelling would require the following;

- Separate plumbing systems
- Installation of a vented surge tank with an overflow fitted and a direct discharge to the wastewater system
- A suitable treatment system for the greywater to remove solids material that may block irrigation lines and includes disinfection

While there are benefits in terms of saving on water usage there is a cost in installation and maintenance associated with such systems.

Topic 5 – Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant

Submitter and Submission number

MidCentral Health's Public Health Service, Dr Robert Holdaway (#13).

Summary of submission

The submitter opposes the temporary suspension of upgrades and the wastewater to land project for the Tokomaru Waste Water Treatment Plant. Questions are raised regarding what stage the project is at and whether a delay will allow upgrades to be achieved in the five year consenting period sought.

Officer Analysis

There has been no temporary or permanent suspension of work in respect of this wastewater scheme. A consent application for continuing with the existing discharge for a further five years pending completion of the new land disposal scheme has been submitted and is being processed by Horizons Regional Council

Parks and Property

| | |
|----------|---|
| Topic 1 | Donnelly Park |
| Topic 2 | Horseriding opportunities in the Horowhenua |
| Topic 3 | Plant more trees |
| Topic 4 | Development of Horseshoe Bend and Tokomaru Domain |
| Topic 5 | Ōhau Walkway and Domain |
| Topic 6 | Freedom camping, Foxton Beach Coastal Reserve Management Plan, Holben Reserve development |
| Topic 7 | Manawatu Estuary and Ramsar |
| Topic 8 | Holmwood Park and Waitarere Rise |
| Topic 9 | Foxton Beach Surf Life-saving Club |
| Topic 10 | Wildlife Foxton Trust |
| Topic 11 | Lighting Foxton Cenotaph and 24/7 toilet in Foxton |

Topic 1 – Donnelly Park

Submitter and Submission number

Dale Hartle (#1).

Summary of submission

The submitter is of the opinion that Donnelly Park should be upgraded into a first class regional facility.

Officer Analysis

Donnelly Park is the most used sports ground in the Horowhenua. Council recognises its importance and to that effect has identified a budget to develop a strategic plan for the facility in the 2019/20 financial year.

Topic 2 – Horseriding opportunities in the Horowhenua

Submitter and Submission number

Richard Schimpf (#5).

Summary of submission

The submitter raises concerns about the lack of public land set aside for horse riders and claims Council only considers walkers and bicyclists in its recreation strategies. He indicates there are a large number of horse riders in the district with no official public land identified or set aside for this activity.

Officer Analysis

Anecdotal, academic and other evidence suggests there are a number of actual and perceived conflicts between horse-riders, walkers and mountain bikers. These may include horses being 'spooked' from the sudden appearance of mountain bikes from the rear or side trails, and walkers (particularly with young children) becoming anxious about sharing a track with horses. Similar issues exist with dog walkers that may come into conflict with horses or cyclists, or indeed cyclists coming into conflict with walkers.

Council has adopted a shared pathways strategy which specifically recognises the need to '*provide safe biking and walking experiences for the entire community*'. The strategy and concept plan arising specifically excludes horse riding on the basis that '*horse riders have different trip origins, different destinations and different facility needs*'. It suggests that horse-riding facilities should become a '*specific body of work to identify locations for bridle trails*'.

The most recent Active NZ survey suggests that 85% of adults participated in recreational walking in 2017 and that 14% undertook mountain biking. No figures are mentioned for horse riding although the New Zealand Medical Journal suggests 2.6% of the population are engaged in recreational horse-riding (Vol 131 No 1483: 5 October 2018).

Given the limited resources available to Council to facilitate a range of recreational leisure pursuits emphasis has been placed on providing funding for those that provide the greatest benefit to the widest number of participants. As a consequence no new facilities are currently proposed for horse riding. Recreational riding opportunities in the Horowhenua are mainly located on the District's beaches (further information on the bridleways in the District can be accessed at <https://nzbridleways.nzhorseriders.info/Home/NorthIsland/manawatu---wanganui/horowhenuabeaches>).

Topic 3 – Plant more trees

Submitter and Submission number

Glen Monaghan (#21).

Summary of submission

The submitter suggests Council should plant more trees.

Officer Analysis

The submitter has not been specific as to where trees should be planted or whether he is referring to street trees or woodlands. Council undertakes a number of community planting events to both improve ecological outcomes and develop a sense of ownership in the community.

Topic 4 – Development of Horseshoe Bend and Tokomaru Domain

Submitter and Submission number

Tokomaru Village and Community Association, Wayne Richards (#22).

Summary of submissions

The submitter requests to continue to work with Council to develop Horseshoe Bend and the Tokomaru Domain. Specifically, the submitter has requested developing the Domain as a dog exercise area, with a walking track around the perimeter of the site.

Officer Analysis

Council officers have a productive relationship with the Tokomaru Village and Community Association and are aware of the aspirations of the community to continue to improve and enhance Horseshoe Bend and the Tokomaru Domain. Officers will continue to work with the group to prepare appropriate development plans for the sites discussed.

Topic 5 – Ōhau Walkway and Domain

Submitter and Submission number

Sarah Walsh (#25).

Summary of submissions

The submitter wishes Council to assist in creating a walkway from the end of Muhunua West Road to the beach front at Ōhau and further is requesting a development plan be produced for the Ōhau Domain to include planting and the extension of the existing bike track. The submitter would also like to see improved access from the Ōhau River.

Officer Analysis

Council officers are currently working with the submitter and the Ōhau community to develop Woods Way (Ōhau walkway) as a place-making initiative. Officers have discussed with the submitter roadside planting (SH1) at Ōhau Domain and have advised that this would not be possible because of a number of issues including:

- potential H&S issues - children coming out of the planted area onto SH1;
- a desire to maintain passive surveillance into the site via CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This will reduce issues of anti-social

behaviour (flytipping etc), and ensure the Domain is well surveyed given that it is a well-used reserve for children. Officers have undertaken a community planting day with the submitter and local schools at a more appropriate location in Ōhau (Ivy Lane).

- a significant planting on the domain would increase the need for maintenance as larger plantings encroach onto SH1.

Officers are discussing with the submitter opportunities to improve the walkway from the Ōhau River to Parikawau Domain and are similarly happy to discuss with the submitter further development to the existing bike track on the Ōhau Domain.

Topic 6 – Freedom camping, Foxton Beach Coastal Reserve Management Plan, Holben Reserve development

Submitter and Submission number

Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28).

Summary of submission

The submitter has requested Council review freedom camping arrangements and the Foxton Beach Reserves Management Plan. They support the upgrade of Holben Reserve. The submitter requested that these projects are identified in the Annual Plan under 'What's Happening/Key Projects'.

Officer Analysis

Freedom camping is a generic term that encompasses a wide-spectrum of tourist activities from the use of fully self-contained motor-homes to cars (saloons, estates, hatchbacks etc) with no facilities at all. As such there is some considerable value in identifying what type of 'freedom camping' is being encouraged because the facilities required will differ markedly. The development of the Foxton Beach Community Plan will provide the opportunity for the community to take a strategic view on the type of visitor they wish to encourage, and arising from that the type of facility required.

Council has moved to the development of area based reserve management plans that list all reserves individually beneath an overarching framework. This process has been used in Foxton, Shannon, and Waitarere Beach recently. The benefits of this approach being that it identifies in a strategic context where shortfalls may be in terms of growth management and providing a suite of reserves to the community's concerned. It is anticipated this approach will be adopted for Foxton Beach as it has been for a number of other communities.

Officers are currently producing an Expression of Interest document for the next stage of the Foxton Beach Investment Plan which will consider ecological and recreational improvements to Holben Reserve in line with the priorities identified in the Investment Plan.

Topic 7 – Manawatu Estuary and Ramsar

Submitter and Submission number

Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submission

The submitter suggests that the Manawatu Estuary is an area where Council should be investing significant energy and resource. The submitter also encourages Council to continue to work actively with the Manawatu Estuary Trust and the Manawatu Estuary Management Team to be able to ensure that decisions about this estuary are made multilaterally across organisations in consultation with the community.

The submitter suggests that Council should increase its funding to SoRT so it has adequate funding to implement a robust annual work program.

Officer Analysis

Council is aware that the PGF has recently contributed \$100,000 to the project. The investment by the government allows for scientific environmental research, a peer review of the original GHD report into technical aspects, and a destination management study to be carried out. It would be inappropriate for Council to invest significant amounts of ratepayer money into the project prior to the completion of the current review. Once the review has been undertaken Council will have a better understanding of the benefits arising from, and potential cost of, the proposal.

The Manawatu Estuary Trust and Management Team have an interest in maintaining habitats, reducing predator, and noxious weed incursions into the Ramsar site for the benefit of the bird populations using the site as a habitat and food source. There is representation on the management team from Environment Network Manawatu, Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, Iwi, and the local community.

All parties recognise the special significance of the site, its potential to enhance eco-tourism, and the need to maintain and improve the natural habitat for the birds currently utilising it. There is the need to balance nearby recreational use of the Sunset Walkway, Holben Reserve, and the beach with maintaining the environment.

Council contributes to development and improvement of the site via its membership of the Management Team primarily in areas relating to signage, fencing and dune management. No specific annual budget has been identified for improvements to the Ramsar site from existing operational budgets. There would be merit in the Manawatu Estuary Trust as the Governance arm of the management team producing a development plan in consultation with the statutory bodies for submission to the various annual planning processes.

Topic 8 – Holmwood Park and Waitarere Rise

Submitter and Submission number

Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association, Sharon Freebairn (#36).

Summary of submission

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association wants to ensure the play equipment in Holmwood Park is replaced as necessary and is interested in a place-making initiative that would allow the community to construct items of play equipment with Council providing materials.

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association requests Council increases the level of service at Waitarere Rise regarding maintenance of the gardens in the middle islands.

Officer Analysis

Council officers undertook a comprehensive condition survey of its play equipment in 2018. This led to the generation of a report that identified priority areas for action in four categories of risk being high, medium, medium-low, and low. Council completed all those risk items flagged as high in the report and has been working through the remainder.

Council has a small annual budget to undertake play equipment repairs, replacements and new purchases. That budget is generally directed to areas of most need in terms of safety, use, and provision. The annual budget is insufficient to meet all the demands Council has put upon it – hence the need for prioritisation. The Holmwood Park climbing frame has been identified for replacement and will be replaced as funding becomes available which is likely to be the end of this financial year (2018/2019) or early in the next (2019/2020).

The submitter has suggested that it would be interested in undertaking a placemaking initiative in partnership with Council. Officers would be pleased to discuss the matter further, however, any agreed project would need to meet the requirements of the current NZ Playground standard.

The Waitarere Rise subdivision at Waitarere Beach is classified as being within the Greenbelt Residential Zone under the District Plan. Maintenance for rural residential sites across Horowhenua consists of 4 mows per year of the roadside verges extending in 1.8 metres from the pavement, which is undertaken by the Council's roading contractor. Council's roading team have confirmed that they will undertake the maintenance as per the relevant specification, but the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association have requested specifically a higher level of service for Waitarere Rise.

An increased level of service if applied to Waitarere Rise would increase the current cost of maintenance significantly and would set a precedent for other greenbelt residential estates. The additional cost to Council if LoS was lifted on all rural residential sites would be considerable and because the work is funded by operating budgets would potentially have a significant effect on rates.

The Greenbelt Residential Zone's throughout the District are located on the edge of urban areas. This provides proximity to urban services, a housing option for residents that seek rural living which provides for larger areas of open space within a semi-rural context, and the protection of rural areas by providing a transition from the urban environment to the rural environment. In addition, from an ecological perspective they provide significant refuge for indigenous flora and fauna on the outskirts of urban settlements that would be compromised by applying urban maintenance regimes.

If subsets of our community are to insist on increased levels of service then targeted funding (rating) mechanisms should be considered so that those that benefit bear the cost of such. Care needs to be taken so to ensure the rating system does not become too complicated and an administrative burden. It is suggest that the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association needs to canvass its communities support for some form of targeted rate to increase service levels and if that support exists Council consider options as part of the future rating (Revenue and Financing Policy) review.

Topic 9 – Foxton Beach Surf Life-saving Club

Submitter and Submission number

Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28).

Summary of submission

The submitter wants Council to support improvements to the Foxton Beach surf life-saving club.

Officer Analysis

The surf life-saving club was subject to initial strengthening works in 2017/2018. Council are currently considering options to continue improvements in 2019/2020 which are likely to require a resource consent.

Topic 10 – Wildlife Foxton Trust

Submitter and Submission number

Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

Summary of submissions

The submitter suggests that HDC should support the Wildlife Trust for Foxton. Specifically, requesting that Council provides land or a building.

Officer Analysis

Council appreciates the work that voluntary groups such as the Wildlife Trust for Foxton provide in adding value to Council and the community's it represents. Council, in the last Annual Plan (2018-2019), indicated it would consider leasing the Holben Pavilion in Foxton

Beach to the Wildlife Trust for Foxton. Council is awaiting a proposal from the Wildlife Trust for Foxton in relation to the matter.

Topic 11 – Lighting Foxton Cenotaph and 24/7 toilet in Foxton

Submitter and Submission number

Foxton Community Board, David Roache (#35).

Summary of submission

Foxton Community Board would like Council to install lighting at the cenotaph and a 24 hour toilet in Foxton CBD.

Officer Analysis

Foxton Community Board have requested that lighting is provided for the cenotaph at the northern end of Main Street to reflect the lighting at the water tower in Seaview Gardens. The lighting at Seaview Gardens was installed as part of a Foxton Rotary Club initiative to which council contributed. It is suggested a similar approach (to include discussions with the RSA, Iwi and other stakeholders) would be an appropriate model for this most recent request. Should the Foxton Community Board wish to progress the matter it is suggested it is a managed as a community led (Rotary Club and FCB) placemaking initiative.

There is currently no 24 hour toilet facility at Foxton, however, public toilets are available at the Dutch Oven and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom during opening hours. Prior to developing a 24/7 public toilet there would be the need to undertake a cost/benefit analysis to identify what need will be addressed outside the opening hours of these facilities.

Given that the facilities within Foxton CBD generally close prior to 6.00pm there would be little or no passive surveillance of a 24/7 toilet facility outside the opening hours of the Dutch Oven, Windmill, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and other café's/businesses in the CBD. As such, the site would be vulnerable to vandalism and other elements of anti-social behaviour which would likely reduce rather than improve the attractiveness of the CBD at night and early in the morning. Council already experiences such issues in its existing 24/7 facilities.

Council appreciates that such a facility could be required in the Foxton CBD in the future if demand increases, but any such proposal needs to be part of an overall strategic development package that emphasises Foxton as a 24/7 destination. The need for a 24/7 toilet could be included in the discussion as part of the development of the Foxton Community Plan.



-  enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz
-  www.horowhenua.govt.nz
-  HorowhenuaDC
-  06 366 0999
-  Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
-  126 Oxford St, Levin 5510