

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Horowhenua District Council will be held on:

**Date:** Wednesday 29 May 2019  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Meeting Room:** Council Chambers  
**Venue:** 126-148 Oxford St  
Levin

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## Council OPEN AGENDA

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### MEMBERSHIP

<b>Mayor</b>	Mr Michael Feyen	
<b>Deputy Mayor</b>	Mr Wayne Bishop	
<b>Councillors</b>	Mr Ross Brannigan	
	Mr Ross Campbell	
	Mr Neville Gimblett	
	Mr Barry Judd	
	Mrs Victoria Kaye-Simmons	
	Mrs Jo Mason	
	Mrs Christine Mitchell	
	Ms Piri-Hira Tukapua	
	Mr Bernie Wanden	
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mr David Clapperton	(Chief Executive)
<b>Meeting Secretary</b>	Mrs Karen Corkill	

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**Full Agendas are available on Council's website**  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz)

**Full Agendas are also available to be collected from:**  
Horowhenua District Council Service Centre, 126 Oxford Street, Levin  
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton,  
Shannon Service Centre/Library, Plimmer Terrace, Shannon  
and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Bath Street, Levin



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**1 Apologies**

**2 Public Participation**

Notification to speak is required by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. Further information is available on [www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz) or by phoning 06 366 0999.

See over the page for further information on Public Participation.

**3 Late Items**

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Council to consider any further items which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.

Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:

- (i) The reason why the item was not on the Agenda, and
- (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

**4 Declarations of Interest**

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

**5 Confirmation of Minutes**

- 5.1 Meeting minutes Council - 11 July 2018  
- 8 May 2019**

**6 Announcements**

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Public Participation (further information):

The ability to speak at Council and Community Board meetings provides the opportunity for members of the public to express their opinions/views to Elected Members as they relate to the agenda item to be considered by the meeting.

Speakers may (within the time allotted and through the Chairperson) ask Elected Members questions as they relate to the agenda item to be considered by the meeting, however that right does not naturally extend to question Council Officers or to take the opportunity to address the public audience be that in the gallery itself or via the livestreaming. Council Officers are available to offer advice too and answer questions from Elected Members when the meeting is formally considering the agenda item i.e. on completion of Public Participation.

Meeting protocols

1. All speakers shall address the Chair and Elected Members, not other members of the public be that in the gallery itself or via livestreaming.
2. A meeting is not a forum for complaints about Council staff or Council contractors. Those issues should be addressed direct to the CEO and not at a Council, Community Board or Committee meeting.
3. Elected members may address the speaker with questions or for clarification on an item, but when the topic is discussed Members shall address the Chair.
4. All persons present must show respect and courtesy to those who are speaking and not interrupt nor speak out of turn.
5. Any person asked more than once to be quiet will be asked to leave the meeting

File No.: 19/186

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## Animal Control Fees and Charges 2019/20

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### 1. Purpose

To propose a schedule of fees and charges for Animal Control purposes, including Dog Registration fees to apply for the Horowhenua District for 2019/20 year being 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

### 2. Executive Summary

Historically fees and charges for Animal Control purposes have been set outside the Annual Plan/LTP process to facilitate the need for the production of Dog Registration renewal notices by the end of June.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Report 19/186 Animal Control Fees and Charges 2019/20 be received.
- 3.2 That this decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 3.3 That Council adopts the Amended Schedule of Animal Control Fees and Charges, attached as Attachment A as the Animal Control Fees and Charges to apply in the Horowhenua District from 1 July 2019 for the 2019/20 year.
- 3.4 That on adoption, Council gives public notice of its fees and charges as required by s37(6) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

### 4. Background / Previous Council Decisions

- 4.1 Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 allows a Territorial Authority to set dog registration fees, including a penalty late payment fee of up to 50%, by resolution, and furthermore that those fees shall be reasonable for the registration and control of dogs under the Act.
- 4.2 Report 19/99 was presented at the 10 April 2019 meeting of Council, at which time it was agreed that further work was required to investigate options, primarily in relation to removing the rural and urban differentiation and ensuring good dog owners are not unfairly penalised. This report seeks to present three (3) options for Council to consider, these options listed in section 6 of this report.

### 5. Discussion

- 5.1 Dog Registration fees are resolved annually by Council outside of the Annual Plan/LTP process to facilitate the preparation and processing timelines for dog renewal notices. It is also prudent and administratively practical to resolve the other Animal Control Fees and Charges at the same time.
- 5.2 Dog registration fees and other charges were last increased in the 2017/18 year where they were increased by approximately 2% to account for the increasing costs caused by inflation.
- 5.3 Dog Control fees and charges set must be balanced against the 'ability to pay' together with the requirement to ensure that the fees and charges are reasonable for both the registration and control of dogs as required by section 37(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996 that states -

"The dog control fees payable to a territorial authority shall be those reasonable fees prescribed by resolution of that authority for the registration and control of dogs under this Act".

5.4 The dog component of the Animal Control activity has a 70% - 80% Private: 20% - 30% Public Good split. The draft Annual Plan proposes that the dog control activity expenditure will be \$606,000.00, and as a consequence the private good income required to meet the funding policy is in the range of \$424,200.00 to \$484,800.00, with the balance of costs to be met from rates (20% - 30%). The proposed fees and charges are expected to realise registration fees within the range stated above, however due to the grouping of the Animal Control Activity and the Dog Control Activity in the Revenue & Funding Policy, it is not expected to meet the funding split for all of Animal Control.

5.5 The proposed fees and charges includes a new graduated scale of fees for the repeated impounding of the same dog as per Section 68(3)(b) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

The same graduated scale has been applied to the impounding of stock as permitted in Section 14(2)(b) of the Impounding Act 1955 which states a local authority may "set a graduated scale of fees for the repeated impounding of the stock of any particular owner."

## 6. Options

6.1 There are three (3) options, namely:

- A. Council adopts the amended schedule of fees attached as Attachment A.
- B. Council adopts the original proposed fees set before Council at the 10 April 2019 meeting attached as Attachment B.
- C. Council resolves to make no changes to the Animal Control fees and charges from the previous year.

6.2 The preferred option is Option A, being Council adopts the amended schedule of fees attached as **Attachment A**.

### 6.3 Cost

Not applicable to this report.

#### 6.3.1 Rate Impact

There are no rate impacts arising.

### 6.4 Community Wellbeing

There are no negative impacts on Community Wellbeing arising.

### 6.5 Consenting Issues

There are no consents required or consenting issues arising.

### 6.6 LTP Integration

There is no LTP programme related to the options or proposals in this report. There are also no Special Consultative processes required.

## 7. Consultation

There is no consultation required.



## 8. Legal Considerations

Legal requirements to be met are –

- (a) As per Section 37(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996, dog control fees shall be prescribed by resolution of Council.
- (b) As per Section 37(6) of the Dog Control Act 1996, dog control fees and charges must be publicly notified at least once in the month of June – see recommendation 3.4.

## 9. Financial Considerations

See comment 5.4.

## 10. Other Considerations

There are no other considerations.

## 11. Next Steps

In the event the proposed fees and charges are adopted by Council, the next step is to give public notice as required by the Dog Control Act 1996 (see recommendation 3.4); publish on the Council website; and arrange for publication in community newspapers.

## 12. Supporting Information

Risk Area	Risk Identified	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Assessment (Low to Extreme)	Managed how
Strategic					
Financial					
Service Delivery	Failing to set the fees in time to arrange annual dog registration invoices to be sent in June.	Fees cannot be increased for the 2019/20 year.	Unlikely	Low	Fees will be set at the same rate as 2018/19.
Legal					
Reputational					

### **Confirmation of statutory compliance**


In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

### 13. Appendices

No.	Title	Page
A	Amended schedule of fees - Animal Control	11
B	Animal Control Fees and Charges - 2019/20	13

Author(s)	Vaimoana Miller <b>Compliance Manager</b>	
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Approved by	Ian McLachlan <b>Group Manager - Customer &amp; Regulatory Services</b>	
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Attachment A – Amended schedule of fees

<u>Animal Control – Registration Fees</u>			
Dog Registration	2018/19 Fee	Amended proposed 19/20	Amended Variance
Disability Assist Dog	Free	Free	Nil
Selected Owner Status*	\$56.00	\$60.00	\$4.00
NZKC Registered Status*	\$58.00	\$60.00	\$2.00
Racing Greyhound Registered Status*	\$58.00	\$60.00	\$2.00
De-sexed Pet Urban	\$69.00	\$72.00	\$3.00
Entire Pet Urban	\$114.00	\$120.00	\$6.00
Working Dog	\$58.00	\$58.00	Nil
Stock (Farm) Dog	\$58.00	\$58.00	Nil
Rural Dog	\$64.00	Remove category (split as below)	
** Rural De-sexed	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$8.00
** Rural Entire	\$64.00	\$120.00	\$56.00
Puppy	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$5.00
NZ Super Owner	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$8.00
Dangerous Dog De-sexed	\$155.00	150% of fee	-\$47.00
Dangerous Dog Entire	\$265.00	150% of fee	-\$85.00
Menacing Dog Entire Urban	\$114.00	Remove category – should be the same as entire fee	
Menacing Dog De-sexed Urban	\$69.00	Remove category – should be the same as de-sexed fee	
Menacing Dog Rural	\$64.00	Remove category – should be the same as rural fees set	
Late Fee if Paid after 31 July		Plus 50%	Nil

## Other fees

Animal Control Officer Hourly Rate	2018/19 Fee	Proposed 19/20	Variance
Hourly Rate	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$5.00
<b>Registration Discs</b>			
Transfer from Another Local Authority	Free	Free	Nil
Replacement Disc	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$2.00
<b>Dog Impounding</b>			
First Impound, fee per dog	\$80.00	\$80.00	Nil
Second Impound, fee per dog		\$130.00	New Fee
Third and subsequent impound, fee per dog		\$180.00	New Fee
Daily Fee Cost, Per Dog	\$10.00	\$10.00	Nil
After-Hours Cost in addition to impound fee (per animal)	\$95.00	\$95.00	Nil
Dog Surrender Fee	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$5.00
Micro-chipping fee (following impoundment)	\$25.00	\$25.00	Nil
<b>Stock Impounding (any four-legged, hooped animal)</b>			
First impound fee	\$65.00	\$80.00	\$15.00
Second impound fee		\$130.00	New Fee
Third and subsequent impound fee		\$180.00	New Fee
After-Hours Call Out, whether animal(s) impounded or not	\$95.00	\$95.00	Nil
Daily Fee Costs, Per Head	\$7.00	\$7.00	Nil
Associated Costs (Transportation, Hay and the Like)	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Animal Control Officer hourly rate		\$155.00	\$5.00
<b>Feline</b>			
Cage Deposit (50% Refundable)	\$24.00	\$24.00	Nil
Feral Cat Euthanasia	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$8.00
<b>Other</b>			
NZKC/Greyhound - First Time Application	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$5.00
Additional Dog Licence Application		\$30.00	New Fee

<b>Animal Control</b>				
<b>Dog Registration</b>		<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Disability Assist Dog	(Class 12)	Free	Free	Nil
Selected Owner Status	(Class 15)	\$56.00	\$67.00	\$11.00
NZKC Registered Status	(Class 8)	\$58.00	\$67.00	\$9.00
Racing Greyhound Registered Status	(Class 6)	\$58.00	\$67.00	\$9.00
De-sexed Pet Urban	(Class 3)	\$69.00	\$70.00	\$1.00
Entire Pet Urban	(Class 11)	\$114.00	\$120.00	\$6.00
Working Dog	(Class 2)	\$58.00	\$65.00	\$7.00
Stock (Farm) Dog	(Class 16)	\$58.00	\$65.00	\$7.00
Rural Dog	(Class 14)	\$64.00	\$70.00	\$6.00
Puppy	(Class 13)	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$5.00
NZ Super Owner	(Class 1)	\$64.00	\$70.00	\$6.00
Dangerous Dog De-sexed	(Class 5)	\$155.00	150% of fee - as per legislation	-\$47.00
Dangerous Dog Entire	(Class 4)	\$265.00	150% of fee -as per legislation	-\$85.00
Menacing Dog Entire Urban	(Class 10)	\$114.00	\$120.00	\$6.00
Menacing Dog De-sexed Urban	(Class 9)	\$69.00	\$70.00	\$1.00
Menacing Dog Rural	(Class 7)	\$64.00	\$70.00	\$6.00
Late Fee if Paid after 31 July		Plus 50%	Plus 50%	Nil

<b>Other</b>			
<b>Animal Control Officer Hourly Rate</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Hourly Rate	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$5.00
<b>Registration Discs</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Transfer from Another Local Authority	Free	Free	Nil
Replacement Disc	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$2.00
<b>Dog Impounding</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
First Impound, fee per dog	\$80.00	\$80.00	Nil
Second Impound, fee per dog		\$130.00	New Fee
Third and subsequent impound, fee per dog		\$180.00	New Fee
Daily Fee Cost, Per Dog	\$10.00	\$10.00	Nil
After-Hours Cost in addition to impound fee (per animal)	\$95.00	\$95.00	Nil
Dog Surrender Fee	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$5.00
Micro-chipping fee (following impoundment)	\$25.00	\$25.00	Nil
<b>Stock Impounding (any four-legged, hooped animal)</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
First impound fee	\$65.00	\$80.00	\$15.00
Second impound fee		\$130.00	New Fee
Third and subsequent impound fee		\$180.00	New Fee
After-Hours Call Out, whether animal(s) impounded or not	\$95.00	\$95.00	Nil
Daily Fee Costs, Per Head	\$7.00	\$7.00	Nil
Associated Costs (Transportation, Hay and the Like)	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Animal Control Officer hourly rate		\$155.00	\$5.00
<b>Feline</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Cage Deposit (50% Refundable)	\$24.00	\$24.00	Nil

Feral Cat Euthanasia	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$8.00
<b>Other</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Proposed 19/20</b>	<b>Variance</b>
NZKC/Greyhound - First Time Application	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$5.00
Additional Dog Licence Application		\$30.00	New Fee





# Deliberation of Submissions for the 2019/2020 Annual Plan

File No.: 19/185

## 1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the 2019/2020 Draft Annual Plan, as well as the officer summary, analysis and recommendations/actions of these submissions.

## 2. Recommendation

2.1 That Report 19/185 on Deliberation of Submissions for the 2019/2020 Annual Plan be received.

2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### Infrastructure – Three Waters

2.3 That the work the 'Water Working Party' is undertaking in 2019/2020 is identified as a key project in the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

2.4 That the 2019/2020 Annual Plan is amended to confirm there has been no suspension of the Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

### Infrastructure – Parks and Property

2.5 That the initial improvements to Holben Reserve is identified under 'key projects for 2019/2020' in the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

### Representation and Leadership

2.6 That Council approves \$13,400 from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account to fund the air conditioning (heat pumps) in the Foxton Beach School Hall, subject to approval by the Foxton Community Board, in accordance with the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy/Strategy.

2.7 That the review of the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy/Strategy be listed as a specific project in the 'Key Projects for 2019/2020' section of the final 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

2.8 That the attached Officer Summary and Analysis of Submissions be approved for use as a written response to submitters.

## 3. Background/Previous Council Decisions

The Annual Plan for 2019/2020 is Year 2 of the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2038. Extensive community engagement was undertaken in 2017/2018 during the development of the LTP 2018-38.

The Annual Plan for 2019/2020 contains no significant or material changes from what was proposed in the LTP 2018-38, therefore, in accordance with section 95(2A) of the Local Government Act 2002, Council was not required to consult with the community. However, Elected Members decided that it would still be beneficial to consult with the community on the 2019/2020 Draft Annual Plan, with a focus on highlighting key projects planned for 2019/2020 and seeking feedback on these.

The Engagement Document 'What's Our Plan 2019/2020' was used as the key document for engagement with the community. What's Our Plan 2019/2020 outlined key projects and high-level financial information for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Projects outlined in the Engagement Document included: Developing Master Plans; working with communities to create Community Plans; Levin Town Centre Development; Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant – move to land based disposal; Lake Horowhenua; Transport Planning; changes to recycling (1 July 2019); Water and Wastewater Feasibility Studies; and the Shannon Community Centre Feasibility Study.

### **Community Engagement:**

On 27 February 2019, Council adopted What's Our Plan 2019/2020 and supporting information for public engagement.

Written submissions were open between 8 March 2019 and 8 April 2019. Council received 42 written submissions.

During the written submission period Elected Members and officers attended a number of engagement events including:

- Pasifika Celebration Day
- Fairfield School Gala
- Drop-in sessions at Levin, Foxton and Shannon

Engagement was also publicised through Council's website and social media. A video to highlight key projects was created and shared on Council's social media platform.

The Hearing of Submissions was held on 8 May 2019. Of the 42 submissions received on the 2019/2020 Draft Annual Plan, 22 submitters attended the hearing to speak to their written submission.

## **4. Issues for Consideration**

### **Officer Summary and Analysis of Submissions:**

Prior to the Hearing of Submissions, Elected Members were provided with a report which contained a summary of the submissions received and preliminary analysis and comments from officers on each of the topics raised by submitters.

Following the oral hearing officers updated their analysis of submissions and added recommendations and actions. The purpose of providing this information is to assist Elected Members with their deliberation on the submissions received. The officers' analysis of submissions and their recommendations/actions have been grouped into three reports – Finance, Infrastructure, and 'All Other Activities'. These reports are attached. For ease of reference the recommendations/actions contained in the attached reports are provided below.

Recommendations have been made by officers where the outcome requires a resolution of Council. For matters typically operational in nature that do not require a resolution of Council to implement them, these have been identified as 'actions' and will be undertaken by officers as part of 'business as usual'.

### **Finance:**

Council officers have made no recommendations and have not identified any actions which need to be undertaken.

### **Infrastructure:**

Council officers have made the following *recommendations*:

#### **Three Waters recommendations:**

- That the work the 'Water Working Party' is undertaking in 2019/2020 is identified as a key project in the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.
- That the 2019/2020 Annual Plan is amended to confirm there has been no suspension of the Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Parks and Property recommendation:

- That the initial improvements to Holben Reserve is identified under 'Key Projects for 2019/2020' in the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

Council officers have identified the following actions:

Land Transport actions:

- That Council officers invite the Bike On Charitable Trust to present details of Bikes in Schools to elected members and relevant officers by October 2019 with the view to determining if and how Council could support the programme in the future.
- That when Council officers engage with the community regarding Community Plans in 2019/2020, they include the draft plan for shared pathways as part of the engagement.
- That Council continues with, and completes, the safety improvements and renewal of the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout in the 2019/2020 financial year.
- That Council officers investigate whether there is justification for the establishment of a dedicated officer, as part of the Regulatory Team, to carry out enforcement of the Land Transport Bylaw 2017.
- That Council review Tokomaru Village speed limits as part of the Urban Speed Limit Review, which will commence in 2019/2020.
- That Council lobby NZTA for a clip-on cycleway to be added to the new Manawatu River Bridge at Whirokino.

Three Waters actions:

- That water supply and demand management strategies will be referred to the Water Working Party to be investigated in the 2019/2020 financial year.
- That Council officers investigate the development of a bylaw related to management of stormwater once consents for various stormwater discharges in the district have been resolved.
- That the development of both a Water and Wastewater Strategy guiding the long term use and disposal of water in the district be referred to the 'Water Working Party' for consideration.
- A cost benefit analysis be prepared in 2019/2020 to determine the costs of installing a grey/blackwater separation system for private properties compared to the value of water saved.

Solid Waste actions:

- That Council officers implement the communication plan to ensure information about the improved kerbside recycling service coming into effect 1 July 2019 is communicated efficiently and effectively.
- That consideration of providing an organic waste collection service proceeds in accordance with Council's Waste Management Minimisation Plan (investigations from 2019/2020, and if feasible, the potential for a new organic and/or bulky waste service to be implemented in 2023/24).
- That Council officers continue to investigate potential early closure of the active Hokio Landfill (subject to public consultation) in accordance with the agreement reached

between Horowhenua District Council and the Hōkio Environmental Kaitiaki Alliance and Ngāti Pareraukawa.

- Council continues to offer the Zero Waste Education programme to all schools across the district.
- That Council officers will work with the Regional Coordinator for Enviroschools to provide up to \$8,000 of funding to enable up to 8 schools to become part of the Enviroschools programme.

**All other matters:**

Council officers have made the following *recommendations*:

Representation and Leadership recommendations:

- That Council approve \$13,400 from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account to fund the air conditioning (heat pumps) in the Foxton Beach School Hall, subject to approval by the Foxton Community Board, in accordance with the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy/Strategy.
- That the review of the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy/Strategy be listed as a specific project in the 'Key Projects for 2019/2020' section of the final 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

Council officers have identified the following *actions*:

Community Engagement actions:

- That Council officers will continue to keep in contact with Mid-Central District Health Board to organise an appropriate time to present on the Sugar Sweetened Beverages Policy.
- That Council officers continue to provide Community Capacity Building workshops, asking the community what they would find useful and ensuring some of the programme is delivered in Foxton and Foxton Beach.
- That Council officers will work with groups who request support, in looking for additional funding avenues and assisting with putting applications together where applicable.
- That Council's Marketing Specialist will work closely with the Foxton Community Board and the Foxton Tourism Destination Association to ensure the collective aspirations are achieved.
- That Council officers will meet with the Foxton Tourism Destination Association to discuss their Marketing Plan and how Council could support the implementation of their plan.
- That Council officers will work with the Environment Network Manawatū to apply for external funding for the Source to Sea project.
- That Council officers will continue working with Save Our River Trust to identify and apply to other funding sources, including Central Government.
- That Council officers will continue working with the Sarah Walsh to ensure the project for the mural for the underpass under State Highway 1 in Ōhau is completed to a high standard and that it meets the requirements of the community and tangata whenua.

Strategy and Development actions:

- That Council officers will develop the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy in 2019/2020. As part of this officers will engage with relevant stakeholders and advocate for enhanced passenger transport services (Capital Connection and new services) with relevant agencies.

- That Council officers will continue in 2019/2020 with the implementation of the Levin Town Centre Building Frontage and Signage Policy, and the 'Adopt-a-pot' and Civic Space placemaking projects.
- That Council officers will support the Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc in 2019/2020 to lead the development of the Foxton Beach Community Plan.
- That Council officers will make contact by 1 October 2019 with the Environment Network Manawatū to identify what environmental groups are relevant to Community Plans.
- That as part of the review of the Fleet Management Policy the matter of replacing Council fleet vehicles with electric vehicles shall be considered.
- That Council officers extend an invite by 31 July 2019 to meet with representatives of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand to discuss the current projects being planned or undertaken by Council to help ensure there is a good understanding of Master Planning and the other projects that the submitter considers "non-essential" as well as explain how Council proposes to deliver on the well-beings being re-inserted into the Local Government Act.

Lake Horowhenua actions:

- That Council continues to support the Lake Accord Action Plan and any subsequent plan.

Community Facilities actions:

- That Council officers continue to meet with Tokomaru Village and Community Association and the Community Hall Society to discuss community aspirations and identify potential opportunities to support the further development of a Community Hub in Tokomaru.
- That Council officers engage with the Shannon Community as part of the Community Hall Feasibility Study.

## Attachments




No.	Title	Page
A	Annual Plan 2019/2020 - Deliberations report - Finance - May 2019	23
B	Annual Plan 2019/2020 - Deliberations report - Infrastructure - May 2019	34
C	Annual Plan 2019/2020 - Deliberations report - All Other Activities - May 2019.docx	65

### Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

## Signatories

Author(s)	Tiffany Gower <b>Strategic Planner</b>	
	Katrina Gray <b>Strategic Planner</b>	
Approved by	David McCorkindale <b>Group Manager - Strategy &amp; Development</b>	

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## 2019/2020 Annual Plan – Deliberations – Finance

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Topic 1	Rural ratepayer concerns over their rate increase, cost increases and debt
Topic 2	Rates increases, sustainability of debt, cost increases
Topic 3	Rating system and method of consultation
Topic 4	Source of debt funding
Topic 5	Funding of the Foxton east drainage scheme improvements
Topic 6	Farmers rate increases and fairness of these, poor budget control
Topic 7	Cost of Council Employees

### **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 from which they receive little benefit.
- 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**

The 5.98% increase to rates identified in the Annual Plan 2019/2020 Engagement Document does not represent an 'average rate increase' for properties throughout the District. The 5.98% is the proposed increase in the Council's total rates revenue. The actual rates increase for individual ratepayers will vary and depends on a raft of different factors including costs related to particular activities covered by Targeted Rates as opposed to General Rates, the level of growth in the rating base, changes that occur with house building and subdivision etc. The percentage increase in the General Rate reflects the differentials which are Rural - 25% District wide and other than Rural - 75%. As such the General Rate increase from Year 1 of the LTP was 16.9%. This percentage increase was the same for both urban and rural ratepayers. However, because of the larger rural properties the dollar effect per rating unit was higher as one would expect. Overall the percentage increase is the same but because urban properties have the mitigating effect of lower valuation based rates and a relatively high impact of fixed charge Targeted Rates (some of which reduced) the increased dollar amount was lower for those properties.

Any increases in land value due to subdivision has a lower impact on the General Rate as it is based on land value which only increases marginally when land is subdivided. Additionally there is a higher rate of subdivision occurring in the urban areas in the district. Building a house increases the capital value of a property. Increased capital value impacts the rates that are based on capital value i.e. Roding and Stormwater Targeted Rates. As stormwater is only an urban rate the benefit of an increase in building activity in urban areas is only benefiting the urban Stormwater Rate, whereas building across the district benefits the Roding Rate.

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).

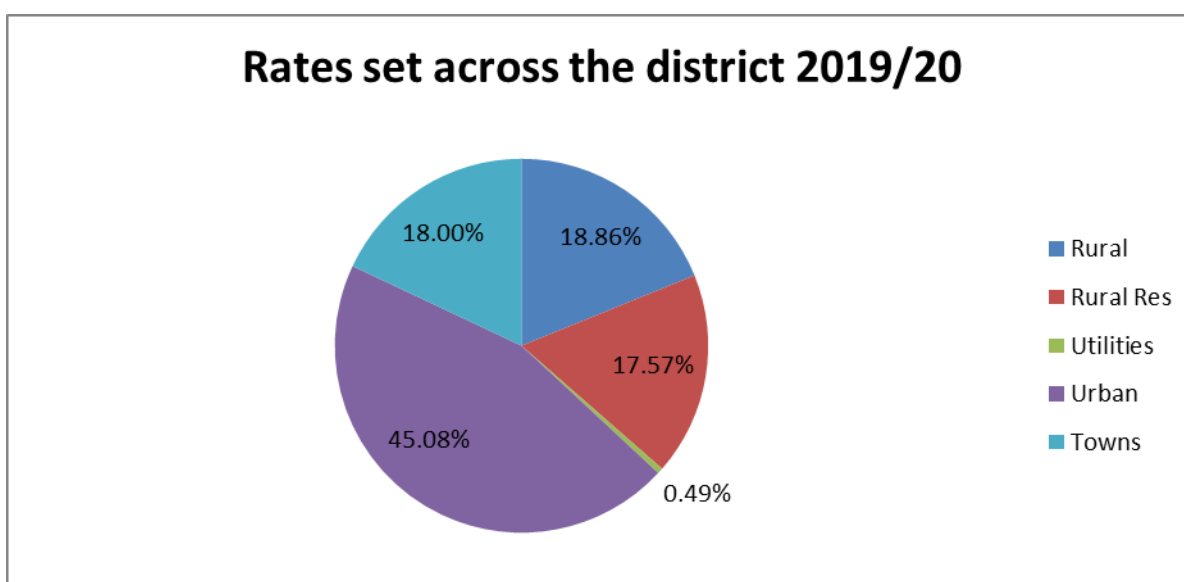
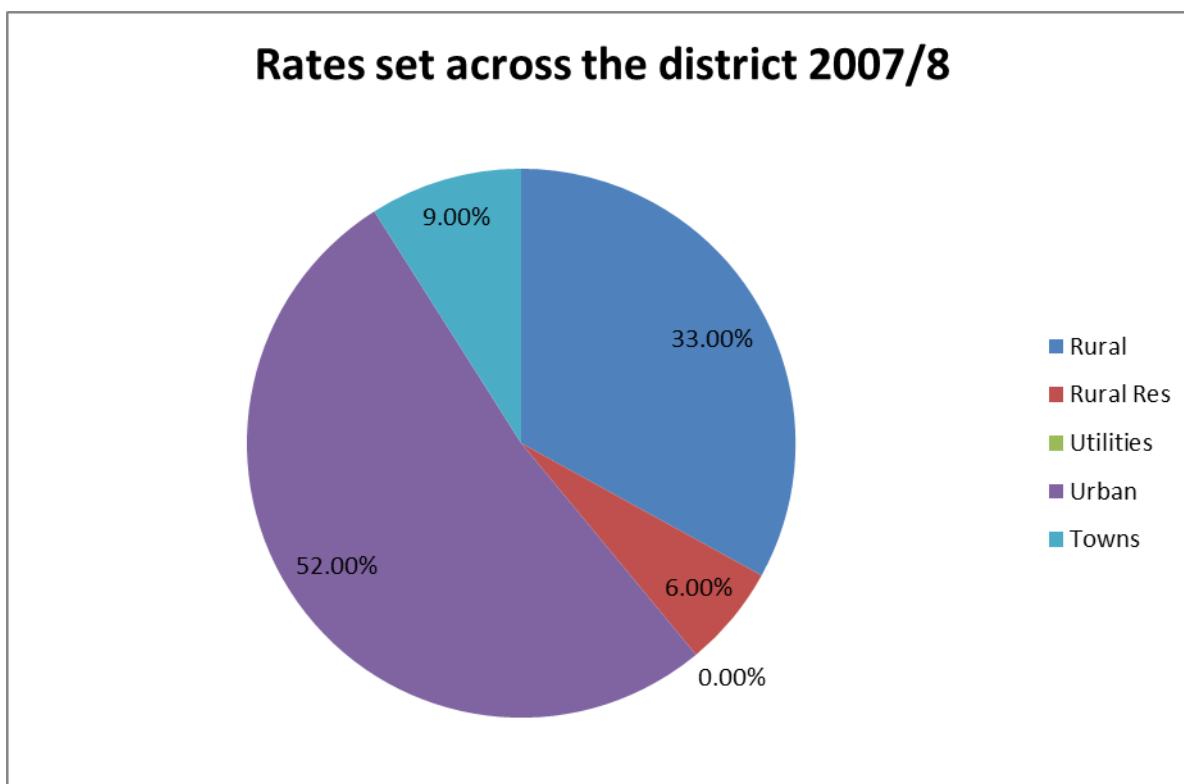
The LTP 2009-2019 radically changed Council's rating system. Prior to this Council had a Differentiated General Rate based on land value which included a Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC), a differentiated Solid Waste Rate on a fixed Uniform Charge, and Water and Wastewater Rates for each supply or scheme. The General Rate funded Roding, Stormwater, Library Services Representation and Governance, and Aquatic Centres as well as what it currently funds (mainly Property, Community Facilities, and Regulatory Services).

However, in response to farmers request all but the Roding Rate was removed from the General Rate and rated by way Fixed Uniform Charge in place of the UAGC, but more than the UAGC. The Roding Rate at that stage was rated the same as the General Rate, differentiated and based on land value.

The original General Rate differentials were all Rural areas 39%, Urban (Levin, Shannon, Foxton) 52% and Townships (Waikawa Beach, Manakau, Ōhau, Hokio Beach, Waitarere Beach, Foxton Beach and Tokomaru) 9%. Within the Rural differential it was identified that 6% of the rate was set against Rural Residential rating units leaving 33% with the remainder. However, since this time the situation has changed. The rural differential was lowered to 31%. There was a 10 year transition to the new rating system, the current year (2018/2019) is the final year of the transition. Furthermore in the LTP 2012-2022 this differential was lowered to 25%.



The graphs below show the situation in the year before the change 2008/2009 and the Annual Plan 2019/2020. The rates shown are comparable as the new Targeted Rates have been added to the current General Rate to be comparable with what was the case in 2008/2009. Submitters will note the rate proportion covered by rural rate payers have reduced from 33% to 18.86%.



The General Rate increase between 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 is \$1.6 million. This is \$908,000 above what the LTP 2018-2038 forecast for 2019/2020. The main reasons for the overall \$1.6m increase in the General Rate are as follows:

- 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 the levels of service

that are statutorily imposed and those that Council has traditionally delivered. This is also being done in an increasingly 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 way 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 activities) 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 \$908,000 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 that need adjusting. While the overall delivery of services and projects remain the same as the LTP, the mode of delivery and underlying costs have changed. 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 Roothing 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 is rated across the District. 54% of the Roothing Budget is spent on rural roads; however properties in the Rural Category only contribute 29.5% of the Roothing Rate with, the remainder comes from rural residential and urban ratepayers. So whilst rural ratepayers may argue that they are subsidising urban ratepayers for services they do not have the same level of access to, urban and rural residential ratepayers could mount a similar argument around Roothing.

The wider rural area (inclusive of all rural ratepayers, except rural residential and lifestyle) has the benefit of the differential of 25% of the General Rate. The rest of the district covers 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.

During submissions the question arose over the definition of a rural residential rating unit. The definition of a rural residential rating unit is contained in the District Wide (other than Rural) differential in the Revenue and Financing Policy and Funding Impact Statement definition for the differential. The properties are identified using the Property Category codes of “R” (residential) and “L” (Lifestyle) from the Appendix F of the Valuation Rules, promulgated by the Valuer General. These category codes are applied by QV Rating valuers who conduct the rating valuation process and apply the rules. These valuations are conducted every three (3) years and are audited by the Valuer General for reasonableness. However, “bare” or “vacant” rural residential properties are not included and remain within the Rural Differential.

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 2019/2020 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 forecast in the LTP 2018-2038, especially if the proposed asset sales of \$7m occur in the next 6 to 12 months.

Officers believe that Council is transparent about debt. Every quarter the Finance Audit and Risk Subcommittee of Council receives a report that lists all borrowings, and breaks down the borrowing against the activity to which it relates. Also every quarter the Subcommittee 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 2019/2020 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 value vs capital value. Officers encourage the submitters to engage in this review process.

*The submitters’ comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 works to ensure debt is reduced over the final two (2) years of the 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**

The 5.98% increase to rates identified in the Annual Plan 2019/2020 Engagement Document does not represent an ‘average rate increase’ for properties throughout the District. The 5.98% is the proposed increase in the Council’s total rates revenue. The actual rates increase for individual ratepayers will vary and depends on a raft of different factors including costs related to particular

activities covered by Targeted Rates as opposed to General Rates, the level of growth in the rating base, changes that occur with house building and 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 covers 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 ratepayers connected to that infrastructure. The capital expenditure programme for 2019/2020 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 forecast in the LTP 2018-2038, especially if the proposed asset sales of \$7m occur in the next 6 to 12 months.

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

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

Council borrows from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA). 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, which assess Council's long-term debt sustainability, has maintained Council's A+ credit rating over the last four (4) years. Council's Debenture Trustee, which look after the interests of Council's lenders have also not raised any issues, nor has Audit NZ (Council's auditors).

The financial forecasts for 30 June 2019 were recently considered at a Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee 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 programme and requested that officers undertake a robust review of the proposed capital works programme as part of finalising the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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### **Topic 3 – Rating system and method of consultation**

#### **Submitter and Submission number**

Horowhenua GreyPower, Lewis Rohloff (#11).

#### **Summary of submissions**

The submitter indicates that it is 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 it believes the current model disadvantages low and middle income households. The submitter notes that Council committed to undertaking a rates 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 LTP 2018-2038 for the 2019/2020 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 engage with the public anyway.

The 5.98% increase identified in the Annual Plan 2019/2020 Engagement Document does not represent an average rate increase, it reflects only the proposed increase in the Council's total rates revenue. The complexity of the rating system means that actual rate increases depend on a raft of different factors including 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 and subdivision etc.

A recent straw poll among many Councils across New Zealand would suggest that Horowhenua District Council is not alone with an 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 its investigation into Local Government funding.

Council intends to embark on a review of its Revenue and Financing Policy in the 2019/2020 financial year. The decision was made to delay the review of this Policy from the current year, one of the considerations for delaying this review was that the new incoming Council post the 2019 election should be involved. This review will also look at affordability. Council welcomes the submitter's input to the review process and it would like to see the results of any affordability studies Grey Power may have done.

The Land Transport (Roading) 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 the Horowhenua in conjunction with the highway construction to the south. This would, hopefully, bring a 'younger 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 its 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 ratepayers. Council notes that Grey Power's stated national

bench mark of 0.07:1 is lower (not higher) than Council's 0.302:1. Council notes that Grey powers percentage should have been 0.70:1 not 0.07:1. This fairness of any and all current differential will be part of the review described above.

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

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

#### **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 submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

#### **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 it supports 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## **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 his 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 his own rates and how 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 Plan 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 has an expectation that Council involves itself in more than what some might consider to be the core business of Local Government. The community has 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 2019/2020 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 value vs capital value. Officers encourage the submitter to engage in this review process.

The submitter mentions that 300 new houses have been built this year; 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 rates the land value and the value uplift is restricted to those rates that are based on capital value (i.e. Roding 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's 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).

The submitter made a number of statements that were factually incorrect and officers would like to take the opportunity to clarify matters for the submitter. These were as follows:

- That the debt of Council has doubled in the last two (2) years. Debt as at 30 June 2018 (the last published Annual Report) was \$80m and on 30 June 2016 (2 years earlier) it was \$65m; this is an increase of \$15m or 23%.
- That the Roding Rate decreased due to the stormwater costs being removed from the costs last year. The Stormwater Rate was created as part of the LTP 2015/2025 and applied for the first time in the 2015/2016 financial year.
- That the Roding Rate reduced because NZTA "took over" State Highway 57". NZTA have always covered to cost of State Highway 57.
- That the rate increase to Farmers was 10%. The increase to the 1095 rating units that are farms was 8.9%.
- That Council can change the Rural differential with a "stroke of a pen". Such a change can only be done by changing the Revenue and Financing Policy which has a full consultation process and would take a minimum of 3 to 4 months and could only legally be applied to the next rating year (so at earliest 2020/2021).
- That the increase in the Solid Waste Rate was as a consequence of increases in costs of the landfill. The increase is due to the new contract for all solid waste aspects other than the landfill i.e. refuse and recycling collection and Council owned transfer stations.
- That the Library and Community Centres are paid for out of farmers rates. This is true to an extent, \$294k or 6.2% of the \$4.7m total budget.
- That all low income urban ratepayers are eligible for the rates rebate. The rates rebate scheme is available for all ratepayers urban or rural mainly for combined income under \$25k.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **Topic 7 – Cost of Council Employees**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

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



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## **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 retaining staff to ensure we are able to cover the increases and planning necessary to cater for the anticipated growth, while still delivering the levels of service traditionally delivered. This is being done in an increasingly complex environment with added compliance and regulatory impositions than was the case seven (7) years ago. Also 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## 2019/2020 Annual Plan – Deliberations - Infrastructure

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## 1. Land Transport

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 8	Lighting around Shannon town and Railway station

### **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. It works 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 students 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. Its 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.

### **Actions**

That Council officers invite the Bike On Charitable Trust to present details of Bikes in Schools to elected members and relevant officers by October 2019 with the view to determining if and how Council could support the programme in the future.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 is 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.

### **Actions**

That when Council officers engage with the community regarding Community Plans in 2019/2020, they include the draft plan for shared pathways as part of the engagement.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

### **Actions**

That Council continues with, and completes, the safety improvements and renewal of the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout in the 2019/2020 financial year.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 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.

## Actions

That Council officers investigate whether there is justification for the establishment of a dedicated officer, as part of the Regulatory Team, to carry out enforcement of the Land Transport Bylaw 2017.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 it supports 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. The urban - rural boundaries are based on the zones identified in Council's District Plan.

### Actions

That Council review Tokomaru Village speed limits as part of the Urban Speed Limit Review, which will commence in 2019/2020.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 submitter’s comments about footpath safety and its 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.

*The submitters’ comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## Topic 7 – Whirokino Trestle & Bridge

### Submitter and Submission number

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

### Summary of submission

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 which would have a health benefit for the community. The submitter stated that there is a current disconnect between Foxton and the south of the district, which they consider could be addressed by retaining the bridges. The submitter requests that Council undertakes a feasibility study on the cost of taking ownership of one, or both of the bridges and the benefits, and that key community members are involved in the feasibility study.

### Officer Analysis

The existing Manawatū River Bridge and the Whirokino Trestle are at the end of their economic life and, due to serious structural and condition issues, demolition is considered the only safe option.

The concrete on the trestle bridge is crumbling, with rusted exposed reinforcing steel showing though in multiple places. As such, the trestle bridge is deemed to be beyond repair.

The Manawatu River Bridge has a steel structure with a concrete deck. The steelwork is badly corroded. Repainting it would require sandblasting/rust treatment before it could be repainted. NZTA estimate that to remove the rust and repaint the bridge would cost approximately \$1 million. Following the repainting, there would also be ongoing maintenance costs, as well as, the responsibility of keeping it clear during flooding events.

To retain the Manawatu River Bridge and the Whirokino Trestle, Council would need to take ownership and responsibility from NZTA. This would be a liability to Council, as such a feasibility study to investigate retaining the bridges is not deemed warranted.



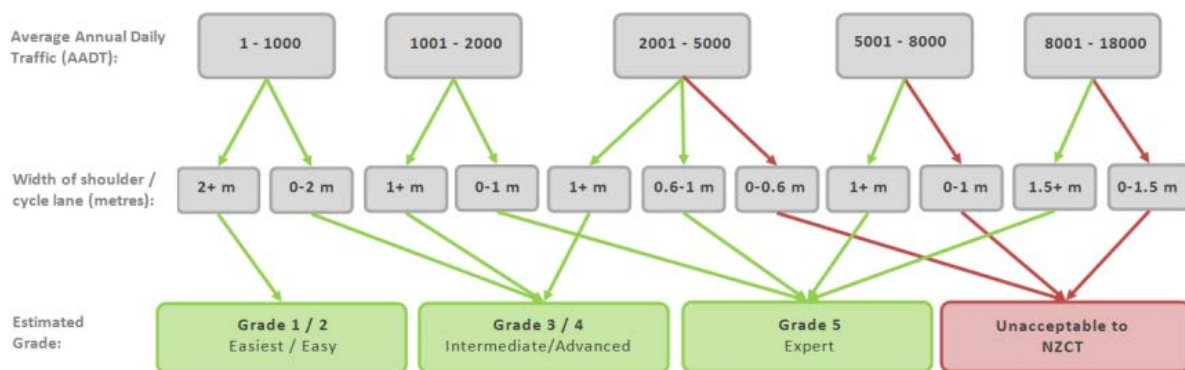


Photos of corrosion on the Manawatu River Bridge.

The existing cycleway (the Ken Everett Cycleway) within the floodway is being retained and NZTA is going to tidy it up and reseal it as part of the Whirokino Project. This pathway provides safe connection through this area.

Providing safe connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians to cross the river is important. The new bridge is being constructed with wider shoulders (1.5m) than those on the existing bridge. Compared to the current situation, these wider shoulders will enhance the safety of cyclists who are crossing the bridge. However, the latest traffic count for State Highway 1 at Whirokino was 8,725 AADT. Since the bridge was designed the New Zealand Cycle Trail Design Guide has been released which states that on roads over 8,000 AADT (annual average daily traffic), 1.5m is unacceptable. NZTA have identified this route as a potential “Heartland Ride” for the New Zealand Cycle Network, so the current design of the new bridge does not meet the required standards.

NZ Cycle Trail Design Guide – determination of viability of cycle routes on open roads



Rather than retaining the Manawatu River Bridge and Whirokino Trestle, a preferable option would be for NZTA to add a “clip-on” cycleway to the side of the new bridge. The preferred side of the State Highway for a future Shared Pathway would be the western, or coastal, side of the road to easily allow access onto pathways to the Waitarere forest or to Waitarere Beach Road without necessitating the crossing of the State Highway. As such, the clip-on would be better on the western side of the bridge.

## Actions

That Council lobby NZTA for a clip-on cycleway to be added to the new Manawatu River Bridge at Whirokino.

*The submitters’ comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **Topic 8 – Lighting in Shannon**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

Shannon 'Get it done', Robyn Mouzouri (#42).

### **Summary of submission**

The Submitter requests that more lighting is installed in Shannon around the town and at the railway station.

### **Officer Analysis**

Plimmer Terrace in the CBD/railway station area is part of State Highway 56 and the street lighting through that section is the responsibility of NZTA. NZTA have improvement works planned for this area which includes the upgrading of the current streetlights. As such, NZTA have engaged a consultant to carry out a streetlight design.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## 2. Three Waters

Topic 1	Wastewater – Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant
Topic 2	Increased <u>Water Demand from Growth and Compliance with Drinking Water Standards</u>
Topic 3	Stormwater
Topic 4	Water and Wastewater Feasibility Studies – Ōhau and Waitāreere 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 the risk of people contracting water-borne disease through contact recreation (e.g. swimming) 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 nutrients 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## **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.

### **Recommendation**

That the work the 'Water Working Party' is undertaking in 2019/2020 is identified as a key project in the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

### **Actions**

That water supply and demand management strategies will be referred to the Water Working Party to be investigated in the 2019/2020 financial year.

### **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.

#### **Action**

That Council officers investigate the development of a bylaw related to management of stormwater once consents for various stormwater discharges in the district have been resolved.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### **Topic 4 – Water and Wastewater Feasibility Studies – Ōhau and Waitāreere 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 Waitāreere 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 Waitāreere 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 full 3m diameter by 2m high rainwater tank would provide sufficient water to irrigate 200m<sup>2</sup> of lawn and garden area at 5mm application rate per day for only 14 days, after which, the tank would need to be filled by using water from the reticulation system unless there had been rainfall in the interim to fully or partially re-fill the tank (70mm of rainfall on a 200m<sup>2</sup> roof would be required to re-fill the tank).

Water is paid by targeted rate so there would be no incentive for homeowners to pay for a storage tank plus the necessary changes to household plumbing to enable supplementary water storage for garden watering purposes. Purchase of smaller water household water storage tanks for resiliency purposes should be encouraged.

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.

### **Actions**

That the development of both a Water and Wastewater Strategy guiding the long term use and disposal of water in the district be referred to the 'Water Working Party' for consideration.

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That a cost benefit analysis be prepared in 2019/2020 to determine the costs of installing a grey/blackwater separation system for private properties compared to the value of water saved.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 to the wastewater to land project for the Tokomaru Wastewater 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

### **Recommendation**

That the draft 2019/2020 Annual Plan is amended to confirm there has been no suspension of the Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

### 3. Solid Waste

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 7	Enviroschools

#### **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 it 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.

### **Action**

That Council officers implement the communication plan to ensure information about the improved kerbside recycling service coming into effect 1 July 2019 is communicated efficiently and effectively.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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. The submitter provided a petition of 1770 signatures from both within and outside the Horowhenua supporting a kerbside organics collection. Concerns were raised that the organic waste produces methane when it decomposes in the landfill. The reduction of organic waste to landfill would be a step forward in addressing the districts' greenhouse gas emissions. Raglan was provided as an example where methods for the diversion of organic waste from landfill have been implemented successfully. Council could support a number of initiatives such as local composting, free green waste at waste transfer stations, compost bins.

### **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.

Council promotes home composting where possible, including providing composting/worm farm facilities to some of the schools. The addition of EnviroSchools to Council's funded waste education services is likely to reinforce these efforts.

### **Actions**

That consideration of providing an organic waste collection service proceeds in accordance with Council's Waste Management Minimisation Plan (investigations from 2019/2020, and if feasible, the potential for a new organic and/or bulky waste service to be implemented in 2023/24).

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### **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.

#### **Actions**

That Council officers continue to investigate potential early closure of the active Hokio Landfill (subject to public consultation) in accordance with the agreement reached between Horowhenua District Council and the Hōkio Environmental Kaitiaki Alliance and Ngāti Pareraukawa.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### **Topic 4 – Waste Education**

#### **Submitter and Submission number**

Gary Good (#20),

#### **Summary of submissions**

Submitter #20 requests that Council places a greater emphasis on waste education.

#### **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 programme which is available to all schools in the district. The Zero Waste Education Programme provides waste education sessions led by an external facilitator.

#### **Actions**

Council continues to offer the Zero Waste Education programme to all schools across the district.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 its 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 waste, 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## **Topic 7 – Enviroschools**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

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

### **Summary of submissions**

Submitters #18 and #32 request Council funds the Enviroschools programme for schools in the District who want to be involved (Council currently funds the programme in secondary schools). Submitter #32 has identified that there are approximately 8 primary schools which would like to be involved, and that the cost to fund these schools is \$1,000 each. Enviroschools offers much more than waste education, including biodiversity, energy and ecology.

### **Officer Analysis**

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 programme for each school. Currently Horowhenua District Council is the only district in the Manawatu-Whanganui Region that does not fund this programme. Given recent changes to regarding to kerbside recycling, an increased amount of the Waste Minimisation Levy is available to provide \$8,000.00 of funding to enable up to 8 schools to participate in Enviroschools. This funding is available to primary, intermediate, or high schools.

### **Actions**

That Council officers work with the Regional Coordinator for Enviroschools to provide up to \$8,000 of funding from the Waste Minimisation Levy, which is included in existing budgets, to enable up to 8 schools to become part of the Enviroschools programme.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## 4. 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 12	Public Toilets In Shannon
Topic 13	Shannon Waterwheel

### **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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>).

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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

#### Walkway

Lot 16 was created as part of a subdivision (Council reference no. SUB/2729/2008) of a property down Muhunua West Road (Ohau) to vest in Council for the creation of a walkway. Lot 16 is 19 metres wide by approximately 800 metres long. Title was issued on 5 July 2017.

Prior to Lot 16 vesting in Council (05.07.2019) it is understood that members of the community installed a track on what, at that point in time (2015), was private land, without the alleged consent of the landowner. The track deviates outside Lot 16 into private land (Lot 17) within 150 metres of the entrance on Muhunua Road West. It again deviates into private land at about 700 metres. The current route is represented by the pink line on the plan attached as **Appendix A**, with the boundaries of Lot 16 (HDC owned) outlined in green. A map showing the contours of the area is also been attached in **Appendix A**.

Initially Council offices engaged with the respective landowners in an endeavour to get easements where the walkway bisects privately owned Lots. This has been unsuccessful.

Because officers are unable to gain agreement from the respective landowners for easements there is the need to bring the footpath within the boundary of Lot 16 (Council owned), The lot has extremely challenging topography with a shift in ground elevation of 14m between chainage 50m-80m. This equates to a 1:2 gradient. There is a further significant change in elevation of 13m between chainage 375m-400m. This is a gradient of more than 1:2. The boundary of Lot 16 also bisects a natural water feature (pond).

An initial report to determine the feasibility of installing an access track usable by all members of the community has indicated two significant 'staircase' structures would be required to facilitate access by most members of the Ōhau community. Due to the poor cohesiveness of the soil structure, limited accessibility, and the high level of engineering required, such an approach would be prohibitively expensive. As such Council officers are working with the submitter to develop a low-technology solution as part of a place-making initiative.

Whilst adopting this approach will result in a walking track it will be subject to significantly more wear and erosion, and require ongoing maintenance. The resulting track is likely to be approximate to DOC's Intermediate classification, that being generally well formed with some rough, muddy or steep sections. Users will require a higher level of fitness and it is unlikely to be usable for families with younger children, or indeed older people with potential health issues.

Officers have developed a program of works in consultation with the submitter and will be notifying the adjacent landowners of the proposed timeframe once confirmed.

#### Ōhau Domain

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 happy to discuss with the submitter further development to the existing bike track on the Ōhau Domain.

#### Ōhau River and Parikawau Domain

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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*



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**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 action plan section of 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 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.

**Recommendations**

That initial improvements to Holben Reserve is identified under 'Key Projects for 2019/2020' in the Annual Plan 2019/2020.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

**Topic 7 – Manawatu Estuary and Ramsar**

**Submitter and Submission number**

Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc, Katharine Wilkinson (#28), Environment Network Manawatu, Alastair Cole (#32).

**Summary of submission**

Submitter #32 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 programme.

Submitter #28 requests that Council funds a part-time ranger for the Foxton Beach dunes/Manawatu Estuary area.

### **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.

Council currently has no plans to provide funding which supports a ranger for the Foxton Beach dunes/ Manawatu Estuary.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 submitter requests that Council undertakes temporary repairs to the swing bridge and climbing frame while discussions are held regarding the wider replacement and re-design of the existing equipment.

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association would like to see Waitarere Rise (Greenbelt Residential) maintained at the same level as urban residential. They suggest it was being maintained as such previously.

### **Officer Analysis**

#### **Holmwood Park**

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). In the meantime, play equipment will be repaired where feasible.

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.

### Waitarere Rise

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

The WBPRA has provided a number of documents in relation to the request. It is noted the documents refer to Bonds and Covenants required from the Owner (developer) to establish the landscape planting, they are not in relation to the ongoing maintenance of the planting nor landscape. Council went to tender in 2014 with its new grounds contract and the contractor (Recreational Services) commenced operations in July 2015. Waitarere Rise was not considered in the new grounds maintenance contract, and has not been maintained under that contract because as greenbelt residential it fell, and continues to fall, under the roading contract.

Officers, however, are happy to continue dialogue with the WBPRA in terms of an annual tidy-up of the Phormium (Flax) beds on Waitarere Rise but are not in a position to increase the overall Level of Service at the location. Such 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 Zones 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 wish to have increased levels of service, then targeted funding (rating) mechanisms should be considered, so that those that benefit bear the cost of such. However, care needs to be taken to ensure the rating system does not become too complicated and an administrative burden. It is suggested that the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association canvass its community's 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 is currently considering options to continue improvements in 2019/2020 which are likely to require a resource consent.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 and specifically, requests that Council provides land or a building.

### **Officer Analysis**

Council appreciates the work that voluntary groups such as the Wildlife Foxton Trust provide in adding value to Council and the communities 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 has 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **Topic 12 – Public Toilets in Shannon**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

Shannon 'Get it Done', Robyn Mouzouri (#42).

### **Summary of submission**

The submitter wishes to see more toilets around the Shannon shopping centre.

### **Officer analysis**

There are currently public toilets at Balance Street in Shannon. The toilet facilities below the Shannon Domain Grandstand were opened in the financial year 2017/2018 following a submission to the Annual Plan. Council is currently arranging for the installation of public toilets at Hyde Park, Shannon in response to a submission to the 2018/2038 Long Term Plan. There are currently no proposals to install further toilets in Shannon for the 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **Topic 13 – Shannon Waterwheel**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

Dietlinde Geist (#41).

### **Summary of submission**

The submitter wishes to see a fully functioning waterwheel installed at 35 Margaret Street Reserve

### **Officer Analysis**

The submitter has requested the installation of a waterwheel on 35, Margaret Street, Shannon, This project is being led by the Shannon Progressive Association. The Shannon Progressive Association prepared a resource consent for Council in 2010 for the structure which was described as being 6.16 metres in height, 4 metres wide at base, 2 metres wide, and 12 metres in length. Approval from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) was not able to be obtained at

the time and the project stalled. The advice from the Council's regulatory team in 2010, was that there were resource consent issues to resolve, including;

- Daylight set back
- Building and structure set backs
- Possible vehicle access issues
- Agreement from NZTA

None of these issues appear to be resolved, and still require addressing.

In addition to the HDC consent indicated above there is a need for HRC consents. The Progressive Association were awarded a consent for earthworks at the site (soil and gravel foundation) which were completed (2010) but also required a consent for the wheel itself. Though an initial consent application was submitted to Horizons in September 2010 it was not followed through by the applicants. Again, any advancing of these works would require this to be fully addressed.

In addition to the above the recreation reserve where the water wheel is proposed to be sited (Lot 2 DP 362333), is in very close proximity of the Otauru stream and the reserve is only 20m wide. The soil and gravel footing installed in 2010 following the consent from Horizons has been severely eroded by river flow, and is unlikely to be an effective load-bearing foundation for the proposed waterwheel which will require an engineered solution.

It is officers understanding that materials for building the water wheel were donated by local companies before 2010. These are still being held at a nearby private residence. However, it is unclear what condition the material is in and whether it has been stored in a weather-tight environment. Similarly, Council is not aware of any construction plans for the wheel.

As it currently stands, this project is a community led initiative and as such there is no funding in the long term plan for the building of the water wheel. It is suggested the proposal remains a community led initiative. It is likely the works will require:

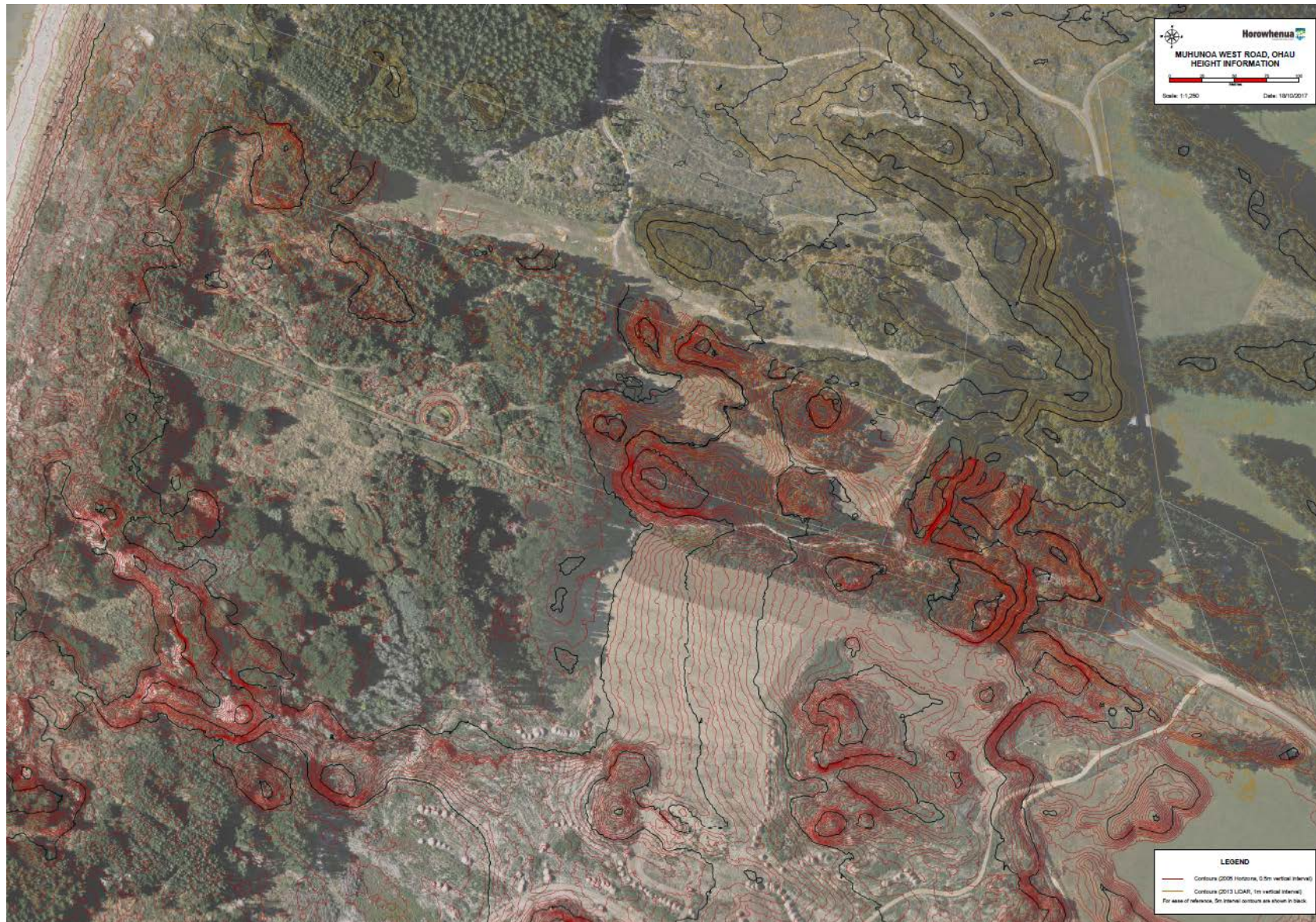
- A building consent from HDC;
- A resource consent from HDC;
- A resource consent from HRC;
- Approval from NZTA;
- Evaluation of the donated materials for the structure to determine if they are still appropriate for the purpose intended;
- Engineers drawings of the proposed structure;
- Engineered foundations for the proposed structure;
- Additional requirements, such as car parking, landscaping, and planting.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

Appendix A



	CLIENT	PROJECT	DRAWING TITLE	DATE
	HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL	VINCERO HOLDINGS ACCESS	EXISTING TRACK - SURVEY	28/07/16
				SCALE
				1:2000 @ A3 1:1000 @ A1
			DRAWING NO.	
			SURVEY 01	





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## 2019/2020 Annual Plan – Deliberations - All Other Activities

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## 1. Community Engagement

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 7	Police Presence in Shannon

### **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 Councils 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.

#### **Actions**

That Council officers will continue to keep in contact with Mid-Central District Health Board to organise an appropriate time to present on the Sugar Sweetened Beverages Policy.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## **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. The submitter provided an overview of the work the group Cathy McCartney (via Proudly Foxton) has completed since October 2018 – gathering information and development of a database contact details, promoting Foxton as a destination, created a marketing plan, increasing social media presence, attendance at a range of events. Future plans include business workshops, increasing social media, continuing the Proudly Foxton campaign.

### **Officer Analysis**

Council provides 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 which 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 the Riverside Cultural Park to promote these destinations effectively to a wide range of target markets. While the role is centred on the marketing of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and the Riverside Cultural Park there will be many crossovers and opportunities to promote Foxton as a whole. The Marketing Specialist has created a survey which has been delivered to Foxton business owners to ascertain the target markets for local businesses and ways to attract more visitors into the town and ultimately grow business.

### **Actions**

That Council officers continue to provide Community Capacity Building workshops, asking the community what they would find useful and ensuring some of the programme is delivered in Foxton and Foxton Beach.

That Council officers will work with groups who request support in looking for additional funding avenues and assisting with putting applications together where applicable.

That Council's Marketing Specialist will work closely with the Foxton Community Board and the Foxton Tourism Destination Association to ensure the collective aspirations are achieved.

That Council officers will meet with the Foxton Tourism Destination Association to discuss their Marketing Plan and how Council could support the implementation of their plan.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### **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 an active participant in the Source to Sea project and would like \$10,000 per annum to help support it. The Source to the Sea project has received funding from Palmerston North City Council which has enabled a large scale Palmy Plastic Challenge to be implemented. The purpose of this programme was to capture information about plastic pollution while achieving significant public engagement.

#### **Officer Analysis**

Management of the Manawatū 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 that also work towards improving the environment and within Horowhenua.

Council does not currently provide financial support to Environment Network Manawatū 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 for Council. However, Council does have the ability to look at external funding sources and support the group in identifying an appropriate source and assisting with applying.

#### **Action**

That Council officers will work with the Environment Network Manawatū to apply for external funding for the Source to Sea project.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### **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 has 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 its partners in order to achieve the goals for the Manawatu River Loop at Foxton.

## Actions

That Council officers will continue working with Save Our River Trust to identify and apply to other funding sources, including Central Government.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## 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.

The project has now been granted a Vibrant Communities grant of \$10,000. Additionally Council Officers will continue to work with the Ōhau community and tangata whenua to support the project management.

### Action

Council officers will continue working with Sarah Walsh to ensure the project for the mural for the underpass under State Highway 1 in Ōhau is completed to a high standard and that it meets the requirements of the community and tangata whenua.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## **Topic 6 – Signage for Foxton Beach**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

Foxton 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 Foxton Beach Progressive Association regarding signage in Foxton 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 Foxton Beach as budgets allow.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **Topic 7 – Police Presence in Shannon**

### **Submitter and Submission number**

Shannon 'Get it done', Robyn Mouzouri (#42).

### **Summary of submission**

The submitter has requested the police presence becomes more accessible in Shannon.

### **Officer Analysis**

Council do not provide the Police service, however we maintain regular communication with our local Police. Since receiving the submission, Council have contacted Police and passed on the details of the submission to Police.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## 2. Strategy and Development

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
Topic 5	Community Plans
Topic 6	Master Plans
Topic 7	Subdivision Development in Foxton Beach
Topic 8	Relaxation of Subdivision Requirements (Waikawa Beach)
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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

The growth that has occurred in the population and number of houses over the last two years has been at a higher rate than the adopted forecast. Council officers will continue to monitor and report these trends to Council so the implications of growth at a faster or slower rate than the forecast is understood and considered in future planning.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 its 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.

### **Actions**

That Council officers will develop the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy in 2019/2020. As part of this officers will engage with relevant stakeholders and advocate for enhanced passenger transport services (Capital Connection and new services) with relevant agencies.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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. It is understood that the funding for the O2NL DBC has yet to be confirmed by NZTA and that a decision on this is connected to the re-evaluation process of the other projects across the country.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 has opened from applications and funding will be allocated during 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'.

### **Actions**

That Council officers will continue in 2019/2020 with the implementation of the Levin Town Centre Building Frontage and Signage Policy, and the 'Adopt-a-pot' and Civic Space placemaking projects.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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. The Community Plans should be owned by local communities.

### **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.

During May 2019 the Government has passed legislation that has re-inserted the four well-beings (social, cultural, environmental and economic) back into the Local Government Act. In doing so the Government has acknowledged the valuable role local leadership has to promote the well-being of its communities. Minister Nanaia Mahuta has noted that the serious challenges we face such as the impact of population growth, climate change and ageing infrastructure require a broader focus in the way councils meet the challenge of setting priorities and planning for the future. Reintroducing an emphasis on the four well-beings is intended to encourage councils and communities to engage in an intergenerational approach to improving quality of life outcomes. Officers have been anticipating this renewed focus by the Government and see Community Plans as one of the appropriate tools that Council can use to deliver this.

### **Actions**

That Council officers will support the Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc in 2019/20 to lead the development of the Foxton Beach Community Plan.

That Council officers will make contact by 1 October 2019 with the Environment Network Manawatū to identify what environmental groups are relevant to Community Plans.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 PP20 (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 7000m<sup>2</sup> 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 5000m<sup>2</sup> in area.

The submitter also notes that they are aware of sections of around 8000m<sup>2</sup> being subdivided into 4000m<sup>2</sup> 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 3500m<sup>2</sup> 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 5000m<sup>2</sup> 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 5000m<sup>2</sup> 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 5000m<sup>2</sup> 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 5000m<sup>2</sup>. 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 considering whether an area is suitable for additional growth and development, a range of matters are considered and evaluated. One of those considerations includes safe access. Across the district there are a number of roads like Waikawa Beach that rely on access from the existing State Highway. In some cases the safety of these intersections onto the State Highway can be undermined by additional development unless safety improvements are made. For situations such as this the timing of safety improvements or changes to the current highway become important considerations.

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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

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## **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 to explore is a targeted rate in the coastal communities to fund appropriate mitigation responses. If Council was 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 has indicated that the potential solutions could also require a targeted rate to the Regional Council to fund the chosen solution.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 congratulates Council on signing the Local Government Leaders Declaration on Climate Change, but would like to know how Council intends of implementing it.

The submitter asks whether Council is planning to replace the vehicle fleet with electric vehicles.

## 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 has 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. Council has yet to formally discuss or plan for how it will implement the Local Government Leaders Declaration on Climate Change.

In terms of replacing the Council fleet with electric vehicles, the current Council Fleet Management Policy does not specifically provide this direction. The Policy states that the selection of vehicles should, where appropriate consider the vehicle's ability to produce low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and better fuel economy. Council currently has one hybrid vehicle and as part of the upcoming review of the Fleet Management policy the matter of replacing with electric vehicles will be considered.

## Actions

That as part of the review of the Fleet Management Policy the matter of replacing Council fleet vehicles with electric vehicles shall be considered.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 is 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. It performs 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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 it values the strong relationship between our two organisations (being Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council). The Submitter advises that it looks 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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

During May 2019 the Government has passed legislation that has re-inserted the four well-beings (social, cultural, environmental and economic) back into the Local Government Act. In doing so the Government has acknowledged the valuable role local leadership has to promote the well-being of its communities. Minister Nanaia Mahuta has noted that the serious challenges we face such as the impact of population growth, climate change and ageing infrastructure require a broader focus in the way councils meet the challenge of setting priorities and planning for the future. Reintroducing an emphasis on the four well-beings is intended to encourage councils and communities to engage in an intergenerational approach to improving quality of life outcomes. Officers have been anticipating this renewed focus by the Government and see Master Plans and Community Plans as appropriate tools that Council can use to deliver this. This type of planning should now be seen and understood to be a core and fundamental part of Council's local government role.

## **Actions**

That Council officers extend an invite by 31 July 2019 to meet with representatives of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand to discuss the current projects being planned or undertaken by Council to help ensure there is a good understanding of Master Planning and the other projects that the submitter considers "non-essential" as well as explain how Council proposes to deliver on the well-beings being re-inserted into the Local Government Act.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **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.

It also needs to be recognised that the planning for growth such as the Master Plans also contribute to the rural environment by providing a planned approach for urban development rather than unplanned urban sprawl. Identifying land and planning for urban development is done with the intention of trying to balance competing land uses, minimise reverse sensitivity conflicts and recognise the rural environment as production environment.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### 3. Representation and Leadership

Topic 1	Heating for Foxton Beach School from Foxton Free Holding Account
Topic 2	Foxton Beach Free Holding Policy/Strategy
Topic 3	Governance at Horowhenua District Council
Topic 4	Lake Horowhenua

#### **Topic 1 – Heating for Foxton Beach School from Foxton Freeholding Account**

##### **Submitter and Submission number**

Foxton Beach School, Hamish Stuart (#15).

##### **Summary of submission**

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

##### **Officer Analysis**

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

##### **Recommendation**

That Council approve \$13,400 from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account to fund the air conditioning (heat pumps) in the Foxton Beach School Hall, subject to approval by the Foxton Community Board, in accordance with the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy/Strategy.

#### **Topic 2 – Foxton Beach Free Holding Policy/Strategy**

##### **Submitter and Submission number**

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

##### **Summary of submission**

That the review of the Foxton Beach Freeholding 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 Foxton Beach Free Holding Policy/Strategy has been approved by Council.

## Recommendation

That the review of the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy/Strategy be listed as a specific project in the 'Key Projects for 2019/2020' section of the final 2019/2020 Annual Plan.

## **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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## **Topic 4 – 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 focused 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.

### **Action**

That Council continues to support the Lake Accord Action Plan and any subsequent plan.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## 4. Community Facilities

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 wishes to continue to meet with HDC staff so it can assist the new Community Hall Society in the development of a Community Hub in Tokomaru. It wishes to be aware of any future planned work and have the opportunity to have input to ensure it aligns with the community's focus.

#### **Actions**

That Council officers continue to meet with Tokomaru Village and Community Association and the Community Hall Society to discuss community aspirations and identify potential opportunities to support the further development of a Community Hub in Tokomaru.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

### **Topic 2 – Shannon Community Hall**

#### **Submitter and Submission number**

Glen William Monaghan (#21), Shannon 'Get it done', Robyn Mouzouri (#42).

#### **Summary of submission**

Submitter #21 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.

Submitter #42 requests that Council retains Memorial Hall and allows it to be run by local people.

#### **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.

## **Actions**

That Council officers engage with the Shannon Community as part of the Community Hall Feasibility Study.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*

## 5. Regulatory Services

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.

*The submitters' comments are noted, there are no recommendations.*